



# Καλά Χριστούγεννα



*The Monthly Bulletin of the Greek Orthodox Church of the Assumption*

**Volume 22, Issue 12**

**GREEK ORTHODOX  
CHURCH  
OF THE ASSUMPTION**  
1804 13th AVENUE  
SEATTLE, WA 98122  
Rev. Fr. Dean Kouldukis  
Rev. Fr. Michael Johnson

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Today, the Virgin bears Him who is transcendent, and the earth presents the cave to Him who is beyond reach. Angels, along with shepherds glorify Him. The Magi make their way to Him by a star. For a new child has been born for us, the God before all ages.

**December, 2017**

**Chanters**  
John Stiles  
(360) 480-3944

**Church School**  
Rachael Pamboukas  
(425) 432-2786

**Fellowship Hour**  
Ingrid Papahronis  
(206) 932-8085

**Greek Dance Groups**  
Voula Xenos  
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**Greek Language Program**  
[greeksschoolseattle@gmail.com](mailto:greeksschoolseattle@gmail.com)

**Missions**  
Carolyn Evangeline  
(401) 617-1109

**St. Catherine  
Philoptochos**  
Kristina Mehas  
(206) 232-8690

**St. John the Almsgiver**  
Basil Papahronis  
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**Stewardship**  
Dimos Katsis  
(240) 383-9000

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Steven Miller  
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Fr. Michael Johnson  
(206) 420-1728



## REFLECTION FROM FR. DEAN



Fr. Dean Kouldukis  
Protopresbyter

**N**ow when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him. "...and lo, the star which they had seen in the East went before them till it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy; and going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him."  
(St. Matthew 2:1-2, 9-11a)

We so often associate Christmas with this beautiful biblical passage of the wise men who followed the star to seek out our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Who were these wise men? Why did they seek our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ? As always we must look to the Tradition of the Church to find the answers.

What does the Tradition of the Church teach us about these wise men? First, Tradition teaches us that there were three wise men, otherwise known as the three magi. Church Tradition also assigns them names; Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar. Orthodox iconography depicts Melchior as an old man, gray haired with a long beard and it was he who brought the gift of gold to our Lord. Caspar is described as young and beardless and it was he who brought the gift of frankincense. Balthasar was swarthy, with a newly grown beard, and it was he who brought the gift of myrrh. Tertullian, an Orthodox theologian of the patristic age described them as kings. Scripture gives us additional information regarding the three wise men; they were the first non-Jewish people to believe in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Since the wise men were not a part of Jewish ancestry, they were not part of God's "elite." These men were not sons of Abraham. They were not heirs of the covenant. So what made them embark on a journey from Jerusalem to Bethlehem to seek out the Christ child? Simple, they were possessed by a burning desire for



continued ➔







God which resulted from a discontent with their own pagan religion. Such discontent with things as they are, and with oneself, is a sign of openness to God. No, they were not a part of the chosen people of God; nevertheless our Lord and Savior lit their way through the use of a star, which led them to the Christ child. Like the wise men, as soon as we begin to seek Christ because of our discontent with our sinful nature, God will set in our sky a star to light our way.

As the star guided the wise men to Christ, so too our Lord and Savior has provided us with “stars” that shine just as bright as the star of Bethlehem did some two thousand years ago. The Holy Bible through which God speaks to us, is not this a star? The Church which is the body of Christ in the world today, is this not a star? Conscience, the voice of God within each of us urging us to achieve the potential of the image of God in us, is not this a star? The sacraments, especially communion, by which God comes to us with all His power and love, are these not stars? These are certainly all “stars” that God has placed in our lives. But do we see them? Do we follow them?

We like the wise men must first come to the realization that we desperately need God in our lives. Only then will we, like the wise men, be able to make that journey to the Christ child. Here again, our Lord’s method has not changed. He invites us, but does not compel us. He scrupulously respects our freedom. Our Lord and Savior only desires and accepts a voluntary decision. And what about ourselves? We see the beauty of the Christmas tree adorned with lights; we see homes adorned with beautiful lights. We are excited about the festivities that the holiday itself brings. As beautiful as these things are, the truth is, we will not be led to the fullness of the faith through the admiration of any of the above mentioned characteristics of Christmas. All too often, the world misses God because it seeks Him in all the wrong places and looks for salvation in the wrong things. No, Christmas lights, trees and the exchange of gifts are not bad. However, we must never give these secular Christmas characteristics so much emphasis that in them we see the fullness of the feast.

Remember, Jesus came to fill our emptiness, to fill our void, to love us and to guide us unto salvation in His holy name. Remember, the star of Bethlehem was there for all to see, but only the wise men saw it because only they were looking for it. Isn’t this the way it is with life? We see what we are prepared to see, we find what we are looking for. The star of Christ shines forth this Christmas in the Church, in scriptures, in the sacraments, in the voice of conscience. As we approach Christmas let us not forget that these “stars” shine to guide us to Him, our Lord and Savior who alone bestows upon us salvation, who alone can fill our void and who alone affirms the dignity and integrity of all mankind.

On this Christmas, the star of Christ leads us unto salvation in His holy name, guides us unto peace and life with God, and makes us in turn, stars, lights, shining for Him. But even today, as back then, it is only the wise men who will see the star; it is only those who eagerly seek God and patiently follow him; it is only those who will be guided by the star. Ultimately it is only those who will know the true and everlasting joy of the Christmas greeting, Christ is born, let us glorify Him!

