

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**2018 Stewardship**

Stewardship packets have been mailed—now is the time to turn in your 2018 pledge form! Many of you give generously but never turn in a pledge card. Please fill one out and give to our treasurers. The amount you give is confidential—but it helps us plan our budget and know what resources we have available as we do our best to meet the ongoing and everchanging needs of our community.

“The ways we spend our time and money say a lot about what we actually love. And our actions may reveal we don't love God as much as we'd like to think. Let's take an honest look at our lives so we can make some much-needed changes in the year ahead.” [www.goarch.org](http://www.goarch.org)

**Parish Council Election Results**

(pending approval from Metropolis)

- Newly elected members:
  - Conn Choles
  - Bruce Hansen
  - Niko Papadopoulos
  - Georgiana Wilton
- Alternate 1: Nick Topitzes
- Alternate 2: Carol Griskavich

**January 2018  
Newsletter**



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**Looking for Information?**

Flyers, announcements, advertisements are posted on bulletin boards in the Church Hall. If you see something you like? Make a copy!

Meeting minutes and budget reports are posted monthly following Parish Council meetings. Want more? Ask! Have a complaint? Be prepared to discuss solutions and volunteer to help!!

# THE PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

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Georgiana Wilton, Parish Council President [georgiana.wilton@gmail.com](mailto:georgiana.wilton@gmail.com)

**Parish Council Officers:** Tom Cameron, Vice President; Bruce Hansen, Secretary, Niko Papadopoulos, Treasurer **Members:** Petros Anagnostopoulos, Christy Chappell Belkin, Conn Choles, Nico Fatsis, Dori Hosek, Georgia Marsh, Mike Smith, and Scott Storck **Alternates:** John Soloninka and Nick Topitzes.

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HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

I hope you had a wonderful holiday season—but we know it's not over yet. We usually view the 'holidays' as that period of time from Thanksgiving through New Year's Day. A quick look at the January calendar, however, reminds us the fun is just beginning. We look forward to Epiphany (read how kids in the Czech Republic and Slovakia celebrate: <https://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/common/epiphany> ), the celebration of Christmas on the eastern calendar, and the Triodion preparing us for Lent and Easter.

So, really, our holidays never end. That's one of the many reasons I love our faith and our traditions. There is something to look forward to, learn about, and meditate on each and every day.

I want to share with you some favorite words this time of year: (<https://www.goarch.org/-/encyclical-for-the-feast-of-saint-basil-and-the-new-ye-1?inheritRedirect=true>)

Thus, we begin a new year with our hearts and minds filled with these celebrations and with the grace and calling we share as the children of God. We begin a new year with opportunities for worship and service as we deepen our communion with God and strengthen our witness to others. We begin a new year in the Lord with a commitment to live each moment in the presence of Christ and to use each day to bring Him honor and glory. We begin a new year reflecting on the revelation of God's love, on His forgiveness, on our journey, and we anticipate the blessings of His power and grace in days to come.

Encyclical for the Feast of Saint Basil and the New Year (01/01/2011)

To my Church family—health and happiness in the new year and beyond!



# PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

Patti Cameron, President [pcameron@tds.net](mailto:pcameron@tds.net) or [pcameron10@gmail.com](mailto:pcameron10@gmail.com) 608-219-1659

Peace and Goodwill to all in the New Year!

Baklava Plus: Congratulations to everyone to helped with the Baklava Plus Bake Sale! We made over \$17,000 with a net of over \$12,000 – a record – and several items sold out by 10 am! Next year, if we have the hands, we could consider making more baklava and packaging more tiropites. And, we already increased the keftethes and the items ordered through Sweet Connections from last year. Thank you to all who worked so hard to make this possible but mostly to Maria Heide and Lena G who were wonderful chairs of our one and only fundraiser.! Now we have the means to take care of the needs that will be presented to us throughout the year.

The Officers for the 2017-2019 term are:

President: Patti Cameron

Vice President: Lena Giakoumopoulos

Treasurer: Maria Heide

Asst. Treasurer: Raina Haralampopoulos

Recording Secretary: Sue Soloninka

Correspondence Secretary: Jenny Glatch

National Obligations: Social Services; Cancer and Other Illnesses Major Fund

Local Activities:

Homebound Baskets: Elene Patenaude made the Holiday Homebound Baskets for Fr. Michael to take on his visits

Salvation Army Womens' Shelter: At our Dec 17<sup>th</sup> meeting, we approved \$1,250 to be used to thoroughly clean the 3 common areas and restroom for homeless women at the Salvation Army on East Washington. We are still looking for second hand vinyl sofas/chairs for the common area.

