

# THE ASSUMPTION CONNECTION

February  
2025



# What's Happening

## FEB 2025

| 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  |     |

- 2: DOP Meeting Noon
- 9: Memorials: 1 YR Olga Kiosis, 5 YR Costa Kiosis  
Coffee Hour Sponsored by the Politis Family
- 9: Parish Council Meeting Noon
- 11: Philoptochos Meeting 1:00 PM
- 16: Philoptochos Valentine Luncheon Noon
- 22: 1st Saturday of Souls 10:00 AM
- 23: Coffee Catechism: Encountering the Kingdom (Divine Liturgy II-The Liturgy of the Faithful and the Eucharist)

## MAR 2025

| 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 |     |     |     |     |     |

- 3: Clean Monday-Lent Begins
- 7: 1st Salutations 6:00 PM
- 8: 3rd Saturday of Souls 10:00 AM
- 9: Sunday of Orthodoxy- Icon Procession
- 9: Parish Council Meeting Noon
- 11: Philoptochos Meeting 1:00 PM
- 12: Pre-Sanctified Liturgy @ St. Nick's Burton 6:00 PM
- 21-22: Pan-Orthodox Lenten Retreat (See Flyer)
- 25: Feast of the Annunciation @ Assumption 10:00 AM
- 26: Pre-Sanctified Liturgy @ St. Mary Magdalene 6:00 PM
- 30: Coffee Catechism: Entry into the Faith (Baptism & Chrismation-The Entry into the Faith)

## PROSPHORON SCHEDULE

| FEBRUARY                 | MARCH                      |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| 2 Delbridge, Ray & Carol | 2 Drolet, Mark & Penelope  |
| 9 Douros, Athanasios     | 9 Duffy, David & Elaine    |
| 16 Douros, Alexandros    | 16 Eisenbeis, Jerry & Tina |
| 23 Douros, Nick          | 23 Fahoome, Tom & Calliope |
|                          | 30 Falaras, Mary           |

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 in the name of 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*

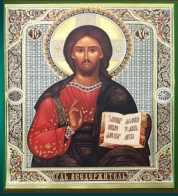
### PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Fr. Joseph Abud; Sandi Chinonis; Maria Chuleas; Sia Garceau,  
Stephanos Hatzigeorgiou & Family; Soula Kondyles;  
George Levas; Diana Lillar; Afroditi Marks; Sam Paraschos; Joann Welch

## SUNDAY READERS SCHEDULE

| FEBRUARY           | MARCH             |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| 2 John Costa       | 2 Cathy Yeotis    |
| 9 Nick Kallis      | 9 Dena Altheide   |
| 16 John Kaloydis   | 16 Debra Chinonis |
| 23 Stella Thurkill | 23 John Costa     |
|                    | 30 Nick Kallis    |

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

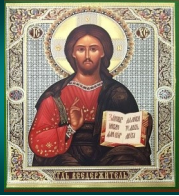
FEBRUARY 2025

Once again, we find ourselves in the period of the Lenten Triodion – the three Sundays leading up to the beginning of Great Lent. Each of these Sundays involves a different Gospel reading with a different theme – all of them preparing us for the discipline of Lent and our preparation for Pascha.

The Parable of the Prodigal Son, one of the most familiar Gospel stories, presents to us the dynamic of repentance and returning to God. It is especially poignant in that it demonstrates the unwavering love of God for us – in the form of the father who accepts the repentant son unconditionally, restoring him to a place of honor as a son, and celebrating his return.

The story seems to have a happy ending, but it is tainted by the reaction of the older brother of the Prodigal Son –as detailed in the Gospel reading from Luke 15 (29-32):

*“Now his older son was in the field. And as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing....But he was angry and would not go in. Therefore his father came out and pleaded with him. So he answered and said to his father ‘Lo, these many years I have been serving you; I never transgressed your commandment at any time; and yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might make merry with my friends. But as soon as this son of yours came, who has devoured your livelihood with harlots, you killed the fatted calf for him.’ ”*



## FROM FATHER PETER

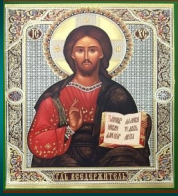
It is implied that, in contrast to the Prodigal, the older son remained faithful to the wishes of his father (having come from the field where he was working). But having been told by one of the servants why there was a celebration, he becomes angry (perhaps envious) and refuses to join in the celebration. The father, who shortly before ran to meet and embrace the younger brother who appeared even comes out to him (rather than the son going to the father – out of respect for his seniority), and pleads with him – begs him – to come in.

