

THE ASSUMPTION CONNECTION

FEB
2026

THE MEETING OF OUR LORD



What's Happening

FEB 2026

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: Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple	10:00 AM
8: 1 Year Memorial Joseph Nitsos	
8: PC Meeting	12:00 PM
10: Philoptochos Meeting	1:00 PM
15: Philoptochos Valentine's Luncheon	11:30 AM
22: Forgiveness Vespers	11:30 AM
22: DOP Meeting	12:00 PM
23: Clean Monday - Great Lent Begins	
27: 1st Salutations to the Theotokos	6:00 PM
28: 3rd Saturday of the Souls	10:00 AM

MAR 2026

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				

10: Philoptochos Meeting	1:00 PM
11: PC Meeting	6:00 PM
20-21: Pan-Orthodox Lenten Retreat at Assumption	
20: 4th Salutations to the Theotokos	6:00 PM
22: DOP Meeting	12:00 PM
25: Annunciation to the Theotokos	10:00 AM
27: Akathist Hymn	6:00 PM
29: Super Draw	11:30 AM

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.

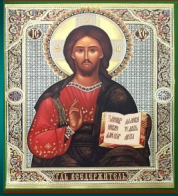
Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. - James 5:16

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Fr. Joseph Abud; Sandi Chinonis; Maria Chuleas;
 Kyriacos & Vasilias Costa; Stephanos Hatzigeorgiou & Family;
 Anita Jimos; Athena Kalatzis; Tessie Komodromos; Soula Kondyles;
 Mary Kottalis; Ann Lowe; George Levas; Diana Lillar; Afroditi Marks;
 Sam Paraschos; JoAnne Schultze; Joann Welch

SUNDAY READERS SCHEDULE			
FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY
1 Nick Kallis	1 Dena Altheide	5 John Kaloydis	3 Debra Chinonis
8 John Kaloydis	8 Debra Chinonis	12 Stella Thurkill	10 John Costa
15 Stella Thurkill	15 John Costa	19 Cathy Yeotis	17 Aleko Douros
22 Cathy Yeotis	22 Aleko Douros	26 Dena Altheide	24 Nick Kallis
	29 Nick Kallis		31 John Kaloydis

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 2026

SOMETHING TO CHEW ON

If you have a smartphone, and maybe subscribe to a news service, you are bombarded by various articles and news items from – hopefully – reliable sources. Some are actually interesting. Recently, I received an article from National Geographic about the effect on our brain of one of the commonest of habits in our society – chewing gum. Of course, the article began by talking about William Wrigley, Jr.

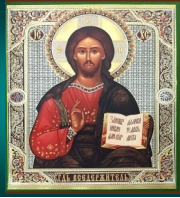
I don't think there is anyone reading who isn't familiar with Wrigley's chewing gum. The interesting fact the article starts with is that in the midst of the many bankruptcies and business failures during the Great Depression of the 1930s, the Wrigley Company not only survived, but continued to make lots of money. Why would this be?

Well, it seems that chewing a stick of gum during this time of great upheaval and uncertainty seemed to be one way that people coped with the personal anxiety they were feeling. According to the article, one of Wrigley's advertisements from 1918 promised that gum would "steady your nerves", a marketing strategy that various gum companies are turning back to (as the article describes, "pitching gum as a salve for the mind"). There is research going on looking at this phenomenon that, to date, has found at least a weak positive association between this practice and addressing anxiety or focusing our minds and dissipating intrusive thoughts.

My message this month is not a pro or con on the merits of chewing gum. We each seem to have various habits or practices in times of anxiety, nervousness or uncertainty. Chewing gum appears to be one of the most benign practices out there, along with certain "nervous" practices like tapping fingers, shaking one's foot, a baby's "pacifier" and numerous others (think of the Greek practice of playing with a "komboloi", or "worry beads"), but also some more potentially harmful ones – think tobacco, alcohol, cannabis and other similar substances, and even food (the term "comfort food" is a very descriptive one). The list goes on.

In the great realm of anxiety, worry, disturbing thoughts, and other things in our world that we deal with on a daily basis, we have adopted various habits and practices to help us cope. However, we often leave out a powerful tool, available to us 24/7, not requiring any special equipment, and not exposing us to harm in any way. Prayer.

