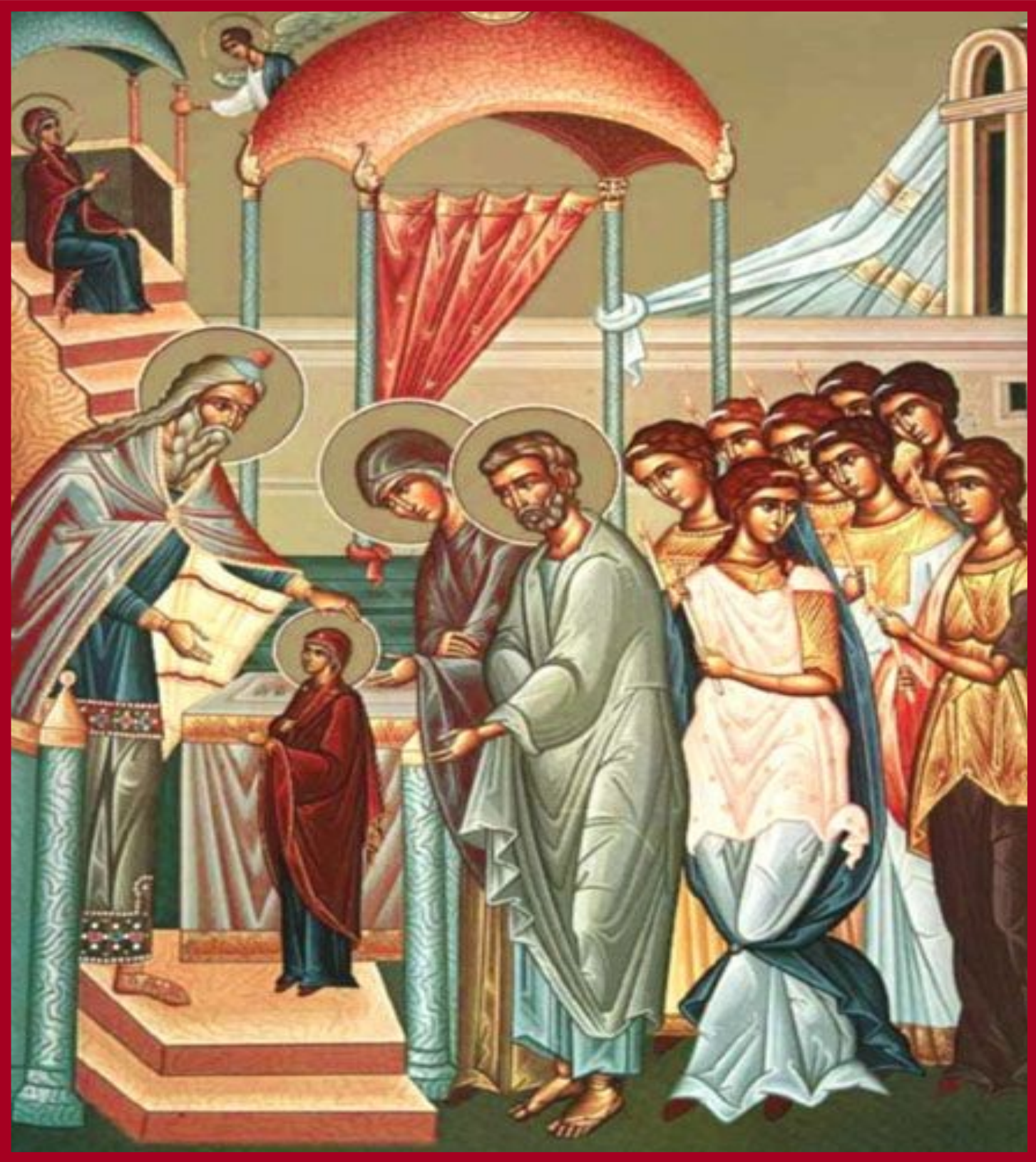


THE ASSUMPTION CONNECTION

November
2023



What's Happening

NOVEMBER 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		

12: Fall General Assembly
 14: Philoptochos Meeting 1:00 PM
 17: Fish Fry Ends
 19: Parish Council Meeting After Liturgy
 19: Loukoumades Sale
 20: Pan-Orthodox Vespersal Liturgy for the 6:00 PM
 Presentation of the Theotokos in the Temple