Eco-Committee: Nancy Giffey and Gigi Marsh will be working with the Sunday School to create an information campaign on how to be better stewards of our earth through better practices at our church. Look for some interesting visuals that will help us all to be better stewards!

Kitchen Remodel: At our Dec 17<sup>th</sup> meeting, we approved to pay for the new cabinet by the small sink in the kitchen. Georgiana will give us a quote in the next month.

Upcoming Events:

Sunday, Jan 28<sup>th</sup>: Vasilopita Dinner for St. Basil's Academy Chairs: Maria M, Betty L and Jane S

Tuesday, Jan 30<sup>th</sup>: Grace Episcopal Cooking/Serving for the Homeless: Chairs: Ilektra and Nancy G

Saturday, Feb 3<sup>rd</sup>: Mid-Winter Luncheon at church. Chairs: Helene G, Lisa B and Carol G  
Invitations will be out soon. This is a time for women of our parish to come and learn what Philoptochos is all about! \* There will be a Christmas ornament exchange. Bring an ornament from your tree to swap!

River Food Pantry  
Nancy Briamis, Contact

Join us in our continued support the River Food Pantry:

1. Donate to the food drive that will be held in our church during January and February.
2. 2018 Well Expo on January 19th and 20th at Monona Terrace - free admission with the donation of 2 non-perishable food items
3. The River Food Pantry needs volunteers on Fridays between 11:00-2:00 to set-up tables with floral arrangements.

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Jenny Josheff, Director, [agocssdirector@gmail.com](mailto:agocssdirector@gmail.com), Fr. Michael, Spiritual Advisor, [frmi-chael@agocwi.org](mailto:frmi-chael@agocwi.org)

The Sunday School would like to thank everyone who helped in some way with the Christmas pageant. If you have an idea for next year, please see Jenny Josheff.

We hope all of our students are enjoying the holiday season and their winter breaks. We will resume classes on January 7th.

## **JOY/GOYA**

Michelle Bayouth, [mbayouth@icloud.com](mailto:mbayouth@icloud.com)

JOY/GOYA Ice Skating

Please join us for ice skating at the Edgewater Hotel on Saturday, Jan 13 from 4-6 pm. Cost is approximately \$10 for skate rental and entrance. Contact Michelle Bayouth at [608-381-3704](tel:608-381-3704) for additional details and to RSVP!

## **SPIRITUAL EXERCISES**

Peli Galiti, [pegaliti@gmail.com](mailto:pegaliti@gmail.com)

There will be no spiritual meetings on January. Next spiritual meeting will be on February 8 and 22 at 7:00 pm.

## **GRACE EPISCOPAL HOMELESS SHELTER NEWS**

David Giffey

Thank you to Assumption's volunteers who work at the Madison men's homeless shelter at Grace Episcopal Church, and to the Philoptochos Society for providing funding. We've been working at the homeless shelter every fifth Tuesday for the past 32 years.

In 2018, the days we are scheduled to volunteer at the homeless shelter are:

**Tuesday, January 30 - Tuesday, May 29 - Tuesday, July 31 – and Tuesday, October 31.**

There are two crews of volunteers from Assumption. Currently, Ilektra Kolokouri and others are in charge of preparing a hot meal at church. Greek-style chicken, rice and a vegetable are prepared by Ilektra's crew.

Mike Smith delivers the pans of hot food from the church to the shelter at Grace Episcopal church. In recent times, volunteer servers include Mike Smith, Nancy Smith, Grant Smith, Scott Spevacek, Nancy Giffey, and yours truly. The shelter is operated by Porchlight Inc., an agency that works on behalf of homeless people. The shelter **is not operated** by Grace Episcopal Church although it's located in a portion of the church property at the corner of West Washington Avenue and the capitol square. Karla Thennes is the new executive director of Porchlight. She took over upon the retirement of Steve Schooler who worked there many years.

In addition to the hot meal prepared at church, we also provide other food items such as bread, cold cuts, cheese, spread, peanut butter, apples, cookies, milk, decaf coffee, dish-washing sponges, hot sauce, etc.

The number of homeless people in need of shelter depends largely on two things: weather and per-person limits. There is a 90-night limit, so homeless men have to decide when to use the shelter. And the numbers go up radically in winter weather. You can go to this link <http://porchlightinc.org/emergency-shelter/> for details about the shelter rules, etc. There are usually 160-180 homeless men in need each night during the winter.

