



The Epistle

Volume 15, Issue 2

FEBRUARY 2025

**ASSUMPTION of the
Blessed Virgin Mary Greek
Orthodox Church**
518 N. 5th Avenue
PO Box 4567
Pocatello, ID 83205
(208) 232-5519

WEBSITE
assumptionpocatello.net

EMAIL
assumptiongochurch@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/
greekorthodoxchurchpocatello

CLERGY
Fr. Constantine A. Zozos
805-570-6525

PARISH COUNCIL
Tressa Rockwood-President
Gregory Painter - V. President
Dave Harmer-Treasurer
Goldie Homan-Secretary
Vicky Fullmer, Vivian Close
Anthony Hoskin, Tom Hugie,
Kade Schmalz, Ron Sims
Jacque Swanson

IN THIS ISSUE	
Father's Message	p1
Service Schedule.....	p2
Agape Fellowship.....	p3
-Presentation of the Lord	
Saturday of Souls Form.....	p4
Prayer Requests	
Sat. Day of Souls Explanation	p5
Journey to Pascha Calendar...	p6
Pre-Lent Sundays.....	p7
2025 Parish Council Oath.....	p8
- Ladies Philoptochos Drive	
Successful Vasilopita	p9
-Vasilopita Photos	
-2025 Stewardship Card.....	p10
2025 Parish Stewards.....	p11
-Online Giving	
Desert Father Saying.....	p12

Dear Faithful,

As Orthodox Christians, we are called to follow Christ not just in belief but in action—living out our faith in our daily lives, in our relationships, and in our interactions with the world. But what does this “Orthodox way of life” truly mean? How can we live in a way that reflects the love, truth, and light of Christ? The following are some principles and practices that should shape our Orthodox life.

At the heart of the Orthodox Christian way of life is Christ Himself. He is the beginning and the end, the source of all life and salvation. To live an Orthodox life means to place Christ at the center of all that we do—our thoughts, actions, and decisions. The Apostle Paul tells us in Colossians 3:17: “Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”

Living an Orthodox life is not about following a set of rules in a legalistic way, but about a relationship with Christ. We are called to seek Him daily, to know Him, and to imitate Him. Our relationship with Christ is nurtured primarily through the Sacraments, prayer, and Scripture.

One of the most essential aspects of the Orthodox way of life is a life of constant prayer. We begin each day by offering ourselves to God, asking Him to guide our steps. Prayer is not limited to the formal prayers of the Church, but should extend into our daily activities, as we seek God’s presence in every moment. To live an Orthodox life is to follow the way of the Cross. Christ Himself said, “If anyone would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me” (Luke 9:23). The Orthodox way of life is not one of comfort or self-indulgence, but one of self-sacrifice, humility, and service to others.

The Cross symbolizes our willingness to die to our own desires, to lay aside our selfishness, and to live for God and our neighbor. Fasting and self-denial are inte-



gral to this process, as they help us to overcome the passions that bind us to the world and to focus more fully on God.

Fasting is not just about abstaining from food, but about simplifying our lives, making room for prayer, repentance, and love. The Church’s fasting periods—such as Great Lent—remind us of the spiritual struggle and discipline required to truly live as Christians. Through fasting, we participate in the sufferings of Christ and learn to share in His victory over sin and death.

The Orthodox way of life is centered on hope in the Resurrection. As Orthodox Christians, we are not merely walking a path of discipline or moral improvement, but are living in anticipation of eternal life with God. Everything we do in this life—our prayer, our fasting, our acts of charity—are rooted in the belief that Christ has conquered sin and death, and that through Him, we too will rise.

The Resurrection of Christ is the ultimate hope of the Orthodox Christian, and it is this hope that sustains us through trials and challenges. Even in the midst of suffering, we know that Christ is with us and that the promise of eternal life is sure.

Let us strive, then, to live out our faith not only in words but in deeds, transforming every part of our lives into an offering to God. May the grace of the Holy Spirit guide us on this journey, and may we always keep our eyes fixed on Christ, the source of our salvation.