The older son makes a very strong case to his father – why are you rewarding the younger brother's wasteful life and behavior? It is not only that he feels his brother should not be rewarded for what he has done (even to having restored his place in the family), but also that he should be rewarded in the same manner – even though he has done what is expected of him anyway. In fact, did the older brother feel that the younger brother was unworthy of such joy and celebration, and believed that he himself was more worthy?

The father makes it clear that by celebrating his brother's return, he is not treating them differently, and that they both share in the same blessing and same relationship with the father:

*‘Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours. It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found’*

Often, we see some people, having distanced themselves from God, make the effort to right their lives and return to the embrace of Christ. There are many high-profile instances of this. What is interesting is how often people treat this phenomenon with cynicism or even suspicion, looking for an ulterior motive to someone's repentance.



## FROM FATHER PETER

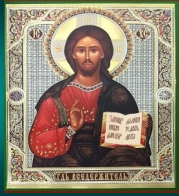
There is, as the Gospel tells us, great joy in Heaven over the repentance of a sinner. Do we choose to act as the Prodigal's brother – treating his return with resentment and even anger, and refusing to enter the house?

I have heard many instances over the past 20 years of people who have made the decision to stop entering the house of God because of who is there, or might be there, and wishing not to encounter them. The Divine Liturgy is a celebration – one in which all alike are invited. WE choose whether or not we want to enter.

Yet, refusing to enter based on the other person's failings or shortcomings, based on our judgment of them, deprives us of our opportunity to join in the joy and celebration - and rejects the love of the Father who pleads with us to come into the house.

The Prodigal returns and is welcomed back. It is left to us who have managed to remain faithful to join in the welcome and not allow our pride or ego to prevent us from entering into God's house.

+Fr. Peter

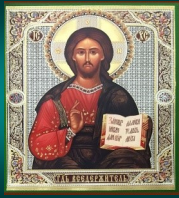


# FROM YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

## 2025 Blessing of the Waters & Vasilopita Sunday



# FROM YOUR PARISH COUNCIL



## ASSUMPTION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OPERATING INCOME AND EXPENSES DECEMBER 2024

| OPERATING INCOME December 2024 |             |             |               | OPERATING EXPENSES December 2024 |              |              |               |
|--------------------------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|----------------------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| CATEGORY                       | Nov         | Dec         | YEAR TO DATE  | CATEGORY                         | Nov          | Dec          | YEAR TO DATE  |
| Stewardship                    | \$ 2,857.00 | \$ 8,822.00 | \$ 136,979.00 | Operating Expenses               | \$ 16,654.49 | \$ 17,964.80 | \$ 210,300.41 |
| Trays and Candles              | \$ 1,786.00 | \$ 2,173.00 | \$ 14,718.00  | Youth Ministry Expenses          | \$ -         | \$ -         | \$ -          |
| Memorial Income                | \$ 3,315.00 | \$ 250.00   | \$ 12,395.00  | Miscellaneous Expenses *         | \$ 1,939.56  | \$ 2,728.77  | \$ 32,571.91  |
| Miscellaneous Income           | \$ 2,685.64 | \$ 3,134.35 | \$ 20,398.24  | Maintenance Expenses **          | \$ 53.48     | \$ -         | \$ 5,979.85   |
| Fish Fry - Lent Income         | \$ -        | \$ -        | \$ 47,130.00  | Fish Fry - Lent Expenses ***     | \$ 1,662.00  | \$ 3,384.89  | \$ 28,597.55  |
| Fish Fry - Fall Income         | \$ -        | \$ -        | \$ -          | Fish Fry - Fall Expenses         | \$ -         | \$ -         | \$ 630.00     |
| Other Fundraising Income       | \$ -        | \$ -        | \$ 550.00     | Other Fundraising Expenses       | \$ -         | \$ -         | \$ 39.96      |

