

THE ORTHODOX OASIS

CULTIVATING
THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT
encounter • embody • engage

ASSUMPTION
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

"Didn't make it to Greece last summer?"

GREEK

Assumption Greek Orthodox Church
8202 E. Cactus Rd, Scottsdale

STREET FAIR

MAY 20 | 4pm - 7pm (Glendi to follow)
and MAY 21 | 11:30 am - 2pm

Souvlaki | Sweets | More!



**Benefiting the youth of our
Greek Dance Ministry**

ASSUMPTION

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

CONTENTS

LETTER FROM FATHER Five Fruit of Pascha to Harvest	04
FEATURE ARTICLE Cultivating the Fruit of the Spirit	06
PARISH COUNCIL REPORT Stewardship	08
SNAPSHOTS Recently caught on camera	12
ENCOUNTER Chrismation	14
EMBODY Meet Alexis Sommerschild	16
ENGAGE Impact of the Camp Experience	18
KIDS PAGE Activities for the family	20
CALENDAR OF EVENTS Plan your schedule	21
BOOK SPOTLIGHT The Hidden Garden	22
MINISTRY DIRECTORY Find a way to plug in	23



21	T	W	T	F	S
	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12
14	15	16	17	18	19
21	22	23	24	25	26
28	29	30	31		
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11	12	13	14	15	16
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MAY-JUN CALENDARS



STAFF

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Rev. Fr. Jacob Saylor | frjacob@assumptionaz.org

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Office Hours | Monday 9 AM to 3 PM and Tuesday-Friday 10 AM to 2 PM

NOTE: Oasis submission deadlines are the 10th of the month prior to publication

THE FIVE FRUIT HARVESTED DURING THE 40 DAYS AFTER PASCHA

Christ is Risen! We know something extraordinary has just taken place and we find ourselves filled with gratitude, joy, and love. Elated, blessed, and resurrected, we leave Pascha and enter back into the world not quite sure how long the spiritual disciplines we have adopted and the spiritual progress we have made will last. Am I different at all? We are the building project of God. Year after year, we humbly submit ourselves to instruction and place our lives in the hands of God. We know that God is our Life and it takes a life-time of desiring to make Him our Life – this is the holy work Christians are called to engage. The purpose of Great Lent and Holy Week is the renewal of our life in Christ. Holy Week is meant to ignite the spark planted through our baptisms and show us what it is like to walk daily in the Grace and love of Christ given to us through His death and resurrection. Holy Week is a founding action for the City of God. We are now made faithful members of the New Jerusalem, the Kingdom of God – His holy Church on earth. Making Christ our King again, and coming to understand sin as an enemy that seeks to block our passage into that Kingdom, is the purpose of Holy Week.

For the next 40 days we find ourselves renewed and celebrating the rebirth of our faith given to us in Christ. The reason we have spent a great deal of energy cultivating virtue and learning

from our mistakes is so that we may live more fully in the Spirit of God. Now that the *work* of Christ on earth has come to completion, His very last promise was that His Holy Spirit would make its entrance into history in order to begin the work of the Church. The role and mission of the Holy Spirit in our lives is laid out before us through the six weeks between Pascha and Pentecost. This is how, as citizens of the Kingdom of God, the New Jerusalem, His Holy Church, we are called to live.

The First Harvested Fruit of Pascha Making New Disciples



The harvest of faith is producing new disciples by sharing the *Good News* with them. The experience of having seen the risen Christ leads Thomas to engage in the work of the Church; to go and baptize all nations in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

We have seen and we have believed so that we may become the eyes of faith for those who need “proof” of the resurrection of Christ.

- Can we each find one person to share the Good News of what we have just experienced with the prayer of them becoming the next new member of the body of Christ?
- To whom can I become the eyes of faith?
- Our Lord often brings new people who seek to join the Orthodox Church. When you see someone new on Sundays, reach out and welcome them; they may need a godparent and that might be you.