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
 10: Daughters of Penelope Meeting After Liturgy
 14: Philoptochos Bake Sale Pickup
 17: Parish Council Meeting After Liturgy

PROSPHORON SCHEDULE

NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
5 Steinhoff, Allen & Olga	3 Stergiopoulos, Zoi
12 Steinhoff, Amanda	10 Stone, Paula
19 Steinhoff, Dr. Stephanie	17 Thornton, Jerry & Demi
26 Stergiopoulos, Mary	24 Thurber, Charles & Paula
	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

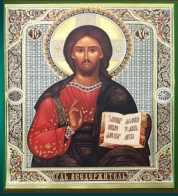
PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

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

SUNDAY READERS SCHEDULE

NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
5 Cathy Yeotis	3 Nick Kallis
12 Dena Altheide	10 Cathy Yeotis
19 Debra Chinonis	17 Dena Altheide
26 John Costa	24 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

JOURNEY THROUGH THE WORLD

“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus” (Galatians 3:28, KJV)

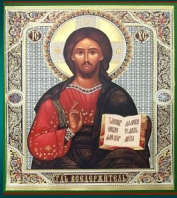
Dear Assumption Family:

Greetings from Chalkidiki and Thessaloniki!

My monthly message is generally prepared and submitted by the second week of the month prior to its publication. This being the message for the November newsletter, I am preparing it while on my vacation through Greece. I can say that in a week and a half, I’ve been to many places, and still have more to go.

I was wrong in assuming that it would be less crowded in October, as the country is still filled with foreign tourists. The entire world, it seems, is visiting Greece. It seems like only Presvytera and I among them are the only ones speaking Greek to the various people who serve in the tourist industry (and they are quite excited when we do so – they are interested on our take on happenings in the United States, which I cannot always easily explain).

I have visited many holy and sacred sites (including veneration of the relics of some of our greatest saints, including prayers for the health of the Assumption family). One of the things I noticed is the foreign visitors to various churches (some dating back to the 9th and 10th century). They are awed by the iconography, and the unearthly beauty of the Orthodox Church. I keep thinking that this is a golden opportunity to bring the truth of the Orthodox faith to many people.



FROM FATHER PETER

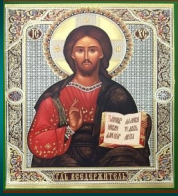
There is, however, a lack of people in the churches (usually just acting as a greeter at the candle stand) who have either the knowledge or the language skills to explain, answer questions, and interpret what people are seeing or hearing. Sadly, this reduces the encounter for foreign visitors to little more than visiting a museum.

In my article on Outreach this month, I point out how this is a problem for us as well. I mention the increasing trend in the United States of people not going to church in my article. We are merely catching up to the rest of the world, it seems. As always, I encourage you to read this month's article, and be prepared to challenge yourselves and each other to fulfilling not only the mission of the Assumption community, but the mission of the Orthodox Christian church, the apostolic mission given by Christ Himself.

We have to invite the “others” of this world through our doors, prepare to meet and greet them, and let the beauty of our worship start a journey to the Kingdom of Heaven, through which we will provide the substance. We will talk about this more in the December article, which will focus on religious education, without which we too will fall short of our opportunities to “make disciples of all”.

Finally, a reminder that I will be away until November 9, but will be back in time for our next parish General Assembly on Sunday November 12, which we will hold in the church itself. PLEASE be there, and reach out to others. Changes occur gradually, but do not occur without the participation of the faithful.

+Fr. Peter



FROM FATHER PETER

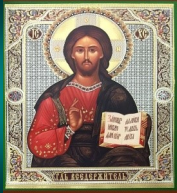
THE WAY AHEAD – Part III

LAST MONTH

We looked at the second of our topics related to our community's future: administration, leadership, and participation.

