



From Glory to Glory



September 2026



The monthly newsletter of the Assumption Greek Orthodox Church • 1755 Des Peres Rd. Town & Country, MO 63131

ASSUMPTION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH



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Town & Country, MO 63131



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WEBSITE

assumptiongoc.org



CLERGY

Fr. Panagiotis Kostoulas
Proistamenos



OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Diane Sieckmann

Important Days

September 1

Ecclesiastical New Year

September 8

Nativity of the Theotokos

September 14

Elevation of the Holy Cross

September 17

St. Sophia and her 3 Daughters

September 26

Falling Asleep of
St. John the Theologian



Our Bishop Comes to Visit His Family

*Preparing to welcome His Eminence Metropolitan Nathanael
for the Feast of the Dormition*

Based on the sermon fr. Panagiotis Kostoulas delivered in the Divine Liturgy
August 9th, 2026

In the days surrounding the Feast of the Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokos, our parish will receive a great blessing: a visit from our Metropolitan, His Eminence Nathanael, who will come to pray with us and preside over our liturgical celebration. As we prepare for this joyful occasion, it is worth pausing to consider what the bishop's visit truly means for us as Orthodox Christians, not merely as an honored guest arriving, but as something that reveals what the Church herself is.

We live in a world where leadership is often understood through categories of position, authority, and organizational structure, and it can be easy to import those categories into the Church, imagining the bishop simply as the person at the top of an ecclesiastical hierarchy. But this is not how the Church has ever understood him.

The mystery of the episcopacy begins with Christ Himself. "Whoever would be great among you must be your servant," the Lord tells His disciples, "for the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve" (Matthew 20:26, 28). This is the pattern Christ gives to every shepherd of His Church. The bishop is called not simply to exercise authority but to carry his people in his heart. To pray for them, teach them, protect them, strengthen the weak, comfort those who suffer, and above all, to gather the people of God around the Holy Eucharist.

From the earliest days of Christianity, the bishop was never understood as merely an administrator. Saint Ignatius of Antioch, writing at the very beginning of the second century, describes the faithful gathering around their bishop and the Eucharist, telling the Church in Smyrna that wherever the bishop appears, there let the people be - for wherever Christ is, there is the Church. This gathering is not a matter of organization; it reveals the very life of the Church.

Every time our Metropolitan comes and stands before the Holy Altar, surrounded by his priests and his people, something more is happening than the arrival of an honored guest. Our spiritual father is coming to his family, and in that moment he makes visible something that is always true, even when he is hundreds of miles away: we belong to something greater than our individual parish. We are joined, through communion with our bishop, to the fullness of the Orthodox Church throughout the world.

The Fathers of the Church speak of this responsibility with great seriousness. Saint Gregory the Theologian describes the pastoral ministry as the care of souls; Saint John Chrysostom reminds us that the shepherd must answer before Christ for those entrusted to him. Behind the vestments, the staff, and the ceremonies we see, there is a weight we do not see: the priests for whom he prays, the parishes for which he carries responsibility, the families passing through difficulty, the young searching for direction, and the

2026 Parish Council

Fr. Panagiotis Kostoulas

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James Hoekel, Eugenia Kardaris, Amy Kirkou,
Soula Marcou, Samia Rabie, Peter Raptakis
Paul Sarris, Greg Simos

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Christos Tsiaklides

Call-a-Ride

Jim Hoekel

Catechism Instructor

Greg Heckenberg

Chanters

John Nicholas
Menas Nicholas
Gus Antonopoulos

Choir

Stephanie Saunders

Greek School

Savas Kyramarios

Greek Dancers

Kyklos & Armonia

Stella Afentoullis

Ta Paidakia, Neo Kyma

Aliki Malek

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HOPE/JOY (Infant- 4th Grade)

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Kristen Prufrock

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Molly Heckenberg

Kafenio

Art Liyeos

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Sunday School

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Women's Book Study

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Amy Kirkou

Greek Festival

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Phase III

Planned Giving

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Dr. Eugenia Kardaris

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Stewardship

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Safety and Security

Link Saunders
Bill Goranitis

Youth Protection

Soula Marcou

elderly nearing the end of their earthly journey. All of this the bishop carries, and that includes us.

