



Palm Sunday

April 5, 2026— Palm Sunday

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

Parish Administrator Email: 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; Henry Wartella; Yianna Welch

Today's Reader: John Kaloydis

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 April 5, 2026

PALM SUNDAY (ENTRY OF THE LORD INTO JERUSALEM)

Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the Highest!

ASSUMPTION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH HOLY WEEK AND PASCHA 2026

APRIL 4	LAZARUS SATURDAY	Preparation of the Gifts and Commemoration of the Raising of Lazarus	Pan-Orthodox Divine Liturgy at St. Mary Magdalene, Fenton	9:30 AM
APRIL 5	PALM SUNDAY	Entrance of Jesus Christ into Jerusalem	Divine Liturgy	10:00 am
		Joseph, Son of Jacob (Book of Genesis)	First Bridegroom Service	6:00 PM
APRIL 6	GREAT AND HOLY MONDAY	Parable of the Ten Virgins	Second Bridegroom Service	6:00 PM
APRIL 7	GREAT AND HOLY TUESDAY	Anointing of Jesus Christ with Myrrh	Third Bridegroom Service	6:00 PM
APRIL 8	GREAT AND HOLY WEDNESDAY	Healing Sacrament of the Church	Service of Holy Unction	6:00 PM
APRIL 9	GREAT AND HOLY THURSDAY	The Last Supper: The Institution of the Eucharist	Vespereal Divine Liturgy	9:00 AM
		Passion of Jesus Christ: The Twelve Gospels	Service of the Crucifixion	6:00 PM
APRIL 10	GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY	Standing at the Foot of the Cross of Jesus Christ	Service of the Royal Hours	9:00 AM
		Removal of Jesus Christ from the Cross	Service of the Descent from the Cross	2:00 PM
		Candlelight Funeral Service for Jesus Christ	Lamentations Service	7:00 PM
APRIL 11	GREAT AND HOLY SATURDAY	Jesus Christ's Victory Over Death	Pre-Resurrection Vespereal Divine Liturgy	10:00 AM
		Anticipation of the Resurrection	Vigil of the Holy Resurrection	11:00 PM
		The Holy Resurrection of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ	Service of the Holy Resurrection and the Paschal Divine Liturgy	MIDNIGHT
APRIL 12	GREAT AND HOLY PASCHA	Proclaiming the Gospel in Multiple Languages	Agape Vespers	11:00 AM

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. Philoptochos Meeting (TENTATIVE):** Friday, April 17th at 1:00 PM
- 3. Daughters of Penelope Meeting:** Sunday, April 26th at Noon
- 4. Spring General Assembly Meeting:** Sunday, May 3rd after Liturgy
- 5. Detroit Greek Independence Day Parade:** Sunday, May 3rd at 3:00 PM
- 6. 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!!**
- 7. 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.

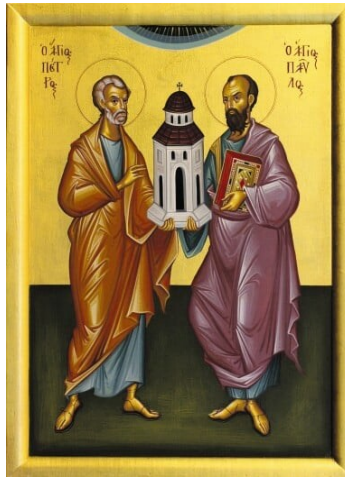
Reader: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Verse: Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good. His mercy endures forever.

Priest: Wisdom

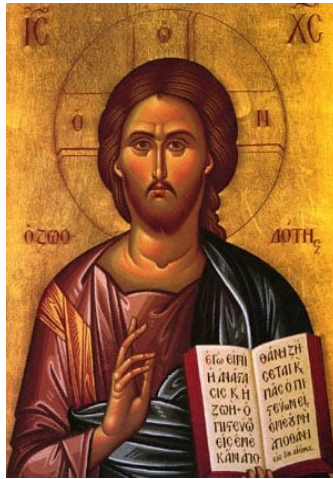
Reader: The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Philippians 4:4-9

Priest: Let us be attentive.