+Father Constantine

DIVINE SERVICES MONTH OF FEBRUARY

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

ORTHROS, 9AM, DIVINE LITURGY 10AM

VOLUNTEERS MONTH OF FEBRUARY

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2ND

Orthros & Epistle Reader - Gregory Painter

Ushers - Sophie McCurry, Tom Hugie

Prophoron - Sophie McCurry

Fellowship Host: Seth & Brooke Harris

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9TH

Orthros Reader - John Speck

Epistle Reader - Alex Tarasau

Ushers - Goldie Homan, Kade Schmalz

Prophoron - Candice Apostle

Agape Fellowship - Anne Marie Schulze, Elaine Papapavlos

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16TH

Orthros & Epistle Reader - Steven Swanson

Ushers - Dave Harmer, Tony Hoskin

Prophoron - Hala Abou Arraj

Agape Fellowship - Andrew Herne, Jacob Denton, Evan Myers

Saturday, February 22nd

Saturday of the Souls Divine Liturgy

Begins at 10am followed by Memorial Service
(complete Memorial Slip with names to be Remembered on Page 8)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23RD

Orthros & Epistle Reader - Gregory Painter

Ushers - Jacque Swanson, Ron Sims

Prophoron - Sophie McCurry

Agape Fellowship - Host Needed

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

PARISH

LENTEN RETREAT

MARCH 14th, 15th, 16th

(Retreat venue at our church)

with

His Eminence

Metropolitan

Constantine of Denver

&

Father Anthony Savas

Saint Anna

Greek Orthodox Church



Sponsored by the

Assumption Greek Orthodox Church,

&

Saint Anna Greek Orthodox Church,

Sandy, UT

MINISTRY SCHEDULE MONTH OF FEBRUARY

- **ORTHODOX CATECHISM CLASS:** *In person or Zoom, Tuesdays Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25, at 5PM*
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87525594697?pwd=TlIKV2pkcmFTdStza0RLMXkvNC9ydz09>
Zoom Invite: Meeting ID: 875 2559 4697, Passcode: 477296
- **BIBLE STUDY GROUP:** *Tuesdays, Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25, at 6:00pm*
In person or Zoom (use Zoom address above)
- ♦ **LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS MEETING:** *Sunday, February 2nd, in the Conference Room*
- ♦ **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:** *Sunday, February 16th in the Conference Room*



AGAPE FELLOWSHIP –YOUR LOVE IS NEEDED!

Dear Faithful,

One of the qualities of a healthy parish is that parishioners get to know one another. We do not simply appear and disappear at services. At Assumption each Sunday after Divine Liturgy, we meet and share food and fellowship. This is a time to get caught up with one another and share our lives in a more intimate way so that we can bear each other's burdens and thus fulfill the wish of Christ. This is also an opportunity to meet and to visit with our parish visitors and answer any questions that they may have about Holy Orthodoxy.

- **You can either host a fellowship as a single family or host with another family (since our parish has grown). Since our parish has grown, I would like TWO FAMILIES to sign up for each Agape Fellowship. In this way, the expense and effort are shared. Fellowship can be either a lunch or a snack.**

- **HERE ARE SOME IDEAS:**

- **Lunch Main Dishes (along with side dishes, salad, and dessert, if you wish):**

- **Non-fasting:** Soup, Chili, Sandwiches, Sloppy Joes, Hot Dogs, Corn Dogs, Tuna Salad, Tacos, Pizza

- **Fasting: (no meat, fish, or dairy):** Soups (lentil, vegetable, chick pea, bean), Main dish salads (shrimp, orzo, Greek potato salad), Vegetable trays, Peanut Butter Sandwiches

- **Snacks:**

- **Non-fasting:** Doughnuts, Pies, Muffins, Cookies, Bagels and cream cheese, Coffee Cakes, Quick Breads (banana, pumpkin, etc.), Cheese and Crackers, Fruit, Vegetable Tray

- **Fasting:** (no meat, fish or dairy) Soups Bagels, w/jams or jellies, Fruit Pies (Sam's Club or Costco), Fruit, Lenten cookies or cakes (recipes in Philoptochos cookbook or online), Graham Crackers, Lotus Biscoff Cookies, Vegetable Tray (no Ranch dip)

The Parish furnishes the coffee, paper plates, napkins, and utensils. Prepare to serve around 70-75, which includes adults and children.

