

March 15, 2026— 4th Sunday of Great Lent

ASSUMPTION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

**PRESIDING PRIEST Rev. Protopresbyter Peter Bistolarides**

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;

Kyriacos & Vasilias Costa; 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;

Demi Thornton; Yianna Welch

**Today's Reader: Alecko Douros**

## **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 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 March 22, 2026

### 4th SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT

#### SUNDAY OF ST. JOHN OF THE LADDER (CLIMACUS)

With all the worries and thoughts you are harming yourself more than you are helping yourself. The wrongdoings of the past are corrected only by good repentance and a change of life. So rejoice in the Lord and see to it that you spend the rest of your life in repentance (St. Joseph the Hesychast)

The beginning of freedom from anger is silence of the lips when the heart is agitated; the middle is silence of the thoughts when there is a mere disturbance of the soul; and the end is an imperturbable calm under the breath of unclean winds (St. John Climacus, “The Ladder of Divine Ascent”)

The forgetting of wrongs is a sign of true repentance. But he who dwells on them and thinks that he is repenting is like a man who thinks he is running while he is really asleep (St. John Climacus, “The Ladder of Divine Ascent”)

## **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. DOP Meeting:** Today at Noon
- 3. Annunciation of the Theotokos Divine Liturgy:** Wednesday, March 25th at 10:00 AM at Assumption
- 4. Akathist Hymn:** Friday, March 27th at 6:00 PM
- 5. Philoptochos Tsourecki Pre-Orders:** Due by March 29th
- 6. Super Draw Raffle:** Sunday, March 29th at 11:30 AM
- 7. Philoptochos Project Operation Classroom:** Items needed are notebooks, folders, binders, pens, pencils, crayons, calculators. Also needed, are soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, feminine hygiene products, tissues, paper towels, and dry-erase markers. Containers will be placed in the church hall for your donations. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!**
- 8. Flint AHEPA-DAUGHTERS Scholarship Application:** The Flint AHEPA/Daughters Scholarship Foundation will award scholarships to qualified 2026 high school graduates. In order to qualify, the graduate must meet the following criteria: 1. Either the student, or at least one of the parents, grandparents, or legal guardians is a paid member of either Flint AHEPA Chapter #141, or Daughters of Penelope Iris Chapter Chapter #242, or a member in good standing of the Assumption Greek Orthodox Church of Flint. 2. The student must be graduating from a Flint area high school, and planning to attend a trade school, college or university upon graduating from high school. 3. The student must have a minimum 2.75 grade point average on a scale of 4.00. 4. The student must submit a completed application and all supporting documents by the deadline of May 1, 2026. If you are a graduate or anyone else that knows of any graduate that meets the above criteria, please contact John K. Costa directly at (810) 659-5275 or [jnlcosta@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jnlcosta@sbcglobal.net). Scholarship Applications are also available at the church office.
- 9. 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: Make your vows to the Lord our God and perform them.

Verse: God is known in Judah; his name is great in Israel.

Priest: Wisdom

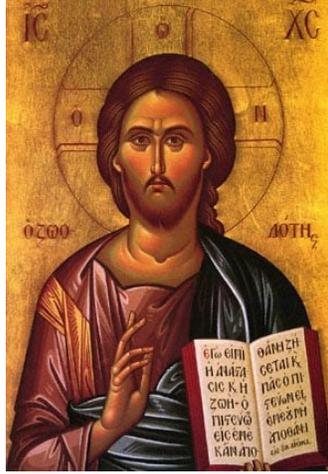
Reader: The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 6:13-20

Priest: Let us be attentive.



BRETHREN, when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore to himself, saying, "Surely I will bless you and multiply you." And thus Abraham, having patiently endured, obtained the promise. Men indeed swear by a greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he interposed with an oath, so that through two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible that God should prove false, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to seize the hope set before us. We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner shrine behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.

## The Gospel According to Mark 9:17-31



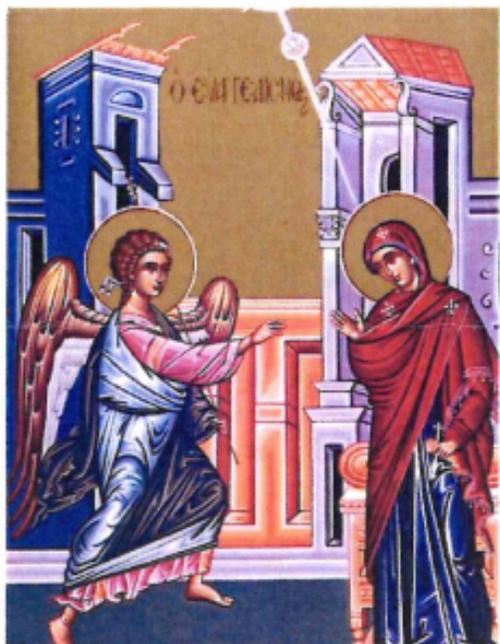
At that time, a man came to Jesus kneeling and saying: "Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a dumb spirit; and wherever it seizes him it dashes him down; and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid; and I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able." And he answered them, "O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me." And they brought the boy to him; and when the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. And Jesus asked his father, "How long has he had this?" And he said, "From childhood. And it has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if you can do anything, have pity on us and help us." And Jesus said to him, "If you can! All things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, "I believe; help my unbelief!" And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You dumb and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again." And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse; so that most of them said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" And he said to them, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer and fasting." They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And he would not have any one know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of man will be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him; and when he is killed, after three days he will rise."