The Second Harvested Fruit of Pascha The Courageous Ministry of Women

The role of women in spreading the gospel becomes foundational for the life of the Church. The myrrh-bearing women become *apostles* to the apostles since they are the first to discover the empty tomb. These women, motivated by their deep love for Christ, seek to anoint His beaten and bloodied dead body. They have no hesitation, seeking nothing from Christ other than to care for Him. The ministry of servitude out of our love for Christ, whether it is an emotional, physical, or spiritual need, is championed by women; however, it is for everyone to participate. We are called to reach out to those who are suffering loss, illness, depression, loneliness, and death as if they are Christ Himself.

- Pay attention to those around you who are suffering and seek the courage to assist them.
- Pray to know what keeps us from loving Christ fully.
- Ask yourself, “Who is God calling me to serve?”

The Third Harvested Fruit of Pascha Becoming A Human Being

On the Sunday of the Paralytic, we hear “I have no human being” – Christ, the new Adam, and perfect human being frees him from his peril of lying in wait for 38 years. Mother Teresa wrote: “The biggest disease today is



not cancer or tuberculosis, but rather the feeling of being unwanted, uncared for, and deserted by everybody. The greatest evil is the lack of love and charity, the terrible indifference towards one’s neighbor who lives at the roadside, the victim of exploitation, corruption, poverty, and disease.” Orthodox Christians have just experienced in Holy Week how Christ Himself was indeed deserted by everyone and identifies Himself with all those who have experienced such trauma.

As renewed Christians, we become the ones who are called to care for and show concern towards those who have no person in their lives. In the liturgy, we are called to become *for* Christ in the world – His hands, His heart, His eyes, His ears – and to serve those in need. “For You, Lord, are the helper of the helpless, the hope of the hopeless, the savior of the afflicted, the haven of the voyager, and the physician of the sick.” (Liturgy of St. Basil)

- How aware are we of the feelings of those closest to us?
- Some people act in unfamiliar and peculiar ways around us and find it difficult to ‘fit in’ – Christ’s love in us moves us to receive them.
- How can we bring the love, care, and concern of Christ to those whom the world ignores?

The Fourth Harvested Fruit of Pascha Satisfying the Thirst for Truth in Others

The love of Christ is expressed towards the Samaritan woman (St. Photini) as His thirst and desire *for all to be saved and come to the*

knowledge of the truth. As renewed Christians filled with the joy and peace of Christ and having tasted at Pascha the radiance of the *New Jerusalem*, we want to share what we have received with everyone, especially those who may be spiritually blind and without a home. Evangelism is the mission of the Church and the desire to engage in it is continuously being fed through our participation in worship, so that we can conduct the *liturgy after the liturgy* in the world.

- Participating in worship in Spirit and Truth empowers the faithful to have a mind for evangelism. New spiritual disciplines established during Great Lent are vital to meaningful worship.
- *Religion* consists of blindly submitting oneself to various rules and regulations as ends in themselves. *Christianity* is practicing a living relationship with the person of Jesus Christ – the living God.

The Fifth Harvested Fruit of Pascha Humanity Receives Sight Again

The man born blind is healed by Christ (John 9) by taking earth and mixing His divine powers in His spittle. He re-creates the eyes of the man without sight. This is an image of God's final act of the re-creation of the human being in Christ. We have received illumination through Christ in our sharing in His death and resurrection. It is possible to know God, to see Him as He works in our own lives and in the lives of others. We have been given new spiritual insight that allows us to know God and shine His brilliance as renewed members of His Kingdom who humble themselves in service towards others.

In the Risen Christ's Love,

✠Fr. Andrew



CULTIVATING THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

When we moved into our house, our backyard was entirely covered in rocks. In fact, it probably was more of a quarry than a yard, but we saw a bunch of potential for what we could do. I mean, we're talking rocks, not just pebbles. **Rocks.**

Over the course of several back breaking months and with the help of a couple friends, we shoveled at least a couple tons worth of these little monsters into four enormous piles, clearing the ground for the possibility of laying sod in an attempt to beautify the space and provide room for our kids to play.