Duties include the following: Make coffee and set out sugar and creamer, set out water and soft drinks, serve food. After Fellowship, wash any pots, pans, or serving trays used, wipe trays, wipe surface of serving area, all tables, and sweep the floor. Empty trash bins, into green trash receptacle by the carport and place on the street.

- **TO HELP DEFRAY THE CHURCH FELLOWSHIP EXPENSES, WE ASK THAT AS YOU APPROACH THE FOOD-LINE TO PLEASE CONSIDER A DONATION.**

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me or **Goldie Homan at (208) 643-3031.**

Thank you for helping with this important ministry. +Father Constantine

PRESENTATION OF THE LORD IN THE TEMPLE-

FEBRUARY 2ND.



The custom of presenting a child to God forty days after its birth is one of the most ancient feasts of the Christian Church. It was started by St. John the Baptist's father, Zacharias, was the temple priest at this time. A righteous man named Symeon also lived in Jerusalem.

The Holy Spirit told him he would not see death until he beheld Christ the Savior. It was revealed to him to go to the temple at the very moment that the blessed Virgin Mary and Righteous Joseph brought the Infant Jesus. Symeon responded, "Lord, now let Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation (Luke 2:29-30)." According to tradition, he was about 360 year. Then Anna, who was a prophetess and widow of about eighty-four years of age, saw Jesus, "And coming in that instant she gave thanks to the Lord, and spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem (Luke 2:38)." Soon after, an angel

**REMEMBERING OUR LOVED ONES
SATURDAY OF THE SOULS DIVINE LITURGY**

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22ND, MARCH 1ST, 8TH AT 10:00AM

The parish will celebrate the Saturday of the Souls Liturgy Service. Please submit to Fr Constantine the names of those you wish to be remembered during the special memorial service on the Saturday of the Souls Liturgy.

(use commemorative form, one slip for all three Memorial Saturdays)

SATURDAY OF THE SOULS COMMEMORATIVE FORM

Saturday, February 22nd, March 1st, 8th at 10:00am

(print first name only)

PRAYER REQUESTS

(PLACE BY YOUR HOME PRAYER CORNER)

Please offer names (first name only) to Father Constantine of those who are suffering from illnesses or challenges in life so they can be included in our prayers during the divine services. The prayer list will be published in The Epistle Newsletter monthly and the Sunday Herald so that our parishioners can include the names in their personal prayers as well. Contact Father Constantine (805) 570-6525 to submit your names.

PRAYER FOR THE SICK



Heavenly Father, physician of our souls and bodies, who sent Your only begotten Son and Lord Jesus Christ to heal every sickness and infirmity, visit and heal also your servants: servants: *Stella, Venetia, Larisa, Rebecca, Jon, Gary, Ahmad, Jason, Tommy, John, Natalia, Svitlana, Ivanna, James, Pam, Christoforos, Hosea, Gus, Richard, Jeanne, Sotirios, Fr. Achilles, Kathy, Mary Frances, Lavada, Steven, Alicia, Christopher, Barbara, Georgia, Vlasios, Vivian, Thomas, Sienna, James, Casi, Jim, Scarlett, Zachary, Sara, Martha, Anna, Kieran, Valentin, Valentina, Rose Mary, Patricia, Sotirios, Anthony, Maria, Michael, Krista, John, Bobby, Eric, George, Martin, Gayle, Alicia, Dianna, Chelsea, Dell, Gregory, Dimitri, Oleg, Tania, Ocey, Ethel, Carol, Robert, Casi, Jack, Carol, Roger, Anna, Steve, Christopher, Freda, Larry, Maria, Judy, Ignatius, Elaine, George, Barbara, Nicholas, Matthew, Jeff, Jacqueline, Dianna, Alton, Anna, Larry, Paula, Stacey, Orestes, Helen, Catherine, Andrew, Mary, Steve, Nicholas, Scarlett, Marie, Demetrios, George, Melissa, Galina, Sofia, Cheryl, Christ, Carolyn, Paul, Mary, Nick, John, Elaine, Nicholas* from all physical and spiritual ailments through the grace of Your Christ. Grant them patience in this sickness, strength of body and spirit and recovery of health. Lord You have taught us through Your Word to pray for each other that we may be healed. I pray that You heal these, Your servants, and grant to them the gift of complete health. For You are the source of healing and to You I give glory. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.





