

NOTICE OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

December 10, 2017
Following Church Services

AGENDA:

- Approval of prior General Assembly Minutes
- Update on Forsyte Endowment
- Parish Council Elections

**December 2017
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 Nativity Sermon of St. John Chrysostom

Behold a new and wondrous mystery.

My ears resound to the Shepherd's song, piping no soft melody, but chanting full forth a heavenly hymn. The Angels sing. The Archangels blend their voice in harmony. The Cherubim hymn their joyful praise. The Seraphim exalt His glory. All join to praise this holy feast, beholding the Godhead here on earth, and man in heaven. He Who is above, now for our redemption dwells here below; and he that was lowly is by divine mercy raised.

Bethlehem this day resembles heaven; hearing from the stars the singing of angelic voices; and in place of the sun, enfolds within itself on every side, the Sun of justice. And ask not how: for where God wills, the order of nature yields. For He willed; He had the power; He descended; He redeemed; all things yielded in obedience to God. This day He Who is, is Born; and He Who is, becomes what He was not. For when He was God, He became man; yet not departing from the Godhead that is His. Nor yet by any loss of divinity became He man, nor through increase became He God from man; but being the Word He became flesh, His nature, because of impassability, remaining unchanged.

And so the kings have come, and they have seen the heavenly King that has come upon the earth, not bringing with Him Angels, nor Archangels, nor Thrones, nor Dominations, nor Powers, nor Principalities, but, treading a new and solitary path, He has come forth from a spotless womb.

Since this heavenly birth cannot be described, neither does His coming amongst us in these days permit of too curious scrutiny. Though I know that a Virgin this day gave birth, and I believe that God was begotten before all time, yet the manner of this generation I have learned to venerate in silence and I accept that this is not to be probed too curiously with wordy speech.

For with God we look not for the order of nature, but rest our faith in the power of Him who works.

What shall I say to you; what shall I tell you? I behold a Mother who has brought forth; I see a Child come to this light by birth. The manner of His conception I cannot comprehend.

Nature here rested, while the Will of God labored. O ineffable grace! The Only Begotten, Who is before all ages, Who cannot be touched or be perceived, Who is simple, without body, has now put on my body, that is visible and liable to corruption. For what reason? That coming amongst us he may teach us, and teaching, lead us by the hand to the things that men cannot see. For since men believe that the eyes are more trustworthy than the ears, they doubt of that which they do not see, and so He has deigned to show Himself in bodily presence, that He may remove all doubt.

Christ, finding the holy body and soul of the Virgin, builds for Himself a living temple, and as He had willed, formed there a man from the Virgin; and, putting Him on, this day came forth; unashamed of the lowliness of our nature.

For it was to Him no lowering to put on what He Himself had made. Let that handiwork be forever glorified, which became the cloak of its own Creator. For as in the first creation of flesh, man could not be made before the clay had come into His hand, so neither could this corruptible body be glorified, until it had first become the garment of its Maker.

What shall I say! And how shall I describe this Birth to you? For this wonder fills me with astonishment. The Ancient of days has become an infant. He Who sits upon the sublime and heavenly Throne, now lies in a manger. And He Who cannot be touched, Who is simple, without complexity, and incorporeal, now lies subject to the hands of men. He Who has broken the bonds of sinners, is now bound by an infants bands. But He has decreed that ignominy shall become honor, infamy be clothed with glory, and total humiliation the measure of His Goodness.

For this He assumed my body, that I may become capable of His Word; taking my flesh, He gives me His spirit; and so He bestowing and I receiving, He prepares for me the treasure of Life. He takes my flesh, to sanctify me; He gives me His Spirit that He may save me.

Come, then, let us observe the Feast. Truly wondrous is the whole chronicle of the Nativity. For this day the ancient slavery is ended, the devil confounded, the demons take to flight, the power of death is broken, paradise is unlocked, the curse is taken away, sin is removed from us, error driven out, truth has been brought back, the speech of kindness diffused, and spreads on every side, a heavenly way of life has been planted on the earth, angels communicate with men without fear, and men now hold speech with angels.

Why is this? Because God is now on earth, and man in heaven; on every side all things commingle. He became Flesh. He did not become God. He was God. Wherefore He became flesh, so that He Whom heaven did not contain, a manger would this day receive. He was placed in a manger, so that He, by whom all things are nourished, may receive an infants food from His Virgin Mother. So, the Father of all ages, as an infant at the breast, nestles in the virginal arms, that the Magi may more easily see Him. Since this day the Magi too have come, and made a beginning of withstanding tyranny; and the heavens give glory, as the Lord is revealed by a star.