We also planted a few trees and built a raised garden bed because we loved the idea of growing our own food and enjoying the literal fruit of our labor.

BY CHRISTIAN GONZALEZ
DIRECTOR OF MINISTRIES

I'll never forget the joy that came from tasting that first peach, a peach that we grew ourselves... well, with God's help.

Of course, keeping a garden is a really difficult thing to do. You need to know the health of the soil, keep an eye on how much sun a plant gets, and ensure that it gets just the right amount of water; nothing is more demoralizing than enthusiastically over watering a plant.

But the whole point of tending the garden is to ensure that the plant is healthy, that it is given exactly the right conditions in which growing fruit is just what it does. Gardening is about

cultivating a *plant*; fruit is the byproduct.

Fruit is just what a healthy plant naturally produces.

As we consider this post-paschal season and the new life of the Spirit given to us at Pentecost, we are likewise invited to consider what it means to cultivate the fruit of the Spirit in our own lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self control (Gal. 5:22-23).

This fruit of the Spirit, if we follow the metaphor, is intended to be the natural product of a life that is lived in Christ, a life that is filled with the Spirit of God.

As exciting as it is to find a peach here or an apple there, if fruit trees only yield the occasional yummy treat, we'd probably be concerned, wondering what is preventing the tree from being *fruitful*.

So, too, we must stay vigilant in attending to the garden of our own hearts. While the occasional act of love or moment of joy is certainly something to celebrate (just like that first peach!), We need to ask ourselves whether these fruit have emerged as a momentary mercy or whether they're the result of continually bathing in the light of God's grace and being filled with His own Life.

The point of cultivating the fruit of the spirit is not simply that we occasionally do loving, joyful, peaceful, patient, kind, generous, faithful, gentle, and self-controlled **things**, but rather that we actually *become* loving, joyful, peaceful,

patient, kind, generous, faithful, gentle, and self-controlled **people**.

It is about making sure we become *a certain kind of person*, the kind of person from whom the fruit of the Spirit naturally shows forth.

The Lord did not give us the Holy Spirit so that we would occasionally do things that were in keeping with His character, but rather, He gave us the Spirit so that we might experience a total transformation of our own character.

It's a transformation into His own character, so that we might become a new kind of human.

A human in whom the Spirit fully dwells so that our very lives are fruitful, so that we become people for whom love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control are simply the way we are in the world.

The Christian life is not *just* about growing fruit; it's about becoming a new plant.

It is about finding ourselves grafted into the Tree of Life, the Tree that is Christ so that we become natural outpourings of His own Life, His own Love, His own Joy, His own Peace, His own Patience, His own Kindness, His own Generosity, His own Faithfulness, His own Gentleness, and His own Self-control.

So as we leave Pascha behind, let's see this as an invitation to let Christ's newness of Life dwell fully in us as it is activated by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit which we, like the apostles (!), receive at Pentecost. Let us continue to abide deeply in Love Himself, the One who gave us His own Spirit so that we ourselves might *become* Love.



PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE

The Parish Council is excited about the many things unfolding at Assumption. Transparency and communication are important. We always encourage your feedback.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Three months ended March 31, 2023

Revenues	\$301,637
Expenses	\$256,013
Net Income	\$ 45,624*

*Significant factor contributing to the net income is revenues from Stewardship and Rental Income. Operating expenses were slightly favorable to the linear budget.

Anastázios Kaejatídarján **Music Director, Byzantine Chanting**

As you have witnessed the last couple of months Anastázios Kaejatídarján, Cantor/Psaltis, is now our new Music Director at Assumption. He is responsible for all music and service booklets we find at the Narthex for us to use for our services. He composes new music and teaches the psaltic tradition to others who are interested in learning and be part of the team for church services. He is currently focused on reorganizing liturgical materials in a way that the parishioners can use. Anastázios has a zeal in teaching our young children, and is on the First Fridays team, with lessons resuming after Pascha. On a regular basis, he holds training for chant team members where he teaches them the traditions, to promote understanding and learning of the hymns of the Orthodox Church.