BRETHREN, rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let all men know your forbearance. The Lord is at hand. Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, do; and the God of peace will be with you.

The Gospel According to John 12:1-18



Six days before Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. There they made him a supper; Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at table with him. Mary took a pound of costly ointment of pure nard and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair; and the house was filled with the fragrance of the ointment. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (he who was to betray him), said "Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" This he said, not that he cared for the poor but because he was a thief, and as he had the money box he used to take what was put into it. Jesus said, "Let her alone, let her keep it for the day of my burial. The poor you always have with you, but you do not always have me."

When the great crowd of the Jews learned that he was there, they came, not only on account of Jesus but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. So the chief priests planned to put Lazarus also to death, because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and believing in Jesus.

The next day a great crowd who had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!" And Jesus found a young donkey and sat upon it; as it is written, "Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!" His disciples did not understand this at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that this had been written of him and had been done to him. The crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead bore witness. The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign.

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*

2026 PASCHA ITEMS NEEDED

<u>Service/Flower Item</u>	2026 Suggested Donation	Donor
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	Donated
Nymphios Icon Flowers	\$ 70.00	
Nymphios Icon Flowers	\$ 70.00	
Oil for Holy Unction Service	\$ 20.00	Donated
Cotton Swabs for Holy Unction Service	\$ 10.00	Donated
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	Donated
Resurrection Icon Flowers 2nd	\$ 70.00	Donated
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	Donated
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	Donated
Gardenias (12 total)	\$ 275.00	
Life Giving Font Icon Flower	\$ 70.00	

ANNOUNCEMENT



OUR ASSUMPTION CONNECTION IS GOING DIGITAL

- BEGINNING IN JULY 2026 YOU WILL RECEIVE YOUR ASSUMPTION CONNECTION ELECTRONICALLY
- AS ALWAYS, ALL ASSUMPTION CONNECTIONS ARE AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.ASSUMPTIONGRANDBLANC.ORG
- IF YOU DO NOT ALREADY RECEIVE OUR EMAIL ANNOUNCEMENTS, WE DO NOT HAVE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS. PLEASE UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION WITH THE OFFICE.
- IF YOU DO NOT HAVE EMAIL AND WOULD LIKE TO STILL RECEIVE A NEWSLETTER VIA MAIL PLEASE LET THE OFFICE KNOW

FLINT AHEPA-DAUGHTERS
SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION
SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

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 #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. Scholarship Applications are also available at the church office.

HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST



Jerusalem was buzzing with excitement that first Palm Sunday. Word from Bethany concerning the miraculous raising of Lazarus from his grave of four days had already reached the ears of the townspeople. Eagerly they awaited the arrival of Jesus, and when He entered the city, seated on a donkey like the rulers of antiquity, their enthusiasm and excitement could not be contained. Palms and branches were spread out in His path. Cries of "Hosanna in the Highest" echoed in the warm Spring air. The King had come!

However, public sentiment in Jerusalem would quickly change. Within days, shouts of "Crucify Him" replaced their words of praise. The branches used for adulation were replaced by the "Tree of the Cross." The Jews were not ready to follow and support a Leader Who would proclaim that "His Kingdom was not of this world!"

As Orthodox Christians, it is essential that we recognize Christ for what He truly is: **THE SON OF GOD, WHO HAS COME TO SAVE THE WORLD.** This is why we worship Him and acknowledge His blessedness.

The Troparion for this Feast Day profoundly describes the anticipation we experience as we prepare for Pascha: "O Christ God, You confirmed the Resurrection of all before the time of Your passion by raising Lazarus from the dead. Therefore, we as the children of Israel carry the symbols of victory and cry out to You, the Conqueror of Death: "Hosanna in the Highest." Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord."

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

Reader Schedule

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