

THE ASSUMPTION CONNECTION

December
2023



What's Happening

DECEMBER 2023

Sun	Mo	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

- 2: DOP/AHEPA Christmas Potluck 5:00 PM
- 3: Super Draw After Liturgy
- 14: Philoptochos Bake Sale Pickup
- 17: Parish Council Meeting After Liturgy
- 24: Sunday Liturgy 10:00 AM
- Christmas Eve Vespers 5:00 PM
- 25: Christmas Orthros & Liturgy 8:50 AM & 10:00 AM
- 31: Sunday Liturgy 10:00 AM

JANUARY 2023

Sun	Mo	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

- 1: New Years Day Orthros 8:50 AM
- New Years Day Liturgy 10:00 AM
- 6: Theophany Orthros 8:50 AM
- Theophany Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM

PROSPHORON SCHEDULE

DECEMBER	JANUARY
3 Stergiopoulos, Zoi	7 Trifon, Nick
10 Stone, Paula	14 Vakalopoulos, Petros & Iordana
17 Thornton, Jerry & Demi	21 Valentine, Marina
24 Thurber, Charles & Paula	28 Vergos, Nitsa
31 Thurkill, Stella	

Please make 3 loaves of Prospora and bring them to church by 9:00 am on the morning of the service. Be sure to include your lists of names, both living and deceased, to be read during the Proskimide (Preparation) Service: one list is for those who are living and the other for those who have fallen asleep to the Lord. If you choose not to make Prospora, please send a check to the church for \$20 made payable to "Assumption Greek Orthodox Church" with a note stating it is for Prospora. Be sure to include your list of names. If you have questions, please contact the church office, 810-771-4611.

If you would like to add your name or the name of a family member to the prayer list, please contact the church office at 810-771-4611.

Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. - James 5:16

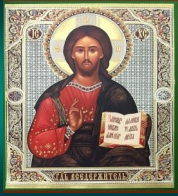
PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Sandi Chinonis; Maria Chuleas; Sia Garceau, Stephanos Hatzigeorgiou & Family;
George Levas, Afroditi Marks; Sam Paraschos, Maroulla Photiou

SUNDAY READERS SCHEDULE

DECEMBER	JANUARY
3 Nick Kallis	7 Nick Kallis
10 Cathy Yeotis	14 Cathy Yeotis
17 Dena Altheide	21 Dena Altheide
24 Debra Chinonis	28 Debra Chinonis
31 John Costa	

If you are unable to make your assigned reading date, please contact the church office, 810-771-4611 so we can find a replacement. Thank you!



FROM FATHER PETER

December, 2023

PREPARING THE MANGER

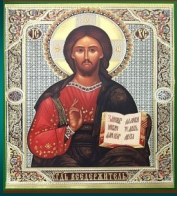
“And she brought forth her first born Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn” (Luke 2:7, NRSV)

The Gospel according to St. Luke is the most beautiful, poetic version of the Gospel, as befits the Evangelist who was not only a physician, but an artist and writer. Luke presents us with the beautiful narrative of the “Christmas Story”, the Nativity of our Lord, which is unique. Of the other three Gospel versions, only the Gospel of St. Matthew makes very short mention of fact Christ’s birth, while St. Mark and St. John leave it out entirely.

This does not mean that the Nativity was not important to the other Evangelists, but we must pause and think of how St. Luke’s version goes into great detail of the events surrounding the birth of our Lord. As Luke was obviously not a first-hand witness to what happened that holy night, were they secondhand accounts gleaned from others, artistic license, or imagined events from the very talented Saint?

There is another possibility – that they were described to him directly by one who had first-hand experience of what occurred: the Theotokos herself. For this, we have to remember that St. Luke had a first-hand, personal acquaintance with the Mother of God – even creating the first icon, where she holds her son (and our Lord and Savior). One can imagine the conversations St. Luke would have had with her, and the details she would have provided to him. She would have done this in her typical fashion – not to glorify herself, but to glorify Him.

Regardless of how the details of St. Luke’s account of the Nativity came to be, there are many layers of meaning in this. One is the fact that the infant Jesus was laid in a “manger” – the large container holding fresh, clean hay for animals to eat from. We have to be reminded that a manger would be found in a stable (which is not necessarily a building or barn – it was often a cave) where animals of all kinds were sheltered.



FROM FATHER PETER

If you have ever been in a stable or barn with animals, you know that this place (especially the floor) is not the cleanest, and that providing the animals with food that is clean, instead of feeding off the floor, is important. The stable needs to be cleaned and refreshed periodically to make it fit even for animals.

In St. Luke's gospel, Christ Himself does not touch the floor of the stable, but is placed within the manger, where the clean food is placed for consumption. The significance of this, besides being a further sign of the humility of God becoming man, is also that His presence makes new and clean even the darkest, filthiest aspects of our world.

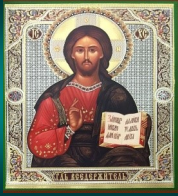
Christ, as always, will find there is no room at the "inn" – the world which He has created, but has turned away from Him. It is during this period of the Nativity fast that we prepare ourselves to receive Him – God become man – in to our entire being. WE are the manger, and we must be prepared to receive God become man in the midst of the stable, the world wallowing in fear, hatred, war, and faithlessness.

Christ becomes, for us, the clean food of salvation – in His words, His teachings, His Crucifixion and Resurrection – ultimately in His Body and Blood which He provides to us. Christ in the manger becomes part of us.

May all of you experience the joy of His salvation as we prepare to welcome Him into our hearts, our homes, and the broken world that desperately needs Him.

CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM!