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

\*\* Maintenance Expenses were \$4,482.99 actual; We also received \$2200 in income to offset the kitchen cleaning expense. \*\*\* Fish Fry Lent expenses from Oct-Dec are for 2025 Fish Fry

|   |                     |                     |                      |  |                     |                     |                      |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|--|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| <b>2024 Total Monthly Operating Income</b>      | <b>\$ 10,643.64</b> | <b>\$ 14,379.35</b> | <b>\$ 232,170.24</b> | <b>2024 Total Monthly Operating Expenses</b> | <b>\$ 20,309.53</b> | <b>\$ 24,078.26</b> | <b>\$ 278,119.68</b> |
| <b>Total Operating Income (Loss) for Month:</b> |                     |                     |                      |  |                     |                     | <b>(9,698.91)</b>    |
| <b>Total Operating Income (Loss) for Year:</b>  |                     |                     |                      |  |                     |                     | <b>(45,949.44)</b>   |

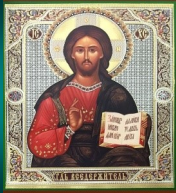
| OTHER INCOME December 2024                                      |              |              |               | OTHER EXPENSES December 2024  |             |             |               |
|---|--------------|--------------|---------------|---|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| CATEGORY  | NOV          | DEC          | YEAR TO DATE  | CATEGORY  | NOV         | DEC         | YEAR TO DATE  |
| Iconography Income  | \$ -         | \$ 150.00    | \$ 750.00     | Iconography Expenses  | \$ -        | \$ -        | \$ 20,500.00  |
| Church Memorial Fund Income                                     | \$ 3,673.00  | \$ 3,080.00  | \$ 25,191.00  | Transfer to Iconography/Parking Lot Investment Account                                  | \$ -        | \$ -        | \$ -          |
| Parking Lot Income  | \$ -         | \$ 40,000.00 | \$ 52,529.66  | Church Memorial Fund Expenses   | \$ -        | \$ -        | \$ -          |
| Furnace donations   | \$ -         | \$ 6,400.00  | \$ 18,600.00  | Transfer to Church Memorial Fund Investment Account                                     | \$ 5,000.00 | \$ 5,000.00 | \$ 10,000.00  |
| Other Donations held for future use                             | \$ -         | \$ -         | \$ 99,000.00  | Fundraising Expenses  | \$ -        | \$ -        | \$ 45,392.80  |
| Fundraising Income *  | \$ 2,840.00  | \$ 8,180.00  | \$ 107,985.00 |   |             |             |               |
| * Fundraising Income Nov Super Draw Rate: 8000; Golf Outing 180 |              |              |               |   |             |             |               |
| <b>ACCOUNT BALANCES AS OF November 30, 2024</b>                 |              |              |               |   |             |             |               |
| General Checking  |              |              | \$ 106,027.20 | Savings Account Balance consisting of:  |             |             | \$ 4,387.73   |
| Holding Account consisting of:                                  |              |              | \$ 40,628.39  | Church Memorial Fund - Bank Savings Account   | \$ 3,445.53 | \$ 153.88   | \$ 3,445.53   |
| Altar Items - Cloths  | \$ 1,799.76  |              |               | Iconography Bank Savings Account  | \$ 153.88   | \$ 788.32   | \$ 153.88     |
| Cash Raffle/Super Draw  |              |              |               | Parking Lot - Bank Savings Account  | \$ 788.32   |             | \$ 788.32     |
| Easter Items - trfd 6/10/24                                     | 1            |              |               | Property Improvement Savings  |             |             | \$ 2,517.94   |
| Emergency Funds / Un Designated                                 | \$ 3,000.00  |              |               |   |             |             |               |
| Furnace Donations   | \$ 6,400.00  |              |               | Iconography/Parking Lot Investment Account *** (increase of \$40,969.66)                |             |             | \$ 161,054.11 |
| General Donation  | \$ 29,169.27 |              |               | Church Memorial Fund - Investment Acct *** (increase of \$3,301.84)                     |             |             | \$ 243,741.61 |
| Golf Outing   |              |              |               | ***Investment accounts transferred to LPL Financial from IB Wealth Management on 7/8/24 |             |             |               |
| Hall Rental   |              |              |               | Property Improvement Savings  |             |             | \$ 2,415.12   |
| Youth Ministry  | \$ 259.36    |              |               |   |             |             | \$ -          |

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 Cash Raffle, Golf Outing, Super Draw, and other fundraisers), Youth Ministry funds, monies donated for Easter Items and Altar Items (i.e., any donations for a specific purpose where funds will not be released or used right away).