While we associate prayer with the words we speak (or think) when we need God's help with something or someone (intercessory prayer) or when we worship and give thanks, there is within the Orthodox tradition the practice of "calming" or "centering" prayer, referred to as "prayer of the heart". The use of this type of prayer, originally a monastic



FROM FATHER PETER

practice, has been affirmed by church writers through the centuries, most notably by St. Gregory Palamas, Archbishop of Thessaloniki in the 14th century (who we commemorate on the second Sunday of Great Lent – this year on March 8).

Prayer for any purpose is direct conversation with God, direct conversation with Christ, His Mother, or any of our saints. Unlike our usual prayers, what is called “prayer of the heart” does not need to be long or wordy. It is the quiet or even silent repetition of a few words, based in scripture and affirmed by the Fathers of the Church throughout the centuries: “Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me (a sinner)”, what we call the “Jesus Prayer”. Sometimes, in the most difficult of times when words fail us, even just “Lord, have mercy” is simple to remember. “Prayer of the heart” is usually practiced through repetition. Some have compared this type of prayer with the practice in some eastern non-Christian religions with meditation (sometimes involving the repeated repetition of a “mantra”) in an attempt to bring calm and “spiritual enlightenment” to oneself.

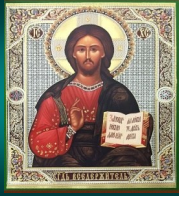
However, while one might see similarities between the Orthodox Christian practice and the eastern practices, *to equate these practices would be an error*. Orthodox Christian prayer of any kind is not simply an attempt to unite oneself with a non-specific spirit or “life force”, but at all times is direct conversation with, and (as St. Gregory Palamas describes) genuine communion with the real, uncreated God - to make His presence felt in us.

St. Paul refers to “unceasing prayer” in 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18: “Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you”. St. Paul exhorts us to pray unceasingly at all times and in all things – for specific purposes, for thanksgiving, and in all those times when we must replenish ourselves with the grace of God, anytime, anywhere. Unlike chewing gum, prayer does not lose its flavor, and it is more durable.

Blessed Lent,

+Fr. Peter

i Love, S. Chewing gum has a mysterious effect on the brain. National Geographic (on-line), 12/31/2025



FROM YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

Message from the Parish Council President – February 2026

Greetings Assumption Family!

It's amazing what a quick start we had to 2026. Our 2026 Parish Council was sworn in on January 11, 2026, following Divine Liturgy with the January Parish Council Meeting take place after Coffee Hour. During the meeting, the following executive Officers were elected:

President:	Nancy Chinonis
Vice President:	Dena Altheide
Secretary:	Joyce Kossaras
Treasurer:	David Duffy

Please accept my humble gratitude to be elected to again to serve in the leadership role of Parish Council President. I look forward to working with all of the Executive Officers and Members of the Parish Council this year!

It's hard to believe it, but we begin our Lenten Journey this month!

Meatfare Sunday:	February 15 th
Cheesefare Sunday:	February 22 nd
1 st Sunday of Lent:	March 1 st .
Holy Pascha (Easter):	April 12 th

Please don't forget to RSVP for the Philoptochos Valentine's Day Luncheon Fundraiser scheduled for February 15th!

Although as Orthodox Christians, we do not celebrate Valentine's Day in the Western sense, we do have a St. Valentine. However, the Orthodox St. Valentine is not commemorated on February 14th. We commemorate St. Valentine of Terni on July 6th. St. Valentine of Terni is remembered for his martyrdom and for his expression of the Christian virtues of love, compassion, and selflessness. The story of St. Valentine of Terni encourages us to embrace love as a transformative force and to reflect on our commitment to love and faith.

As we begin this year's Lenten journey, it is fitting for us to embrace the Christian virtues of love, compassion, and selflessness.

