

“WHEN YOU WERE BAPTIZED IN THE JORDAN, OH LORD,



FOR THE VOICE OF THE FATHER BORE WITNESS TO YOU”

THE WORSHIP DUE THE TRINITY WAS MANIFESTED,

January 4, 2026—Sunday before Epiphany

**ASSUMPTION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH**

**VISITING PRIEST Rev. Fr. Christopher Abel**

2245 E Baldwin Rd, Grand Blanc, MI 48439

(810) 771-4611 Fr. Peter's Cell: (989) 928-3455

**CHURCH HOURS:**

**SUNDAY'S:** ORTHROS 9:00 AM

DIVINE LITURGY 10:00 AM

**OFFICE HOURS:**

TUESDAY - THURSDAY 9:00 AM TO 1:00 PM

Website: <http://assumptiongrandblanc.org>

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

Parish Administrator Email: [agocsec@gmail.com](mailto:agocsec@gmail.com)

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;

Stephanos Hatzigeorgiou & Family; Anita Jimos; Athena Kalatzis;

Tessie Komodromos; Soula Kondyles; Mary Kottalis; Ann Lowe;

George Levas; Diana Lillar; Afroditi Marks; Aspasia Mavrikos;

Sam Paraschos; JoAnne Schultze; Yianna Welch

**Today's Reader: Dena Altheide**

## **A WARM WELCOME TO ALL VISITORS AND GUESTS!**

WELCOME to the Orthodox Church - the original Church of the Christian faith. We are happy to have you join us this morning! If this is your first time in our community, please take time to provide us with some information about yourselves.

You are welcome to join your prayers with others present. We welcome any questions you may have. Feel free to speak to a parish council member, or speak to the parish priest after Divine Liturgy.

### **Some common questions from non-Orthodox guests:**

#### **Q: I DON'T KNOW GREEK- WILL I UNDERSTAND ANY OF THE SERVICE?**

A: You will have no problem understanding the service. The entire Divine Liturgy is conducted in English.

However, to honor the ancient roots of our Christian faith and our spiritual affiliation with our Mother Church, The Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople, we do recite some "repetitive" parts, hymns and certain prayers in both English and Koine Greek (the word "Greek" in "Greek Orthodox Church" refers to Koine Greek, and one of the main languages of early Christianity and the original language of the written Gospel, which differs from the later modern Greek in use today).

**The books in the pew in front of you are in both English and Greek for your use and guidance during the Divine Liturgy. (We respectfully ask that you do not take the books home with you).**

#### **Q: DO I HAVE TO STAND DURING LITURGY?**

A: Standing throughout the *entire* service is a traditional practice still seen in some Orthodox communities. More commonly in many Orthodox parishes (including ours), the Orthodox faithful will stand during certain sacred parts of the service (such as the Gospel reading, processions, prayers and Holy Communion) as a gesture of reverence.

**FOR VISITORS: If you are able, we ask that you follow this practice out of respect (take your cues from those around you, or from the priest). If, for physical reasons, you are unable to stand or stay standing for any length of time, you are absolutely welcome to stay seated or sit down.**

#### **Q: CAN I RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION?**

A: **As the central sacrament of our faith, the Orthodox Church believes in the real presence of the Body and Blood of Christ in Holy Communion. It is reserved ONLY for Orthodox Christians who have prepared to receive it, including guests visiting from other Orthodox churches.** For our non-Orthodox Christian guests: It is an unfortunate reality that, while professing a belief in Jesus Christ, there is not currently intercommunion between the Orthodox Church and many non-Orthodox Christian confessions, but we do pray that through the Holy Spirit we may achieve this someday.

**If you are not an Orthodox Christian (or if you are Orthodox, but you're not prepared), you may remain standing in your pew while communion is distributed. ALTERNATIVELY,** if you desire to do so, you may join the line and when you approach the chalice, identify yourself quietly as non-Orthodox or unprepared to the priest, and ask for and receive a blessing from him.

**ALL who are attending the Liturgy (Orthodox or not) are welcome to receive a piece of the blessed bread (antidoron) from the parish priest at the conclusion of Divine Liturgy, as a gesture of welcome and goodwill. Please join us for fellowship during our coffee hour in our Church Hall following the service.**