THE SATURDAY OF THE SOULS-WHY WE OFFER PRAYERS FOR THOSE WHO HAVE FALLEN ASLEEP

In Orthodoxy, the Saturday of the Souls is a day specifically set aside for praying for the souls of the departed. It occurs multiple times during the year, with the most prominent being the Saturdays before Meatfare Sunday (the last Sunday before Lent) followed by two additional Saturdays, Pentecost, and during certain other times like the Saturday before the Feast of All Saints. The custom stems from the Church's understanding of the importance of praying for the dead, a practice that has deep biblical and theological roots.

- 1. Theological Significance:** Orthodox Christians believe in the communion of saints, meaning that all members of the Church—whether living or deceased—are united in Christ. Praying for the dead is an expression of love and solidarity within this communion. The Church teaches that the prayers of the living can benefit the souls of the departed, helping them in their journey through the afterlife.
- 2. The Role of the Church:** The prayers offered on Saturdays of the Souls are intercessory. The Church believes that these prayers can aid the departed souls, especially those who may be undergoing purification in the afterlife. The focus is often on the hope that the deceased will be granted peace, rest, and salvation, moving closer to God.
- 3. Timing and Tradition:** Saturday is traditionally a day of remembrance for the dead in Orthodox tradition, as it is the day of Christ's descent into Hades to release the souls of the righteous. This connection to Christ's victory over death makes Saturday an appropriate day to remember those who have **fallen asleep** (a term used in Orthodox Christianity to describe death).

In essence, the Saturday of the Souls is an opportunity for Orthodox Christians to remember and pray for their loved ones, acknowledging that even in death, the bond between the living and the departed remains strong through Christ. These prayers reflect the Church's belief in the need for ongoing care for the souls of those who have passed, as well as its understanding of the spiritual realities of life beyond death.



The Lenten Prayer of St. Ephrem the Syrian

+ O Lord and Master of my life. +Take from me the spirit of sloth, despair, lust of power and idle talk. +But give rather the spirit of chastity, humility, patience and love to Thy servant, +Yea, O Lord and King! Grant me to see my own transgressions and not to judge my Brother; for Blessed art Thou, unto ages of ages. Amen.

OUR JOURNEY TO PASCHA! 2025

Created by Fr. Jonathan Bannon (ACROD)

SUNDAYS		THEMES / GOSPEL READING	HOW TO PARTICIPATE:
Fast - Free Week FEBRUARY 9th		TRIODION WEEKS Publican and the Pharisee Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10-15 Gospel: Luke 18:10-14	Show compassion on the poor and distressed. Trust in God, not yourself and ask for His help before every task this week.
Normal Fast Week FEBRUARY 16th		The Prodigal Son Returns! Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 Gospel: Luke 15:11-32	Schedule a Confession. Every morning say, "Today I will be humble." Use up/freeze meats this week.
Meatfare FEBRUARY 23rd FAREWELL TO MEAT TODAY		The Last Judgement Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2 Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46	Pray facing East this week. Christ is returning from the East and we wait for Him! Use up/freeze dairy this week.
Cheesefare MARCH 2nd FAREWELL TO CHEESE TODAY		Adam and Eve are cast from Paradise! FORGIVENESS SUNDAY Epistle: Romans 13:11-14:4 Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21	Ask each other for forgiveness each evening this week before bed.
1st Sunday of Lent MARCH 9th		GREAT LENT BEGINS WITH FORGIVENESS VESPERS SUNDAY of ORTHODOXY Epistle: Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2 Gospel: John 1:43-51	Bring an icon to church for a procession.
2nd Sunday of Lent MARCH 16th		ST GREGORY PALAMAS Epistle: Hebrews 1:10-2:3 Gospel: Mark 2:1-12	Bring a prayer rope to be blessed today! Use it and pray the Jesus Prayer each day this week.
3rd Sunday of Lent MARCH 23rd		VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS HALF WAY TO PASCHA! Epistle: Hebrews 4:14-5:6 Gospel: Mark 8:34-9:1	Wear your cross to church and kiss the cross each morning with a bow!
4th Sunday of Lent MARCH 30th		ST JOHN of the LADDER Epistle: Hebrews 6:13-20 Gospel: Mark 9:17-31	Every time you climb stairs this week ask St. John to help you reach Paradise with the sign of the cross!
5th Sunday of Lent APRIL 6th		ST MARY of EGYPT Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-14 Gospel: Mark 10:32-45	Ask the Theotokos to offer you and the world pure thoughts and ideas this week.
FLOWERY (PALM) SUNDAY! APRIL 13th GREAT WEEK BEGINS		GREAT AND HOLY WEEK ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9 Gospel: John 12:1-18	Place your palm branches and pussywillows behind an icon at home and in your car!
GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY APRIL 18th		GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS CHECK WITH YOUR PARISH FOR ROYAL HOURS AND VESPERS SCHEDULE	Refrain from TV, Internet & Phones to honor Christ's Death.
FEAST OF FEASTS! APRIL 20th NO FASTING!		BRIGHT WEEK HOLY PASCHA! (CHRIST IS RISEN!) Epistle: Acts 1:1-8 Gospel: John 1:1-17	Greet everyone with "CHRIST IS RISEN!" & say it before good morning and goodnight!