+Fr. Peter



FROM FATHER PETER

THE WAY AHEAD – Part IV

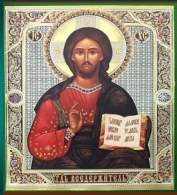
LAST MONTH

We looked at the third of our topics related to our community's future: OUTREACH

TO REVIEW: Growth in our community is important, not only for us but the Church as a whole. Efforts to open the Orthodox faith to a wider community (the “Explorers”), as well as to bring back those who are nominally Orthodox and have disengaged for whatever reasons (the “Prodigals”) are identified.

The suggested plan of action for Outreach included:

1. Lay persons willing to lead and work in developing ideas together with the parish priest as part of an outreach committee
2. Heightened visibility and profile of our parish to the community at large, including:
 - a. Developing individuals in our community willing to act as greeters and “ambassadors” willing to welcome newcomers (whether Orthodox or not) to our parish
 - i. It is important to remind ourselves that those who are “Explorers” may be quite different from what the Assumption community has been in the past, and that we must be prepared to embrace ALL who step through our doors
 - b. Leveraging our fund-raising activities to include opportunities for evangelism and education on the Orthodox faith to our many friends who patronize our activities
 - c. Consider improving the physical visibility of our parish, especially our current road-facing signage (the current signage is hard to see and the church itself is easily missed, contains scant information), and is often overshadowed by other signage on our Baldwin Road frontage
 - d. Review and re-vamp our on-line presence
 - i. The current web page should be decommissioned and a new web page designed
 - ii. Review and re-design other on-line presence



FROM FATHER PETER

THE WAY AHEAD – Part IV

3. Look at potential religious education opportunities (both in-person and virtual), which could be used for both external AND internal outreach (to be discussed in more detail under “Education” in next month’s article)
4. Identify non-participating individuals and families in our community and extend an invitation directly to them (a personal connection or friendship with this group is especially important)

THIS MONTH

We continue our discussion with the final topic of this series of articles: EDUCATION

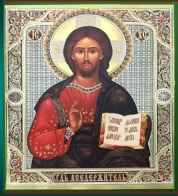
“So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said ‘Do you understand what you are reading?’ And he said, ‘How can I, unless someone guides me?’ And he asked Philip to come up and sit with him” (Acts 8:30-31, NRSV)

In Acts 8, the description of the angel of the Lord commanding the apostle Philip to go toward the road from Jerusalem to Gaza (a place very much in the news right now) and encounter the Ethiopian eunuch (described as a man of great authority, who in his journey, was engaged in reading the Scriptures) is found fairly early in the Book of Acts, which described the activities of the Apostles and the early Church in bringing people to belief in Christ.

The need for education and guidance in the faith is at the core of this passage from Acts. Education would seem to be a self-evident need for any worshipping community. While youth and child religious education is what immediately springs to mind (and there are many resources available at the Archdiocesan and other levels to support this when the opportunity arises), the focus on our discussion is the education of our adult faithful.

I have received feedback over the last few months from various people regarding what we, as individual Orthodox Christians and as a group, know about our faith. This has been a topic of discussion at all levels of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese: the “evangelization” of our own faithful!

This is an important issue for an obvious reason: it is important to understand what our beliefs are as Orthodox, and following on this, what our liturgical and other traditions represent. In this we have two main groups of people – ourselves (of course) and those non-Orthodox who we will encounter (whether in our parish or even outside).



FROM FATHER PETER

THE WAY AHEAD – Part IV

We will likely encounter more people curious about the Orthodox faith in the community at large, in our daily business and work, and our ability to answer some questions about Orthodoxy will be key to rousing their curiosity, and to respond to our personal invitation to them to “Come and See”.

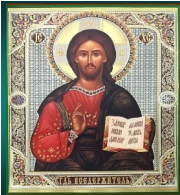
WHAT IS THE CHALLENGE FOR THE ASSUMPTION COMMUNITY?

Through the authority of the local bishop, the parish priest, by default, is responsible for the teaching of the faith. However, just as in the Divine Liturgy, this is a work of the people as well. The needs for our community for education are:

1. LEADERSHIP – RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE
 - a. RE-ACTIVATE this committee, select a chairperson (this position has been vacant for several months)
 - b. Identify community preferences for education
 - i. Sunday after Liturgy (during coffee hour) vs weeknight?
 - ii. In-person or virtual
 - c. Identify print/online resources available
2. CURRICULUM
 - a. Basics of the Faith
 - b. Scripture
 - c. Basics of our Services
3. INVENTORY AVAILABLE SPACE AND EQUIPMENT
 - a. Look at our current spaces (especially classrooms)
 - i. declutter or re-organize as needed
 - b. Review our current audio-visual resources
 - i. Check on what is working, discard old or unused equipment

Many of the details and further development of education plans will depend on the input and leadership of members of our community. As always, suggestions and ideas are invited.

+Fr. Peter



FROM YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

Dear Parishioners of Assumption,

A wonderful time of year is quickly approaching, which is exciting and inspiring.

The very first Christmas focused on the little things compared to the fanfare of today. Jesus came into the world as the smallest of all humans - a baby. This small being played a massive role in the history of humanity. Sometimes we get caught up in the holiday festivities, that we forget the true meaning of Christmas. We get consumed with the purchase of gifts, food planning and bright colorful decorative lights, that Jesus becomes secondary to a holiday dedicated to his birth. It is necessary to make Jesus the center of our lives. Even when times get tough, He will never forsake or leave us. Spend time reflecting on one silent night 2023 years ago that still to this day & always will serve us as a guide as to how we live our lives.

The Friday Fish Fry has come to a successful temporary halt. Many, many thanks to everyone for their help & support & a special thanks to John Hountalas for chairing this event.

I am happy to announce that our dear Lori Photiou is our new Church Administrator. Lori is extremely qualified & knowledgeable as to the office procedures, & will be conducting business hours on Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday between 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM.