+ To Him, then, Who out of confusion has wrought a clear path, to Christ, to the Father, and to the Holy Spirit, we offer all praise, now and forever. Amen.

THE PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Georgiana Wilton, Parish Council President 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.

I've been having some fun reviewing past issues of Nexis Magazine, published by the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America's Department of Religious Education. The Fall 2016 article, "Educating the Orthodox Heart Through Liturgy & Prayer" referenced the Orthodox Natural Church Development program. This program assessed the health of a parish in eight specific areas. Now, don't panic...I'm not suggesting a survey or a formal assessment (although that may be worthwhile) but rather a call to 'pay attention' to how we carry out the daily running of our Church community.

Take a look at the eight areas below. Read them and see what you think.

- **Empowering and inspired leadership** – leadership that encourages members to tap into their gifts to serve the parish and society in general
- **Gift-based ministry** – enabling parishioners to use their God-given gifts and talents in ministry
- **Fervent spirituality** – developing active rules of prayer for parishioners within their daily routines, enhancing their life in Christ
- **Effective and well-organized church structures** – well organized and efficient programs and steering bodies
- **Inspiring worship** – well-done worship services offering the community an opportunity to grow together through prayer
- **Holistic fellowship groups** – opportunities for people to experience fellowship, bond with others and receive spiritual support
- **Need-oriented evangelism** – intentional relationship building with non-Orthodox and non-Christians alike in order to invite them to become followers of Christ and members of the Orthodox Church
- **Loving relationships** – the core of any Christian life

I think we excel in some areas, are adequate in others, and need improvement in some. What are your thoughts?? I'd love to have a conversation (especially over coffee) to discuss these areas and seek input on where we all fit in.

As always—my phone is on and my internet is working! georgiana.wilton@gmail.com/608-843-4702.

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

Patti Cameron, President pcameron@tds.net or pcameron10@gmail.com 608-219-1659

2017 Baklava Plus Sale: Maria H and Lena G Co-Chairs

Philoptochos held another successful Baklava Plus Sale again this year. Philoptochos sold out of 400 pans of spanakopita, more than 1,000 pieces of baklava, over 3800 keftedes, 2,000 tiropitakia, as well as a large variety of assorted homemade ethnic treats this year.

A huge thank you to all the chapter members, volunteers, church community members, patrons and volunteers who helped prepare, cook, package, set up and take down on sale day to make this sale such a success. We will have a complete report at our December meeting.

Salvation Army Women's Shelter: The Women's shelter common area has been cleaned from floor to ceiling and we are now in the process of finding furniture. If you or someone you know is getting rid of a cabinet/counter piece, a coffee pot, a microwave, 2-3 wooden end tables and a coffee table, please let me know. We are also looking for a used leather or vinyl sofa and chairs.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, December 17th – Philoptochos Meeting

***We are in need of substitute hostesses for coffee hour. If you would like to be a substitute hostess, please contact Patti at 608-219-1659.

***We are looking for someone to be in charge of the Philanthropy Basket, which we hold once a month in the narthex at the end of the Liturgy. Please contact Raina H. 608-206-0400 if you are able to chair this activity.

Outreach Committee

Margo Schmidt, Chair

Winter Wear clothing drive for Emerson School. See Margo for more information.

Emerson School Volunteer Opportunities

For more information on supporting Emerson School check this link: [Emerson Volunteer Opportunities](#).

River Food Pantry

Nancy Briamis, Chair

ReMitts are Back

What better way to stay warm during Wisconsin's cold winter months than with one-of-a-kind mittens that benefit local food pantries! The Re-Mitt project, a volunteer run organization, has been raising funds for Dane County food pantries since 2009. Last year, they raised \$50,000! Click [here](#) to learn more about the program and where you can purchase your own pair!

Your Gift Makes A Difference

Your financial contribution supports a local, grassroots organization, and your gift feeds people in need right here in Dane County. On behalf of the thousands of adults and families who have benefited from The River, thank you for your support!

Join the Hands of Hope team and give monthly. Your ongoing gift stays right here in the Dane County community helping neighbors in need. For every dollar donated, 97 cents directly funds food, services, utilities, rent, programs and everything else it takes to keep The River stocked with food.

Sign up online and become a part of Hands of Hope.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Jenny Josheff, Director, agocssdirector@gmail.com, Fr. Michael, Spiritual Advisor, frmichael@agocwi.org

Greetings from the Sunday School. Students can join Sunday School at any time. Parents/Guardians need to fill out a registration form. Your teacher should have a quick form in their classroom for you to fill out.