Preparing for Holy Week, the Crucifixion, and Pascha

As we journey through the weeks leading up to Great Lent, the Church, in her wisdom, offers us a series of preparatory Sundays, each with its own profound message and spiritual theme. These Sundays, known as the Pre-Lenten Sundays, are designed to prepare our hearts, minds, and souls for the great journey of repentance, renewal, and transformation that will lead us through Lent, the Passion of Christ, and ultimately to the glorious celebration of Pascha, the Resurrection.

Let us reflect briefly on each of these Sundays and how they serve to orient us toward the central events of our Orthodox Christian faith — the Passion of Christ and His Resurrection.

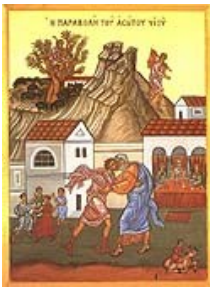
1. The Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee



This Sunday introduces us to the fundamental theme of repentance. In the Gospel of Luke (18:10-14), we hear the parable of the Publican and the Pharisee. The Pharisee, full of self-righteousness, prays to God boasting of his virtues, while the Publican, aware of his sinfulness, humbly beats his chest and pleads for mercy. The parable teaches us that true repentance comes from humility, not from self-promotion or pride.

As we approach Lent, we are reminded that God does not look for outward perfection, but for a contrite and humble heart. The Church calls us to prepare ourselves spiritually by reflecting on our own sinfulness, confessing our sins, and turning toward God with sincerity. This Sunday teaches us to approach Lent not as an opportunity for outward display, but as a time for deep, personal humility, and self-examination.

2. The Sunday of the Prodigal Son



The second Pre-Lenten Sunday brings us to one of the most beloved parables in the Gospel — the Parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32). This powerful story of a wayward son, who squanders his inheritance in reckless living but is welcomed home by his father with open arms, speaks to the infinite mercy and love of God. The Prodigal Son's return is a beautiful image of repentance: the recognition of one's waywardness, the sorrow for one's sins, and the return to the Father's embrace.

This Sunday calls us to remember that no matter how far we may have strayed from God, He is always ready to forgive and welcome us back. As we approach Lent, we are encouraged to recognize the depth of God's mercy and to take the first steps of our own return to Him. It reminds us that repentance is not just about sorrow but also about the joy of reconciliation with the Father. During Lent, we will be called to make our own return to God, and this Sunday gives us the assurance that God's arms are always open to receive us.

3. The Sunday of the Last Judgment (Meatfare Sunday)



On this Sunday, we focus on the Final Judgment, as described in Matthew 25:31-46.