As Anastázios explains “for every prayer service of the church, I study the liturgical books — the monthly Menaia, the Triodion, Pentecostarion, Horologion, Octoëchos, Typikon, and Imerologion — to determine the order of the service. Then, considering what translations and music are available, I write and publish a text, adding musical information where possible. In English, a large majority of the hymns lack musical compositions. Among the few that have compositions, often the translations are unpreferable. Given adequate time, it is better to create new music than to improvise. All of our music uses psaltic notation. Although it is greatly preferable for those in the choir to know the psaltic notation, I am gradually adapting some of the music into western notation, as we have already done with the music of Sunday liturgy and some of Lenten compunctionate vespers. I intend next, to adapt the resurrection hymns of Orthros.”

Endowment Fund **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

What is an endowment fund?

An endowment fund is a long-term fund invested for the future needs of an organization. The way an endowment fund works is that the principal amount of the gift will be invested in to yield growth while protecting principle. Only the income will be used for suitable endeavors. An endowment governed to a specific purpose, the framework of the lead donor, this endowment at Assumption will prioritize scholarships to students in need in addition to meaningful community (evangelism) projects that share Christ’s love.

Who can contribute to an endowment fund?

Anyone can contribute towards the endowment fund. An investment in an endowment plan is eligible for a tax deduction. Required IRA distributions can be contributed to Assumption and allocated to the endowment fund. This is a good choice for individuals looking to save money on their taxes. Additionally, Assumption can be named as a beneficiary in a trust or will with the proceeds allocated to the endowment fund or any of Assumption's projects.

How does an endowment benefit Assumption?

The most important benefits of an endowment include:

- Reinforcing Assumption's commitment to serving our community for years to come.
- Receiving a steady revenue source, thereby helping Assumption weather the ups and downs of other funding sources for the specific purpose stated above.
- Raising Assumption's credibility by conveying stability, fiscal responsibility and prudent planning. This can attract donors seeking to direct their gifts.
- Our hope is to grow the endowment fund so that in ten or twenty years it has reached a critical mass that the income alone is an overwhelming force of good for sharing the Holy Spirit with our own parishioners and those in our extended community.

Community Center Rentals

The Community Center rental income is a significant contribution to the financial well-being of our Church. It is ideal for any type of celebration, corporate offsite, and community event. By helping to identify prospective renters, we can ensure that rentals continue to provide meaningful cash flow to support our ministries and the community at large.

Heavenly Coffee House (HCH)

Thanks to Abby Hakim, her support staff, and all the volunteers who contribute their time and talents to the operation of HCH. Our mission is for HCH to serve as a friendly place for fellowship for our parishioners and evangelism within the surrounding community. HCH is open daily 7:00 am to 2:00 pm except for Saturdays to have your delicious cup of coffee and your favorite Greek spanakopita, koulouraki and various desserts.

Upcoming Events - Save the Date Dedication & Celebration of our Community Center with Metropolitan Gerasimos

Thanks to God's providence and the support of the congregation, our Community Center was paid in full over a year ago! That is a very unusual milestone for a church to achieve in such a short period of time.