Reminder that there will be no class on December 24th or December 31st.

This year's Christmas pageant will be on Sunday, December 17th. This will be held in conjunction with Greek School.

Sunday School is still looking for a director. Please contact Jenny Josheff or Fr. Michael if you are interested.

Thank you and Happy Holidays from the Sunday School

SPIRITUAL EXERCISES

Peli Galiti, pegaliti@gmail.com

The first spiritual meetings of this season will start on Thursday, December 14 at 7:00 p.m. There will be no meetings in January.

FORSYTE ENDOWMENT

Bruce Hansen, bruce.e.hansen2@gmail.com

The Parish Council has recommended an Investment Plan for the Forsyte Endowment. The plan is to invest \$100,000 every six months, starting this January, until \$500,000 has been invested. We believe this will provide long-term financial security and opportunities for the church. The investments will be in Vanguard mutual funds, with a mix of Total Stock Market, Social Index, and Total Bond Market Funds. We will be seeking approval at the General Assembly in December.

CHURCH WEBSITE

Lainey Skoumbouris, 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

Nonagenarian Recognition

Kathie Fafalios, Chair

Join us on December 3rd for a special recognition celebration. Assumption Greek Orthodox Church is blessed with 7 parishioners 90 years of age or older. These members have enriched and helped sustain our church for many years. Immediately following the Divine Liturgy our nonagenarians will be honored for their commitment and service to our church. Please join us and the parish council downstairs in honoring these pillars of our community at the St Nicholas dinner.

Our honorees are: Ted Cappas, George Choles, Sam Fatsis, Andreas Kazamias, Mary Margetis, Mary Scocos and Gus Pappas. Please join us on Sunday, December 3rd to celebrate them.

2017 Christmas Card

The deadline to have your name included in the 2017 Christmas Card is Sunday, December 3rd. Please see our Treasurers to add your name and donation.

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 DURING November 2017

Weddings: **0**

Chrismations: **0**

Baptisms: **2**

Funerals: **0**

Baptisms:

Charlie Valeria Stupinean was baptized on Saturday, November 11, 2017. Her parents are Alin and Rebekah Stupinean. Her godparent is Mihaela Husau.

Thomas Weldemichael was baptized on Saturday, November 11, 2017. His parents are Iyob T. Weldemichael and Rima H. Okbazghi. His godparent is Samuel Asgedom.

ANNUAL ST. NICHOLAS SPAGHETTI DINNER SPONSORED BY THE PARISH COUNCIL

Sunday, December 3rd 2017

Church Hall

Immediately Following Church Services



This year we will be honoring our seven nonagenarians for their life-long service to our Church family and community!!

Lenten Menu:

Pasta with tomato sauce

Salad ~ Bread

Cake

Wine

\$5.00 per person suggested donation

December 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
November 26 13th Sunday of Luke Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am	November 27	November 28	November 29 Choir Practice 7:00 pm	November 30 St. Andrew the First Called Apostle Divine Liturgy 9:00 am Women's Spiritual Meeting 7:00 pm	1	2 Baptism in Church today 11:00 am
3 14th Sunday of Luke Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am	4 <i>Fr. Michael away for Wisconsin Council of Churches Annual Meeting</i>	5 <i>Fr. Michael away for Wisconsin Council of Churches Annual Meeting</i>	6 St. Nicholas the Wonderworker Divine Liturgy 9:00 am Choir Practice 7:00 pm	7 The Typikon: An Appreciation of Our Liturgical Tradition 7:00 pm	8	9
10 10th Sunday of Luke Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am St. Nicholas Dinner General Assembly Meeting. Parish Council Elections	11	12 Parish Council Meeting 7:00 pm	13 Choir Practice 7:00 pm	14 Women's Spiritual Meeting 7:00 pm	15	16
17 11th Sunday of Luke Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am Christmas Pageant Philoptochos Meeting	18	19	20 Choir Practice 7:00 pm	21 The Typikon: An Appreciation of Our Liturgical Tradition 7:00 pm	22	23
24 Sunday before the Nativity Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am NATIVITY EVE Great Vespers of the Nativity 5:00 pm	25 HOLY NATIVITY Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am	26	27 St. Steven the Martyr	28	29	30
31 Sunday after the Nativity Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am NEW YEAR'S EVE Great Vespers of the Feast of St. Basil the Great 6:00 pm	January 1 St. Basil the Great / Circumcision of Our Lord Divine Liturgy 9:00 am					