Some of us may feel the distance between our parish and the Metropolis of Chicago. We do not see our Metropolitan every Sunday, and many of us may have only occasional opportunity to speak with him personally. But the love of the Church is not measured in miles. A father does not cease to be a father because his child lives far away, and a child at a distance does not become less a member of the family. Before he ever walks through our doors, our Metropolitan already carries responsibility for this parish and already prays for the people entrusted to his care.

This is why the bishop's ministry can never be understood apart from the Divine Eucharist. The heart of the Church is not an office, a building, or an institution. It is Christ Himself, offered to us in the mystery of the Holy Eucharist. When our Metropolitan stands before the Holy Table with his priests and his people, we see the Church in one of her most ancient and beautiful expressions: the shepherd surrounded by his flock, the clergy gathered around their bishop, the faithful gathered together. And at the center of it all, not the bishop, but Christ. We honor the bishop precisely because everything about his ministry, his vestments, his teaching, his blessing, his pastoral care, points beyond himself, toward Christ.

How, then, should we prepare for his visit? Certainly by preparing our church, and by the hospitality that comes naturally to our parish family. But there is a preparation that matters even more: the preparation of the heart. In the days ahead, let each of us pray for our Metropolitan by name, asking Christ to strengthen him, the Theotokos to protect him, and the Holy Spirit to guide him in the great responsibility entrusted to him. And when he comes among us, let us come to the Divine Services with joy. Bring your children. Bring your families. Come not simply because something special is happening in the parish, but because you want to experience what it means for the family of the Church to gather around its spiritual father and, together with him, around Christ. Receive his blessing with love, listen to his words with an open heart, and pray with him.

None of us walks toward Christ alone. The Christian life is not a solitary journey. Christ has placed us within a family, given us one another, and given us shepherds who pray for us and carry the responsibility of leading us toward Him. When our Metropolitan comes to celebrate the Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokos with us, may we understand something deeper than "the Metropolitan is visiting our parish." Our father is coming to pray with his family. And together, gathered around one Holy Table, we will turn our eyes toward Christ, where the bishop wishes to lead his people, where every faithful priest wishes to lead his parish, and where the Most Holy Theotokos continually leads us all: to her Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and through Him, to Paradise.

— Fr. Panagiotis Kostoulas

Community News

Memorials/Trisagia

August 9

40 day memorial Panagiotis “Pete” Tsevis, husband of Phyllis Tsevis, father of Chris (the late Rose) Tsevis, Vicki (Daniel) Clemens, Stephanie (the late Marc) Johnson and Athena (Scott) Pauly, brother of Kathy (Pete) Makos

6 month Stavros “Steven” Leon, husband of Beverly Leon, father of Christopher (Devon) Mowry, Maria Leon and Cassiani Leon

August 23

1 year memorial Panagoula “Betty” Panourgias, mother of Pam (Gregory) Goodwin and Laura (Dino) Polimeropoulos

11 year memorial Angelo Panourgis, father of Pam (Gregory) Goodwin and Laura (Dino) Polimeropoulos

3 year memorial Dimitrios Zafiropoulos, uncle of Tonis (Laurie) Zafiropoulos

4 year memorial Eleni Zafiropoulos, aunt of Tonis (Laurie) Zafiropoulos

11 year memorial Anna Koclanes, Godmother to Laurie (Tonis) Zafiropoulos

15 year memorial Kyriaki Zafiropoulos, mother of Tonis (Laurie) Zafiropoulos

16 year memorial Nicholas Koclanes, Godfather to Laurie (Tonis) Zafiropoulos

30 year memorial Vasilios Zafiropoulos, father of Tonis (Laurie) Zafiropoulos

August 30

13 year memorial Betty Harris, mother of Gus Harris

37 year memorial Nicholas Harris, father of Gus Harris

September 6

8 year memorial Evangelos “Van” Evangelopoulos, son of Sofia Evangelopoulos, brother of Lisa Evangelopoulos and Stephanie (Nick) Vojcic