We will dedicate our Community Center and hold an event celebrating the retirement of our mortgage with Metropolitan Gerasimos on Saturday, October 28 and Sunday, October 29.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

2023 STEWARDSHIP BUDGET = \$793,272			
STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE GRID AS of APRIL 12, 2023			
Pledges	Families	Totals	Avg Pledge
\$1-999	84	\$ 31,997	\$ 381
\$1,000-1,999	61	\$ 72,240	\$ 1,184
\$2,000-2,999	20	\$ 44,150	\$ 2,208
\$3,000-3,999	12	\$ 37,596	\$ 3,133
\$4,000-4,999	6	\$ 25,200	\$ 4,200
\$5,000-5,999	10	\$ 50,400	\$ 5,040
\$6,000-6,999	0	NA	NA
\$7,000-7,999	2	\$ 14,000	\$ 7,000
\$8,000-9,999	3	\$ 24,000	\$ 8,000
\$10,000-10,999	5	\$ 50,000	\$ 10,000
\$11,000-19,999	2	\$ 28,000	\$ 14,000
\$20,000-29,999	1	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000
\$30,000-40,000	1	\$ 38,000	\$ 38,000
\$50,000+	1	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000
Totals	208	\$485,583	\$ 2,335

2023 FAITHFUL STEWARDS

Demetri & Carolyn Adarmes
Christ & Christine Agnos
Catherine Agra
Aaron & Rebekka Amacher
Nick & Athena Anastos
Peter & Carol Aravosis
Ann Argyropoulos
Josef & Stella Athanas
George & Vasso Athanasopoulos
Sarante "Sandy" & Julie Athenson
Athanasios Augoustatos
Evan & Jewelie Bachanos
Jo Ann Baldwin
Rev. Fr. Andrew & Pres. Andrea Barakos
Shawn & Michelle Barker
Lee & Ann Bartol
Jerome & McCall Bauersfeld
Tammy Belt
Lou & Judie Beratis
John & Elaine Bergquist
Daniel & Melisa Bill
Georgia Botsios
Clent & Soula Boudreaux
Tom Burke & Joanna Gonos
Gary & Pamela Burris
Sotera Catsadimas
Helen Chakeres
Diane Christians
Tony & Roushan Christofellis
John & Eugenia Clark
Andrew & Irene Clary
Scott & Maggie Cole
John & Shiann Collins
Ronald Collins & Athena Kaviris
Frank & Elaine Columbus
Edward & Pam Conti
Elizabeth Contos
Olivia Contos
Blake & Paras Copenhagen
Michael & Christina Craig
Nick Daddario
Athan & Marguerite Dalianes
Gus Dandas
Jack & Shannon David
Voula Davis
Shannon Dawson
John & Mary Deffigos
John & Mary Demetropoulos
George & Janis Demetrulias
Michael & Joni DiMino
Robert Dmitrick
Georgine Donahoe
Sandra & David Douglas
Kathy Drivas
Rodney Egnash
Nick & Angie Eliades

George Elias
Christo & Sandra Eliopoulos
Chris & Sophie Evangelides
Theodore & Evangeline Fotias
Charles Gadinis
Angela Gallios
David & Marta Gambaccini
Thomas & Tanya Garrison
Chris & Anne Gavras
Tassos & Katina Gianakakos
James & Popi Govas
Abby Hakim
Billy Halax
Amelia Hellwig
Mary Hiras
Michael Hiras & Sophia Fountis
Alvin & Jeannette Hollander
Peter & Mary Houlis
Maria Houpis
John & Coralia Ioannou
Joseph Jalaf
Nick & Courtney Joannides
Daniel & Nicole Johnson
Kevin & Tina Jones
James & Linda Kalivas
Marika Kallonas
George Kalomas
James & Aphrodite Kandilas
Nick & Dena Kantaros
Jeannie Karamigios
Peter & Debbie Karas
Petros & Kiki Karidas
Dimitrios & Ekaterine Kariotoglou
Rick & Anna Kariotoglou
John & Virginia Kavvathakis
Fanny Kechajias
Thomas J Kenrick
Anthony & Nickolette King
Spiro Kircos
William & Meghan Kircos
Steve & Jennie Kireopoulos
Kathy Klausung
Kenneth & Sophia Kobs
David & Maria Kockinis
Nick & Vickie Koines
Demetre & Louisa Kondylis
Jimmy & Nora Konstantopoulos
Michael & Sandy Konstas
George Kossaras
Arthur & Carol Kostaras
Spiros & Krista Kotsovos
Dean & Angela Koumontzis
Nikos & Jennifer Fotini Kourouglos
Michael & Vera Kouvelas
Nitsa & Tina Kovas