December 2017 – February 2018 Liturgies and Services

December 3

14th Sunday of Luke

Orthros 9:00 am
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

Epistle: Ephesians 5:8-19
Gospel: Luke 18:35-43

Prosforo: Elene P

Coffee Hour: St. Nicholas Day
Dinner

December 6

St. Nicholas the Wonderworker

Divine Liturgy 9:00 am

Epistle: Hebrews 13:17-21
Gospel: Luke 6:17-23

Prosforo: Elene P

December 10

10th Sunday of Luke

Orthros 9:00 am
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

Epistle: Ephesians 6:10-17
Gospel: Luke 13:10-17

Prosforo: Korinna H

Coffee Hour: (Group 6) Maria M,
Nia C, Denise S

December 17

11th Sunday of Luke

Orthros 9:00 am
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

Epistle: Colossians 3:4-11
Gospel: Luke 14:16-24

Prosforo: Kathy F

Coffee Hour: (Group 7) Georgia M,
Livia K, Ghada S, Sarah S

December 24

Sunday before the Nativity

Orthros 9:00 am
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

Epistle: Hebrews 11:9-10, 32-40
Gospel: Matthew 1:1-25

Prosforo: Nia C

Coffee Hour: Christmas Eve

December 24

Eve of the Nativity

Great Vespers of the Nativity
5:00 pm

December 25

Feast of the Holy Nativity

Orthros 9:00 am
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

Epistle: Galatians 4:4-7
Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

Prosforo: Nia C

December 31

Sunday after the Nativity

Orthros 9:00 am
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

Epistle: 2 Timothy 4:5-8
Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

Prosforo: Jane S

Coffee Hour: New Years

December 31

NEW YEAR'S EVE

Great Vespers of the Feast of St. Basil
- 5:00 pm

January 1

Feast of St. Basil the Great

Divine Liturgy 9:00 am

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

Prosforo: Jane S

January 6

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: ?

January 7

Sunday After Theophany

Old-Calendar Nativity

Synaxis of John the Holy Glorious Prophet, Baptist, & Forerunner

Orthros 9:00 am
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

Followed immediately by
The Great Blessing of the Waters

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

Prosforo: OPEN

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

January 14

Leave-taking of Theophany

Orthros 9:00 am
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

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

Prosforo: ?

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

January 21

15th Sunday of Luke

Orthros 9:00 am
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

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

Prosforo: ?

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

January 28

Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee: Triodion Begins

VASILOPITA DINNER

Orthros 9:00 am
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

Epistle: II Timothy 3:10-15
Gospel: Luke 18:10-14

Prosforo: ?

Coffee Hour: Vasilopita Dinner

January 30

Three Hierarchs

Divine Liturgy 9:00 am

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

Prosforo: ?

February 2

Presentation of Our Lord

Divine Liturgy 9:00 am

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

Prosforo: ?

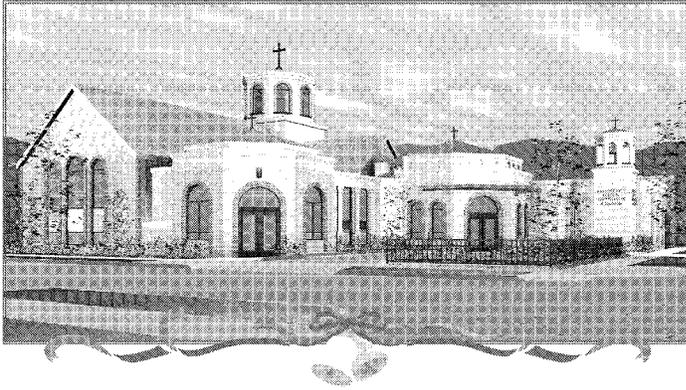
February 4

Sunday of the Prodigal Son

Orthros 9:00 am
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

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

Prosforo: ?



2017 ASSUMPTION CHRISTMAS CARD



Family or Parishioner name: (as you would like it to appear of the card)

Address:

Donation:

The money raised will go to fund the proposed icon of the Greeting of the Theotokos in the Exo-Narthex, at the entrance into the church. Our goal for raising the funds necessary for this icon is \$5000

\$25.00 _____

\$50.00 _____

\$75.00 _____

\$100.00 _____

Other: _____

Please include your check made out to the "Assumption Greek Orthodox Church" and return it to the church treasurer no later than Sunday, December 3, 2017. Make sure to specify "Christmas Card - ICON" on the check (on the memo line). Thank You!

Please see the reverse side of this form for a drawing of this proposed wall icon in the Exo-Narthex →→→→→

Mary is greeted by her parents Joachim and Anna