Regarding the hot meal, the weather also may determine appetites. People tend to need more calories in cold weather. I can't properly describe how much the homeless people love the Greek-style chicken. *At this point, let me convey the many "God bless you" salutations heard from the homeless men. Ilektra and those who prepare the meal are the intended recipients of the blessings.*

There are occasional fundraising events during the year, and there is a Porchlight newsletter as well. When I receive those items, I would be happy to share them with you if you wish. Please let me know. I also will make an effort to get more homeless shelter news in the monthly bulletin.

Please contact me anytime with questions and comments. Thanks to all of you for your continued support of the homeless people in Madison. I am certain we share concern and love for people in need.

## **FORSYTE ENDOWMENT**

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Bruce Hansen, [bruce.e.hansen2@gmail.com](mailto:bruce.e.hansen2@gmail.com)

The December Assembly approved an investment plan to establish the Forsyte Endowment as proposed by the Parish Council. \$100,000 will be invested at the end of January, and again every six months until \$500,000 has been invested. The investment will be a mix of Vanguard index mutual funds, allocated as follows: 50% Total Stock Market, 30% Social Index, and 20% Total Bond Market. We expect that the endowment will help provide for the long-term financial stability of the church.

## **CHURCH WEBSITE**

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Lainey Skoumbouris, [laney0220@yahoo.com](mailto:laney0220@yahoo.com)

The church website is now set-up for private login to access the monthly newsletters and are meant for Church members only, not the public. Church members can read the newsletter on the website, but you must create an account before you can view it. Log onto the website and click on "Newsletter" on the side-bar <http://www.agocwi.org/registration-required/>, or "login" on the main menu <http://www.agocwi.org/login/>; it will direct you to sign up. If you need help, have questions or something isn't working in the registration contact me.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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### **Nonagenarian Recognition**

For those of you that couldn't join us for this unprecedented celebration—you can read about it in the next issue of the Orthodox Observer!



### **J and M Home Helpers**

AGOC's handymen, John and Mike, will do minor home repairs and maintenance for \$25/hour, with the money for their work being donated to the church.



**Call Mike at (608) 516-9188  
and John at (608) 575-1014  
today!**

## **SACRAMENTS DECEMBER 2017**

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Weddings: **0**

Chrismations: **0**

Baptisms: **0**

Funerals: **0**

# January 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
December 31 <b>Sunday after the Nativity</b> Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am  Great Vespers 6:00 pm	1 <b>Circumcision of Our Lord / St. Basil the Great</b> Divine Liturgy 9:00 am	2	3     Choir Practice 7:00 pm	4	5	6 <b>Theophany</b> Divine Liturgy 9:00 am Great Blessing of the Waters Service  <i>Russian Orthodox Nativity Services 11:00 pm -</i>
7 <b>Synaxis of St. John the Baptist</b> Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am Sunday School Resumes Great Blessing of the Waters Service <b>Old Calendar Nativity</b>	8	9    Parish Council Meeting 7:00 pm	10    Choir Practice 7:00 pm	11    The Typikon: An Appreciation of Our Liturgical Tradition 7:00 pm	12	13    JOY/GOYA Ice Skating Edgewater Hotel 4:00 - 6:00 pm
14 <b>Sunday After Theophany</b> Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am	15 <b>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</b>	16	17 <b>St. Anthony the Great</b>    Choir Practice 7:00 pm	18 <b>Athanasios and Cyril, Patriarchs of Alexandria</b>  <b>Old Calendar Theophany</b>	19	20
21 <b>15<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke</b> Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am	22	23	24    Choir Practice 7:00 pm	25 <b>St. Gregory the Theologian</b>   The Typikon: An Appreciation of Our Liturgical Tradition 7:00 pm	26	27
28 <b>Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee</b> <b>Triodion Begins</b> Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am <b>Vasilopita Dinner</b> <i>Baptism in Church - 1:00</i>	29	30 <b>Three Hierarchs</b> Divine Liturgy 9:00 am  5 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the Month	31    Choir Practice 7:00 pm	February 1	February 2  <b>Presentation of Our Lord</b> Divine Liturgy 9:00 am	February 3  <b>Philoctochos Annual Mid-Winter Party</b>