Nickolas & Anna Koziris
Bill & Evie Kypreos
Charlie & Patty Ladas
Chris Livanos & Helen Tangalos-Livanos
Stacy & Ginger Logan
Charleen Lucia
Takis & Vanessa Makridis
Tony & Susan Makridis
Anna Manos
Gregory & Susan Marmas
John & Anna Maroulis
Michael & Stacie McKenzie
Ed & Andrea McNamara
Nicholas & Georgia Mellas
Nicholas & Roxana Mellas
Pete Mellas & Vanessa Cutierrez
Stephen Mellas
Andrew Metanias
Anastasia Migias
Mariann Mihailidis
Nicholas & Irene Mihailidis
George Miller
Debbie Morel
Constantine & Debbie Moschonas
Christina Mounkes
Joseph & Christina Musallam
Susie Nakhla
Tom & Loretta Nations
Bettie Neckopolus
Donald & Lorraine Nemer
William & Sonia New
Chris & Lee Nicolopolous
Helen Noplos
Mark Nowak & Mariana Toscas-Nowak
Thomas & Beverly Orr
Paul J & Erin Panagos
Alex & Toni Pandi
Anthony & Sandra Papadopoulos
Bill & Soula Papadopoulos
Chrysoula Papadopoulos
Harrison & Christin Pappas
George & Dorothy Parides
Angelo & Joyce Pateras
Peter & Penny Pefanis
Elenitsa Pena
Andrew & Angela Poulos
Christina Pullos
Demetra Rishwain
Mike & Antonia Ristagno
Andrew Rores & Samira Fatehyar
Linda Samalis
Michael & Savannah Samoszuk
John Sampanes
Rev. Fr. Jacob & Pres. Jordan Saylor
Eric & Eleni Sederstrom
Helen Serelis

Ryan & Jamie Sherman
Juliet & William Shewmaker
Hanadi Shraiki
Jim & Sandra Skarlis
Constantin Solomon
Sally Solomon
George & Diane Sotos
George & Effie Sourvanos
Jim & Kim Speros
Vasilios F & Diana D Speros
James & Laurie Stamas
Andrew & Christine Stamatis
Carol Stamos
John N Stathakis
Achilles & Janet Stathas
Linda Stehling
Sean & Stephanie Stephenson
Christopher & Angela Syregelas
Nick & Mary Syregelas
Teddy Tavlarides
Andreas & Maria Theodorou
Andreas & Maria Theodoru
Jim Thomas
Georgianna Thomopoulos
Beth Thrivaris
John & Patty Throuvalas
William & Laurie Tobey
Henry & Lina Torre
Krystina Toscas
Nick & Joan Treantafeles
Gust & Barbara Tsikalas
Konstantinos & Theodora Tsilimidos
Kathy & Panayote Tsokas
Walter & Helena Turman
Jonathan & Rahal Tuoti
Laura Tutelman
Thomas & Bessie Tzavaras
Ray & Dee Unks
Epiphany Valos
Georgia Valos
John & Georgia Valos
Voula Verros
Nick & Joanna Verveniotis
Jason & Betsy L Vines
Demetrios & Lydia Vlachos
Ed Weiss & Stephanie Demogenes
Jim & Rosa Wilks
Markela Wilson & Gina Giannis
Cynthia Wrasman
George & Helen Yannakopoulos
John & Andrea Zafiroopoulos
Jerry & Amanda Zannis
J.B. Zarvos
John & Mary Zias

Through April 12, 2023



ASSUMPTION
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

PREFERRED CATERERS

Thank you to John Mitchell and Michael Zistatsis for their generosity in providing delicious meals for many AGOC events at cost. John or Michael can be hired to cater your next event (large or small).