To our beloved brother in Christ Nicholas Karay - brother of Katie Chinonis - Congratulations & best wishes from the Assumption family for achieving a milestone. A very Happy Birthday!!

Merry Christmas to each & everyone, a prosperous New Year filled with love, joy, & happiness to all.

Cheers to the upcoming New Year!

Susan Kallis

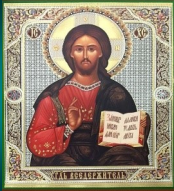
Parish Council President



FROM YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

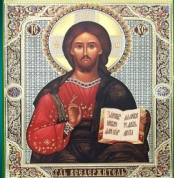
ASSUMPTION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH - GRAND BLANC
PROFIT & LOSS BUDGET OVERVIEW
2023 OPERATING FUND
2024 PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET
 Approved by General Assembly November 12, 2023

	2023 Approved Annual Budget	Actual as of 9/30/23	Proposed 2024 Budget
OPERATING REVENUES			
Stewardship	\$ 140,000.00	98,950.64	142,000.00
Trays & Candles	\$ 15,000.00	10,358.50	15,000.00
Candles Expense	\$ (3,000.00)	(1,164.70)	(3,000.00)
Hall Rental	\$ 3,000.00	5,848.00	3,000.00
Interest Income	\$ 15.00	31.50	50.00
Miscellaneous Income/Donations	\$ 13,000.00	7,318.27	5,000.00
Miscellaneous Income/Donations - Special Projects	\$ -	0.00	30,000.00
RE - Youth Ministry Income	\$ 1,500.00	0.00	1,500.00
RE - Youth Ministry Expenses	\$ (1,500.00)	(91.27)	(1,500.00)
Fundraisers			
Cash Raffle Income	\$ 50,000.00	9,200.00	50,000.00
Cash Raffle License	\$ (50.00)	(50.00)	(50.00)
Cash Raffle Expenses	\$ (22,000.00)	0.00	(22,000.00)
Charity Poker Night Income	\$ -	-	-
Poker Hall License	\$ -	-	-
Poker Hall Expenses	\$ -	-	-
Golf Outing Income	\$ 42,000.00	46,055.00	46,000.00
Golf Outing Expenses	\$ (21,000.00)	(21,417.79)	(20,000.00)
Fish Fry	\$ 65,000.00	50,857.82	30,000.00
Cost of Sales - Fish Fry	\$ (45,000.00)	(19,105.70)	(13,500.00)
Other Fundraisers Income	\$ 20,000.00	7,633.85	7,000.00
Cost of Sales - Other Fundraisers	\$ (5,000.00)	(1,026.19)	(2,800.00)
Total Operating Revenue	\$ 251,965.00	193,397.93	\$ 266,700.00
Salary, Benefits and Payroll Taxes			
Priest			
Salary and Housing	\$ 65,000.00	41,971.20	\$ 65,000.00
Auto Allowance	\$ 6,000.00	3,000.00	\$ 6,000.00
Cell Phone Allowance	\$ 1,200.00	600.00	\$ 1,200.00
Taxes - FICA Priest	\$ 11,742.00	5,871.00	\$ 11,742.00
Insurance Expense - Health	\$ 5,000.00	2,499.96	\$ 5,000.00
Total Priest Compensation Package	\$ 88,942.00	53,942.16	\$ 88,942.00
Office/General			
Salaries - General	\$ 12,000.00	405.00	15,000.00
Taxes - FICA Office employees	\$ 918.00	-	1,148.00
Total General Compensation	\$ 12,918.00	\$ 405.00	\$ 16,148.00
Total Salary, Benefits and Payroll Taxes	\$ 101,860.00	\$ 54,347.16	\$ 105,090.00
General Operating Expenses			
Accounting	\$ 1,200.00	500.00	1,200.00
Building and Property Security:			
Alarm	\$ 1,236.36	927.27	1,300.00
Fire Panel	\$ 1,550.00	1,110.00	1,550.00
Dues & Subscriptions - Software	\$ 728.00	1,165.45	800.00
Parish Total Commitment	\$ 29,786.04	0.00	29,786.04
Equipment Rental (Copier/Printer)	\$ 5,000.00	2,448.00	5,050.00
Insurance Expense - Building	\$ 9,500.00	3.18	10,000.00
Insurance Expense - Workman's Comp	\$ 650.00	3,353.57	700.00