# January – February 2018 Liturgies and Services

## January 1

**New Year's Day /  
Circumcision of the Lord /  
Feast of St. Basil the Great**

Divine Liturgy 9:00 am

**Epistle:** Colossians 2:8-12  
**Gospel:** Luke 2:20-21,40-52

**Prosforo:** Ilektra A

## January 6

**Holy Theophany**

Divine Liturgy 9:00 am followed  
immediately by the Great Blessing  
of the Waters

**Epistle:** Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7  
**Gospel:** Matthew 3:13-17

**Prosforo:** Ilektra A

## January 7

**Synaxis of St. John the Baptist /  
Old Calendar Nativity**

Orthros 9:00 am  
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

**Epistle:** Acts 19:1-8  
**Gospel:** John 1:29-34

*The Great Blessing of the Waters  
follows immediately after the Divine  
Liturgy*

**Prosforo:** Jenny G

**Coffee Hour: (Group 8)** Nikki S,  
Aleksandra T, Jenya

## January 14

**Sunday After Theophany**

Orthros 9:00 am  
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

**Epistle:** Ephesians 4:7-13  
**Gospel:** Matthew 4:12-17

**Prosforo:** Cathy G

**Coffee Hour: (Group 9)** Patti C,  
Violetta C, Michelle B

## January 21

**15<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke**

Orthros 9:00 am  
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

**Epistle:** 1 Timothy 4:9-15  
**Gospel:** Luke 19:1-10

**Prosforo:** Tom C

**Coffee Hour: (Group 10)** Margo S,  
Jenny J, Betty L

## January 28

**Sunday of the Publican and  
Pharisee / TRIODION BEGINS**

Orthros 9:00 am  
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

**Epistle:** 2 Timothy 3:10-15  
**Gospel:** Luke 18:10-14

**Prosforo:** Georgia M

**Coffee Hour:** Vasilopita Dinner

## January 30

**Three Hierarchs**

Divine Liturgy 9:00 am

**Epistle:** Hebrews 13:7-16  
**Gospel:** Matthew 5:14-19

**Prosforo:** Anna F

## February 2

**Presentation of Our Lord**

Divine Liturgy 9:00 am

**Epistle:** Hebrews 7:7-17  
**Gospel:** Luke 2:22-40

**Prosforo:** Anna F

## February 4

**Sunday of the Prodigal Son**

Orthros 9:00 am  
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

**Epistle:** 1 Corinthians 6:12-20  
**Gospel:** Luke 15:11-32

**Prosforo:** Elene P

**Coffee Hour: (Group 11)** Kerry M,  
Barb K, Dori H

## February 10

**1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the Souls**

Divine Liturgy 9:00 am

**Epistle:** 2 Timothy 2:1-10  
**Gospel:** John 15:17-27; 16:1-2

**Prosforo:** Korinna H

## February 11

**Judgement Sunday  
(Meatfare)**

Orthros 9:00 am  
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

**Epistle:** 1 Corinthians 8:8-13; 9:1-2  
**Gospel:** Matthew 25:31-46

**Prosforo:** Korinna H

## February 11, con't.

**Coffee Hour: (Group 12)** Maria H,  
Draga G, Gabriela C

## February 17

**2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the Souls /  
Theodore of Tyro**

Divine Liturgy 9:00 am

**Epistle:** 2 Timothy 2:1-10  
**Gospel:** Luke 20:46-47; 21:1-4

**Prosforo:** Kathie F

## February 18

**Forgiveness Sunday  
(Cheesefare)**

Orthros 9:00 am  
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

**Epistle:** Romans 13:11-14; 14:1-4  
**Gospel:** Matthew 6:14-21

**Prosforo:** Kathie F

**Coffee Hour: (Group 13)** Traci L,  
Nancy G, Christy C-B, Marinela M

## February 18

Forgiveness Great Vespers 6:00 pm

## February 21

Pre-Sanctified Liturgy – 5:30 pm

**Prosforo:** Nia C

## February 23

1<sup>st</sup> Salutations to the Theotokos  
6:00 pm

## February 24

**3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the Souls**

Divine Liturgy 9:00 am

**Epistle:** 2 Corinthians 4:6-15  
**Gospel:** Matthew 11:2-15

**Prosforo:** Nia C

## February 25

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Great Lent**

**Sunday of Orthodoxy /  
Procession of the Icons**

Orthros 9:00 am  
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

**Epistle:** Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-40  
**Gospel:** John 1:43-51

**Prosforo:** Jane S

**Coffee Hour: (Group 14)** G. Wilton,  
Peli K, Ilektra A