

## An Empress who battled for our Faith



**St. Pulcheria** occupies an honored place on the list of great women of this world. It was her faith in Christ and His influence on her that forged this woman of extraordinary character. She was the daughter of the Byzantine Emperor Arcadius. Upon his death, the imperial throne fell to his son Theodosius II. But he was still a child, and it came upon his older sister, Pulcheria, to deal with the affairs of government.

Gifted with remarkable administrative intelligence, Pulcheria grew to become a respected fifth century leader. She dealt with issues of the day firmly yet compassionately. She labored to help the poor, alleviate sickness and console the bereaved. Constantinople was filled with churches, hospitals, homes for strangers and the aged, and other religious houses, endowed from the funds of St. Pulcheria. The most famous church she built was at Blachernae, which was dedicated to the Most Pure Theotokos.

ASSUMPTION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH  
**PRESIDING PRIEST Rev. Fr. Peter Bistolarides**

2245 E Baldwin Rd, Grand Blanc, MI 48439

(810)771-4611

Father Peter's Cell: (989)928-3455

**CHURCH HOURS:**

**SUNDAY'S:** ORTHROS 9:00 AM  
DIVINE LITURGY 10:00 AM

Website: <http://assumptiongrandblanc.org>

Father Peter's Email: [FrPeterAGOCGrandBlanc@gmail.com](mailto:FrPeterAGOCGrandBlanc@gmail.com)

Secretary's Email: [agocsec@gmail.com](mailto:agocsec@gmail.com)

**We welcome all visitors to the Assumption Church!** We are delighted to have you present with us this morning.

**Holy Communion:** Orthodox Christians who are prepared to receive Holy Communion will be invited during the Divine Liturgy to approach the chalice in order to reverently receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. **If you are not an Orthodox Christian or you are an Orthodox Christian not prepared to receive Holy Communion this morning, please remain in your pew during the distribution of Holy Communion.** All persons present at the service this morning will be invited to receive a piece of blessed bread (antidoron) at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy.

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:**

Sandi Chinonis; Maria Chuleas; Stephanos Hatzigeorgiou & Family;  
Tessie Komodromos; George Levas, Afroditi Marks; Sam Paraschos

**Prospora provided by Robert Routsis**

**Today's Reader Dena Altheide**

## RULES FOR ATTENDING DIVINE SERVICES

These rules are provided to ensure that the environment during services at Assumption is reverent and respectful, to minimize unnecessary disruption, and allow all of us to focus our hearts and minds during Divine Services on our worship of GOD

1. Please, as much as possible, **ARRIVE ON TIME** (on Sundays, Orthros starts 8:50 am, Liturgy 10:00 am)
2. Please, **SILENCE** or **TURN OFF YOUR CELL PHONES**
3. **EVERYONE** should participate in Divine Services by joining their fellow worshippers inside the church
  - a. Only those people who are officially scheduled for specific duties at the candle stand, as greeters, or in the choir or the kitchen of the church hall are excused from joining their fellow Orthodox Christians in the pews during services
4. Please keep voices in the Narthex (entrance foyer) low and avoid lengthy conversations
5. Except for candles or completing a visitor form, while Divine Services are taking place, **NO BUSINESS** is to be conducted with any parish council member or other church official (you may do this **AFTER** services, during the week, on-line, etc)
6. If you have a message for the Priest, give it to one of the attendants (in writing) at the candle stand and . **DO NOT** take your message personally to the priest or interrupt him, or enter the area of the altar or side rooms during Divine Services
7. There is to be **NO ENTRY INTO** or **MOVEMENT INSIDE THE NAVE** (the main body) **OF THE CHURCH** during the following times (this includes seating and lighting candles:
  - a) Priest blessing or censing (basically any time the priest is facing the congregation, unless otherwise directed by the priest)
  - b) During the Small Entrance (Entry with the Gospel)
  - c) During the Epistle and Gospel reading
  - d) During the Great Entrance
  - e) During the consecration (Epicicles) of the Holy Gifts
  - f) During the reciting of the Creed and the Lord's Prayer
  - g) **NOTE:** entry into the Church during the Priest's homily (sermon) will be allowed at his discretion, but you are to seat yourselves quietly and with the least amount of disruption possible, otherwise, you should wait in the Narthex
8. Finally, **PLEASE REFRAIN** from any unnecessary conversations during the Divine Services

## **Announcements:**

- 1. Daughters of Penelope meeting:** Sunday, September 10th after Liturgy
- 2. Pan-Orthodox Vespertine Divine Liturgy and Processions of the Cross for the Feast of the Holy Cross:** Wednesday, September 13th at 6:00 pm at St. George, Flint
- 3. Philoptochos Meeting:** Tuesday, September 12th at 1:00 PM at the White Horse on Court Street downtown Flint.
- 4. Parish Council Meeting:** Tuesday, September 12th at 6:15 pm
- 5. Fish Fry Resumes:** Friday, September, 15th 3:00 - 8:00 PM
- 6. Orthodoxy: Then and Now:** Monday, September 18th at 7:00 pm at Assumption 21800 Marter Rd, St. Clair Shores, MI 48080
- 7. Middle Eastern Luncheon & Bake Sale:** Thursday, September 21st 11am - 2pm at St. George, Flint. Deadline to order is September 7th. 810-732-0720
- 8. Supporting Our Assumption Church.** The Assumption Church greatly appreciates all of our faithful stewards and supporters! In addition to supporting the Church with paper checks or cash and arranging for direct electronic payments through the Church office, Assumption Church is now accepting online donations. Thank you for supporting our beloved Assumption Church!