Yours in Christ,

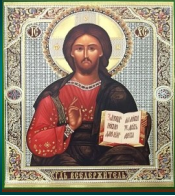
Nancy K. Chinonis
Parish Council President

2026 PARISH COUNCIL

Not Pictured:
Diane Foraker, Susan Kallis,
Nick Trifon



THANK YOU
JOANNE SCHULTZE &
GEORGE NITSOS
FOR YOUR YEARS OF SERVICE
ON PARISH COUNCIL

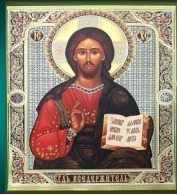


FROM YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

ASSUMPTION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
Income Statement
Compared with Budget
For the Twelve Months Ending December 31, 2025

	Current Month Actual	Current Month Budget	Current Month Variance	Year to Date Actual	Year to Date Budget	Year to Date Variance
Revenues						
Stewardship Receipts	\$ 16,585.00	\$ 11,833.37	\$ 4,751.63	\$ 158,986.79	\$ 142,000.00	\$ 16,986.79
Candles Receipts	730.00	666.63	63.37	9,472.50	8,000.00	1,472.50
Candles Expense	0.00	(250.00)	250.00	(2,576.00)	(3,000.00)	424.00
Trays Receipts	913.00	416.63	496.37	8,510.00	5,000.00	3,510.00
Coffee Hour Tray Receipts	150.00	0.00	150.00	1,280.00	0.00	1,280.00
Coffee Hour Expense	0.00	0.00	0.00	(491.14)	0.00	(491.14)
Hall Rental	0.00	83.37	(83.37)	449.00	1,000.00	(551.00)
Youth Ministry Income	0.00	125.00	(125.00)	0.00	1,500.00	(1,500.00)
Youth Ministry Expenses	0.00	(125.00)	125.00	0.00	(1,500.00)	1,500.00
Book Store Income	52.00	0.00	52.00	529.00	0.00	529.00
Book Store Expense	(44.37)	0.00	(44.37)	(540.92)	0.00	(540.92)
Donations - General	13,829.98	0.00	13,829.98	17,110.00	0.00	17,110.00
Christmas Donations	60.00	0.00	60.00	60.00	0.00	60.00
Flower Donations	0.00	0.00	0.00	30.00	0.00	30.00
Memorial Donations	25.00	0.00	25.00	18,360.00	0.00	18,360.00
Pascha Donations	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,418.00	0.00	3,418.00
Prophora Donations	0.00	0.00	0.00	220.00	0.00	220.00
Furnace Donations	0.00	0.00	0.00	40,225.00	0.00	40,225.00
Icono/Parking/lot/Fund Donations	40,500.00	0.00	40,500.00	92,250.00	0.00	92,250.00
Ch. Mem Sav Fund Donations	400.00	0.00	400.00	2,640.00	0.00	2,640.00
Food Sales Income-Dep To Wall	902.00	0.00	902.00	10,198.00	0.00	10,198.00
Food Sales Expense	(240.18)	(416.63)	176.45	(6,651.73)	(5,000.00)	(1,651.73)
Contribns - In-kind/Noncash	0.00	0.00	0.00	163.54	0.00	163.54
Miscellaneous Receipts	45.68	666.63	(620.95)	1,076.31	8,000.00	(6,923.69)
Miscellaneous - Specl Projects	0.00	1,666.63	(1,666.63)	0.00	20,000.00	(20,000.00)
NL Advertising	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,175.00	0.00	1,175.00
Cash Raffle Receipts	0.00	4,166.63	(4,166.63)	2,500.00	50,000.00	(47,500.00)
Cash Raffle License Expense	0.00	(4.13)	4.13	0.00	(50.00)	50.00
Cash Raffle Expenses	0.00	(1,833.37)	1,833.37	(21,800.00)	(22,000.00)	200.00
Golf Outing Receipts	0.00	3,833.37	(3,833.37)	0.00	46,000.00	(46,000.00)
Golf Outing-Sponsors	0.00	0.00	0.00	26,960.60	0.00	26,960.60
Golf Outing-Golfers	0.00	0.00	0.00	13,790.00	0.00	13,790.00
Golf Outing-Dinner Only	0.00	0.00	0.00	850.00	0.00	850.00
Golf Outing-Donations	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,660.00	0.00	5,660.00
Golf Outing-Raffles	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,930.00	0.00	4,930.00
Golf Outing Expenses	0.00	(1,833.37)	1,833.37	(28,186.58)	(22,000.00)	(6,186.58)
Fish Fry Receipts	0.00	4,666.63	(4,666.63)	94,195.59	56,000.00	38,195.59
Fish Fry Expenses	(675.00)	(2,100.00)	1,425.00	(38,848.37)	(25,200.00)	(13,648.37)
Other Fund Raiser Receipts	0.00	291.63	(291.63)	0.00	3,500.00	(3,500.00)
Other Fund Raiser Costs	0.00	(41.63)	41.63	0.00	(500.00)	500.00
Interest Income	0.00	5.00	(5.00)	5.56	60.00	(54.44)