Praying for all to have a most blessed and peaceful Nativity in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

In Christ’s Love,

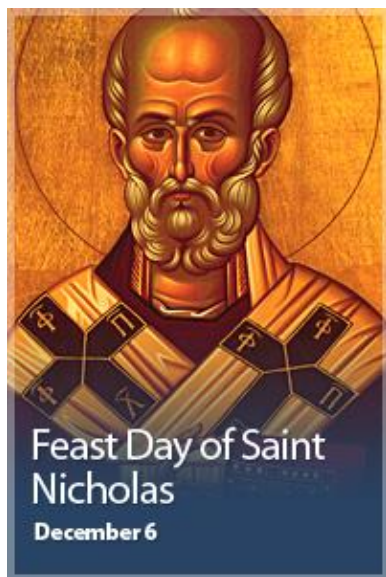
**+Fr. Dean**





# DECEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8:45 am Matins ~ 10:00 am Divine Liturgy ~ 4:00 pm Vespers



**Saturday, December 2**  
4:00 pm Great Vespers

**Sun., Dec. 3 / 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke**  
8:45 am Matins  
10:00 am Divine Liturgy  
Epistle: Ephesians 5:8-19  
✠Gospel: Luke 18:35-43

**Monday, December 4 / St. Barbara**  
8:45 am Matins  
10:00 am Divine Liturgy  
Epistle: Galatians 3:23-29; 4:1-5  
✠Gospel: Mark 5:34

**Wed., December 6 / St. Nicholas**  
8:45 am Matins  
10:00 am Divine Liturgy  
Epistle: Hebrews 13:17-21  
✠Gospel: Luke 6:17-23

**Saturday, December 9 / Conception of Theotokos**  
8:45 am Matins  
10:00 am Divine Liturgy  
Epistle: Galatians 4:22-27  
✠Gospel: Luke 8:16-21

**Sun., Dec. 10 / 10<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke**  
8:45 am Matins  
10:00 am Divine Liturgy  
Epistle: Ephesians 6:10-17  
✠Gospel: Luke 13:10-17

**Monday, December 11**  
10:40 am Prayers at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Hour

**Tuesday, Dec. 12 / St. Spyridon**  
9:30 am Divine Liturgy at St. Spyridon Orthodox Cathedral in Seattle  
Epistle: Ephesians 5:8-19  
✠Gospel: John 10:9-16

**Friday, Dec. 15 / St. Eleutherios**  
8:45 am Matins  
10:00 am Divine Liturgy  
Epistle: II Timothy 1:8-18  
✠Gospel: Mark 2:23-28; 3:1-5

**Saturday, December 16**  
4:00 pm Great Vespers

**Sun., Dec. 17 / 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke**  
8:45 am Matins  
10:00 am Divine Liturgy  
Epistle: Colossians 3:4-11  
✠Gospel: Luke 14:16-24

**Monday, December 18**  
10:40 am Prayers at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Hour

**Sunday, Dec. 18 / Sunday before Nativity**  
8:45 am Matins  
10:00 am Divine Liturgy  
Epistle: Hebrews 11:9-10; 32-40  
✠Gospel: Matthew 1:1-25

**Friday, December 22**  
10:00 am Royal Hours of Christmas

**Saturday, December 23 / Saturday before Nativity**  
8:45 am Matins  
10:00 am Divine Liturgy  
Epistle: Galatians 3:8-12  
✠Gospel: Luke 13:19-29  
4:00 pm Great Vespers

**Sunday, Dec. 24 / Sunday before Nativity**  
8:45 am Matins  
10:00 am Divine Liturgy  
Epistle: Hebrews 11:9-10, 32-40  
✠Gospel: Matthew 1:1-25  
4:00 pm Great Vespers

**Mon., Dec. 25 / HOLY NATIVITY**  
8:45 am Matins  
10:00 am Divine Liturgy  
Epistle: Galatians 4:4-7  
✠Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

**Tuesday, Dec. 26 / Synaxis of the Theotokos**  
8:45 am Matins  
10:00 am Divine Liturgy  
Epistle: Hebrews 2:11-18  
✠Gospel: Matthew 2:13-23

**Wednesday, Dec. 27 / St. Stephen**  
8:45 am Matins  
10:00 am Divine Liturgy  
Epistle: Acts 6:8-15; 7:1-5, 47-60  
✠Gospel: Matthew 21:33-42

**Saturday, December 30**  
4:00 pm Great Vespers

**Sunday, Dec. 31 / Sunday before Theophany**  
8:45 am Matins  
10:00 am Divine Liturgy  
Epistle: II Timothy 4:5-8  
✠Gospel: Mark 1:1-8





## FELLOWSHIP HOUR

**P**lease stay for a while after Liturgy and join us for refreshments. All are welcome! Honoring our church community by serving our friends and families during Fellowship Hour in November were: **Evanthia Skepetaris & family; St. Catherine Philoptochos; and the Daughters of Penelope** (chaired by **Neena Blackwell**).

Thank you to everyone who has offered to host in December and January!

In December, we have two Sundays available to host:

- December 03: **\*AVAILABLE TO HOST**
- December 10: **\*OCMC Deli Fundraiser** (chaired by Carolyn Evangeline)
- December 17: **\*\*Andrea Mann** chairing for the benefit of our Church School
- December 24: **\*\*AVAILABLE TO HOST**
- December 31: **Panos & Georgia Thomas**

In January, we have one Sunday available to host:

- January 07: **Philoptochos Vasilopita luncheon**
- January 14: **George, Emmanuel & Paul Fletmetakis and Stella & Louis Apostolou** in memory of Maria Fletmetakis
- January 21: **Philoptochos Gyro Luncheon & Blood Drive**
- January 28: **AVAILABLE TO HOST**

**\*Nativity Fast: Fish allowed.**

**\*\*Nativity Fast: Wine/Oil allowed.**

Hosting a Fellowship Hour is a great way to **honor a loved one** for their nameday, birthday, anniversary or any special occasion.

*For more information on hosting a Fellowship Hour please view the Guidelines at the Assumption home website,*

<http://www.assumptionseattle.org/>

If you would like to host a Fellowship Hour, please contact me at (206) 932-8085, or via email at [papahronism@wwdb.org](mailto:papahronism@wwdb.org).

Thank you for serving!