### **SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT – PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS**

We are approaching that time of year where we hold elections for vacancies on the parish council. This year, there will be 4 individuals whose terms are coming up. Anyone who would like to run for parish office can be nominated or submit their own nomination to the Chair of the Election Committee, John Costa. All nominations are reviewed by the Election Committee and Fr. Peter before being allowed to stand.

**REMINDER:** a candidate for parish leadership must be a) a steward in good standing (pledge and current with pledge) and b) in good canonical and liturgical standing.

If you have any questions, please contact John Costa or Fr. Peter.

# **WISDOM FOR THE WEEK**

**Sunday September 10, 2023**

**Sunday before Elevation of the Holy Cross  
Afterfeast of the Nativity of the Theotokos  
Martyrs Menodora, Metrodora & Nymphodora**

**Do not go beyond yourself to seek for evil, nor imagine that there is an original nature of wickedness. Let us all acknowledge that each of us is the first author of our own vice...Do not look for the guiding cause beyond yourself, but recognize that evil, rightly so called, has no other origin than our voluntary fall (St. Basil the Great)**

**It is a fact that God listens to us, defective as we are, more than we listen to Him (St. Nikolai Velimirovich)**

**The Holy Scriptures were not given to us that we should enclose them in books, but that we should engrave them upon our hearts (St. John Chrysostom)**

## Sunday Before Holy Cross

Priest: Let us be attentive.

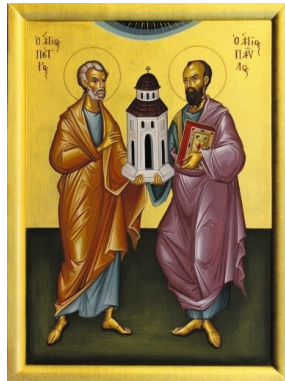
Reader: O Lord, save your people and bless your inheritance

Verse: To you, o Lord, I have cried, O my God

Priest: Wisdom

Reader: The reading is from St. Paul's First Letter to the Galatians 6:11-18

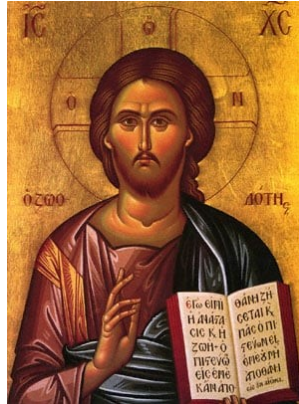
Priest: Let us be attentive.



Brethren, see with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand. It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that would compel you to be circumcised, and only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. For even those who receive circumcision do not themselves keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may glory in your flesh. But far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. Peace and mercy be upon all who walk by this rule, upon the Israel of God. Henceforth let no man trouble me; for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.

## Sunday Before Holy Cross

### The Gospel According to John 3:13-17



The Lord said, "No one has ascended into heaven but he who descended from heaven, the Son of man who is in heaven. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him."

However, her special task lay in educating her young brother to assume the great responsibilities of the throne. After her brother married, she retreated to the solitude of a nunnery. But when Theodosius II died in an accident, Pulcheria resumed the reins of government. She was now a woman of 51. Internal dissension and external aggression caused trouble in the Empire. She was unable, alone, to make headway against all the problems. She was wise enough to call a man to her side, and she wed Marcian, but both took vows of celibacy.

Marcian assumed much of the chores of running the government. One of his first concerns was the establishment of peace in the Church. Just as Constantine the Great had done before, Marcian and Pulcheria turned to councils to help deal with the heresies that threatened our faith. They became involved with the Council of Chalcedon in the year 451. This was the fourth Ecumenical Council, and was convened to deal with Eutychnianism.

Pulcheria died peacefully in the year 453. She was a remarkable woman, whose abiding faith in Christ and commitment to His teachings had a profound influence in her life and, consequently, on the lives of those multitudes who lived in her time. The period of long tranquility mainly can be attributed to the wisdom and intelligence of St. Pulcheria. While strong in Christ, she rode out every storm and came to be recorded in the Church's calendar of saints. This was no small accomplishment - especially at that time.

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**Prosporon Schedule**

SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER
3 Roufos, Mr. & Mrs	1 Schultze, Joanne
10 Routsis, Robert	8 Sirakis, Kosta & Sofia
17 Saites, Mr. & Mrs Konstantinos	15 Sirakis, Paraskevas & Athena
24 Salutes-Rogind, Sally	22 Smith, Ethan & Angela
	29 Stavridis, Tome & Zoe

**Reader Schedule**

SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER
3 Cathy Yeotis	1 Cathy Yeotis
10 Dena Altheide	8 Dena Altheide
17 Debra Chinonis	15 Debra Chinonis
24 John Costa	22 John Costa