For Management Purposes Only

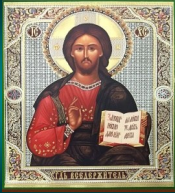


FROM YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

ASSUMPTION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
Income Statement
Compared with Budget
For the Twelve Months Ending December 31, 2025

	Current Month Actual	Current Month Budget	Current Month Variance	Year to Date Actual	Year to Date Budget	Year to Date Variance
Total Revenues	73,233.11	21,817.39	51,415.72	415,950.15	261,810.00	154,140.15
Cost of Sales						
Total Cost of Sales	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Gross Profit	73,233.11	21,817.39	51,415.72	415,950.15	261,810.00	154,140.15
Expenses						
Priest - Salary & Housing	2,083.32	2,083.37	(0.05)	24,999.84	25,000.00	(0.16)
Priest - Housing Allowance	3,333.34	3,333.37	(0.03)	40,000.08	40,000.00	0.08
Priest - Auto Allowance	500.00	500.00	0.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	0.00
Priest - Cell Phone Allowance	100.00	100.00	0.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	0.00
Priest - Insurance Expense	416.66	416.63	0.03	4,999.92	5,000.00	(0.08)
Priest - FICA Allowance	978.54	0.00	978.54	11,742.48	0.00	11,742.48
Priest - Payroll Tax	0.00	978.50	(978.50)	1,266.96	11,742.00	(10,475.04)
Ofc/Genl - Salaries	1,455.00	1,333.37	121.63	17,330.00	16,000.00	1,330.00
Ofc/Genl - Payroll Tax	113.20	102.00	11.20	4,904.34	1,224.00	3,680.34
Pension Expense	0.00	762.13	(762.13)	6,240.00	9,146.00	(2,906.00)
Accounting Fees	0.00	100.00	(100.00)	1,300.00	1,200.00	100.00
Security - Alarm	125.40	120.00	5.40	1,449.15	1,440.00	9.15
Security - Fire Panel	0.00	133.37	(133.37)	1,794.91	1,600.00	194.91
Dues & Subscriptions	24.70	0.00	24.70	353.72	0.00	353.72
Dues & Subscriptions - Sftware	90.00	150.00	(60.00)	1,086.00	1,800.00	(714.00)
Parish Total Commitment	2,482.00	2,482.17	(0.17)	29,784.00	29,786.04	(2.04)
Equipment Purchases	(781.45)	0.00	(781.45)	42,918.44	0.00	42,918.44
Equipment Rental - Office	0.00	420.87	(420.87)	3,100.00	5,050.00	(1,950.00)
Insurance - Building	0.00	1,000.00	(1,000.00)	8,421.00	12,000.00	(3,579.00)
Insurance - Workman's Comp	0.00	58.37	(58.37)	637.00	700.00	(63.00)
Lawn Care/Snow Removal	1,050.00	833.37	216.63	8,350.00	10,000.00	(1,650.00)
Lawn Care - Weed Control	0.00	58.37	(58.37)	654.09	700.00	(45.91)
Lawn Care - Sprinkler Maint	160.00	11.63	148.37	300.00	140.00	160.00
Laundry & Uniforms	174.90	116.63	58.27	1,526.38	1,400.00	126.38
Postage & Shipping	(59.20)	166.63	(225.83)	3,011.00	2,000.00	1,011.00
Repairs - Goyette	0.00	0.00	0.00	27,952.93	0.00	27,952.93
Maintenance-Goyette	490.48	208.37	282.11	8,155.62	2,500.00	5,655.62
Maintenance - VanGuard	0.00	204.13	(204.13)	1,952.10	2,450.00	(497.90)
Repairs - General	0.00	0.00	0.00	642.80	0.00	642.80
Maintenance - General	1,775.67	416.63	1,359.04	7,322.11	5,000.00	2,322.11
Repairs & Maint - Parking Lot	0.00	625.00	(625.00)	0.00	7,500.00	(7,500.00)
Repairs & Maint - Sidewalks	0.00	208.37	(208.37)	0.00	2,500.00	(2,500.00)
Pest Control	50.00	50.00	0.00	600.00	600.00	0.00