TO REVIEW: Dependence on a few people to contribute their time and talent to assisting the various ministries and activities of a parish is a very common problem. For the Assumption community, given its demographic, this takes on special importance as, with time, we may see fewer and fewer people participating. Encouraging participation and community support and gratitude for participating are key:

1. Increasing our attendance and participation at our holy services
 - a. This is the starting point. Without an active spiritual and sacramental life, the other activities are meaningless. Our community and fellowship start **IN THE CHURCH, IN OUR SERVICES**. Our stewardship, fund-raising and volunteerism is a result of our spiritual commitment to Christ and to our faith.
2. Increase participation in our parish activities.
 - a. Consider what skills you have – simple as they may be – and how they can be offered in service. It doesn't take much, and with more participation, the tasks are easier on everyone.
3. Consider serving on parish council or other committees.
 - a. Beyond the parish council, leadership, and participation for areas such as education and outreach are needed.
4. A parish commitment to encouraging and celebrating volunteerism.
 - a. Volunteers are the core of many of our fund-raising activities, and participation is encouraged especially to foster a sense of community and fellowship.
 - b. A "Volunteer Sunday" on the calendar for the church year, to recognize all efforts on behalf of our community.
 - c. Nurturing an atmosphere of respect for everyone



FROM FATHER PETER

THE WAY AHEAD – Part III

THIS MONTH

We continue our discussion with the topic of OUTREACH

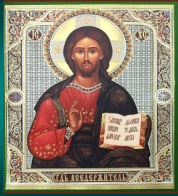
“Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God” (2 Corinthians 5:20)

Something has been happening to churches throughout the United States. Not just our parish, not just the Orthodox faith, but across the board. According to a recent book, The Great Dechurching, for the first time in U.S. history, the majority of Americans surveyed do not attend Church (measured by the number who attend a Sunday service once a month), and a growing number do not adhere to faith, even belief, in God (although Americans, by a small majority, still do).

Some people point to the recent pandemic lockdowns and the isolation that occurred as a cause (*whether they were justified or not is not for discussion here, nor is it helpful*), others to conflicting or competing activities (eg. sports), some point to spiritual apathy, others to individual causes or conflicts and disagreements with church, pastor, or other congregants – and there are more.

The important things to note are that this negative trend a) has been taking place for the last 25 years (starting well before COVID-19), and b) we have many factors contributing to it. While each of us has an “answer”, or a suggestion on what should be done to reverse this, experience tells us that something which has so many causes has no simple solution. We can also say that what works well in one place, may not do so in others.

The Great Dechurching describes different groups of people who have dropped out of active church participation. In many cases, some of these people are open to returning to where they were, or to restore a relationship with God. Then there are those who never had a foundation of faith.



FROM FATHER PETER

THE WAY AHEAD – Part III

Our community faces the same dynamics the rest of the Christian world does, but for our own purposes, we can focus on these main groups: a) those who attended Assumption in the past and have stopped doing so, b) those in the wider Genesee County and Thumb region who are seeking a deeper meaning to their Christian faith and have no or minimal knowledge of the Orthodox faith, and c) those who have had no Christian faith before and present the opportunity to have Christ introduced to them. For simplicity, we can label those people in group a) “the Prodigals”, and group b) and c) “the Explorers”.

Here at Assumption, it is obvious that the need for growth exists, and we have the opportunity to create this growth. As I have pointed out, Assumption has done an exemplary job of conducting fund-raising activities, which demonstrates both organizational strength and ability (although, as mentioned in last month’s article, it seems we have the same people involved most of the time), but the first priority is to understand the “WHY?” of these activities (fund-raising, yes, but that is not the ultimate “WHY”).

The ultimate WHY is to open the Orthodox faith to those who we have not traditionally been Orthodox, and to bring back those who were raised in the faith.

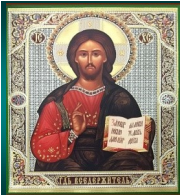
WHAT IS THE CHALLENGE FOR THE ASSUMPTION COMMUNITY?

Our actions will need to focus on two main areas:

1. OUTREACH (external) - to those who are “Explorers”
2. OUTREACH (internal) - to those who are “Prodigals”

A suggested plan of action would include

1. **Lay persons willing to lead and work in developing ideas together with the parish priest as part of an outreach committee**



FROM YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

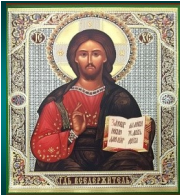
THE WAY AHEAD – Part III

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 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
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)

Again, your suggestions are invited and welcome.