FROM YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

Lawn Care/Snow Removal	\$	9,000.00	50.00	9,000.00
Lawn Care - Weed Maintenance	\$	606.00	0.00	650.00
Lawn Care - Sprinkler System	\$	140.00	118.27	140.00
Laundry & Uniforms	\$	500.00	513.42	725.00
Pension Plan	\$	8,940.00	64.99	9,146.00
Postage and Shipping	\$	2,600.00	0.00	2,600.00
Publishing & Printing	\$	-	-	0.00
Repairs & Maintenance:				
Goyette Monthly	\$	2,472.00	78.16	2,500.00
Vanguard (Kitchen Fire Suppression System; Fire Extinguishers)	\$	500.00	480.85	1,000.00
Maintenance - general	\$	8,000.00	2,739.85	5,000.00
Maintenance - Parking Lot			8,876.51	20,000.00
Maintenance - Sidewalks				10,000.00
Pest Control	\$	600.00	4,964.34	600.00
Trash Removal	\$	1,100.00	541.43	1,100.00
Utilities:				
Comcast	\$	5,280.00	3,446.14	5,280.00
Consumers	\$	21,000.00	12,446.91	21,000.00
Water	\$	4,000.00	2,874.72	4,000.00
Total Operating Expenses	\$	114,388.40	46,503.06	\$ 143,127.04
Miscellaneous Expenses				
Advertising	\$	3,000.00	100.00	3,000.00
Bank Charges	\$	100.00	0.00	100.00
Computer Expenses	\$	200.00	0.00	500.00
Continuing Edu - Seminars & Conv	\$	2,400.00	1,200.00	4,000.00
Contributions - Metropolis	\$	400.00	262.10	400.00
Contributions - Other	\$	2,000.00	1,584.00	2,000.00
Cost of Sales: Food Sales	\$	5,000.00	1,101.00	5,000.00
Credit Card Processing Fees	\$	700.00	1,299.68	500.00
Honorariums	\$	9,000.00	6,298.00	6,000.00
Flowers & Gifts	\$	2,000.00	1,722.30	2,000.00
Library, Books & Journals (includes Liturgical)	\$	500.00	85.40	500.00
Licenses, Fees and Permits	\$	800.00	380.00	800.00
Metropolis Detroit Summer Camp	\$	500.00	0.00	500.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$	250.00	745.00	500.00
Supplies - Office	\$	1,500.00	770.48	1,500.00
Supplies - General	\$	3,000.00	865.15	2,000.00
Supplies - Janitorial	\$	500.00	520.63	600.00
Supplies - Kitchen	\$	3,500.00	3,815.68	3,750.00
Total Miscellaneous Expense	\$	35,350.00	\$ 20,749.42	\$ 33,650.00
Total Expense	\$	251,598.40	\$ 121,599.64	\$ 281,867.04
Net Income/Loss	\$	366.60	71,798.29	\$ (15,167.04)
Restricted Accounts				
Iconography				
Iconography - Icons sold	\$	60,000.00	52,700.00	25,000.00
Iconography - other donations	\$	1,000.00	8,544.00	1,000.00
Iconography - Funds from restricted accounts	\$	25,000.00	25,000.00	25,000.00
Iconography Expenses	\$	(86,000.00)	(80,807.42)	(56,000.00)
	\$	-	\$ 5,436.58	\$ (5,000.00)
Church Memorial Savings Fund				
Plaque Donations	\$	2,000.00	7,026.00	2,000.00
Other Donations	\$	5,000.00	19,921.50	8,000.00
	\$	7,000.00	\$ 26,947.50	10,000.00
Parking Lot Savings Fund				
Parking Lot Pledges/Donations	\$	2,000.00	1,750.00	5,000.00
	\$	2,000.00	\$ 1,750.00	5,000.00



FROM YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

MONTHLY TREASURER'S REPORT

The GENERAL CHECKING ACCOUNT holds our operating income we receive each month including stewardship, trays and candles, and other donations. Paid out of this account are the operating expenses each month.

The HOLDING ACCOUNT is used to hold income from fundraising events such as Golf Outing, Cash Raffle, and other Fundraisers. These funds are released to the General Checking Account once all associated bills are paid for that fundraiser and a final accounting is done. Also included in this account are the monies collected by our Religious Education group for Youth Ministry, monies donated for the Parking Lot Pledge project, and Easter Item Donations.

We currently have 2 Savings accounts for designated purposes – Iconography and Church Memorial Fund (Wall Savings) and Property Improvement. We also have an Investment Account for Iconography and an Investment Account for the Church Memorial Fund

Any questions regarding the Monthly Treasurer's Report should be directed to the Parish Council President, Treasurer or Co-Treasurer.

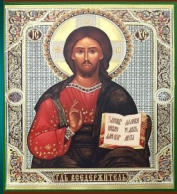
OPERATING INCOME OCTOBER 2023			OPERATING EXPENSES OCTOBER 2023		
	CURRENT MONTH	YEAR TO DATE		CURRENT MONTH	YEAR TO DATE
Stewardship	\$9,522	\$108,472.64	Operating Expenses	\$21,169.96	\$144,515.25
Trays & Candles	\$502	\$10,860.50	Youth Ministry Expenses	\$0.00	\$91.27
Memorial income	\$0.00	\$5,055	Miscellaneous Expenses*	\$2,533.46	\$22,550.55
Miscellaneous Income	\$2,043.91	\$21,258.11	Maintenance Expenses	\$887.18	\$13,609.73
Fish Fry – Lent Income	\$0.00	\$43,513.62	Fish Fry – Lent Expenses	\$0.00	\$29,117.10
Fish Fry – Fall Income	\$14,094.65	\$21,582.85	Fish Fry – Fall Expenses	\$8,913.97	\$14,954.66
Other Fundraising Income**	\$42,821.25 Taste of Greece/Cash Raffle	\$105,710.10	Other Fundraising Expenses**	\$254.21 (Taste of Greece)	\$21,011.35
2023 Total Operating Income	\$68,983.81	\$242,562.86	2023 Total Operating Expenses	\$33,758.78	\$245,849.91
Total Operating Income (Loss) for Month: \$35,225.03					
Total Operating Income (Loss) for Year: \$(3,287.05)					

*Miscellaneous Expenses include Office, Janitorial, Altar and Kitchen supplies, and other expenses not included in the other categories.