For Management Purposes Only



FROM YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

ASSUMPTION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
Income Statement
Compared with Budget
For the Twelve Months Ending December 31, 2025

	Current Month Actual	Current Month Budget	Current Month Variance	Year to Date Actual	Year to Date Budget	Year to Date Variance
Trash Removal	285.18	100.00	185.18	1,395.57	1,200.00	195.57
Utilities - Comcast	1,462.42	916.63	545.79	8,388.26	11,000.00	(2,611.74)
Utilities - Consumers	0.00	1,750.00	(1,750.00)	15,950.23	21,000.00	(5,049.77)
Utilities - Water & Sewer	522.14	333.37	188.77	4,771.90	4,000.00	771.90
Township Tax	48.16	0.00	48.16	48.16	0.00	48.16
Advertising	0.00	41.63	(41.63)	0.00	500.00	(500.00)
Bank Charges	0.00	8.37	(8.37)	0.00	100.00	(100.00)
Square Fees Expense	0.00	125.00	(125.00)	1,530.72	1,500.00	30.72
Square Fees Reimbmts	0.00	0.00	0.00	(333.00)	0.00	(333.00)
Computer Expenses	0.00	83.37	(83.37)	0.00	1,000.00	(1,000.00)
Continuing Education	0.00	333.37	(333.37)	0.00	4,000.00	(4,000.00)
Contributions - Metropolis	0.00	83.37	(83.37)	1,005.00	1,000.00	5.00
Contributions - Other	0.00	166.63	(166.63)	375.00	2,000.00	(1,625.00)
Cost of Sales - Non-Fish Fry	0.00	0.00	0.00	26.39	0.00	26.39
Honorariums	0.00	125.00	(125.00)	1,709.00	1,500.00	209.00
Flowers & Gifts	0.00	208.37	(208.37)	3,285.34	2,500.00	785.34
Library, Books, & Journals	0.00	41.63	(41.63)	0.00	500.00	(500.00)
Licenses, Fees, & Permits	58.00	41.63	16.37	683.00	500.00	183.00
Supplies - Office	9.28	125.00	(115.72)	1,317.62	1,500.00	(182.38)
Supplies - General	26.00	83.37	(57.37)	581.87	1,000.00	(418.13)
Supplies - Janitorial	149.86	41.63	108.23	592.91	500.00	92.91
Supplies - Kitchen	31.98	166.63	(134.65)	1,901.39	2,000.00	(98.61)
Miscellaneous Expenses	0.00	41.63	(41.63)	1,665.51	500.00	1,165.51
Total Expenses	17,155.58	21,789.91	(4,634.33)	314,889.74	261,478.04	53,411.70
Net Income	\$ 56,077.53	\$ 27.48	\$ 56,050.05	\$ 101,060.41	\$ 331.96	\$ 100,728.45

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
Stella Daskalakis-Thurkill	Feb 6	Dean Yeotis	Feb 20
Meg Yeotis	Feb 7	Vivian Federick	Feb 22
Fr. Peter Bistolarides	Feb 10	Francis Vergos	Feb 23
Michael Kus	Feb 13	Kostadinos Vergos	Feb 23
Nitsa Vergos	Feb 15	George Margaritis	Feb 24
Steven Poulos	Feb 17	Jeffrey Wright	Feb 25
Thoula Karakitsos	Feb 19		



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



STEWARDSHIP 2026

THANK YOU to the following faithful stewards who have submitted their pledge cards for 2026. Please join them in their support of our Assumption Greek Orthodox Church and submit your pledge card today!