We currently have 2 Savings accounts for designated purposes. The first one is used for Iconography, Parking Lot Donations, and Church Memorial Fund donations. The second one is for Property Improvement. We also have two Investment Accounts - one for the Church Memorial Fund and one for Iconography and Parking Lot.

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



## FROM YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

### 2025 Parish Council Swearing In on January 12, 2025

President: Nancy Chinonis  
Vice-President: Susan Kallis  
Secretary: Joyce Kossaras  
Treasurer: JoAnne Schultze

Dena Altheide  
Debra Chinonis  
David Duffy  
Diane Foraker

Elaine Joynt  
George Nitsos  
Olga Steinhoff Ex-Officio  
Nick Trifon



# HAPPIEST OF BIRTHDAY WISHES TO ALL OF OUR FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY'S

|                        |        |                   |        |
|------------------------|--------|-------------------|--------|
| Richard Chinonis       | Feb. 1 | Sophia Mavrikos   | Feb 19 |
| Gary Hagler            | Feb 3  | Athena Kalatzis   | Feb 20 |
| Meg Yeotis             | Feb 7  | Dean Yeotis       | Feb 20 |
| Fr. Peter Bistolarides | Feb 10 | Vivian Federick   | Feb 22 |
| Michael Kus            | Feb 13 | Francis Vergos    | Feb 23 |
| Helen Vergos           | Feb 15 | Kostadinos Vergos | Feb 23 |
| Steven Poulos          | Feb 17 | George Margaritis | Feb 24 |
| Thoula Karakitsos      | Feb 19 | Jeffrey Wright    | Feb 25 |

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



# STEWARDSHIP 2025

THANK YOU to the following faithful stewards who have submitted their pledge cards for 2025. Please join them in their support of our Assumption Greek Orthodox Church and submit your pledge card today!

