

Sunday Before Nativity

Epistle Reading: St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 11:9-10; 32-40

BRETHREN, by faith Abraham sojourned in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city which has foundation, whose builder and maker is God.

And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets - who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated - of whom the world was not worthy - wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect..

Gospel Reading: Matthew 1:1-25

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel" (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called his name Jesus.



Memorials & Trisagias

January 7

1-year Memorial for Jean (Katherine) Kotakis, mother of Penny (Tyler) Burch

January 21

1-year Memorial for A. Glen (Gregor) Beck, father of Cathy (Tom) Reiss and Connie (James) Perch

February 11

19-year Memorial for Mary Labis, wife of Mike Labis

In Our Prayers:

Nora (Elaine) Bangert, Tom Dubis, Seraphima Henderson, Thekla (Rebecca) Kagaris, Achilles Kirkou, Michael Labis, George and Janice (Ioanna) Paradissis, Tom (Anastasios) Masa, Elaine Scott, Despina Zeris.

Sunday Bulletin

December 24, 2017



Assumption Greek Orthodox Church

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Town & Country, MO 63131

Church Office 314-966-2255

www.assumptiongoc.org

Fr. Joseph Strzelecki

Fr. Anastasios Theodoropoulos

We celebrate the Feast of the Nativity of Christ

with Great Vespers this evening at 5:00 pm, and tomorrow with Orthros at 9:00 am and Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am. Please join us.

**Ἀπολυτίκιον τῆς Ἑορτῆς.
Ἦχος δ΄.**

Ἡ γέννησίς σου Χριστέ ὁ Θεὸς ἡμῶν,
ἀνέτειλε τῷ κόσμῳ, τὸ φῶς τὸ τῆς γνώσεως· ἐν
αὐτῇ γὰρ οἱ τοῖς ἄστροις λατρεύοντες, ὑπὸ
ἀστέρος ἐδιδάσκοντο· σὲ προσκυνεῖν, τὸν Ἥλιον
τῆς δικαιοσύνης, καὶ σὲ γινώσκειν ἐξ ὕψους
ἀνατολήν, Κύριε δόξα σοι.

**Apolytikion of the Feast.
Mode 4.**

Your nativity, O Christ our God, has
caused the light of knowledge to rise upon the
world. For therein the worshippers of the stars
were by a star instructed to worship You, the Sun
of Righteousness, and to know You as Orient
from on high. Glory to You, O Lord.

Welcome to the Assumption Greek Orthodox Church.

We are honored that you have chosen to worship with us today. It is our hope that your visit here will bring you many blessings from God and that you will visit with us again soon.

Please join us for coffee hour in the Church Hall.

Announcements

PanHellenic Scholarships: Applications are available online at <www.panhellenicsf.org/apply/> Scholarships for high academic achievement and those in financial need of Hellenic descent The deadline is Wednesday, January 31, 2018.

CrossRoad 2018: CrossRoad is a 10 day academic summer institute preparing high school juniors and seniors to make big life decisions and connect with the Orthodox Christian theological and spiritual tradition. The deadline is Feb. 1, 2018. Applicants must be 16 to 18 years of age. Three sessions this year are: June 16-26, July 2-12 (both in Boston) and July 21-31 in Chicago, IL. Go to: <http://www.crossroadinstitute.org/>.

2018 Heritage Greece Program: The Heritage Greece Program is a gift from the National Hellenic Society (NHS) to enrolled college students ages 18-26 of Greek or Cypriot descent. The program runs from June 7-24, 2018. Application deadline is March 15th. For more information, please go to <http://www.acg.edu/admissions/study-abroad/heritage-greece/apply-heritage-greece/>.

Giving Opportunities for this Joyous Holiday Season

The Greek Orthodox Metropolis Mexico is in need of donations for crucial ministries. Work needs to be done in completing the translations of the Divine Liturgy in Spanish and printing the bilingual text, along the printing of a bilingual Gospel Book in Spanish and Greek. The Metropolis of Mexico is a missionary Metropolis which consists of parishes in Central America, Venezuela and Colombia, and is currently experiencing significant growth in Guatemala and Haiti. The vast majority of it's parishioners are very poor. Because of this, the Metropolitan does not get a salary and the Metropolis must be supported primarily by donations outside of the Metropolis. Unfortunately, because of a lack funds, the Metropolis recently had its electricity turned off for about three weeks. If you would like to donate to this important cause, please send a check payable to the Assumption Greek Orthodox Church with "Orthodox Missions Mexico" written in the memo line.

Ormylia Philanthropic Center: "Panagia Philanthropini - Our Lady who Loves Mankind," is a philanthropic center in Greece whose mission is to comfort and alleviate the suffering of the poor and working class public without preference to race, religion, gender, or creed. It is dedicated to spreading the message of God's love and saving grace through medical, educational, scientific research, charitable and spiritual services and ministries. The director of this center is Charles Anthony, a former parishioner of the Assumption Church. During the upcoming holy season, we will take a collection to help the children's programs at this center. Please make donation checks payable to "The Assumption Church" and mark it for "the Ormylia Foundation" and mail or drop it off at the church office. Thank you.

Walmart Gift Cards Needed: Fr. Joseph needs gift cards to Walmart to give to those in need for the holidays. Please bring cards to the church office or give them to Soula Marcou. Any denomination is greatly appreciated.

Air Conditioner Update: Thank you to everyone who has given so generously towards the new Sunday School Hallway air conditioner. We still need about \$15,000. Please send donation to Assumption Greek Orthodox Church with "Sunday School air conditioner" in the memo.

2017 Stewardship: Please make your 2017 Stewardship commitment by the end of December. Assumption currently has 372 pledged families; however, we need to have at least 400 by the end of this year. It is vital that all families make a stewardship donation and return it to the Church as soon as possible. Thank you for your generosity and for supporting Assumption Church.

Calendar of Events

- Sunday, Dec 24: **Christmas Eve; Geneology of Christ** (wine & oil allowed)
8:30 am Orthros
9:45 am Divine Liturgy and Sunday School and coffee hour
5:00 pm Great Vespers
- Monday, Dec 25: **Christmas**
9:00 am Orthros
10:00 am Divine Liturgy followed by Coffee Hour
- Tuesday, Dec 26: Synaxis of the Holy Theotokos
6:30 pm Vespers
No Greek School
No Bible Study until January 9
- Wednesday, Dec 27: **First Martyr Stephen**
9:00 am Orthos
10:00 am Divine Liturgy
2:00 pm Kafenio
- Thursday, Dec 28: 2,000 Martyrs burned at Nikomedia
8:30 am Orthros
6:00 pm Jr. GOYA Christmas Party
- Friday, Dec 29: 14,000 Infants slain by Herod at Bethlehem
8:30 am Orthros
No Friday Luncheon
6:00 pm GOYA Christmas Party
- Saturday, Dec 30: Righteous Anysia; Gedeon the Younger
5:00 pm Great Vespers
- Sunday, Dec 31: St. Melani of Rome
8:30 am Orthros
9:45 am Divine Liturgy
No Sunday School
7:00 pm Great Vespers
8:00 pm New Year's Eve Party



Women's Book Study: Beginning Thursday, January 18th. Only the morning group will be meeting this session at 10:30 am at the home of Victoria Ambort. They will be reading "The Lenten Spring" by Thomas Hopko. Please contact Presvytera Laura Morton for more information 314-303-1784.

Donation Needed: We are in need of a donor for one of the Christmas icons. The donation amount is \$50. Please call the Church office if you are able help.