2026 Proposed Stewardship Budget: \$145,000

YTD thru 1/25/2026 Stewardship Received: \$29,890

Bistolarrides, Fr. Peter & Pres. Peggy

Allard, Clyde & Georgie

Altheide, Dena

Anagnostopoulos, Anna

Asa, Barbara

Bakris, Nicholas

Birtsas, Sandra

Bistolaridis, Tony & Mary

Bograkos, Tim & Sandy

Bograkos, Vera

Chinonis, Dennis & Debra

Chinonis, Elias

Chinonis, Katie

Chinonis, Linda

Chinonis, Nancy & Jeff Lauster

Chinonis, Richard

Clinton, Michael & Kathy

Costa, John & Laura

Costa, Kyriacos & Vasilia

Dalbo, Helen

Davis-Kirksey, Steve & Linda

Duffy, David & Elaine Joynt

Eisenbeis, Jerry & Tina

Fahoome, Calliope

Falaras, Mary

Ferich, Andrew & Voula

Foraker, Walt & Diane

Garceau, Greg & Sia

Hagler, Gary & Marian

Haralambous, Frank & Vania

Haralambous, Michael & Liliana

Heos, Pamela & Jeffery Brancheau

Holland, Nick & Jennifer

Hountalas, Dimitri & Brittany

Iakovidis, Tony & Vicki

Joseph, Patricia

Joynt, Kenneth

Joynt, Sadie

Kallis, Agape

Kallis, Susan

Kaloydis, John & Karen

Kokkinakos, Peter & Tula

Kondyles, Chryssoula

Kontorouisis, Dimitre & Jacqueline

Kossaras, Dean & Joyce

Koutrouvidas, John & Nina

Kus, Michael & Alexis

Lennox, Sean & Christina

Levas, George & Margot

Lillar, Diana

Lowe, Ann

Mandelaris, John & Pauline

Manutes, Nicholas

Martorelli, Michael

Massoud, Mary

Melonakos, Anthony & Paula

Neofotistos, John & Julie

Nitsos, Emma

Nitsos, Mary Ann

Obmascik, Tom & Katherine

Panos, Spiridoula

Pappadakis, Anthony & Kandis

Pappadakis, Nikki

Paraschos, Sam & Sandra

Photiou, Lucas & Lori

Poulos, Steve & Martha

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THANK YOU to the following faithful stewards who have submitted their pledge cards for 2026. Please join them in their support of our Assumption Greek Orthodox Church and submit your pledge card today!

2026 Proposed Stewardship Budget: \$145,000

YTD thru 1/25/2026 Stewardship Received: \$29,890

Richards, Ken & Kathy

Roufos, Vasilios & Mary

Schultze, JoAnne

Senter, Clark & Katherine

Steinhoff, Allen & Olga

Steinhoff, Amanda

Stergiopoulos, Mary

Thornton, Jerry & Demi

Thurber, Chuck & Paula

Vergos, Nitsa

Vergos, Peter & Susie

Vitinaros, Nick & Effie

Wright, Jeff & Kay

Yeotis, Art & Susan

Yeotis, Catherine


Yeotis, Hon. Thomas & Meg

January 4, 2026
Vasilopita Sunday



OUR JOURNEY TO PASCHA! 2026

Created by Fr. Jonathan Bannon (ACROD)