2025 Proposed Stewardship Budget: \$142,000

YTD thru 1/19/2025 Stewardship Received: \$28,052

Bistolarides, Rev. Fr. Peter & Pres. Peggy

Allard, Clyde & Georgia

Altheide, Dena

Asa, Darwin & Barbara

Bakris, Dr. Nicholas

Birtsas, Sandra

Bistolaridis, Tony & Maria

Bograkos, Tim & Sandy

Chinonis, Elias

Chinonis, Linda

Chinonis, Richard

Costa, John & Laura

Costa, Kyriacos & Vasilia

Dalbo, Helen

Davis-Kirksey, Steve & Linda

Davlanges, Alex

Eisenbeis, Jerry

Ferich, Andrew & Voula

Garceau, Greg & Sia

Heos, Pamela & Brancheau, Jeffrey

Iakovidis, Tony & Vicki

Kallis, Agape

Kallis, Penelope

Kallis, Susan

Kaloydis, John & Karen

Kirkpatrick, Kelly

Kokkinokos, Peter & Panagiota

Kontourousis, Dimitri & Jacqueline

Kossaras, Dean & Joyce

Kus, Michael & Alexis

Levas, George & Margot

Lillar, Diana

Lowe, Ann

Mandelaris, John & Pauline

Neofostistos, John & Julie

Nitsos, MaryAnn

Pappadakis, Anthony & Kandis

Pappadakis, Nikki

Paraschos, Sam & Sandra

Peters, Jeff & Maria

Photiou, Carol

Photiou, Lucas & Lori

Politis, Rita

Poulos, Steve & Martha

Richards, Kenneth & Kathy

Roufos, Vasilios & Mary

Schultze, JoAnne

Senter, Clark & Katherine

Sirakis, Kostas & Sofia

Sirakis, Paraskevas & Athena

Steinhoff, Allen & Olga

Steinhoff, Stephanie

Stergiopoulos, Mary

Vitinaros, Effie & Nick

Wright, Jeff & Kay

Yeotis, Art & Susan

Yeotis, Catherine

# ICONOGRAPHY PROJECT



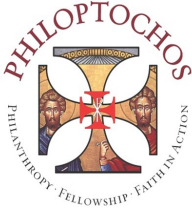
Dear Assumption Parishioners,

We began our Iconography Project in 2018. As of the end of September 2024, all icons have been installed and we have completed payment to the Iconographer. We especially thank all those who have sponsored icons, and have completed their pledges or who continue to contribute to fulfil their obligations to do so.

Although the Iconography project itself is complete, we do have some icons available for sponsorship. To sponsor an icon, contributions are encouraged in any amount. You may sponsor an icon in whole or in part; you may contribute to the iconography fund on behalf of yourself, in honor of a living loved one, or in memory of a departed loved one. We will gratefully accept donations in any amount (cash, check or credit card).

If you are interested in sponsoring an available icon, please contact the church office by phone (810-771-4611) or email ([agocsec@gmail.com](mailto:agocsec@gmail.com)).

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



## Philoptochos Society - Friends of the Poor!

Dear Sisters:

By the time you read this, most of the first month of 2025 has passed. I hope everyone has adjusted themselves to the cold and snowy weather. I know I haven't. As I have gotten older I am not enjoying it as much and prefer the comfort of my warm home.

On January 9, we held our monthly meeting at Cathy Yeotis's home. While only a few in attendance, we accomplished the business at hand and had a lovely luncheon prepared by our hostess. All who attended, thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Thank you Cathy for opening up your home for our meeting.

On Tuesday, January 14, fourteen people including Father and Presbytera Peggy braved the wintry weather and came to our Holiday Luncheon at Liberty Family Dining on Pierson Road. Conversations flowed from one end of the table to the other. It was nice seeing and catching up with our fellow members and parishioners.

Upcoming is the Valentine Luncheon once again catered by Pizza Mia on February 16. For those who attended last year, you will remember what a lovely affair it was and our handsome waiters. Reservations are required. The deadline is February 9. Adults - \$20; children 12 and under - \$12. Contact Diana Lillar if you plan to attend. Her number is 989 739-2289.

Olga Steinhoff, Philoptochos President



Assumption Greek Orthodox Church  
**LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY**  
**2025 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!



*Join us Sunday,  
February 16, 2025*

*Immediately after church for a  
Philoptochos Valentine Fundraiser  
and enjoy a wonderful meal  
with friends and family*

**MENU**

**Chicken Cordon Bleu  
Baby Redskin Potatoes  
1 PC Spanakopita  
Heart Salad  
Rolls  
Dessert**

**\$20.00 for adults**

**\$12.00 for children 12 and under**

## Daughters of Penelope Iris Chapter #242

Dear Sisters,

My hope is that you are staying active and warm indoors during the cold month of February or you are enjoying the ski, skating or ice fishing season of Michigan. One thing that I am certain, is that our sisterhood is staying busy promoting the mission of the Daughters of Penelope.

The Iris chapter has submitted an article in *Penelope's Scroll*, sharing the wonderful events and activities we have been involved with. *Penelope's Scroll* is a semi-annual newsletter used as a network platform between sisters, chapters, and districts to inform and share ideas and activities happening across the world. If you are interested in reading about other chapters and what they are doing, you can find *Penelope's Scroll* at <https://www.daughtersofpenelope.org/Publications-More.html>.

The AHEPA District #10 Educational Foundation's 2025 Scholarship Application is now available online.

If you are interested and eligible for the 2025 scholarship please submit your application by March 14, 2025 (11:59pm). Follow the link at <https://apply.ad10ef.org> to submit your application and to obtain more information regarding this scholarship program.

Our next meeting will be held Sunday, February 2, 2025 after coffee hour. We will be voting on district and national financial obligations and projects for 2024-2025 and briefly discussing our next fundraiser.