** Other Fundraising Income and Expenses includes Taste of Greece, other fundraisers, Golf Outing and Cash Raffle

OTHER INCOME OCTOBER 2023		OTHER EXPENSES OCTOBER 2023	
ICONOGRAPHY DONATIONS	\$400	Iconography Expenses	\$0
CHURCH MEMORIAL FUND DONATIONS	\$5,664	Transfer to Iconography Investment Account	\$0
PARKING LOT DONATIONS	\$0	Wall Savings Expenses	\$0
PROPERTY IMPROVEMENT (COLLECTION TRAY)	\$492	Transfer to Wall Savings Investment Account	\$7,000

ACCOUNT BALANCES AS OF OCTOBER 31, 2023			
General Checking	\$102,445.01	Church investment Savings Fund – Bank Savings Acct	\$2,072.17
		Church Investment Savings Investment Account	\$168,701.75
Special Events – Consists of: Altar Items – Special Tray \$500 Youth Ministry \$1,012.47 Emergency Funds \$3,000	\$4,512.27	Iconography- Bank Savings Acct	\$1,480.41
		Iconography Investment Account	\$74,763.40
		Property Improvement Savings	\$2,506.37



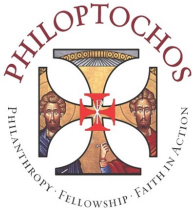
FROM YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

HAPPIEST OF BIRTHDAY WISHES TO ALL OF OUR DECEMBER BIRTHDAY'S

Mr. Benjamin Stone	Dec. 1st	Mr. Matthew O'Bee	Dec. 16th
Miss Sophia Braun	Dec. 2nd	Mr. Jerry Thornton	Dec. 20th
Mrs. Nikki Pappadakis	Dec. 2nd	Miss Amanda Steinhoff	Dec. 21st
Mr. Nicholas Pappadakis	Dec. 4th	Mr. Evangelos Stavridis	Dec. 21st
Mr. Dimitrios Douros	Dec. 5th	Miss Victoria Karatza	Dec. 22nd
Mr. Nicholas Manutes	Dec. 6th	Miss Kristen Poulos	Dec. 25th
Mrs. Effie Vitinaros	Dec. 7th	Mrs. Carolyn Jokisch	Dec. 26th
Kelly Clair	Dec. 7th	Mr. Jeff Lauster	Dec. 26th
Sofia Margaritis	Dec. 9th	Mr. Charles Thurber	Dec. 27th
Mrs. Mary Falaras	Dec. 9th	Hon. Thomas Yeotis	Dec. 28th
Mr. Constantine Peters	Dec. 12th	Ms Sandra Birtsas	Dec. 29th
Mr. Lambros Kottalis	Dec. 13th	Mr. Mason Wisniewski	Dec. 31st
Mr. Andrew Costa	Dec. 15th		

If you see that we have missed someone, we ask that you please let us know so we can update our records.





Philoptochos Society - Friends of the Poor!

Philoptochos has been very busy during the month of November and will continue with several projects in December.

1. Thank you to those who have donated to our Food Drive for the needy. If you donated money, Agape Kallis was wonderful in going to the food markets and spending those monetary donations on the requested items to round out the donations we had received.
2. Thank you to all who donated to the Hat, Scarf, Glove and Stocking Drive, especially to Dena Altheide and Amanda Steinhoff who knitted a plethora of items. These will be delivered to places where the needy are served.
3. On November 19 we held a fundraiser by selling our famous loukoumathes. Thank you to Mary Stergiopoulos and Spiridoula Panos for all their hard work.
4. Also, on November 19 we sold our freshly baked Tsoureki, just in time to add to your scrumptious Thanksgiving Day meal.
5. On November 20th we prepared and served lenten refreshments after the Pan-Orthodox vesperal Liturgy for the presentation of the Theotokos.
6. On November 26th, we will sold Greek Frappes to raise money for our Philoptochos iconography project.
7. If you have not paid your 2023-24 dues yet, they were due on September 1, the start of the Ecclesiastical New Year. Send to or pay Diana Panos Lillar, our Treasurer.
8. If you know of a needy family or person, or if you are in need, please talk to the Priest, Father Peter. No one else will know about it, but he can help secure funds through either our Philoptochos chapter, or the Metropolis Philoptochos. They will pay heating bills, rental costs or even contribute to funeral expenses. These funds will be paid directly to these agencies. Again, it will be completely anonymous.

We wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Joyous New Year.

From Your Assumption Philoptochos Board



Hello fellow Parishioners:

The Philoptochos will once again be setting up the Christmas Memorial Tree with the crosses which were purchased last year. Many of you chose to leave the crosses at the church to be used again this year.

If you wish to purchase another cross, or add names to the Memorial Tree, please contact me, Diana Lillar or Olga Steinhoff. The cost is \$7.00 per cross.

Thank you and God Bless.
Dena Altheide

Assumption Greek Orthodox Church
LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY
2024 DUES

The benevolent works of Philoptochos are a continuation of Christ's ministry on earth. I humbly accept the opportunity to return to God a portion of the time, talents and resources with which He has gifted me.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____

Work Phone _____

Cell Phone _____

E-mail _____

Minimum Member Dues: \$40.00 Checks payable to Philoptochos Society

\$15.00 is distributed to National Philoptochos

\$6.00 is distributed to Metropolis Philoptochos

and the balance remains in our chapter.

We rely on your Stewardship to help fund our many efforts to help those in need. Our hope and goal is for every woman in our Assumption Parish to join!

Please give or send your dues to Diana Lillar. Thank you!

We would like to extend a special “Thank You” to

Bishop Earl Boyea

Father John Fain

Father Anthony Strouse

*From the Roman Catholic Diocese of Lansing for participating with
our Pan-Orthodox community here at Assumption on Monday,
November 20th for the Vesperal Divine Liturgy for the feast of the
Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple.*

Bishop Boyea was our guest homilist.



Daughters of Penelope Iris Chapter #242

The Daughters of Penelope Annual Fall Salad Luncheon and Bake Sale was held on Thursday, October 26, 2023, and was a success! We received all positive feedback from those that attended. Thank you to everyone who participated, it was truly a group effort.

Sunday, October 29, 2023, was God Parent Sunday and fellowship hour was hosted by the Daughters of Penelope. This is a day to worship with your God Parent and honor them.