September 20

8 year trisagion Joseph Heckenberg, son of Greg and Molly Heckenberg

9 year memorial Angeliki Karagiannis, mother of Gus (Amy) Karagiannis, Nicholas Karagiannis and Ari Karagiannis

22 year memorial for Eleni Konakis, mother of Koula (John) Psara, Maria (George) Xenos, sister of Dina Stratos

55 year memorial for Minas Psara, brother of John (Koula) Psara and Dina (Gus) Iakovidis

September 27

40 day memorial Liudmyla Marienko mother of Olena (Thomas) Schafbuch



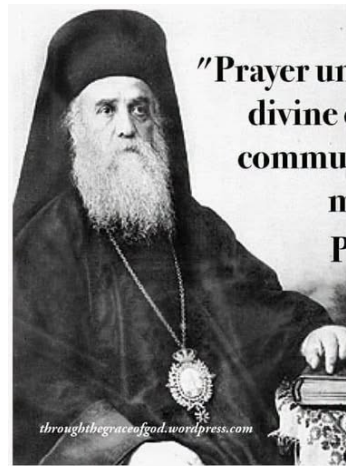
New Flags

Thank you to our donors for the new flags

American & Missouri Flags -
Dr. and Mrs. James Hoekel

Greek Flag - Anonymous

Patriarchal Flag - Catechumen Class



“Prayer unites one with God, being a divine conversation and spiritual communion with the Being that is most beautiful and highest. Prayer is forgetting earthly things, an ascent to heaven. Through prayer we flee to God”

- St. Nektarios of Aegina

College Addresses

In an effort to keep in touch with, and minister to, our college students, we ask anyone with a daughter or son in college to contact the Church office with the address, phone, & email.



Father's Day Honorees

Congratulations to our Man of the Year, James Cawood and Father of the Year Christos Tsiaklides who were honored this year for their dedicated commitment to their families and our community.



Assumption GOC Hikers

Join the Adventure!

Explore local trails, build fellowship and enjoy God's creation with the Assumption hiking group. We are a welcoming community of hikers of all experience levels who enjoy staying active, exploring nature and connecting with one another. Hikers must be 18+

Our hikers explored the Grotpeter Trail in Castlewood State Park on Saturday, August 8th.

Next Hikes:

September 26th at 8 a.m. Riverscene Trail at Castlewood Park

October 31st at 8 a.m. Outer Loop at Pere Marquette

Questions? Please contact ministries@assumptiongoc.org

Young Adults Ages 18–35

SEPTEMBER EVENTS



STAY INVOLVED,
JOIN OUR GROUP CHAT!



Tuesday, September 8

@ 7 PM

Monthly YAL Discussion via Zoom

Thursday, September 17

@ 5PM

*YAL Meet Up at Pana Coffee &
Dessert Bar*

Tuesday, September 22

@ 6 PM

Monthly FOCUS Work Day

Help us feed our neighbors by
stocking shelves, carrying boxes,
and cracking eggs.



Interested in being more involved in YAL St. Louis through
organizing events or supporting marketing efforts? Contact
stlouisyal@gmail.com for more information

New to YAL? Text Katherine to get involved: 314-874-3723

Feast Day of the Assumption

We had the honor of hosting our Metropolitan Nathanel of Chicago on our church's feast day. We had beautiful services with His Eminence and twelve priests representing the other Orthodox Churches in the area. Our Philoptochos hosted a beautiful reception following on Friday evening following Vespers and the next day after the Hierarchal Divine Liturgy the Parish Council offered a wonderful, festal reception. *(Photos courtesy of Paul Sarris and Josh Sarris)*











GREEK SCHOOL

— A NEW SCHOOL YEAR! —

Another school year is beginning, and we are so thankful for all that you do to make Greek School possible!