**Ingrid Papahronis**

Coordinator - Fellowship Hour

## USHERS & READERS

### Sunday, December 3

**Ushers:** Ted Dimitriou & Cristina Pappas  
**Close:** Niko Pamboukas  
**Reader:** Stella Athans

### Sunday, December 10

**Ushers:** James Prekeges & Christina Siaterlis  
**Close:** Chris Pamboukas  
**Reader:** Penny Peppes

### Sunday, December 17

**Usher:** Jim Cox  
**Close:** Gus Mehas  
**Reader:** Joanna Pulakis

### Sunday, December 24

**Ushers:** Kosta Pamboukas & Niko Pamboukas  
**Close:** Dan Maschinsky  
**Reader:** Straton Spyropoulos

### Sunday, December 31

**Usher:** Ron Delarose  
**Close:** Dimos Katsis  
**Reader:** Stephanie Pulakis Stafford







## BOOKKEEPER'S SUMMARY



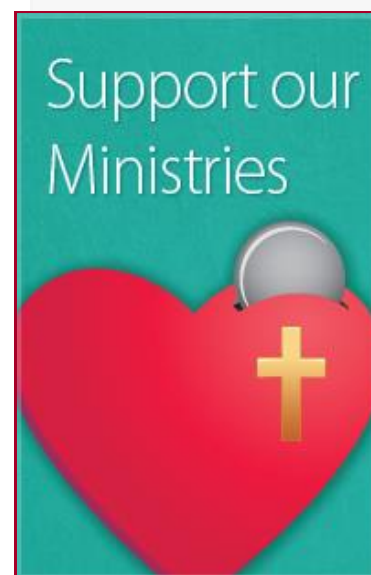
**JOE HOWE**

Assumption Bookkeeper

<u>GENERAL FUND</u>	<u>OCTOBER</u>	<u>YTD</u>
REVENUE		
Stewardship Collected	\$23,937	\$233,524
Repair & Renovation Income	1,921	25,925
Other Revenue	8,999	159,508
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>34,857</b>	
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>( 44,879 )</b>	
<b>NET LOSS</b>	<b>( 10,022 )</b>	
YTD REVENUE (through 10-31-17)		<b>\$418,957</b>
YTD EXPENSES (through 10-31-17)		<b>( 415,612 )</b>
YTD NET PROFIT		<b>\$3,345</b>

## STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Number of Steward Families: 232	
2017 Budgeted Stewardship	\$300,000
Stewardship Pledged	273,886
Pledges needed to meet Stewardship Goal	26,114
Stewardship Collected	
Regular Stewardship	\$233,524
Budgeted to Date	250,000
Unpaid Pledged Stewardship Balance	\$40,362



*"I am the vine, you are the branches..." John 15:5*





## 2017 STEWARDS OF THE CHURCH

AIGNER, Rob & Tina Pappas  
 ALLAMANO, Ann  
 AMORATIS, Anthony & Sophie  
 ANDERSON, Larry & Kate  
 ANTONOPOULOS, Nikos  
 APOSTOLOU, Elias & Stella  
 APOSTOLOU, K.G. & Kostoula  
 ARGERES, Peter & Diana  
 ARGUE, Clifford & Theodora  
 ATHAN, Steve & Anna  
 ATHANS, Eleni & George Bariames  
 ATHANS, Emmanuel  
 ATHANS, John & Stella  
 ATTIAS, Anna+  
 AVERKIOU, Michalakakis & Xenia  
 AVGERIS, Christine  
 BARBACHAN, Hugo & Popee  
 BARBAS, E. Anthe  
 BAROKAS, Vasso & Marie  
 BARTON, Roger & Mary Lou  
 BASS, Steve & Stella  
 BEKRIS, Chris & Manda  
 BEKRIS, Fr. Niko & Presv. Stella  
 BENIS, Chris & Penelope  
 BENIS, Helen  
 BLACKSTONE, Cleo  
 BLACKWELL, Neena  
 BOULIERIS, Andrew & Rosalie  
 BOYD, Raymond & Christine  
 BRATSANOS, Rose  
 BUEHRER, Lee  
 BULBULA, Girma & Alemitu  
 Wakene  
 BURKE, Mark & Maria  
 CAMERON, Brad  
 CARDARAS, Roula  
 CARDARAS, Vlasios & Voula  
 CHACHARON, Claire  
 CHARONI, Nancy  
 CHARONI, Tim & René  
 CHARONIS, Mark  
 CHRISTOFILIS, Mike & Dora  
 CHRISTOU, Ted & Barbara  
 CONOM, Joanna  
 CONOM, Madeline  
 COOLIDGE, Trilby  
 COSMAKOS, Nick & Cheryl

COSTACOS, Constantine & Terry  
 COSTACOS, Jerry & Eva  
 COSTACOS, Marianne  
 COX, Maria  
 CUMMINS III, John  
 DALLAS-SMITH, Mary  
 DELAROSE, Ron & Teresa  
 DELEGANS, George & Alexandra  
 DELIMITROS, Katherine  
 DEMENEGAS, Emmanuel & Sapfo  
 DENNIS, Ryan & Demetra  
 DIAFOS, Pauli  
 DIAMOND, Maria  
 DIAMOND, Nitsa  
 DIEL, Angeliki  
 DIMITRIOU, Ted & Kiki  
 DIMOS, Gabriella+  
 DODD, Voula  
 DUBINETS, Konstantin & Julie  
 DUDUNAKIS, Kenny & Kris  
 DURHAM, Patrick & Margarita  
 EMMONS, Tom & Nancy  
 ESTEP, Charles & Lina  
 EVANGELINE, Carolyn  
 EVANS, Jr., Peter  
 EXARHOS, Helen  
 FARMASONIS, Petros & Colleen  
 FARMER, Joanna  
 FLY, Larry  
 FOOTE, Maria & Sophia  
 FRANKLIN, Justin & Nicole  
 FRANKS, John & Athanasia  
 GABRIEL, Laura & Timothy O'Donnell  
 GEOKEZAS, Demetrios & Eryn  
 GEOKEZAS, Maria & David Howard  
 GEOKEZAS, Meletios & Theodora  
 GEORGE, Nicholas  
 GEORGES, Helen  
 GIANETSAS, Xenia  
 GINOS, Alexander & Carey Ann  
 GOULOUMI, Dora Roula  
 GOVETAS, Eleni  
 GREENE, Marke & Angela  
 HENRY, Harry & Eleni  
 HONRADO, Marco & Eva Lin  
 HOWE, William & Maro  
 HULBERT, Mike & Jodie