The District AHEPA/Daughters Mid-Year Conference was held on Saturday, November 4th at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in Ann Arbor, MI. The Iris Chapter was represented by four sisters which included Jo-Anne Dau (DOP District Governor), Cathy Yeotis, Marian Hagler, and Anna Hagler (DOP District Marshall).

We kicked off our first meeting of the Iris Chapter Book Club on Thursday, November 16th at Panera in Grand Blanc, MI. It is not too late to join. We will keep our membership posted on the details of the book club at each DOP monthly meeting.

Our next meeting will include an initiation of new members and will be held on Saturday, December 2, 2023, at 3:00 pm. A Christmas Party and Potluck with the AHEPA will follow the meeting at 5:00 pm.

Marian Hagler
Chapter President



Thank you to all that helped make our Daughters of Penelope annual salad luncheon and bake sale a huge success!!





God Parents Sunday:
Carol Photiou with Lucas Photiou
Tessie Komodromos with Marian Hagler
Marian Hagler with Alexander Photiou

Thank you for your generous
donations for our food and
warm items drive.





ASSUMPTION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH CHRISTMAS, NEW YEARS, & THEOPHANY 2023

DEC 24 th	CHRISTMAS EVE	Orthros & Divine Liturgy	8:50 AM 10:00 AM
		Vespers	5:00 PM
DEC 25 th	CHRISTMAS DAY	Orthros & Divine Liturgy	8:50 AM 10:00 AM
DEC 31 st	NEW YEAR'S EVE	Orthros & Divine Liturgy	8:50 AM 10:00 AM
JAN 1 st	NEW YEAR'S DAY	Orthros & Divine Liturgy	8:50 AM 10:00 AM
JAN 6 th	THEOPHANY	Orthros & Divine Liturgy	8:50 AM 10:00 AM
JAN 7 th	FEAST OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST	Orthros & Divine Liturgy	8:50 AM 10:00 AM



STEWARDSHIP 2023

THANK YOU to the following faithful stewards who have submitted their pledge cards for 2023. Please join them in their support of our Assumption Greek Orthodox Church and submit your pledge card today!

Bistolarides, Rev. Fr. Peter & Pres. Peggy

Allard, Clyde & Georgia

Altheide, Dena

Anagnostopoulos, Nick & Anna

Artemas, Rev. Fr. John

Asa, Barbara & Darwin

Bakris, Dr. Nicholas

Batsios, Eftyhia & Evangelos

Birtsas, Sandra

Bistolaridis, Tony & Maria

Bograkos, Tim & Sandy

Bograkos, Vera

Brown Jr, Andrew

Caris-Herzog, Mary

Carmean, Mike & Denise

Chiavaras, Lucille

Chinonis, Dennis & Dr. Debra

Chinonis, Elias

Chinonis, Katie

Chinonis, Linda

Chinonis, Nancy & Lauster, Jeffrey

Chinonis, Richard

Christakis, Christos & Elpida

Christopher, James & Elizabeth

Chuleas, William

Clinton, Mike & Kathy

Costa, John & Laura

Costa, Kyriacos & Vasilia

Dalbo, Helen

Daros, Christine

Davis-Kirksey, Steve & Linda

Davlantes, Alex

Delbridge, Ray & Carol

Demps, Crystal

Drolet, Mark & Penelopi

Duffy, David & Joynt, Elaine

Eisenbeis, Gerald

Falaras, Mary

Fahoome, Tom & Calliope

Ferich, Andrew & Voula

Foraker, Walter & Diane

Frantzis, Kanellos & Alexandra

Garceau, Greg & Sia

Gintsis, Nick & Dorothy

Hagler, Anna

Hagler, Gary & Marian

Haralambous, Frank & Vania

Hatzigeorgiou, Kathy

Heos, James

Heos, Pamela & Brancheau, Jeffrey

Holland, Nick & Jennifer

Hountalas Family

Iakovidis, Tony & Vicki

Iordanou, Bill & Lisa

Iordanou, James & Megan

Joseph, Patricia

Joynt, Kenneth

Joynt, Sadie

Kalatzis, Athena

Kallis, Agape

Kallis, Nick

Kallis, Penelope

Kallis, Susan

Kaloydis, John

Kapellas, Katina

Karay Sr, Nicholas

STEWARDSHIP 2023

THANK YOU to the following faithful stewards who have submitted their pledge cards for 2023. Please join them in their support of our Assumption Greek Orthodox Church and submit your pledge card today!