— ◆ —

We have a wonderful group of students of all ages and ability levels, including both young and seasoned learners. We love them all and the excitement and enthusiasm they bring to our classes!

— ◆ —

We are looking forward to another successful and rewarding year together.

— ◆ —

If you have any questions about the Greek School program, please call the church office or stop by on a Tuesday evening between **6:00–7:15 p.m.**

— ◆ —

The Greek School Team

ASSUMPTION PHILOTOCHOS



Please join us for our
CHAPTER MEETING
on
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2026
12:00 PM
IN THE PHILOTOCHOS ROOM
come and see what is planned for the year
and how you can become involved!

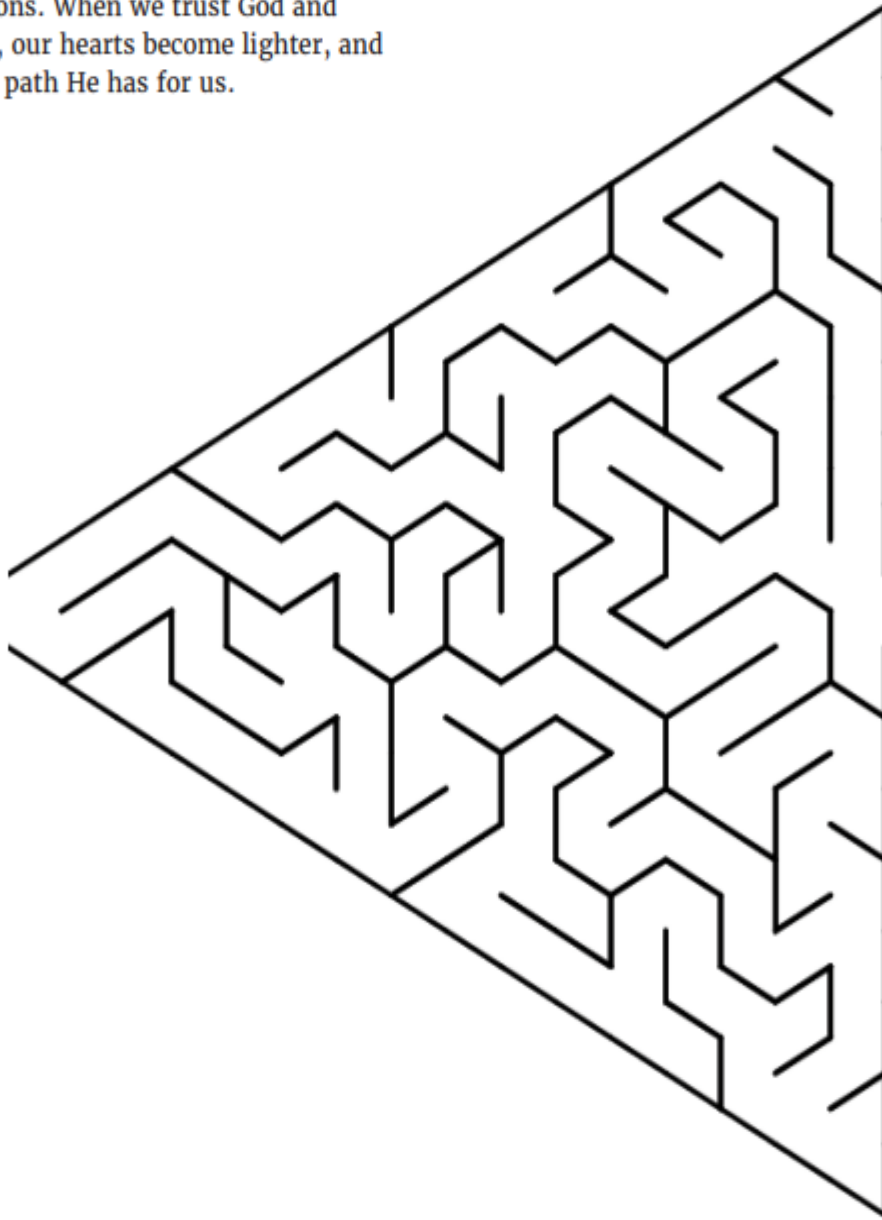
A reminder that this is an election year.
If you would like to serve on the Philotochos Board
you will need to attend at least 4 meetings this year.