+Fr. Peter

Next month: EDUCATION



FROM YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

Dear Parishioners of Assumption,

It is again the time of year when autumn leaves start falling, filling up yards & streets with golden colors, nature's "trick or treat".

The "Friday Fish Fry" is still going on strong for a few more weeks. As always and again your help & support is greatly appreciated.

Time passes by so fast and the year is almost approaching to its end. Thanksgiving Day is the perfect day to remind us of the many reasons we are grateful for the abundance, joy, happiness, & blessings from God. May Thanksgiving & the remainder of the year remind us to be grateful for what we have.

Wishes to all for a harvest of blessings,

Susan Kallis

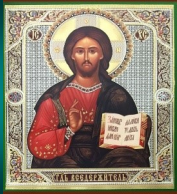
Parish Council President

NOTE REGARDING PARKING

Please do not park or drive on the gravel service drive next to the kitchen (not even to unload).

There are drain pipes under the gravel and we do not want to risk breaking them again.

Thank you for your consideration.



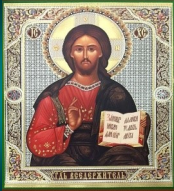
FROM YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

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

Dr. Debra Chinonis	Nov. 4th	Mrs. Spiridoula Panos	Nov. 18th
Mr. Christakis Photiou	Nov. 5th	Ann Lowe	Nov. 20th
Mrs. Sue Yeotis	Nov. 6th	Mr. John Pavlis	Nov. 21st
Miss Eva Drolet	Nov. 7th	Mr. John Hountalas	Nov. 24th
Miss Zoe Drolet	Nov. 7th	Mrs. Mary Kottalis	Nov. 25th
Mrs. Katherine Clinton	Nov. 7th	Mrs. Kelly Chiatas	Nov. 25th
Mr. Kyriacos Costa	Nov. 7th	Mr. Dennis Chinonis	Nov. 26th
Miss Selana O'Keefe	Nov. 10th	Mrs. Mitra Pagonis	Nov. 26th
Mrs. Chryssoula Kondyles	Nov. 13th	Mrs. Olga Steinhoff	Nov. 28th
Mr. Dimitri Hountalas	Nov. 14th	Mr. Derek O'Keefe	Nov. 29th
Miss Sophia Smith	Nov. 17th		

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





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 Investment Savings Fund (Wall Savings) and Property Improvement. We also have an Investment Account for Iconography and an Investment Account for the Church Investment Savings Fund

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

OPERATING INCOME SEPTEMBER 2023			OPERATING EXPENSES SEPTEMBER 2023		
	CURRENT MONTH	YEAR TO DATE		CURRENT MONTH	YEAR TO DATE
Stewardship	\$6,897.00	\$98,437.64	Operating Expenses	\$13,785.67	\$123,345.29
Trays & Candles	\$762.00	\$10,547.50	Youth Ministry Expenses	\$0.00	\$91.27
Memorial income	\$20.00	\$5,055	Miscellaneous Expenses*	\$4,532.00	\$20,017.09
Miscellaneous Income	\$884.00	\$19,214.20	Maintenance Expenses	\$222.60	\$12,722.55
Fish Fry – Lent Income	\$0.00	\$43,513.62	Fish Fry – Lent Expenses	\$0.00	\$29,117.10
Fish Fry – Fall Income	\$7,488.20	\$7,488.20	Fish Fry – Fall Expenses	\$4,277.90	\$6,040.69
Other Fundraising Income**	\$14,050.00	\$58,306.70	Other Fundraising Expenses**	\$18,689.89	\$20,757.14
	Cash Raffle/Golf			Golf Outing	
2023 Total Operating Income	\$30,101.20	\$242,562.86	2023 Total Operating Expenses	\$41,508.06	\$212,091.13
Total Operating Income (Loss) for Month: (\$11,406.86)					
Total Operating Income (Loss) for Year: \$30,471.73					