# **WISDOM FOR THE WEEK**

**Sunday January 4, 2026**

**Sunday before Epiphany**

**Forefeast of the Theophany of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ**

**Synaxis of the 70 Holy Apostles**

**Our Righteous Father Theoctistus, Abbott of Cucomo in Sicily**

**Nikephoros the Leper**

**Zosimos the Monk and Athanasios the Notary**

**Righteous Apollinaria the Senator**

**Martyrs Chrysanthos and Euphemia**

**Righteous Euthymios the Younger**

**New Martyr Onuphrios**

**Righteous Euthymios of Vatopedi**

**Righteous John Scholarios**

**Eustathios Archbishop of Serbia**

## **Announcements:**

1. **Stewardship Cards:** Thank you to those that have turned in their 2026 stewardship cards. Please remember to turn yours in to the office to aid us in our budgeting for the year. Cards are available in the office.
2. **Prosporo:** We are getting low on our prosporo. If you are able to make some it would be greatly appreciated.
3. **Theophany Divine Liturgy & Great Blessing of the Waters:** Tuesday, January 6th at 10:00 AM
4. **Vasilopita Sunday:** Sunday, January 11th
5. **2026 Parish Council Oath of Office:** Sunday, January 11th at 11:30 AM
6. **PC Meeting:** Sunday, January 11th at Noon
7. **Philoptochos Holiday Luncheon:** Tuesday, January 13th at 1:00 PM at Blondie's Food & Spirits 2520 W. Hill Rd., Flint, MI 48507 Please contact Olga Steinhoff or Diana Lillar to RSVP.
8. **Dormition Monastery Dinner:** Thursday, January 22nd here at Assumption, Vespers at 5:00 PM, Appetizers, Fellowship & Meal at 6:00 PM, Program on "The Saintly Life of Fr. Roman Braga; Discovering the Church Within" at 7:00 PM. Free-Will Offering. Register at [giving.myamplify.io](https://giving.myamplify.io)
9. **AHEPA Educational Foundation's 2026 Scholarship Application** is now available. Please go to their website at <https://apply.ad10ef.org>. Application must be submitted by February 23, 2026. The Educational Foundation gave \$212,000 in scholarships in 2025, ranging from \$2500 to \$5000. You may also contact the Educational Foundation at [efahepa10inquiry@gmail.com](mailto:efahepa10inquiry@gmail.com) with any further questions.
10. **DOP Meeting:** Sunday. January 25th at 12:00 PM
11. **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!

Priest: Let us be attentive.

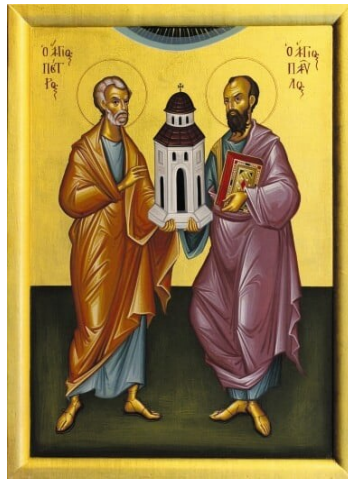
Reader: O Lord, save your people and bless your inheritance.

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

Priest: Wisdom

Reader: The reading is from St. Paul's Second Letter to Timothy 4:5-8

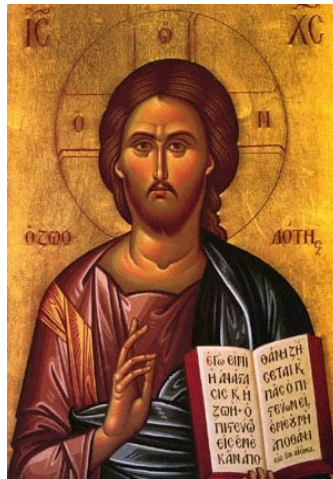
Priest: Let us be attentive.



TIMOTHY, my son, always be steady, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfil your ministry.

For I am already on the point of being sacrificed; the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

## The Gospel According to Mark 1:1-8



The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophets, 'Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who shall prepare your way; the voice of one crying in the wilderness: prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.' John was baptizing in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And there went out to him all the country of Judea, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, and had a leather girdle around his waist, and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."



## THE THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD

**T**heophany is the feast by which the Holy Trinity was revealed to the world through the Baptism of our Lord by the hands of St. John the Baptist. In this divine moment, we hear the voice of the Father, we witness the Son humbling Himself in the waters of the Jordan and we experience the Holy Spirit descending from Heaven in the form of a dove. From ancient times, Theophany was referred to as the *"Feast of Lights,"* since on this day the Divine Light appeared and illumined *"the people who sat in darkness."* (Matt 4:16)

On this blessed day, the Church also reminds us of the importance and significance of our own baptism. We are taught that our salvation and cleansing from sin is only possible through the grace of the Holy Spirit, which comes down upon us in the Sacrament of Baptism. St. Paul tells us that *"As many as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ."* (Galatians 3:27) Indeed, Baptism offers us the means of shedding our old self and taking on a new life as a follower of our Lord. Through baptism, we become *"dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord."* (Romans 6:11) Yes, we are cleansed, renewed and *"born again"* at our baptism!

Baptism involves a promise. Through our godparents, we promised to renounce Satan and his works and to embrace a life of service to Christ. Baptism also involves a great commitment. It is no coincidence that the Gospel Lesson read during this solemn service contains the Lord's Great Commission to His Apostles: *"Go and teach all nations."* These words are a reminder to us that each of us is a disciple and missionary. In our own way, we too are called upon to carry Christ's message out to those who have not heard it.

*The Orthodox Weekly Bulletin* . . . . . Vestal, Cliffwood, New Jersey . . . . . Litho in U.S.A.

### Reader Schedule

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL
4 Dena Altheide	1 Nick Kallis	1 Dena Altheide	5 John Kaloydis
11 Debra Chinonis	8 John Kaloydis	8 Debra Chinonis	12 Stella Thurkill
18 John Costa	15 Stella Thurkill	15 John Costa	19 Cathy Yeotis
25 Aleko Douros	22 Cathy Yeotis	22 Aleko Douros	26 Dena Altheide
		29 Nick Kallis	