MAZE

Camel in the Needle

Help the camel find the tiny needle! This maze teaches an important lesson from Jesus' lesson that we heard in today's Gospel: it can be hard for people who are too focused on their riches to follow God's path. God wants us to love Him more than our possessions. When we trust God and share with others, our hearts become lighter, and we can follow the path He has for us.

Just For Kids!*(...and the young at heart)*



St. Nicholas GREEK FESTIVAL

Labor Day Weekend

Saturday
September 5
11am to 8pm

Sunday
September 6
11am to 8pm

Monday
September 7
11am to 5pm



Come join us this Labor Day weekend!
109th Annual St. Nicholas Greek Festival
Authentic Greek Food | Live Music | Dance Performances
Church Tours | Gift Shop
Free Admission | Free Parking

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church
4967 Forest Park Avenue, St. Louis

opastl.com



FIRST DAY OF SUNDAY SCHOOL

SEPTEMBER 13

CHRIST ♦ WORSHIP ♦ FAITH ♦ PRAYER ♦ COMMUNITY

MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of Sunday School is to teach our children how to live their Orthodox faith. By teaching them about the life of Christ, we give them the foundation to live Christian lives, to go out into the world and share their faith and do good works.

We encourage our children not only to learn about our faith in the classroom, but in their homes as well.



**THE SUNDAY SCHOOL WELCOMES
CHILDREN AS YOUNG AS 3 YEARS OLD.**

Children must be 3 years old prior to August 1,
to enter Pre-school.

SOME WAYS TO HELP YOUR CHILD WITH SUNDAY SCHOOL

-  **1** **Encourage** your child to develop friendships at Sunday School.
-  **2** Be **consistent** in bringing your child to Sunday School so that he or she will benefit from the Orthodox instruction.
-  **3** Cultivate friendships with your child's teachers.
-  **4** Ask a few questions about the Sunday School lesson to see what your child remembers and understands and talk about how the lesson might apply to experiences at home or in the neighborhood.

ASSUMPTION GOC

GOYA

Car Wash Fundraiser

\$10 per vehicle

cash preferred, credit cards accepted

SEPT 13 | AFTER LITURGY

**PLEASE BRING YOUR VEHICLE
TO THE BACK PARKING LOT**

Please support GOYA by having your car washed!
Donations welcome.

DISCOVER

THE ASSUMPTION AND ALL IT HAS TO OFFER!

P A R I S H MINISTRY FAIR



SEPTEMBER, 13 TH

After Divine Liturgy

Where: Church Auditorium

More Info: Contact Diane Sieckmann 314-966-2255

MISSION TEAM ST. LOUIS INVITES YOU

Orthodoxy in Argentina



Saturday, November 14th, 2026

Vespers: 5:00 p.m.

Check-in: 5:30 p.m.

Program & Reception: 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.

**St. Thomas the Apostle
Orthodox Church**

6501 Nottingham Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63109

Presenter: Dr. Kristina Mantasavili
Special host: Fr. Chris Rowe

Proceeds to benefit the Metropolis of Buenos Aires in Argentina by purchasing basic office equipment and electronic devices for pastoral and educational needs, along with much needed ecclesiastical holy vessels to ensure the proper celebration of Divine Services.