*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 SEPTEMBER 2023		OTHER EXPENSES SEPTEMBER 2023	
ICONOGRAPHY DONATIONS	\$130	Iconography Expenses	\$0
CHURCH MEMORIAL SAVINGS FUND DONATIONS	\$3,377	Transfer to Iconography Investment Account	\$5,000
PARKING LOT DONATIONS	\$0	Wall Savings Expenses	\$20
PROPERTY IMPROVEMENT (COLLECTION TRAY)	\$425	Transfer to Wall Savings Investment Account	\$5090.00

ACCOUNT BALANCES AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2023			
General Checking	\$51,907.81	Church investment Savings Fund – Bank Savings Acct	\$1,792.76
		Church Investment Savings Investment Account	\$162,044.94
Special Events – Consists of: Cash Raffle \$17,500 Hall Rental \$435 Golf Outing \$33,195.72 Parking Lot Savings \$0 Youth Ministry \$1,012.47 Emergency Funds \$3,000	\$55,143.19	Iconography- Bank Savings Acct	\$1,080.41
		Iconography Investment Account	\$74,515.27
		Property Improvement Savings	\$2,014.37

Our Pan-Orthodox community recently made a discovery when they found two of our Pan-Orthodox Christmas concert recordings. The first recording was from 1992 and the second from 1993. These recordings are being transferred to DVD and will be available for \$15 each as a fundraiser to the Holy Cross Fund. You must pre-order!

This fund benefits our parish through our Pan-Orthodox retreats, fellowship dinners and youth programs. If you would like to pre-order a copy there is a sign-up in the parish office or email us at smmocafenton@gmail.com. We can ship you the DVD at an additional fee.

PRE-ORDER!

**DVDs of the pan-Orthodox Christmas Concerts
1992 at St Nicholas
1993 at Assumption**

proceeds to the pan-Orthodox Churches' fund

Cost - no more than \$15 per DVD

NAME	1992 quantity	1993 quantity
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

ICONOGRAPHY PROJECT

We are in the final push to complete this project. Please consider purchasing an icon, either by yourself, or with other individuals/families. If you would like to purchase an icon or even just donate a little, please contact John Hountalas at (810) 701-5164 or Father Peter Bistolardes at (989) 928-3455..

Thank you for your support of our Assumption Church and the Iconography project.

John Hountalas,
Iconography Chairman

Susan Kallis,
Parish Council President

Icons available that have already been installed:

ICONOGRAPHY PROJECT

GOAL: \$340,000

ACHIEVED: \$301,000

88.5% OF GOAL

Nativity (left side looking at Altar, left of Baptismal Font)



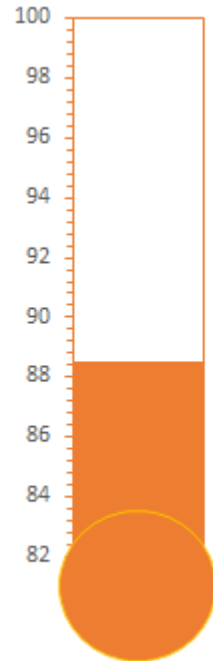
Communion of the Apostles (by Bishops Throne)



St. Romanos (Inside Altar left side)

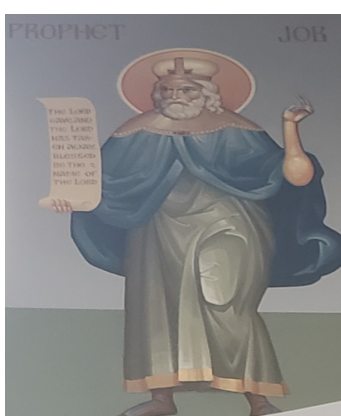
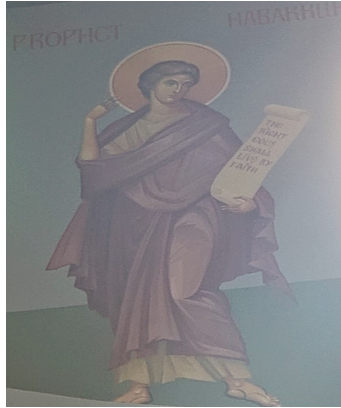
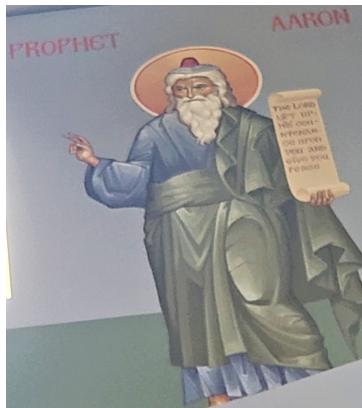


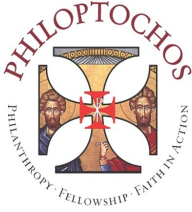
St. Stefanos (Inside Altar right side)



9 Available Icons of the 16 Prophets for the dome

Aaron	Habakkuk	Joel
Elisha	Hosea	Jonah
Ezekiel	Job	Micah





Philoptochos Society - Friends of the Poor!