HUNT, Kelsey  
 HUNT, Madeleine  
 ILES, Catherine  
 JEWELL, Gavin & Emily  
 JOHN, Maggie  
 KALASOUNTAS, Helen  
 KARIS, Terry & Hannah  
 KATSIS, Dimos & Alexis  
 KAZAKOS, Georgia  
 KAZAKOS, Stephano  
 KEHAYES, Naya & Philip Head  
 KLAPAKI, Nektaria  
 KLIEROS-MERCOURIADIS, Pipena  
 KOEMAN, Henry & Heleni  
 KOHNKE, Ioanna  
 KOKKONIS, Nick & Jennifer  
 KOLIOS, Alexandre & Leta  
 KOSTAKIS, Constantine & Ann  
 KOULDUKIS, Betty  
 KOULDUKIS, George  
 KOULDUKIS, Fr. Dean & Pres. Val  
 KOUMANTAROS, Yannis & Jenadee  
 KOURTIS, Angelo & Aphrodite  
 LACKIE, Randy & Athena  
 LEE, Nancy & Stuart Anderson  
 LENES, George & Rita  
 LENTGIS, Dean & Kathleen  
 LIMANTZAKIS, Johnette  
 LINARDOS, James & Jan  
 LING, Maria  
 LIVIAKIS, Lea & Sam Nadler  
 LORD, Timothy & Debby  
 LOTAKIS, Greg  
 LOTAKIS, Paul  
 LOUKAS, Nektarios & Vasiliki  
 LOUKAS, Ioannis & Dena  
 LUCAS, Greta  
 MacVICAR, Kyle & Marina  
 MALESIS, Louis & Mary  
 MALLOS, Steve & Sophia  
 MANN, Philip & Andrea  
 MANOLIDES, Andrew & Anastasia  
 MANOLIDES, Nancy  
 MANOLIDES, Steven  
 MANZIERIS, Chris & Kathy  
 MARCINIAK, Nikoletta & Joseph  
 MARTINEZ, Christina

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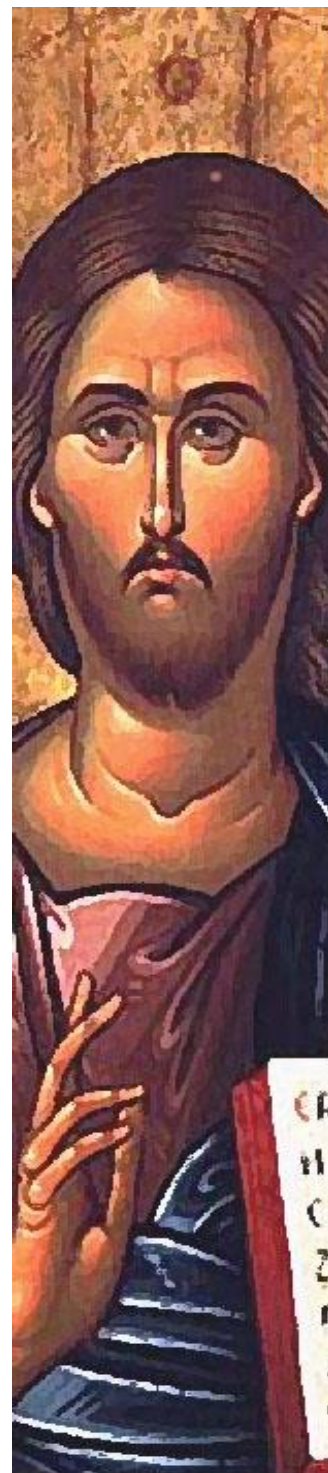


## 2017 STEWARDS OF THE CHURCH - cont'd

MASCHINSKY, Dan & Teresa  
McMILLAN, Michael & Elizabeth  
MEHAS, Gus & Kristina  
MICHAELIDIS, Christina & Darin Smith  
MICHAELIDIS, Michael & Elaine  
MITALAS, Panagiota  
MITALAS, Pete & Demetra  
MITCHELL, Cameron & Sofie  
MOORE, Georgina  
MORRIS, James & Vickie Kolios  
NATSIPOULOS, Louis  
NEWTON, Michael & Elaine  
NICHOL, Thomas  
NICON, John & Joann  
OJEDA, Ted & Vicky  
O'NEIL, Katie  
OSBON, Joymarie  
PALLIS, Chris & Vicki  
PAMBOUKAS, Chris & Glyka  
PAMBOUKAS, Kosta  
PAMBOUKAS, Niko & Rachael  
PAMPOUKAS, Evangelos & Tasoula  
PANTAGES, Tarsi  
PAPADOPULOS, Erasmia  
PAPAHRONIS, Basil  
PAPAHRONIS, Michael & Ingrid  
PAPANICOLAOU, Stathis & Joanna  
PAPANTOS, Spero & Tina  
PAPPAS, Cristina  
PAPPAS, George & Ann  
PAPPAS, George & Lora  
PARALIS, Panagiotis & Asimo  
PAULOS, Selamawit  
PEPPES, George & Penny  
PEPPES, Steve & Popi  
PIERIDES, Maria & Nick Gibbons  
PIERIDES, Voula  
POLIMENAKOS, Nick & Martha  
POULOS, Pete  
PREKEGES, James  
PULAKIS, Joanna  
RAKUS, Tom  
RONDOS, Sam  
SAITES, Betty  
SAKELLARIS, John & Penny  
SARANTINOS, George & Athena  
SARIDAKIS, Arthur