Christ, as the King, separates the righteous from the unrighteous, judging them not based on external religiosity but on their acts of mercy: feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, visiting the sick, and welcoming the stranger. This Gospel passage serves as a sober reminder that our salvation is not a matter of empty ritual or lip service, but of how we live out our faith in daily acts of love and service to others. As we stand at the threshold of Great Lent, this Sunday calls us to examine the practical outworking of our faith. Are we living lives of compassion and mercy? Do we care for those in need, especially the

poor, the sick, and the marginalized? This Sunday asks us to prepare for Lent by considering how we might align our lives more closely with Christ's commandments, so that our hearts are ready for repentance and transformation. It reminds us that how we treat others is how we ultimately treat Christ, and that our judgment will be based on these very actions.

4. The Sunday of Forgiveness (Cheesefare Sunday)

The last Sunday before Lent, known as Cheesefare Sunday, is dedicated to the theme of forgiveness. The Gospel reading (Matthew 6:14-21) calls us to forgive others if we expect to be forgiven by God. Christ teaches us that our relationships with others are integral to our relationship with Him. If we are to enter into the intense work of repentance that Lent demands, we must first forgive those who have wronged us, just as we seek God's forgiveness for our own sins.

On this day, the Church invites us to approach one another with humility, asking for forgiveness and offering forgiveness in return.

2025 PARISH COUNCIL OATH OF OFFICE



On Sunday, January 19th, the 2025 Parish Council Members received their Oath of Office. Following the Oath of Office, the Council selected their officers for the year. They are as follows: **Tressa Rockwood, President; Gregory Painter, Vice President; Dave Harmer, Treasure; Goldie Homan, Secretary.** The additional members of the Council include: **Vicky Fullmer, Vivian Close, Anthony Hoskin, Kade Schmalz, and Ron Sims.**

(not pictured) **Tressa Rockwood, Tom Hugie, Vivian Close, and Jacque Swanson.** We congratulate and wish them strength in their leadership capacity and may our Lord shower them with His blessings.

2025 LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS MEMBERSHIP DRIVE



As we begin the New Year, 2025, with hope, faith, and renewed enthusiasm toward the Philoptochos mission to minister to the underprivileged, **we want to invite women of all ages to join the Assumption Ladies Philoptochos Society.**

Being a member of Philoptochos means being a part of something greater than yourself, it means making the world a better place. It is our tradition of philanthropy, our living and practicing the Orthodox faith, which enables and encourages us to serve with compassion, dignity, and respect. The Philoptochos has also supported all the major projects of our parish community. They are willing and ready to assist when called upon.

It is now the time to invite you to offer your talents to our mission. It is now the time to embrace your ideas of compassion for our fellow man. It is now the time to involve yourself by offering your talents and ideas for the betterment of our community. Come join us!

Yearly we ask for a Free-will Stewardship Offering to support our local chapter of the Ladies Philoptochos. We hope that you will consider any supportive offering

Please mail checks payable to **Ladies Philoptochos to PO Box 4567, Pocatello, Idaho 83205.** You may also drop your Offering at the Candle Stand in a sealed envelope. The Philoptochos Stewardship Offering is due no later than **February 23rd.** God bless you!

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." -Helen Keller

CUTTING OF THE VASILOPITA/BLESSING A HUGE SUCCESS

One of the most beautiful and inspiring traditions and customs of the Orthodox Church is the observance of the Blessing of the Vasilopita. The annual observance, took place on Sunday, January 12th. The Vasilopita was cut with pieces being distributed to Parish Ministry Leadership and all those in attendance. Of course everyone was anxious to see who would receive the Blessed Coin. The two large parish Vasilopita were baked by Stella Gdontakis. **Bradon Black, Kathy Harris and Rykker DeNeef** received the Vasilopita coins with blessings for the year.

The **Annual Ladies Philoptochos Auction** of baked Vasilopitas by parishioners to raise funds for the St. Basil Academy took place in the Social Hall during Fellowship.