Sisters:

Another month has passed and it is hard to tell whether we are still in summer or fall the way the weather continues to change from day to day. September was a busy month with our lunch meeting, visit to Mott's Applewood Estate and the Clergy Laity Conference in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Cathy Yeotis and I were delegates to the conference which was very informative and worth while meeting other Philoptochos members throughout the Diocese. Hearing what some of the other chapters have done is inspiring. Cathy was again reelected to serve on the Metropolis Board for the next two years. We also had the opportunity to visit with Father Stavros Ballas and Presbyteria Thea and Father Angelo and Presbyteria Teri.

One of the upcoming District Projects is Operation Classroom which we basically just finished. A report was submitted with an explanation of the school selected and the items that were collected. We have submitted our report on the project along with pictures of the students showing some of the items that were donated. Thanks to our Parishioner Paula Thurber for assisting in this project.

Family Fun Night was held and those who came enjoyed themselves. We hoped for it to be an opportunity for our Parish members to enjoy an evening out of games and good will. A big thank you to John Hountalas, Sammy McLean and JoAnne Schultze for manning the kitchen and serving up the delicious food. We appreciate all that you do.

One of our current projects is the Food Drive. Items needed are: Cereal, Tuna, Canned Chicken, Spag'os, Ravioli, Ramen noodles, Box Mac/Cheese, Tuna/Chicken Helpers, Suddenly Salad Mix, Boxed meals/Cheesy Potatoes, Knorr, etc., Pancake Mix/Syrup, Toilet Paper, 2 in 1 Shampoo, Deodorant, toothpaste, bar hand soap & Laundry. Please try and help any way you can. A container has been placed in the hall for the items collected.

Our second project is collecting hats, gloves and socks for Men, Women and Children. Since it has been getting colder out lately, these items are very important for the people in need. A second container has also been placed in the hall for them.

On November 19th, we will be hosting a fundraiser making Loukoumathes for sale at coffee hour.

Next month we will be mailing out order forms for the 2023 Annual Bake Sale. Pick up date will be December 14. **Pre-orders only** as in the past and cut-off date for turning them in will be Dec, 1.

Next Meeting: November 14th at 1:00 PM

Olga Steinhoff
Philoptochos President



*** Philoptochos Society's Annual
Pre-Order**



2023 Holiday Pastry Sale

Thursday, December 14th

11:00 am to 4:00 pm

Assumption Greek Orthodox Church

2245 E. Baldwin Road

Grand Blanc, MI 48439

Tel: 810-771-4611 (Between Holly & Fenton Roads)

ALL ORDERS SHOULD BE PRE-PAID

Deadline for pre-orders December 1, 2023

Credit Card Payments can be made the day of Pickup

Name _____

Address _____ City _____

Zip _____ Phone _____ Alternate Phone _____

<u>Item</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Baklava	\$2.50	_____	_____
Sweet Bread (Tsoureki)	\$10.00	_____	_____
Spinach Pita (Frozen 15 pieces)	\$25.00	_____	_____
Cheese Triangles (Frozen)	6 for \$9.00	_____	_____
Baklava (30 pieces)	\$50.00	_____	_____
Melomacarona (Honey-spiced cookie)	3 for \$5.00	_____	_____
Kourambietes (with almonds)	3 for \$5.00	_____	_____
Koulourakia (Butter Twist)	6 for \$3.00	_____	_____
Variety Gift Box	\$15.00	_____	_____

TOTAL: _____

Please make checks payable to **Philoptochos Society** and mail to the church
Philoptochos Society, Assumption Greek Orthodox Church, 2245 E. Baldwin Rd, Grand Blanc, MI 48439
 For more information, please contact the church at **810-771-4611**

Daughters of Penelope

Iris Chapter 242

The Mission of the Daughters of Penelope is to promote Hellenism, Education, Philanthropy, Civic Responsibility, Family and Individual Excellence.