SUNDAYS	THEMES / GOSPEL READING	HOW TO PARTICIPATE:
Fast - Free Week FEBRUARY 1st	 <i>TRIODION WEEKS</i> Publican and the Pharisee Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10-15 Gospel: Luke 18:10-14	Show compassion on the poor and distressed. Trust in God, not yourself and ask for His help before every task this week.
Normal Fast Week FEBRUARY 8th	 The Prodigal Son Returns! Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 Gospel: Luke 15:11-32	Schedule a Confession. Every morning say, "Today I will be humble." Use up/freeze meats this week.
Meatfare FEBRUARY 15th FAREWELL TO MEAT TODAY	 The Last Judgement Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2 Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46	Pray facing East this week. Christ is returning from the East and we wait for Him! Use up/freeze dairy this week.
Cheesefare FEBRUARY 22nd FAREWELL TO CHEESE TODAY	 Adam and Eve are cast from Paradise! <i>FORGIVENESS SUNDAY</i> Epistle: Romans 13:11-14:4 Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21	Ask each other for forgiveness each evening this week before bed.
1st Sunday of Lent MARCH 1st	 <i>GREAT LENT BEGINS WITH FORGIVENESS VESPERS</i> SUNDAY of ORTHODOXY Epistle: Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2 Gospel: John 1:43-51	Bring an icon to church for a procession.
2nd Sunday of Lent MARCH 8th	 ST GREGORY PALAMAS Epistle: Hebrews 1:10-2:3 Gospel: Mark 2:1-12	Bring a prayer rope to be blessed today! Use it and pray the Jesus Prayer each day this week.
3rd Sunday of Lent MARCH 15th	 VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS <i>HALF WAY TO PASCHA!</i> Epistle: Hebrews 4:14-5:6 Gospel: Mark 8:34-9:1	Wear your cross to church and kiss the cross each morning with a bow!
4th Sunday of Lent MARCH 22nd	 ST JOHN of the LADDER Epistle: Hebrews 6:13-20 Gospel: Mark 9:17-31	Every time you climb stairs this week ask St. John to help you reach Paradise with the sign of the cross!
5th Sunday of Lent MARCH 29th	 ST MARY of EGYPT Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-14 Gospel: Mark 10:32-45	Ask the Theotokos to offer you and the world pure thoughts and ideas this week.
FLOWERY (PALM) SUNDAY! APRIL 5th GREAT WEEK BEGINS	 <i>GREAT AND HOLY WEEK</i> ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9 Gospel: John 12:1-18	Place your palm branches and pussywillows behind an icon at home and in your car!
GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY APRIL 10th	 GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY <i>JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS</i> CHECK WITH YOUR PARISH FOR ROYAL HOURS AND VESPERS SCHEDULE	Refrain from TV, Internet & Phones to honor Christ's Death.
FEAST OF FEASTS! APRIL 12th NO FASTING!	 <i>BRIGHT WEEK</i> HOLY PASCHA! (CHRIST IS RISEN!) Epistle: Acts 1:1-8 Gospel: John 1:1-17	Greet everyone with "CHRIST IS RISEN!" & say it before good morning and goodnight!

January 22, 2026

Annual Pan-Orthodox Dormition Monastery Fundraiser Vespers & Dinner





Daughters of Penelope Iris Chapter #242

The Iris Chapter of the Daughters of Penelope would like to extend a warm welcome to our newly initiated members, **Rachel Costa** and **Kristina Thurkill** and also to **Katherine Obmascik (Kaloydis)**, who is being reinstated into our chapter. We are so happy to have you join our sisterhood!

Announcements:

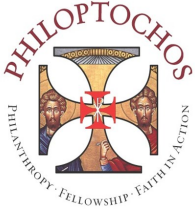
- ◆ The AHEPA District #10 Educational Foundation 2026 Scholarship Application is open. The application is **due on February 23, 2026** and can be found at : <https://apply.ad10ef.org>
- ◆ Daughters of Penelope membership dues for 2026 are \$50 and they are being collected by Lori Photiou and Kathy Richards. They can also be sent to the church.
- ◆ This month our Book Club is reading *All the Colors of the Dark* by Chris Whitaker

Looking Ahead....

- ◆ Our future chapter meeting dates are February 22, March 22, and April 26, 2026
- ◆ Detroit Greek Independence Day Parade will be in Greek Town on Sunday, May 3, 2026
- ◆ **Our Annual Spring Salad Luncheon will be held on May 14, 2026 from 11:30AM–1:30PM**



On December 16, 2025 we delivered fleece blankets and children's books to Catholic Charities Center For Hope Warming Center



Philoptochos Society - Friends of the Poor!

Dear Sisters:

Well here we are, already into the month of February. January was an interesting month weather wise. We saw all different types. Sunny, warmer (40's), cold, blustery, freezing rain; a hodgepodge of everything.

I would like to thank Alexandra Frantzis for once again baking the two Vasilopitas. We truly appreciate your hard work and all the other ladies who help us every year with tsoureki bread baking and pastries for our annual bake sale. I can never thank them often enough.

Our Holiday Luncheon at Blondie's on January 13 was a success. We had a large group of not only Philoptochos members but also other parishioners including some men.. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves..


Coming up is our next big fundraiser - the 3rd Valentine Luncheon on February 15. We hope you will join us for that day. Money raised from this event along with our net profit from the bake sale is what funds us to complete our mission work. Helping those who are less fortunate. For reservations please contact either Diana Lillar at 989 739-2289 or me 810 234-9319. Look for the flyer in the church's newsletter.