SAYLES, Katerina  
SEBOK, Evangelia  
SERPANOS, George & Meropi  
SFONDOURIS, Nick  
SIATERLIS, Dimitrios & Christina  
SKANDALIS, John & Laurie  
SKARLATOS, Nikoletta  
SKEPETARIS, Evanthis  
SKEPETARIS, Tom & Teresa  
SMETHERAM, Philip & Carol  
SMETHERAM, Sofia  
SOLOMON, Karen  
SORENSEN, Maria  
SOUDAS, John  
SOUKAS, George & Ritsa  
SOURAPAS, Steve  
SPAULDING, Caroline  
STAFFORD, Stephanie Pulakis  
STAMATOYANNOPOULOS, George & Thalia  
STOCKER, Bill & Georgi  
STUBBS, Sue  
TAGIOS, Dino & Sophia  
TALERICO, Ed & Joyce  
TARLSON, Popi+  
TAYLOR, Valerie Ann  
TEKLE, Selam  
THOMAS, Panagiotis & Georgia  
THOMPSON, Chuck & Niki  
TOLIAS, Christto & Dorothea  
TOURAS, Antonios, Antonia & Nikolas  
TRAPALIS, Dina & Eleni  
TREMBANIS, Sophia  
TSAKONAS, Sam+ & Stephanie  
TSALAKY, Molly  
TSALAKY, Tony  
TZIOTIS, Dometios & Georgia  
TZIOTIS, Yiannis & Katerina  
VASILATOS, Katheryn  
VELIS, Stanley  
VISINTAINER, James & Irina  
VLAHOS, Fotini  
WEST, Joann+  
XENOS, Spiro & Voula  
XYDIS, Jason & JoAnn  
XYDIS, John & Janice  
ZAFFEE, Maria  
ZAFIROPOULOS, John & Andreanna

ZANIDES, Fran  
ZARKADES, Joanne







## ASSUMPTION BOOKSTORE

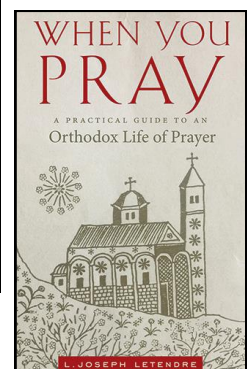
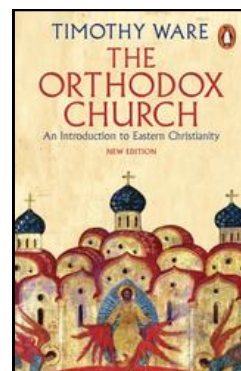
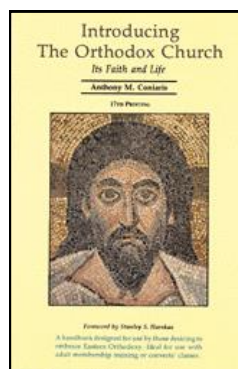
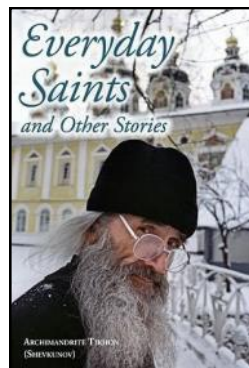
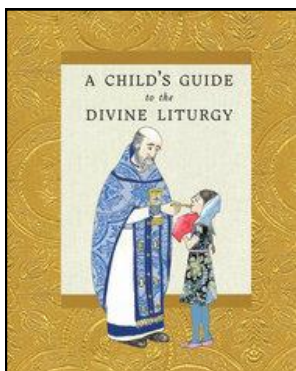
Christmas is a magical, joyful time, especially when we remember that the focus is on the miraculous gift we have received: the Incarnation of God as Jesus! Stop by our Bookstore for beautiful hand-painted Orthodox tree ornaments, lovely Christmas cards, as well as other items that would make perfect gifts for everyone on your list! We have books written by local Orthodox writers, books about contemporary saints, books for parents, books for children (including a book about becoming an altar boy, a child's guide to the church and the Divine Liturgy, a wonderful book of Bible stories, picture books, and others – as well as a “learning cube” containing stories about the Nativity on blocks which children can manipulate by hand), books for teens (“Icon”, set in a fictional future when being religious is tantamount to a death sentence is particularly compelling), books about prayer, books about our faith, books about the Holy Land, books about the Desert Fathers, books about women's issues... And CDs by Cappella Romana and other Orthodox vocal groups, icons, prayer ropes, incense, charcoal, stephana (wedding crowns), note cards for every occasion...



Our Bookstore has everything for Christmas but the tree!

**Trilby Coolidge**

Assumption Bookstore Manager





## ST. CATHERINE PHILOPTOCHOS

### Family Outreach Ministry Update

**T**he Family Outreach Ministry provides families with meals while they adjust to their lives with a new little one. Thank you to the following parishioners who delivered dinner to the home of Michael and Elaine Newton after the birth of their second child, Despina: **Rose and Marianne Bratsanos, Stella Bass, Alexis Katsis, Kristina Mehas, and Teresa Maschinsky.**

If you would like to help support a family after the birth of their child please **contact Teresa Maschinsky** at [teresa.maschinsky@gmail.com](mailto:teresa.maschinsky@gmail.com) or [719-661-7013](tel:719-661-7013) to join the Family Outreach Ministry. Volunteers will cook meals in their own homes and deliver them to the family after their baby arrives. This ministry is a beautiful way for us to show our love and support for one another and we hope you can join us in this joyful undertaking.