The 2025 chapter dues are now being collected by our treasurer, Kathy Richards. Please make checks payable to *Daughters of Penelope* in the amount of \$45.00. You may send them to:

Assumption Greek Orthodox Church  
2245 E. Baldwin Road  
Grand Blanc, MI 48439

Sincerely in Theta Pi,

Marian Hagler  
President Iris Chapter #242

## **COFFEE CATECHISM**

### Sunday Educational Sessions – January – June 2025

Our monthly education session on Services and Sacraments of the Church continue after Divine Liturgy, starting no later than 1:00 pm on the following dates

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| January 26, 2025  | Encountering the Kingdom (DIVINE LITURGY I – The Liturgy of the Catechumens)                 |
| February 23, 2025 | Encountering the Kingdom (DIVINE LITURGY II – The Liturgy of the Faithful and the Eucharist) |
| March 30, 2025    | Entry into the Faith (BAPTISM & CHRISMATION – The Entry into the Faith)                      |
| April 27, 2025    | Reconciliation and Healing (CONFESSION & HOLY UNCTION)                                       |
| May 25, 2025      | This is a Great Mystery (MARRIAGE)   |
| June 22, 2025     | No One is Worthy to Approach (ORDINATION)  |

## *The Orthodox Churches of Greater Flint*

Assumption (Greek) 2245 Baldwin Road ❖ Grand Blanc, MI 48439 ❖ 810-771-4611  
St. George (Antiochian) 5191 Lennon Road ❖ Flint, MI 48507 ❖ 810-732-0720  
St. Mary Magdalene (OCA) 2439 South Long Lake Road ❖ Fenton, MI 48430 ❖ 810-750-1701  
St. Nicholas (OCA) 2143 South Center Road ❖ Burton, MI 48519 ❖ 810-744-0070

**Come, Join Us for this Lenten Retreat by Fr. Silviu Bunta!**



## **The story of our lives: Holy Friday & Holy Saturday in human experience**

Fr. Silviu will discuss the hymnography of Holy Friday and Holy Saturday.

**Friday & Saturday,  
March 21 & 22, 2025**

**St. George Orthodox Church •  
5191 Lennon Rd • Flint, MI 48507**

**Please RSVP by March 14 to 810-732-0720 or  
[saintgeorgeflint@gmail.com](mailto:saintgeorgeflint@gmail.com)**

### **Friday, March 21**

|      |   |
|------|---|
| 6 pm | Salutations (Akathist)                      |
| 7 pm | 1 <sup>st</sup> talk with question & answer |

### **Saturday, March 22**

|                   |                            |
|-------------------|----------------------------|
| 9 am              | registration               |
| 9:30 am           | 2 <sup>nd</sup> talk       |
| 10:05 am          | break                      |
| 10:20 am          | 3 <sup>rd</sup> talk       |
| 10:55 am to 12 pm | lunch (free-will offering) |
| 12 pm             | questions and answers      |
| 12:45 pm          | Fr Silviu departs          |
| 1:15 pm           | Great Vespers              |

*Guest Speaker: Fr. Silviu Bunta*

*Member Churches of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in North America - A Vision of Orthodox Unity*

**Are you a descendant of immigrants from:  
Asia Minor, Eastern Thrace,  
Imbros, Tenedos,  
or  
the Islands in the Sea of Marmara?**

**Would you like to preserve your  
family history?**

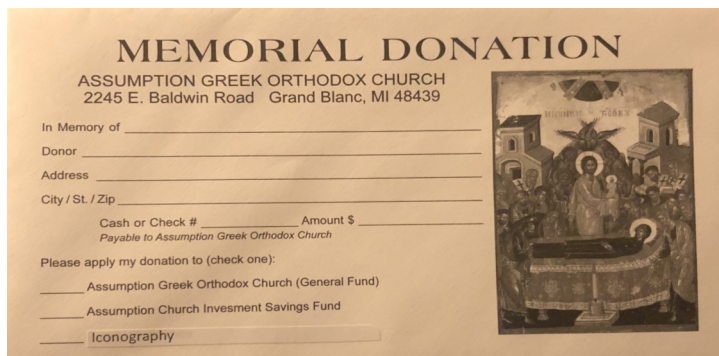
**Dr. Yiorgo Topalidis**  
and students from Flagler College  
will visit our community between  
**May 9 and May 23**  
of this year to conduct interviews.