# 2026 PASCHA ITEMS NEEDED

<u>Service/Flower Item</u>	<b>2026 Suggested Donation</b>	<b>Donor</b>
1st Salutation - Theotokos Icon Flowers	\$ 70.00	
3rd Sunday of Lent-Veneration of the Cross Daffodils	\$ 175.00	Donated
Annunciation Icon Flowers	\$ 70.00	
4th Salutation- Theotokos Icon Flowers	\$ 70.00	
Akathish Hymn - Theotokos Icon Flowers	\$ 70.00	
Palms for Palm Sunday	\$ 115.00	
Nymphios Icon Flowers	\$ 70.00	
Nymphios Icon Flowers	\$ 70.00	
Oil for Holy Unction Service	\$ 20.00	
Cotton Swabs for Holy Unction Service	\$ 10.00	
Pascha Red Eggs (25+1 dozen)	\$ 100.00	Donated
Rose Petals - Holy Friday	\$ 60.00	Donated
Rose Water - Holy Friday	\$ 20.00	Donated
Resurrection Icon Flowers 1st	\$ 70.00	
Resurrection Icon Flowers 2nd	\$ 70.00	
Resurrection Banner	\$ 130.00	Donated
Large Resurrection Candle for Father	\$ 75.00	Donated
Oil for Altar Candles	\$ 55.00	Donated
Cross Wreath for Holy Thursday	\$ 105.00	Donated
Vase set for Palm Sunday	\$ 70.00	
Vase set for Easter Sunday	\$ 70.00	
Palm Sunday Icon	\$ 70.00	Donated
Large Icon screen Left	\$ 375.00	Donated
Large Icon screen Right	\$ 375.00	Donated
Bay Leaves	\$ 100.00	Donated
Lillies (6 total) \$52.50 each	\$ 315.00	
Gardenias (12 total)	\$ 275.00	
Life Giving Font Icon Flower	\$ 70.00	

# ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

707 E. LAFAYETTE BLVD, DETROIT, MI 48226



## GREAT VESPERS

TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 2026, AT 7:00 P.M

The Great Vespers of the Feast of the Annunciation of the Virgin Mary.

Philoptochos will host a Coffee Hour, and Our Annual Bake Sale will follow the Vespers.

FEAST DAY OF THE ANNUNCIATION –  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2026 – MATINS  
8:30 A.M. AND DIVINE LITURGY AT 10:00  
A.M.

The Divine Liturgy will be celebrated.

The traditional Feast Day Luncheon will be held following the Service. Please see enclosed flier for more details.

**Everyone is welcome!**

Donation: \$40.00 per person  
\$15.00 Children 12 & under

## ΜΕΓΑΣ ΕΣΠΕΡΙΝΟΣ

ΤΡΙΤΗ 24 ΜΑΡΤΙΟΥ, 2026 – 7:00 Μ.Μ.

Μέγας Πανηγυρικός Εσπερινός.

Μετά το τέλος του Εσπερινού οι κυρίες Της Φιλοπτώχου θα προσφέρουν αναψυκτικά και γλυκά σε όλους του παρευρισκομένους. Επίσης θα έχουμε και BAKE SALE.

Ο ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΣΜΟΣ ΤΗΣ ΘΕΟΤΟΚΟΥ –  
ΤΕΤΑΡΤΗ 25 ΜΑΡΤΙΟΥ, 2026 –  
ΟΡΘΡΟΣ 8:30 Π.Μ. ΚΑΙ ΘΕΙΑ ΛΕΙΤΟΥΡΓΙΑ  
10:00 Π.Μ.

Το Ετήσιο ΠΑΡΑΔΟΣΙΑΚΟ ΓΕΥΜΑ θα δωθή στην αίθουσα του Καθεδρικού. Για τους ηλικιωμένους θα υπάρχει το ασανσέρ που θα τους κατεβάσει στην αίθουσα μας χωρίς κανένα πρόβλημα η ταλαιπωρία.