Kitsonas, William

Kokkianokos, Peter & Panagiota

Komodromos, Tessie

Kondyles, Chryssoula

Kontorousis, Dimitri & Jacqueline

Kossaras, Dean & Joyce

Kottalis, Mary

Koutrouvidas, John & Nina

Kraemer, Mark †

Kus, Michael & Alexis

Levas, George & Margot

Livaditis, Nick & Evie

Livieratos-Dobbins, Maria

Lowe, Ann

Mandelaris, John & Pauline

Manutes, Nicholas & Maria

Margaritis, Ioannis & Vicky

Margaritis, Sofia

Marks, Afroditi

Marks, Jean

Martorelli, Matthew & Jill

Martorelli, Michael

Mavrikos, Ioannis & † Aspasia

Melonakos, Anthony & Paula

Menoutes, George

Michaelou, Sevasti

Neofotistos, John & Julie

Nikolakeas, Panagiota

Nitsos, Emma

Nitsos, George & Candy

Nitsos, MaryAnn

O'Keefe, Derek & Michelle

Panos-Lillar, Diana

Panos, Spiridoula

Pappadakis, Anthony & Kandis

Pappadakis, Nikki

Pappas, Dean & Elaine

Paraschos, Sam & Sandra

Pavlis, John & Pat

Photiou, Carol

Photiou, Lucas & Lori

Politis, Rita

Poulos, Eleanor †

Poulos, Steve & Martha

Preketes, Frank

Richards, Kenneth & Kathy

Rivette, Matthew & Lori

Salutes-Rogind, Sally

Schultze, JoAnne

Sirakis, Kostas & Sofia

Sirakis, Paraskenos & Athena

Stamatis, Sandra & Thomas †

Steinhoff, Allen & Olga

Steinhoff, Amanda

Steinhoff, Dr. Stephanie

Stergiopoulos, Mary

Stergiopoulos, Zoi

Stone, Benjamin

Stone, Paula

Thornton, Jerry & Demitra

Thurber, Chuck & Paula

Thurkill, Stella

Trifon, Nick

Valentine, Marina

Vergos, Helen

Vergos, Dr. Peter & Susie

STEWARDSHIP 2023

THANK YOU to the following faithful stewards who have submitted their pledge cards for 2023. Please join them in their support of our Assumption Greek Orthodox Church and submit your pledge card today!

Vitinaros, Effie & Nick

Walker, Bruce & Kathy

Wright, Jeff & Kay

Yeotis, Art & Susan

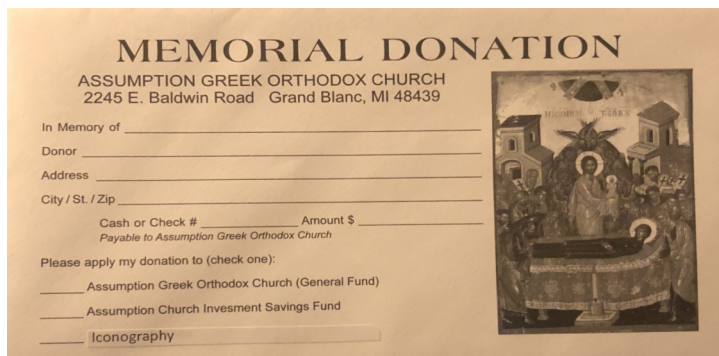
Yeotis, Catherine

Yeotis, Hon. Thomas & Meg

Zaravelis Family

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

“Donations made at an Orthodox Funeral service in memory of the departed are typically collected by the church, which then presents the names and final donation amount to the designated surviving family member. Any memorial donation checks not marked “*Assumption Church*” will be distributed for the purpose indicated on the check.



The image shows a 'MEMORIAL DONATION' form for the Assumption Greek Orthodox Church. The form includes fields for 'In Memory of', 'Donor', 'Address', and 'City / St. / Zip'. It also has a section for 'Cash or Check # Amount \$ Payable to Assumption Greek Orthodox Church'. Below this, there is a section titled 'Please apply my donation to (check one):' with three options: 'Assumption Greek Orthodox Church (General Fund)', 'Assumption Church Investment Savings Fund', and 'Iconography'. To the right of the form is a religious icon depicting the Assumption of the Virgin Mary, with the Virgin seated on a throne, surrounded by angels and saints, with a dove above her head.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

Scheduling of Memorial Services

All Memorial Services must be **scheduled through the church office** so that they may be placed on the church calendar.

Koliva

If anyone is in need of Koliva, please contact the church office (810-771-4611) for the names of those available to make it. The standard rate is \$150. **It is the responsibility of the family to arrange for Koliva.**

ASSUMPTION GOC MEMBER POLICY

The current approved policy for Parishioner Status of the Assumption Greek Orthodox Church (AGOC) of Grand Blanc, Michigan is as follows:

Parishioner - Person Baptized and Chrismated according the rites of the Orthodox Church and attending the AGOC.

Parishioner - Member in Good Standing:

- Person in compliance with Section 1 and 2 of Article 18 of the Uniform Parish Regulations of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese.
- Person with an AGOC pledge card on file with a minimum pledge of \$600 per family or \$350 per single and current in pledges for active and preceding year.

In-Active Parishioner - Person not in compliance with requirements for Parishioner or Member in Good Standing as defined above.

Parishioners and In-Active Parishioners can receive all sacraments at AGOC but are required to pay church usage fee.

Any deviations from this policy must be approved by the Parish Priest and Parish Council President and must be presented to them at least one month prior to the proposed sacrament date.

Stewardship Policy - Only cash, check or credit card can be accepted as payment of stewardship. Donations of items or services cannot be accepted for stewardship in lieu of monetary payment.

CHURCH USAGE/HALL RENTAL FEES

(Approved by Parish Council Effective December 4, 2022)

For the Sacraments of Holy Marriage and Holy Baptism

There is no charge for Funeral or Memorial Services.

CHURCH USAGE FEE

<p>Member in good standing of AGOC-Grand Blanc: Person with an AGOC pledge card on file with a minimum pledge of \$600 per family or \$350 per single and current in pledges for active and preceding year</p>	<p>Inactive Parishioner/Non-Member at AGOC-Grand Blanc: See ASSUMPTION GOC MEMBER POLICY on page 8.</p>
<p>No fee for use of the church for sacraments.</p>	<p>\$750 fee for use of the church for Sacraments</p>

Any deviation from this policy must be approved by the Parish Priest and Parish Council President and must be presented to them at least one month prior to the proposed sacrament date.