We will be initiating new members at our next meeting which will be on December 2. If you would like to become a new member or would like to be reinstated in our organization, please contact Marian Hagler or any of our members.

Upcoming events:

Sunday, October 29, 2023- God Parent Sunday. This is a day to worship with your God Parent, whether you are 6 or 60+ years old.

Please join us!

Sat., November 4, 2023 - Mid-Year Conference at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, Ann Arbor, MI

Saturday, December 2, 2023:

1. **Next Chapter Meeting and Initiation 3:00 PM at Assumption GOC**
2. **Christmas Party and Potluck with AHEPA 5:00 PM**

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	Drolet, Mark & Penelopi
Allard, Clyde & Georgia	Duffy, David & Joynt, Elaine
Altheide, Dena	Eisenbeis, Gerald
Anagnostopoulos, Nick & Anna	Falaras, Mary
Artemas, Rev. Fr. John	Fahoome, Tom & Calliope
Asa, Barbara & Darwin	Ferich, Andrew & Voula
Bakris, Dr. Nicholas	Foraker, Walter & Diane
Batsios, Eftyhia & Evangelos	Frantzis, Kanellos & Alexandra
Birtsas, Sandra	Garceau, Greg & Sia
Bistolaridis, Tony & Maria	Gintsis, Nick & Dorothy
Bograkos, Tim & Sandy	Hagler, Anna
Bograkos, Vera	Hagler, Gary & Marian
Brown Jr, Andrew	Haralambous, Frank & Vania
Caris-Herzog, Mary	Hatzigeorgiou, Kathy
Carmean, Mike & Denise	Heos, James
Chiavaras, Lucille	Heos, Pamela & Brancheau, Jeffrey
Chinonis, Dennis & Dr. Debra	Holland, Nick & Jennifer
Chinonis, Elias	Hountalas Family
Chinonis, Katie	Iakovidis, Tony & Vicki
Chinonis, Linda	Iordanou, Bill & Lisa
Chinonis, Nancy & Lauster, Jeffrey	Joseph, Patricia
Chinonis, Richard	Joynt, Kenneth
Christakis, Christos & Elpida	Joynt, Sadie
Christopher, James & Elizabeth	Kalatzis, Athena
Clinton, Mike & Kathy	Kallis, Agape
Costa, John & Laura	Kallis, Nick
Costa, Kyriacos & Vasilias	Kallis, Penelope
Dalbo, Helen	Kallis, Susan
Daros, Christine	Kaloydis, John
Davis-Kirksey, Steve & Linda	Kapellas, Katina
Davlanges, Alex	Karay Sr, Nicholas
Delbridge, Ray & Carol	Kitsonas, William
Demps, Crystal	Kokkianokos, Peter & Panagiota

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!

Komodromos, Tessie
Kondyles, Chrissy
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
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, Dr. Peter & Susie
Vitinaros, Effie & Nick
Walker, Bruce & Kathy
Wright, Jeff & Kay
Yeotis, Art & Susan

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!

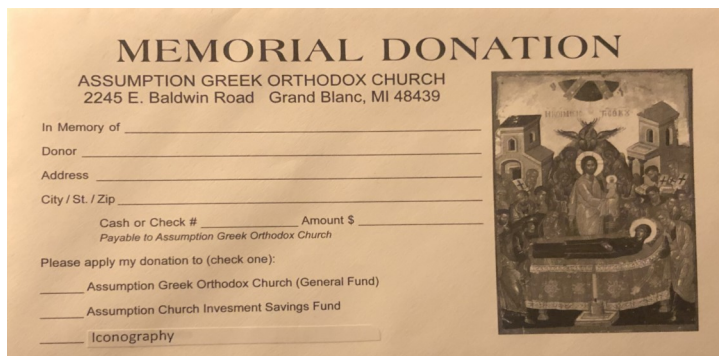
Yeotis, Catherine

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 #' and 'Amount \$', with a note 'Payable to Assumption Greek Orthodox Church'. Below this, there is a section '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 Virgin Mary with the Christ Child, surrounded by other figures and a church building.