ΔΩΡΕΑ: \$40.00 το άτομο  
\$15.00 παιδιά

# Orthodox Churches of Genesee County, Michigan

Assumption (Greek) 2245 Baldwin Road ❖ Grand Blanc, MI 48439 ❖ 810-771-4611  
St. George (Antiochian) 5191 Lennon Road ❖ Flint, MI 48507 ❖ 810-732-0720  
St. Mary Magdalene (OCA) 2439 S. Long Lake Road ❖ Fenton, MI 48430 ❖ 810-750-1401  
St. Nicholas (OCA) 2143 South Center Road ❖ Burton, MI 48519 ❖ 810-744-0070

## 2026 Great Fast and Bright Week



### Pan-Orthodox Divine Services and Lenten potlucks

**Great Compline** at St. George (*Mondays, Tuesdays, & Thursdays 6 pm, Fridays 6 pm Akathist*) All are welcome. This beautiful service along with the Lenten Hours on Wednesdays allows us to experience the Great Fast more deeply. Confessions will be available after the service.

**Lenten Hours** at St. Nicholas (*Wednesdays, 10 am*) All are welcome.

**Presanctified Divine Liturgy** and **Lenten Potlucks** (*Wednesdays, 6 pm*) We will celebrate together the Presanctified Liturgy and the Great Feast of the Annunciation according to the schedule below. Holy Communion is given at both. To partake of Holy Communion at evening liturgies, please be prepared with prayer and fasting (*no eating or drinking after 12 noon*). Confessions will only be available prior to the evening liturgies from 5:30pm–6pm. The lenten potluck dinners will be coordinated by the host parish.

- March 4      **Presanctified Liturgy** at St. Nicholas 6 pm  
March 18     **Presanctified Liturgy** at St. Mary Magdalene 6 pm  
March 20 & 21 **Lenten Retreat with Fr Barnabas Powell** at Assumption  
March 25     **Great Feast of the Annunciation Divine Liturgy** at Assumption 10 am  
April 1       **Presanctified Liturgy** at St. George 6 pm  
April 4       **Preparation of Gifts, Raising of Lazarus Liturgy** at St. Mary Magdalene 9:30 am

### Bright Week (April 12-18)

- April 13      **Paschal Divine Liturgy** at St. Mary Magdalene 10 am  
April 14      **Paschal Divine Liturgy** at St. Nicholas 10 am  
April 15      **Paschal Divine Liturgy** at St. George 6 pm  
April 17      **Paschal Divine Liturgy for the Life-giving Font** at Assumption 10 am

*Member Churches of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in North America  
A Vision of Orthodox Unity*

**Assumption Ladies Philoptochos Society**  
**Annual Pascha Tsoureki Sale**



**\$ 10.00 Each**



**DEADLINE FOR ORDERS IS:**  
**March 29, 2026**

**Annual Pascha Tsoureki Sale**

**DEADLINE: March 29, 2026**

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE #:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ALTERNATE PHONE #:** \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL # BREADS ORDERED** \_\_\_\_\_ **@\$ 10.00 Each**

**Total Owed \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:**

**PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY**

**Send Checks To:**

**Assumption Greek Orthodox Church, 2245 E. Baldwin Rd.,  
Grand Blanc, MI 48439**

## SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINE PREPARES A CHRISTIAN

**N**umerous times in the Bible, our Christian Life is compared to a **RACE**. Each year we run another leg of the journey; each year brings us closer to our goal of the Lord's Kingdom. All "runners" long to win but what do we actually need to do to accomplish this?

Since our goal is salvation, we need **DISCIPLINE**. Just think of the astronauts that have "The Right Stuff." They are chosen carefully and go through rigorous training, all to become disciplined. Likewise, believers must be disciplined. This should be evident in our devotional life and in everything we think, say and do. Physically and morally, we need to achieve self control. Strive to be temperate in all things. Ultimately, we must be guided by the Holy Spirit and not by the flesh.

We also need **DIRECTION**. In Philippians 3:13-14, we are instructed to "forget things that are behind." Leave your past behind, forgetting old wrongs. We cannot win by looking back. "Reach forth" to seize opportunities to serve Christ. Stretch forward with anticipation, eagerly welcoming all the spiritual challenges that await us. We should "keep pressing toward the goal." Make the best use of your time and talent in service to the glory of God. Live life with eternal rewards in mind.

We do want to be dressed correctly for this race. Lay aside your earthly cares. Extra weight will only slow you down. Be willing to lose the unnecessary weights that may be hindering your progress. Remember that it will all be worth it, when we finally reside with our Saviour.

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

### Reader Schedule

MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE
1 Dena Altheide	5 John Kaloydis	3 Debra Chinonis	7 Stella Thurkill
8 John Kaloydis	12 Stella Thurkill	10 John Costa	14 Cathy Yeotis
15 Debra Chinonis	19 Cathy Yeotis	17 Aleko Douros	21 Dena Altheide
22 Aleko Douros	26 Dena Altheide	24 Nick Kallis	28 Debra Chinonis
29 Nick Kallis		31 John Kaloydis	