### Pancake Breakfast a Success!

Thanks to all St. Catherine members and parishioners who so generously contributed to the success of the pancake breakfast for the feastday of Sts. Cosmas and Damian in support of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. It was enjoyed by all. **A special thanks to Gus and Kristina Mehas, Dimos and Alexis Katsis, Dan Maschinsky, Stephanie Stafford, Penny Peppes, Katie O'Neil, Mary Lou Barton, Joanne Zarkades, Janice Xydis, Pauli Diafos, Stella Bass, and Rose and Marianne Bratsanos.**

### Coat Drive Results

Thank you to everyone who donated a coat or cash to our coat drive. We collected a total of 231 coats (double what we collected last year!!). Pictured below are **Carolyn Evangeline, Alexis and Vasilios Katsis, Christine Boyd and Kristina Mehas** who sorted, counted and bagged up the coats at the end of the drive (along with **Dimos Katsis and Raymond Boyd** who are not pictured).



continued →







## ST. CATHERINE PHILOPTOCHOS - cont'd

### Join Us During Fellowship Hour on December 3<sup>rd</sup>

This is the last call for travel sized hygiene supplies for this year. All parishioners will be asked to help us stuff them into bags during Fellowship Hour on Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. The bags will be given to homeless women on Christmas at the YWCA's Angeline's Day Center in Seattle.

### Camp Agape NW Chocolate & Wine Ball

Table 9 at the Chocolate Ball from Assumption ... all had a wonderful time for a wonderful fundraiser for Kids 'n Cancer families. **Mary Lou and Roger Barton, Ted and Kiki Dimitriou, Cristina Pappas, Maria Phoutrides, Katie O'Neil, Joanne Zarkades, Marianne Bratsanos, Rose Bratsanos, Diana Argeres.**







# ST. JOHN THE ALMSGIVER



## ADVENT

### *Giving Tree*

November 26<sup>th</sup> - December 25<sup>th</sup>

This year's Giving Tree will benefit the Society of St. John the Almsgiver - an Assumption church ministry that cooks and serves food twice monthly to the 300 homeless men (aged 55 and older) who reside at the St. Martin de Porres shelter in downtown Seattle. This ministry is completely funded by volunteer cooks and monetary donations to purchase food.

#### HOW TO PARTICIPATE:

- Choose an ornament/tag from off the Advent tree in the Hall. Tags will reflect various amounts. Choose a tag that fits your family budget.
- Place the tag and your donation in an envelope and drop it in the Pangari box (the box by the candles).





## MAKING BAKLAVA...

**M**any thanks to the Baklava bakers and makers in November - we made 190 pans of Baklava for the Holiday Bake Sale because Laurie Skandalis, Meropi Serpanos, Ritsa Soukas, Katie O'Neil, Catherine Iles, Nancy Charoni, Allison Charoni, Jennifer Charoni and Friend, Stephanie Stafford, Connie Innis, Tasoula Pamboukas, and Athena Sarantinos joined us!

*Mary Lou Barton & Joanne Zarkades*







## ASSUMPTION GOYA ENJOYS FAMILY FUN CENTER



*Zachary Pamboukas and his dad, Niko, are obviously having a fabulous time at the "FFC" in Tukwila, Saturday, November 18.*

**F**or our parish's kids in the 6th-12th grades and their families, there could hardly have been a more exciting place than the Family Fun Center with its maze of indoor and outdoor activities. Even the November weather was clear, as the kids whizzed around the track in their go karts. And inside at the games, they won prizes they could take home. As seen above, the parents seemed to be having every bit as much fun as the kids. *After all, it was a perfect opportunity to "be a kid again" yourself!*

Overall, the activities included: *Batting Cages, Bowlwinkle Lanes, Bumper Boats, Drop and Twist, Frog Hopper, Go Karts, Kidopolis Playland, Lazer Xtreme, Miniature Golf, Sling Shot, Traffic School, Virtual Tour, and XD Theater.* It was impossible to do it all in one visit – so our GOYA kids may want to consider another opportunity in the future, next time perhaps at the FFC in Edmonds, closer to our families who live in the north end.

*Participating in the fun event were John Mathew (father of Maggie John) with his grandchildren Nathan and Emmelia; Tim O'Donnell with his son, Anthony; Niko and Rachael Pamboukas, with their sons, Christos and Zachary; Fr. Michael Johnson and John Prekeges.*

*Hopefully the photos below will help the participants remember the event, while letting the rest of the parish share in the excitement – not to mention, making the other GOYA kids determined they won't miss our next activity!*

02 "If I could just get this thing to accelerate, I could beat them all in the straightaway." Anthony.

03 "I'm gonna make it through this tight turn no matter what!" Nathan.

04 "You see – I told you I was tall enough!" Emmelia.

05 "Just look at all these tickets I won!" Zachary.

06 "What do you think of these cool shades I got? Just like my dad's!" Zachary. ("Shades" I guess – these "dark glasses" look like Venetian blinds!)

07 "Boy, you can sure work up an appetite at the Family Fun Center." Anthony, Tim and "JP" eating dinner afterward at a nearby Red Robin.

continued →







When I was a kid...

no wait, I still do that.







## FATHER CHRISTMAS RETURNS FOR HOLIDAY PHOTOS!



*"Fr. Christmas" as seen last year with Elijah and Sebastián Cortes-Johnson.*

Once again, this year, Fr. Michael's twin brother, Father Christmas, will be available for your family's Holiday photos. What a great chance to personalize your Christmas cards, with a picture taken in the comfort of our own parish hall!

Fr. Christmas will be on hand after Liturgy on the first two Sundays in December – 12/3 and 12/10. You're free to use your own camera or cell phone, and literally take your photo home that same day. We will also have a camera set up so your photo can be emailed to you. Or, if you don't have email, you can pick up your photo at church the following Sunday. Fr. Christmas will also be available during our Holiday Fest on December 1-3, although on Friday and Saturday, you'll have to use your own camera or cell.

There will be no charge for the photos, only a donation on your part that will go to charity. As with last year, we'll be cooperating with Philoptochos on a worthwhile charitable project. In 2016 we raised a total of **\$550** to provide calling cards for our troops stationed in remote locations. *More details coming on our specific charitable outreach this Christmas.*





## ORTHODOX SCOUTING

### Assumption Scout Earns Orthodox Award



*Standing before his Cub pack in Kirkland, Jake Benbow looks on as Fr. Michael talks about the award he is about to receive. Also visible on Father's arm is the framed award certificate.*

November 21<sup>st</sup> provided an opportunity for an Orthodox boy to become prouder of his faith. The kids and parents looking on were of many different religious backgrounds, and Fr. Michael reminded them all that virtually every faith provides religious awards for its youth involved in Scouting. But that particular evening, the focus was on Orthodoxy.