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>	



FISH FRY WILL RE-OPEN

September 15th

3:00 to 8:00 PM

and be open every Friday thru

November 17th

WE ARE MORE THAN A FISH FRY!

Fried Fish, Baked Fish, Shrimp,
Chicken Strips, Baked Chicken,
Mac & Cheese, Plaki, Pastitsio,
Greek Salad

Find us on 

AGENDA – Fall General Assembly 2023

Sunday, November 7, 2023 – Immediately following the Divine Liturgy

- | | | |
|--|------------------|---|
| 1. Call to Order | PC President | |
| 2. Opening Prayer | Presiding Priest | |
| 3. Election of General Assembly Chairman and Secretary | | |
| 4. Opening Remarks | PC President | |
| 5. Approval of previous General Assembly Minutes | GA Chairperson | |
| 6. Priest's Report | Presiding Priest | |
| 7. Treasurer Report | PC Treasurer | |
| 8. Ministry and Organization Reports | | |
| A. Iconography Project Report | Committee Chair | |
| B. Stewardship Report | Committee Chair | |
| C. Fund Raising Events | Chairs of Events | |
| 1. Fish Fry | | |
| 2. Taste of Greece | | |
| 3. Golf Outing | | |
| 4. Raffles | | |
| a. Cash Raffle | Committee Chair | |
| b. Super Draw Raffle | Committee Chair | |
| 5. Other – Open for Suggestions | | |
| D. Religious Education | } | Reports must be submitted to the church office by Thursday, November 9th to be included.

In the interest of time and to allow ample time for a full and open discussion all ministry updates will be provided as a hard copy at the General Assembly meeting from which questions can then be asked. |
| E. Philoptochos | | |
| F. Choir | | |
| G. Daughters of Penelope | | |
| H. AHEPA | | |
| 9. New Business | | |
| A. Church Memorial Investment Savings Fund By-Laws | GA Chairperson | |
| 10. Old Business | | |
| 11. Call for Questions | | |
| 12. Call for Adjournment | GA Chairperson | |
| 13. Closing Prayer | Presiding Priest | |

2023 List of Donors



FRIENDS OF THE METROPOLIS



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FRIENDS OF THE METROPOLIS 2023

CONTRIBUTIONS

(JANUARY 1 - SEPTEMBER 30)

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

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:

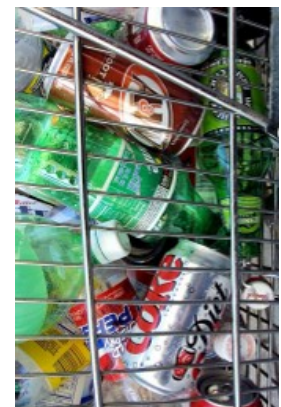
_____/I/We wish to have our gift remain anonymous.

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	1 pound package - \$3.00
Olives	Approx. 1 1/2 lbs - \$12.00

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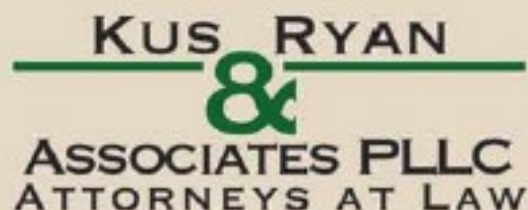
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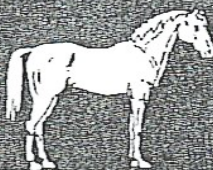
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Divine Liturgy: 10:00 am

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Telephone: 810-771-4611

E-Mail

Priest:

FrPeterAGOCGrandBlanc@gmail.com

Secretary: Lori Photiou
agocsec@gmail.com

Website

www.assumptiongrandblanc.org

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 Panos-Lillar
Olga Steinhoff

ORGANIZATIONS

ACOLYTES: JOHN KALOYDIS & NICK KALLIS
CHOIR: NANCY CHINONIS
CHANTERS: CRYSTAL DEMPS & ATHENA KALATZIS
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE: TBD
PHILOPTOCHOS: OLGA STEINHOFF
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