\$42 Adults
\$22 Students

Register online or by
mailing this form with
checks made payable
to **OCMC** and '**STL
Dinner**' in the memo.



Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

☐ Reserve ____ adult seats x \$42 and
____ student x \$22.

☐ I cannot attend but enclosed is my
donation to OCMC

☐ I'd like to be an event sponsor

☐ Defender (\$1,000) ☐ Missionary (\$100)
☐ Guardian (\$500) ☐ Disciple (\$50)
☐ Mentor (\$250)

Special Diets

☐ Vegetarian

☐ Gluten Free

Remit to: OCMC Benefit Dinner, c/o Registration, 5243 Creighton Dr. St. Louis, MO 63123 by Oct 31st!

www.ocmc.org/missionteamstlouis

Call 571-276-6541 or email missionteamstl@gmail.com for more info





THE ST. LOUIS METROPOLITAN COMMITTEE
invites you to its 24th Annual
IOCC BANQUET

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2026

5:00 pm Vespers | 5:30 pm Social Hour/Cash Bar | 6:15 pm Dinner

Holy Trinity Serbian Orthodox Church
 1910 Serbian Drive, St. Louis MO 63104

Tickets and sponsorships are available online at:

iocc.org/stlouis

Or complete form below and mail check
 payable to **IOCC** to Diane Sieckmann
 1755 Des Peres Rd., Town & Country, MO 63131

REGISTRATION REQUIRED BY SEP. 28

Questions? Contact Diane at 314-966-2255.



24th ANNUAL IOCC BANQUET | SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2026

☐ Tickets: _____ \$40 Adults _____ \$25 Students	☐ Grand Benefactor (\$5,000) includes 2 tickets	☐ Patron (\$300)
☐ I am unable to attend, but please accept my contribution: \$ _____	☐ Benefactor (\$1,000) includes 2 tickets	☐ Supporter (\$200)
	☐ Sponsor (\$500) includes 2 tickets	☐ Friend (\$100)
Name (For sponsors, as to appear in Program Book) _____		
Address _____		
Email _____	Phone _____	Parish _____
Diet restrictions: ☐ Vegan ☐ Gluten-Free ☐ Other _____		

BASILE

Comedy Greek Style
"Growing Up Greek In America"



14 November 2026 | 7:00 p.m.

Touhill Performing Arts Center
E. Desmond and Mary Ann Lee
St. Louis

*All proceeds from the event
will benefit the Assumption GOC capital project campaign*

BTPAC.VBOTICKETS.COM/EVENTS

**ADULTS \$75
STUDENTS \$50**



SCAN TO BUY TICKETS



SEPTEMBER 2026

Assumption Greek Orthodox Church



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Ecclesiastical New Year	2	3	4	5
6 14th Sunday of Matthew 8:15 am Orthros 9:20 am Divine Liturgy	7 Labor Day	8 Nativity of the Theotokos 8:30 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy 5:45 pm First Day of Greek School with Agiasmos	9	10	11	12
13 Sunday Before the Holy Cross 8:15 am Orthros 9:20 am Divine Liturgy and First Day of Sunday School with Procession	14 Elevation of the Holy Cross 8:30 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy	15 5:45 pm Greek School	16	17 Holy Martyr Sophia and her three daughters 8:30 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy	18	19 6:00 pm Great Vespers
20 Sunday After the Holy Cross 8:15 am Orthros 9:20 am Divine Liturgy	21	22 5:45 pm Greek School	23 Conception of St. John the Baptist 8:30 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy	24	25	26 Falling Asleep of St. John the Theologian
27 1st Sunday of Luke 8:15 am Orthros 9:20 am Divine Liturgy 11:30 am Philoptochos Meeting	28	29 5:45 pm Greek School	30	Divine Liturgy Times are Approximate Fast Days are Shaded		

Assumption Greek Orthodox Church
1755 Des Peres Road
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