**Jake Benbow** proudly told his fellow Scouts how the award's name referred to the first two letters of the word "Christ" in the Greek alphabet. Jake will now be wearing this proud symbol of the Orthodox Faith on his uniform. Looking on at the presentation were Jake's brother, Josh (also a Scout) and their proud parents, John and Stasi Benbow.



Jake and Josh will now be working on the highest Orthodox Scout award, Alpha-Omega. For more info on Orthodox Scout awards for boys and girls, talk to Fr. Michael.







## OCMC FOOD & GROCERY FUNDRAISER

G.O.C.A. 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Orthodox Christian Mission Center



Enjoy your favorite Greek food & grocery items including:  
olive oil • cheeses • olives • honey • baklava • dried figs • dolmas • phyllo • pasta  
wine • seasonings • beans • grape leaves • chocolates • cookies • preserves • coffee & tea  
Gift Baskets: Pasta • Wine & Chocolate • Sweets • Tea & Preserves • Coffee

All proceeds will be benefit **OCMC**, 220 Manatee Way, St. Augustine, FL 32086 • [www.ocmc.org](http://www.ocmc.org)  
Greek Orthodox Church of Assumption • 1804 13th Ave, Seattle [www.assumptionseattle.org](http://www.assumptionseattle.org)

SUNDAY, DEC. 10<sup>th</sup>

**I**t's hard to believe that December is once again upon us .... and that means preparations for GOCA's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual OCMC Food & Grocery Fundraiser are underway!

Again this year, we are planning to bring Greek grocery essentials to you right in our Atrium!

We are excited to announce that this year we will be offering an exceptional array of Greek themed Gift Baskets including: Greek Wine & Glasses, Coffee & Biscuits, Tea & Preserves, Sweets & Chocolates, Pasta & Oil, and more!

Please note: For those who are unable to join us at this year's event, we are accepting your monetary donation

on behalf of OCMC in support of Orthodox Missionaries. Checks are made payable to GOCA, and write OCMC Fundraiser on the memo line. THANK YOU!

I look forward to seeing you at the fundraiser on **Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>** following Divine Liturgy from Noon to 3:00 pm. Spread the word!

Questions? Please contact me, Carolyn Evangeline, at [cevangeline@outlook.com](mailto:cevangeline@outlook.com).

**Carolyn Evangeline**

Assumption Ambassador to the OCMC





## ALBANIAN CHILDREN'S CHRISTIAN LITERATURE SPECIAL PROJECT

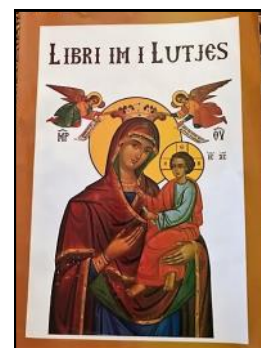
**T**he Albanian Children's Literature and Curriculum program, organized as an OCMC Special Project, was created to address the lack of children's Christian literature in Albanian. To the right is a picture of the children's book shelf at the large and well stocked Cathedral Bookstore in Tirana. I long to be able to give the children of Albania the same ability to read and learn about their faith. In Albania parents and teachers don't have this kind of wealth of literature to choose from if they want to talk to their children about God.



We hope to publish 12 children's books over the next three years; books for pre-school children, books to use in the catechism programs with children 8-12, and books for older adolescents. These books can also be used by parents to read to and learn about their faith with the children. We plan to translate and publish in Albanian good Christian literature that can be used for catechism as well as spiritual readings. Some of the books will be original books, created by Albanian authors.

During the summer months we were able to provide 1,000 Children's Bibles which were distributed to some of the summer camps and printed 3,000 Albanian Children's Prayer Books.

We have also completed the translation and most of the artwork for Dr. Maria Khoury's wonderful book, *Christina Visits the Holy Land*. We are grateful to Dr. Khoury for sharing her books to use in this Christian Children's Literature Special Project and hope to publish it before the end of the year if funds are available. You can learn more about Dr. Khoury's ministry and books at ([www.saintgeorgetaybeh.org](http://www.saintgeorgetaybeh.org)).



*The new Children's Prayer Book is essential to all the children's ministries and very popular.*

A special thank you to all our friends who donated funds for a matching grant we were seeking from a large Orthodox foundation. Your response was so generous and we quickly raised \$5,500.

We are so grateful for all our prayer partners and supporters who are helping to make this project a reality and look forward to moving forward with our program.

In the meantime, we are still in need of funds for the next two years. Please prayerfully consider supporting this program either with an annual gift or a monthly pledge.

If you would like to donate to this project, you may do so by clicking this link to the OCMC website:

<https://www.ocmc.org/donate/donate.aspx?FundId=2>

where you can make a secure online donation. Use the pull down menu to highlight "Help where the need is the greatest" and then in the memo line write Albanian Children's Literature Program. Or if you would prefer, you can mail a check to OCMC, 220 Mason Manatee Way, St. Augustine, FL 32086 and indicate Albanian Children's Literature Program in the memo line of your check.

My mailing address is:  
**Anastasia Pamela Barksdale, M.Div.**  
 411 O'Hara Avenue  
 Oakley, CA 94561





## CHURCH SCHOOL

### UPCOMING CHURCH SCHOOL SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>:

- Church School
- Christmas Pageant Rehearsal

Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>:

- Church School
- Christmas Pageant Rehearsal

Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>:

- Church School Christmas Pageant

Sunday, Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup>:

- No Church School

Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup>:

- Church School on Procession Schedule

Sunday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>:

- Church School

Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>:

- Church School

Sunday, February 25<sup>th</sup>:

- Church School on Procession Schedule

Sunday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>:

- Church School

Sunday, April 1<sup>st</sup>:

- Church School on Procession Schedule

Sunday, April 8<sup>th</sup>:

- PASCHA (No Church School)

## THANK YOU...

**B**arbara Janjic and her sister Kathi Chetty would like to thank everyone for their calls, cards, prayers and support after the passing of their mother Joann West. Your loving care was very much appreciated. May God bless you all!