**If you are interested contact him at:  
ytopalidis@flagler.edu 727-207-0623  
or via the QR code**



## 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 small icon depicting a religious scene, likely the Assumption of the Virgin Mary.

## 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><b>Member in good standing of AGOC-Grand Blanc:</b><br/>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><b>Inactive Parishioner/Non-Member at AGOC-Grand Blanc:</b><br/><br/>See ASSUMPTION GOC MEMBER POLICY on previous page.</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><b>Member in good standing of AGOC-Grand Blanc:</b><br/>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><b>Inactive Parishioner /Non-Member at AGOC-Grand Blanc:</b></p>   |
| <p>Friday-Saturday Hall Rental:<br/>Flat fee of \$600 for Hall Rental (includes clean-up)<br/>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)<br/><br/>If church dishes are used, dishwasher will be supplied at a cost of \$50. (cannot bring own dishwasher)</p> |
| <p>Sunday - Thursday Hall Rental:<br/>\$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>                                     |   |

# 2024 List of Donors



## FRIENDS OF THE METROPOLIS



pray



give



grow



## FRIENDS OF THE METROPOLIS 2024 CONTRIBUTIONS (JANUARY 1 - NOVEMBER 30)

- Bistolarides, Fr. Peter & Presbytera Peggy
- Assumption Parish
- Chinonis, Dennis & Debra
- Chinonis, Linda
- Dalbo, Helen
- Heos, Pamela and Jeffrey Brancheau
- Kalatzis, Athena
- 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:

\_\_\_\_\_

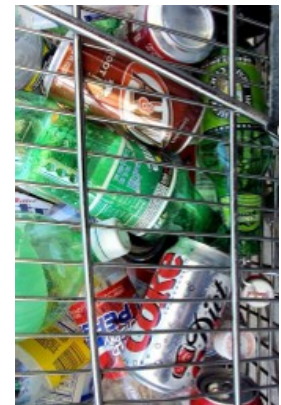
\_\_\_\_\_/We wish to have our gift remain anonymous.

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

**TIRED OF THE LONG BOTTLE RETURN LINES?**

**BRING YOUR EMPTY RETURNABLE BOTTLES AND CANS  
TO ASSUMPTION CHURCH**

**DROP-OFF IN BACK BY KITCHEN DOOR  
AND LET US TAKE THEM BACK.**



# FOOD SALES

|                                 |                                  |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Pastitsio/Moussaka              | Half Pan - Serves 9-12 - \$35.00 |
| Rice Pilaf                      | 3.5 lbs - \$10.00                |
| Greek Peas                      | 4 lbs - \$13.00                  |
| Spinach Cheese Pie              | Tray - 15 Pieces - \$30.00       |
| Tiropita (Cheese Triangle)      | 15 Pieces - \$25.00              |
| 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      |

To order call JoAnne Schultze  
810-241-6725



**CC&G**  
CLINE, CLINE & GRIFFIN  
A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

General Litigation • Insurance Defense • Business & Corporate Law & Litigation  
Wills, Trusts, Probate, Estates & Litigation • Elder Law • Wealth Transfer • Real Estate  
Employment Law & Litigation • Licensing & Regulatory Defense  
Municipal Law • Medical Malpractice

Walter P. Griffin • Timothy H. Knecht • Jose T. Brown • J. Brian MacDonald  
R. Paul Vance • Megan R. Mulder • Nancy K. Chinonis • Eric M. Froats • John T. Brown

**TRUST EXPERIENCE. COUNT ON COMMITMENT.**

Attorneys at Law | Since 1928 | [www.ccglawyers.com](http://www.ccglawyers.com) | 810.232.3141



# Swartz

**FUNERAL HOME**



## **Our Family Caring For Yours**

Owned and Operated by Rick R. Lamb & Family

- Personal Family Service
- Affordable Cost Options
- Advance Funeral Planning
- Cremation Services
- Aftercare Services Provided
- Monuments

**1255 W. Hill Road**

**Between I-475 and US-23**

**810-235-2345**

**[www.swartzfuneralhomeinc.com](http://www.swartzfuneralhomeinc.com)**

We don't just *say*  
we're family owned and  
operated...we are.