Much appreciation to the following who baked a Vasilopita for the Auction: **Goldie Homan, Poppy Short, Jeff Short, Annie Semons, Stella Gdontakis (2), Olenda Painter, Ashley Tarasau (2), and Elaine Papapavlos**. The following parishioners won a Vasilopita through their relentless bidding, they included: **Phil Homan, Steve Swanson, Nikko Yanase, Anna Workman, Ailaine Carroll, John Harris, Maria Swore, and Terri Owens**. Additional donations were made by **Anna Workman, Tony & Svitlana Hoskin, Heidi Linehan, and Filio Paloukos**.

Through the generosity of those who bid on the ten Vasilopitas and those who made outright donations there was a **Grand Total of \$4,000!!!** The best ever! Thank You and may our Heavenly Lord bless you.





**2025 STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE CARD
LOVE THE LORD OUR GOD!**

We humbly ask that you offer a Pledge with an open and sincere heart to our Heavenly Lord through our beloved Church, The Assumption of the Blessed Theotokos.



ASSUMPTION CHURCH CONFIDENTIAL PLEDGE AND FAMILY INFORMATION FORM

Please complete both sides and return this form to the Church Office

TREASURE:

IN GRATITUDE FOR GOD'S BLESSINGS, I/WE COMMIT TO CHRIST AND HIS CHURCH THE FOLLOWING **PLEDGED AMOUNT FOR 2025 \$_____**

Family Name: _____

Address: _____ **City:** _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Hm Telephone: _____

	Member	Spouse	Children Age
Name:	_____	_____	_____ / _____

Cell/Mobile:	_____	_____	_____ / _____
---------------------	-------	-------	---------------

E-mail:	_____	_____	_____ / _____
----------------	-------	-------	---------------

Occupation:	_____	_____	_____ / _____
--------------------	-------	-------	---------------

MAIL TO: ASSUMPTION GOC, PO BOX 4567, POCA TELLO, IDAHO 83205

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME FOR ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING MINISTRIES

PLEASE COMPLETE THE FORM

ASSUMPTION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH CONFIDENTIAL FAMILY INFORMATION FORM

FAMILY NAME: _____

LITURGICAL

- ☐ Sanctuary & Altar Care
- ☐ Altar boys / Acolytes
- ☐ Baking Prosfhora
- ☐ Choir
- ☐ Reader
- ☐ Greeter/Usher

EDUCATION

- ☐ Bible Study
- ☐ Intro to Orthodoxy
- ☐ Bookstore

COMMUNICATIONS

- ☐ Website
- ☐ Bulletin & Newsletter
- ☐ Public Relations

YOUTH

- ☐ Church School Teacher
- ☐ Church School Administration

- ☐ Youth Leader
- ☐ Vacation Church School

PHILANTHROPIC MINISTRY

- ☐ Ladies Philoptochos Ministry

MINISTRIES & PROGRAMS

- ☐ Welcome Team
- ☐ Stewardship
- ☐ Sunday Agape Fellowship
- ☐ Visitation – Shut-ins
- ☐ Seniors Ministry
- ☐ Couples Ministry
- ☐ Singles/young adults Ministry

FESTIVAL

- ☐ Workshops
- ☐ Leadership

BUILDING & GROUNDS

- ☐ Garden & Landscape
- ☐ Plumbing
- ☐ Electrical
- ☐ Clean-up
- ☐ Interior Repairs
- ☐ Exterior Repairs
- ☐ Roofing

ADMINISTRATION

- ☐ Development / Fund-raising
- ☐ Office help
- ☐ Computer / Technical
- ☐ Data Entry

2025 ASSUMPTION STEWARDS AS OF JANUARY 23RD

If you have given toward Stewardship and your name does not appear on the list please contact:

+Fr Constantine or Tressa Rockwood, Stewardship Chair.