We will start collecting money for the Epitaphio on Sunday, March 1. On March 20 & 21, Assumption will be hosting the Genesee County Pan Orthodox Lenten Retreat. Philoptochos will be hosting the reception after the March 20 service. Please keep this date in mind and I hope that you will be able once again to contribute to that event. They were so impressed with the reception we presented on August 14, many comments were given as to how wonderful it was. Thank you to all those who contributed and I hope you will be able to assist once again on the 20th.

So, I will close for now. Stay warm, safe and healthy.

Olga Steinhoff

Philoptochos President



*Join us Sunday,
February 15, 2026*

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

MENU

Grecian Chicken

Grecian Potatoes

Glazed Carrots

Greek Salad

\$20.00 for adults

\$12.00 for children 12 and under



Assumption Greek Orthodox Church
LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY
2026 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!

2025 List of Donors



FRIENDS OF THE METROPOLIS



pray



give



grow

FRIENDS OF THE METROPOLIS 2025 CONTRIBUTIONS (JANUARY 1 - NOVEMBER 15)

- Assumption Parish
- Bistolarides, Fr. Peter & Presbyteria Peggy
- Chinonis, Dennis and Debra
- Chinonis, Nancy and Jeff Lauster
- Dalbo, Helen
- Heos, Pamela & Jeffrey Brancheau
- Kallis, Agape
- Kalatzis, Athena
- Kaloydis, John & Karen
- Melonakos, Anthony & Paula
- Yeotis, Catherine

Thank you!



PROCEDURE FOR RECEIPTS

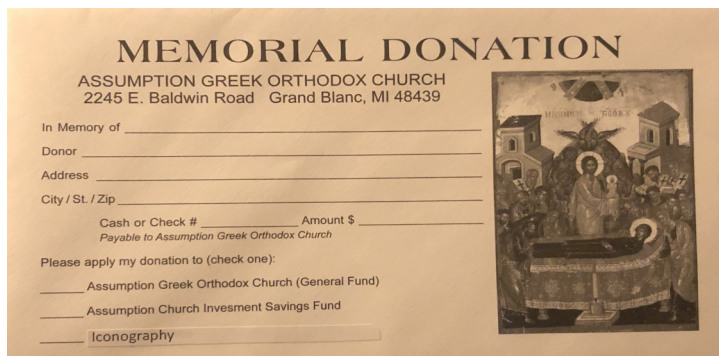
Due to the rising cost of mailing receipts for every donation received by the church, the Parish Council has established the following procedure for receipts:

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.

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.




MEMORIAL DONATION
ASSUMPTION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
2245 E. Baldwin Road Grand Blanc, MI 48439

In Memory of _____
Donor _____
Address _____
City / St. / Zip _____

Cash or Check # _____ Amount \$ _____
Payable to Assumption Greek Orthodox Church

Please apply my donation to (check one):
 Assumption Greek Orthodox Church (General Fund)
 Assumption Church Investment Savings Fund
 Iconography



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</p>	<p>Inactive Parishioner/Non-Member at AGOC-Grand Blanc: 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>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>	

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:

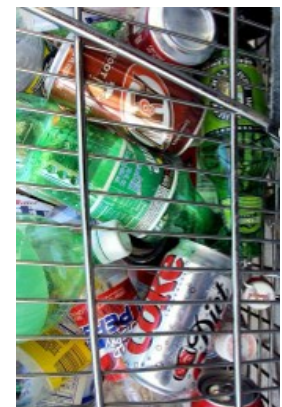
_____/I/We wish to have our gift remain anonymous.

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

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**DROP-OFF IN BACK BY KITCHEN DOOR
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FOOD SALES

Pastitsio	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

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810-241-6725



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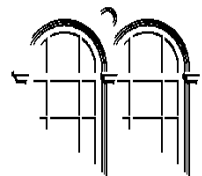
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Orthros: 8:50 am
Divine Liturgy: 10:00 am

Weekdays and Feast Days:
See Calendar

Priest: Rev. Protopresbyter 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

2026 Parish Council

Nancy Chinonis - President
Dena Altheide- Vice President
Joyce Kossaras - Secretary
David Duffy - Treasurer

Debra Chinonis
Diane Foraker
Elaine Joynt-Duffy
Susan Kallis
Kandis Pappadakis
Lucas Photiou
Olga Steinhoff - Ex-Officio
Nick Trifon

ORGANIZATIONS

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

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

Please send artwork by email to: agocsec@gmail.com



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