**O**n Thursday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, Popi Tarlson called the parish office to ask that I include the following “thank you” in this month’s bulletin. Unfortunately, the following Monday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, Popi passed away.

In keeping with my promise to include her requested “thank you”, here are her words:

*“I thank God for all His blessings in my long life. My Assumption church family is one of those blessings. Thank you and may God bless you all for your prayers, calls, visits, etc., while I am recovering from my most recent illness.”*

May her memory be eternal.







## PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10<sup>th</sup>**

**P**arish Council elections will take place Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, immediately after the dismissal of Liturgy, and ending at 12:30 PM. The election sign-in sheets, ballots and ballot box will be located in the hallway leading to the Fellowship Hall. Please note, in order to vote, a parishioner must be a member in good standing and must be a steward of the parish for 2017.

We have seven (7) vacancies with seven (7) parishioners running (in alphabetical order): **Justin Franklin, Gus Mehas, Cristina Pappas, Kosta Pamboukas, Niko Pamboukas, James Prekeges and Straton Spyropoulos.**

Even though there are seven parishioners running for seven open seats, the Uniform Parish Regulations stipulate that we must hold an election nevertheless.

Thank you to the above parishioners for volunteering to serve our parish. May God Bless you all, and your families, for your sacrifice of time and talents.

## FESTIVE CHRISTMAS GIFTS



**B**uy our beautifully wrapped “Key to Greek Cooking” cookbooks for your Christmas gift giving. It makes a perfect hostess present. We are offering them pre-wrapped - ready to go - in the Assumption Bookstore.

\$25.00 (includes wrapping)

***A Gift in Perfect Taste!***





Philoptochos Society of St. Catherine

**2 lb VASILOPITA - \$15.00**

**1 lb VASILOPITA - \$8.00**



**VASILOPITA**



**ORDER TODAY**

**PICK UP ON SUNDAY, DEC. 17<sup>th</sup>**





GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION



DECEMBER 2017



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	MATINS GOSPEL & TONE SCHEDULE				1 <b>HOLIDAY FEST</b> <b>ORDER PICKUP</b> 12:00 - 3:00 pm  PARISH OFFICE CLOSED	2 <b>HOLIDAY FEST</b> <b>ORDER PICKUP</b> 12:00 - 7:00 pm <b>DINNER SEATING</b> 4:00 - 7:00 pm 4:00 pm Vespers
3 <b>14th SUNDAY OF LUKE</b> 8:45 am Matins 10:00 am Liturgy Church School  HOLIDAY FEST ORDER PICKUP 12:00 - 3:00 pm	4 <b>ST. BARBARA</b> 8:45 am Matins 10:00 am Liturgy 11:30 am Bible Study	5	6 <b>ST. NICHOLAS</b> 8:45 am Matins 10:00 am Liturgy	7 9:00 am St. John the Almsgiver	8  PARISH OFFICE CLOSED	9 <b>CONCEPTION OF THE THEOTOKOS</b> 8:45 am Matins 10:00 am Liturgy  Philoptochos General Membership Meeting
10 <b>10th SUNDAY OF LUKE</b> 8:45 am Matins 10:00 am Liturgy  Memorial: Anna Attias Memorial: Arianna Exarhos Parish Council Elections 4th Annual Greek Food & Grocery Fundraiser	11 9:00 am Prep & Bake Vasilopita 10:40 am 3rd Hour Prayers 11:00 am Bible Study 6:00 pm Parish Council Meeting	12 <b>ST. SPYRIDON</b> 9:30 am Liturgy at St. Spyridon Cathedral 12:00 pm Package Vasilopita	13	14 9:00 am St. John the Almsgiver	15 <b>ST. ELEUTHERIOS</b> 8:45 am Matins 10:00 am Liturgy  PARISH OFFICE CLOSED	16 4:00 pm Great Vespers
17 <b>11th SUNDAY OF LUKE</b> 8:45 am Matins 10:00 am Liturgy Church School Memorial: Fay Topetzes & Basil Mann Christmas Pageant 12:00 pm Vasilopita Pickup	18 10:40 am 3rd Hour Prayers 11:00 am Bible Study 6:00 pm Men's Ministry Meeting	19	20	21 4:30 pm Meal Service at Jubilee Women's Center	22 <b>ROYAL HOURS OF CHRISTMAS</b> 10:00 am  PARISH OFFICE CLOSED	23 <b>FOREFEAST OF THE NATIVITY</b> 8:45 am Matins 10:00 am Liturgy 4:00 pm Great Vespers
24 <b>SUNDAY BEFORE NATIVITY</b> 8:45 am Matins 10:00 am Liturgy No Church School 4:00 pm Great Vespers	25 <b>HOLY NATIVITY</b> 8:45 am Matins 10:00 am Liturgy  PARISH OFFICE CLOSED	26 <b>SYNAXIS OF THE THEOTOKOS</b> 8:45 am Matins 10:00 am Liturgy	27 <b>ST. STEPHEN</b> 8:45 am Matins 10:00 am Liturgy	28	29  PARISH OFFICE CLOSED	30 4:00 pm Great Vespers
31 <b>SUNDAY AFTER NATIVITY</b> 8:45 am Matins 10:00 am Liturgy No Church School	PARISH OFFICE HOURS: M-TH 11:30 AM - 6:30 PM ~ (206) 323-8557 (PARISH OFFICE is CLOSED on Fridays)					Strict Fast Wine/Oil Allowed Fish Allowed

THE MONTHLY BULLETIN OF THE GREEK  
ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION

**GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH  
OF THE ASSUMPTION**  
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