HALL RENTAL FEES

<p>Member in good standing of AGOC-Grand Blanc: Person with an AGOC pledge card on file with a minimum pledge of \$600 per family or \$350 per single and current in pledges for active and preceding year</p>	<p>Inactive Parishioner /Non-Member at AGOC-Grand Blanc:</p>
<p>Friday-Saturday Hall Rental: Flat fee of \$600 for Hall Rental (includes clean-up) If church dishes are used, dishwasher will be supplied at a cost of \$50 (cannot bring own dishwasher)</p>	<p>Flat fee of \$1,100 for Hall Rental (includes clean-up) If church dishes are used, dishwasher will be supplied at a cost of \$50. (cannot bring own dishwasher)</p>
<p>Sunday - Thursday Hall Rental: \$300 minimum for 3 hours - \$100 each additional hour up to a maximum of \$600. Renter is responsible for hall clean-up. No kitchen usage.</p>	

2023 List of Donors



FRIENDS OF THE METROPOLIS



pray



give



grow

FRIENDS OF THE METROPOLIS 2023 CONTRIBUTIONS (JANUARY 1 - OCTOBER 31)

- * Bistolarides, Fr. Peter & Presbyteria Peggy
- * Chinonis, Nancy & Jeff Lauster
- * Dalbo, Helen
- * Heos, Pam & Jeffery Brancheau
- * Kalatzis, Athena
- * Kallis, Agape
- Kaloydis, John & Karen
- Yeotis, Catherine

Thank you!



PROCEDURE FOR RECEIPTS

Due to the rising cost of mailing receipts for every donation received by the church, the Parish Council has established the following procedure for receipts:

When you mail in a donation to the church, or drop it off in the office, a receipt will not be mailed or given to parishioners of Assumption Greek Orthodox Church. Your cancelled check can be used as proof of your payment, as well as the contribution statement you receive from the church at the end of the year. This includes donations for stewardship, iconography, cash raffle, golf outing, memorials, miscellaneous, etc. For credit card charges, please allow 24 hours to process your payment.

If you require a receipt, please contact the church office or see a Parish Council member on Sunday's. Receipts will continue to be mailed to non-parishioners.

PARKING LOT PLEDGE

For the last few years, a volunteer group has been sealing the parking lot during the summer months to help extend the life of our parking lot. In the next few years we will need to completely replace our parking lot. We are looking to start the fundraising for this very large project now in order to have the funds collected and ready when it comes times to pay for it. The anticipated cost for this project is upwards of \$300,000. Please faithfully pledge to assist our church in maintaining our beautiful property.

PLEASE NOTE: This gift/pledge is above and beyond your regular offering.

Gifts of any size are appreciated!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

PLEDGE INFORMATION

i/We pledge a total of \$ _____ to be paid:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Now	<input type="checkbox"/>	Monthly	<input type="checkbox"/>	Quarterly	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annually
--------------------------	-----	--------------------------	---------	--------------------------	-----------	--------------------------	----------

Total Length of pledge: ___one time ___ 1 yr ___ 2 yrs ___ 3yrs ___ other _____

I/We plan to make this contribution in the form of:

___Cash ___Check ___Credit Card ___ Other _____

Credit Card Type: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Credit Card Number: _____

Print Name As Shown On Card: _____

Authorized Signature: _____

Please use the following name(s) in all acknowledgements:

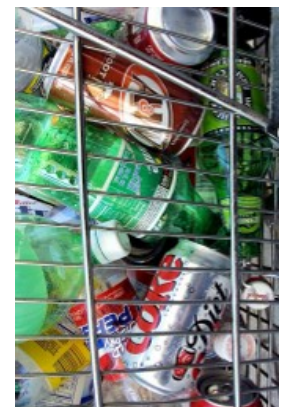
_____/I/We wish to have our gift remain anonymous.

Make all checks payable to "Assumption GOC" with a memo of "Parking Lot"

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FOOD SALES

Pastitsio/Moussaka	Half Pan - Serves 9-12 - \$30.00
Rice Pilaf	3.5 lbs - \$10.00
Greek Peas	4 lbs - \$13.00
Spinach Cheese Pie	Tray - 15 Pieces - \$25.00
Tiropita (Cheese Triangle)	15 Pieces - \$20.00
Dolmathes	Approx. 25 for \$25.00
Greek Feta	2 1/2 pounds - \$10.00
Phyllo Dough (Effective 1/1/24)	1 lb package - \$4.00
Olives	Approx. 1 1/2 lbs - \$12.00

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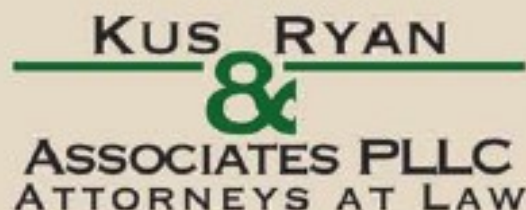
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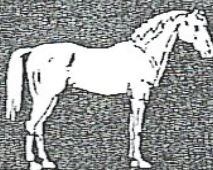
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Business Card Ad..... \$75/yr	
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Orthros: 8:50 am
Divine Liturgy: 10:00 am

Weekdays and Feast Days:
See Calendar

Priest: Rev. Fr. Peter Bistolarides

Telephone: 810-771-4611

E-Mail

Priest:

FrPeterAGOCGrandBlanc@gmail.com

Parish Administrator: Lori Photiou
agocsec@gmail.com

Website

www.assumptiongrandblanc.org

Office Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Please check the website for
up to date events.

2023 Parish Council

Susan Kallis - President
George Nitsos - V. President
Joyce Kossaras - Secretary
JoAnne Schultze - Treasurer
Debra Chinonis - Co-Treasurer

Dena Altheide
Diane Foraker
Elaine Joynt-Duffy
Diana Lillar
Olga Steinhoff

ORGANIZATIONS

ACOLYTES: JOHN KALOYDIS & NICK KALLIS

CHOIR: NANCY CHINONIS

CHANTERS: CRYSTAL DEMPS & ATHENA KALATZIS

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE: TBD

PHILOPTOCHOS: OLGA STEINHOFF

GOYA: TBD

AHEPA: JOHN COSTA

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