*Michael T. Scully, Jennifer Sharp Scully, Roger L. Sharp,  
Stephanie Sharp Foster, Roger L. Sharp II*

When you call Sharp Funeral Home, you might think it would be hard to get a family member on the phone. The truth is, we've been serving families for over 40 years, from four locations, and we pride ourselves on our availability to you. We have five immediate family members active at our firm in addition to our extended family of dedicated staff members. At Sharp, when we say we're family owned and operated, we really mean it.



Toll-free 1-877-53-SHARP  
[sharpfuneralhomes.com](http://sharpfuneralhomes.com)

*Miller Road Chapel*

*Roger L. Sharp, Manager*  
8138 Miller Road • Swartz Creek  
(810) 635-4411

*Linden Chapel*

*Stephanie Sharp Foster, Manager*  
209 E. Broad St. • Linden  
(810) 735-7833

*Fenton Chapel*

*Michael T. Scully, Manager*  
1000 Silver Lake Rd • Fenton  
(810) 629-9321

*Funeral Home & Cremation Center*

*Jennifer Sharp Scully, Manager*  
6063 Fenton Road • Flint  
(810) 694-4900

Our advertisers help to make our Newsletter possible by sponsoring it with their advertising. Won't you please patronize their businesses — and mention that you saw their ad in this Newsletter?

**JOHN K. COSTA, AIA**  
**ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN & CONSULTATION, PLLC**  
 417 OLDMILL DRIVE  
 FLUSHING, MICHIGAN 48433  
 810-659-5275 FAX 810-659-5399



**JEFF LAUSTER**

Fenton, MI  
 jefflauster.realtor@gmail.com  
<https://www.jefflausterrealestate.com/>  
 6501439321

**810.429.2923**

**EPIQUE**  
 REALTY



 **PARIS THE JEWELER**  
*Full Service Jewelers*



Certified Diamonds • Designer Jewelry • Custom Creations  
 Restyling • 1 Hour Jewelry Repair • Special Orders  
[www.paristhejewelermi.com](http://www.paristhejewelermi.com)

12890 S. Saginaw St.  
 Grand Blanc, MI 48439  
**Phone: (810) 953-3760**  
[info@diamondintheroughjewelers.com](mailto:info@diamondintheroughjewelers.com)

**Paris Sirakis**  
 Owner  
 Cell: (810) 449-5573

| ADVERTISING OPTIONS   |          | NOTES   |
|-----------------------|----------|---|
| NL Full Page.....     | \$250/yr | Newsletter is printed 11 months per year as the July/Aug is a combined newsletter.<br><br>For best quality, artwork should be high resolution jpeg files or similar.<br><br>Emailed ads must be 600 dpi or greater.<br><br>Please include or email artwork. |
| NL Half Page.....     | \$150/yr |   |
| Business Card Ad..... | \$75/yr  |   |

**Please send artwork by email to: [agocsec@gmail.com](mailto:agocsec@gmail.com)**

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

**2025 Parish Council**

Nancy Chinonis - President  
Susan Kallis - Vice President  
Joyce Kossaras - Secretary  
JoAnne Schultze - Treasurer

Dena Altheide  
Debra Chinonis  
David Duffy  
Diane Foraker  
Elaine Joynt-Duffy  
George Nitsos  
Olga Steinhoff - Ex-Officio  
Nick Trifon

**ORGANIZATIONS**

ACOLYTES: JOHN KALOYDIS & NICK KALLIS  
CHOIR: NANCY CHINONIS  
CHANTERS: ATHENA KALATZIS  
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE: TBD  
PHILOPTOCHOS: OLGA STEINHOFF  
GOYA: TBD  
AHEPA: JOHN COSTA  
DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE: MARIAN HAGLER





Assumption Greek Orthodox Church  
2245 E Baldwin Road  
Grand Blanc, MI 48439

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Grand Blanc, Michigan  
Permit #42

Place mailing label here