+Father Constantine Zozos
Brandon and Melissa Black
Afton and Jamie Carlson
John N. Christ
Clarence and Vivian Close
Jacob Denton
Hala and Ghassan Dib
Chris Drakos
Kenny and Kristina Dudunakis
Scott and Rebecca Eames
Angela Fullmer
Rocky and Vicky Fullmer
Nicholas and Stella Gdontakis
Lisa Gentry
Frank Grant
Botros and Monika Hanna
David and Jeanne Harmer
Seth and Brooke Harris
Goldie Homan
Philip Homan
Thomas and Tracey Hugie
Betty and George Katsilometes
James and Cora Ligori
Randall Lillie
Heidi Linehan
Dina Manolis
Sophie and Mitch McCurry
Nate and Samantha Mountain
Sam and Filio Paloukos
Terri Pliley Owen
Les and Helene Poulos-Edmo
Sergey & Catherine Rashkeev
Trisha and Colby Reddin
Yolanda Riech
Corrinthia Riedel
Scott and Tressa Rockwood
Kade and Devyn Schmalz
Ian & Chayla Schoenrock
Anne Marie Schulze
Ron and Kim Sims
Phil and Luann Spain
John and Lorre Speck
Nathan and Sophia Speck
Pamela & Gary Swan
Steven and Jacque Swanson
Tim and Maria Swore
Vadym Ustianskyi

ONLINE GIVING

The Assumption Greek Orthodox Church has an electronic option for making your stewardship payments and other regular and special offerings. If you have chosen to use the on-line system to auto-pay your annual stewardship donation to the church, here are some useful tips for managing your auto-payments:

- 1.) You can set up your stewardship, or any type of donation, to auto-pay recurring payments in either weekly, monthly, or quarterly installments.
- 2.) If you have chosen to auto-pay recurring payments, please remember to manage your recurring payments by turning them off at the end of the year, or giving period. You can then set up a new donation and frequency for each new year or period.
- 3.) Our online system will allow you to auto-pay many different types of donations.
- 4.) To turn a donation off, log into the Online Giving page, then click on the cogwheel icon to the right of "Choose a Payment Source." A window will appear from the right allowing you to cancel an existing recurring donation.

Contributions can now be: Debited automatically from your checking or savings account. (click ACH) .25cents fee. Or processed using your Credit or Debit card. (click Credit) 2.9% fee. If you use Credit/debit would you be so kind as to pay the fee. Just check the box.

Access our on-line giving portal on the Church website at:

<https://www.assumptionpocatello.net>

Or directly at: <http://assumptionpocatello.churchtrac.com/give>

Or by Scanning the following QR code into your cell phone.

(Questions contact
Tressa Rockwood 208-251-8105)



Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Greek Orthodox Church
518 N 5th Ave
PO BOX 4567
Pocatello, ID 83205
(208) 232-5519

Email: assumptiongochurch@gmail.com

Parish Organizations & Ministries

-Parish Council: Tressa Rockwood, President

-Philoptochos Society: Goldie Homan, Pres.

-Church School: Angela Fullmer, Ashly Tarasau, Kade & Devyn Schmalz

-Choir: Olenda Painter, Carrie Thienes

-Acolytes: Dean Harris

-Bible Study: Fr. Constantine Zozos

-Chanters: Olenda Painter, Carrie Thienes, Andrew Hearne

-Catechism Class: Fr. Constantine Zozos

-Orthros Readers: Gregory Painter, John Speck, Alex Tarasau, Steven Swanson

-Prosphoron: Sophie McCurry, Hala Abou Arraj, Candice Apostle

-Greek Festival: Tressa Rockwood, Phil Homan

-Youth Dance Group: Angela Fullmer,

-Agape Fellowship: Goldie Homan

-Live Stream: Alex Tarasau

-Zoom Coordinator: Tracey Hugie

+ St. Paisios of Mt. Athos

"Some people tell me that they are scandalized because they see many things wrong in the Church. I tell them that if you ask a fly, "Are there any flowers in this area?" it will say, "I don't know about flowers, but over there in that heap of rubbish you can find all the filth you want." And it will go on to list all the unclean things it has been to.

Now, if you ask a honeybee, "Have you seen any unclean things in this area?" it will reply, "Unclean things? No, I have not seen any; the place here is full of the most fragrant flowers." And it will go on to name all the flowers of the garden or the meadow.

You see, the fly only knows where the unclean things are, while the honeybee knows where the beautiful iris or hyacinth is.

As I have come to understand, some people resemble the honeybee and some resemble the fly. Those who resemble the fly seek to find evil in every circumstance and are preoccupied with it; they see no good anywhere. But those who resemble the honeybee only see the good in everything they see."



House Blessings



Youth Movie Matinee