John Mitchell
480-797-9265 | yianniscatering@yahoo.com

Michael Zistatsis
602-550-4142 | michael@alexisgrillphx.com

Project Mexico



THIS JULY 20-26, OUR TEAM FROM ASSUMPTION WILL BE RETURNING TO ST. INNOCENT ORPHANAGE TO PARTICIPATE IN PROJECT MEXICO! TO MAKE THIS HOMEBUILDING MISSION A REALITY, WE NEED TO RAISE A GREAT DEAL OF FUNDING TO PROVIDE FOR OUR TRANSPORTATION AND FOOD COSTS AND THE REQUIRED BUILDING MATERIALS. WE ALSO APPRECIATE YOUR PRAYERS!



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JUNE 12-16, 2023

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM DAILY

OPEN TO ALL YOUTH K-5TH

VCS

ASSUMPTION
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SNAPSHOTS *of life at Assumption*

EPITAPHIO DECORATING TEAM



MYRRH BEARERS

ORATORICAL FESTIVAL



LENTEEN POTLUCK DINNER



PHILOTOCHOS BAKE SALE



MOM'S PANTRY

MAR-APR 2023

IF YOU HAVE PHOTOS YOU WOULD LIKE CONSIDERED FOR THE NEXT ISSUE, EMAIL TO OFFICE@ASSUMPTIONAZ.ORG

COMMUNITY OUTREACH DAY



PALM CROSS FOLDING

HOLY FRIDAY RETREAT



PRESANCTIFIED LITURGY



WOMEN'S LENTEN RETREAT



SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY



“We know already that the un-vesting of the catechumen before Baptism signified the rejection by him of the *old man* and the “*old life*, that of sin and corruption. It is indeed sin that revealed their nakedness to Adam and Eve and made them conceal it with vestments. But why were they not ashamed of their nakedness before sin? Because they were vested in divine glory and light, in the *ineffable beauty* which is the true nature of man. It is this first garment that they lost, and *they knew that they were naked* (Gen. 3:7). But then the post-baptismal vesting in the *robe of light* signifies above all the return of man to the integrity and innocence he had in Paradise, the recovery by him of his true nature obscured and mutilated by sin. St. Ambrose compares the baptismal robe to the vestments of Christ on Mount Tabor. The Transfigured Christ reveals perfect and sinless humanity as not *naked* but vested in garments *white like snow*, in the uncreated light of divine glory. It is Paradise, not sin that reveals the true nature of man; it is to Paradise and to his true nature, to his primordial vestment of glory that man returns in Baptism.” - Fr. Schmemmann

- ✘ In Chrismation we are anointed with holy Chrism.
- ✘ Chrism is made of various fragrant essences oils (57) mixed together and sanctified by our Patriarch when needed on Holy Thursday.
- ✘ It conveys the Holy Spirit as a Gift upon Catechumens and replaced the laying on of hands practice in the Orthodox Church as recorded in Acts 8.

- ✘ Chrism is also used to consecrate Church Altars and Buildings.
- ✘ The action of being vested and anointed with holy Chrism reveals three fundamental dimensions of man’s **new** and high calling in Christ – the royal, the priestly, and the prophetic.

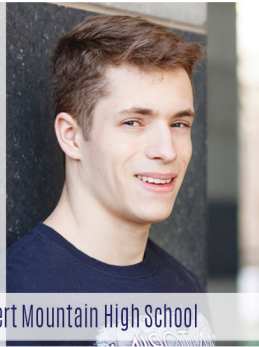
“Baptized into Christ, having put on Christ, he is ready to receive the Holy Spirit, the very Spirit of Christ, the very gifts of Christ the Anointed – the King, the Priest and the Prophet – the foundational content of all genuine Christian life, of all Christian spirituality.”

- Fr. Schmemmann (Of Water and the Spirit)

- ✘ The reason the formula for anointing is singular – the “gift of the Holy Spirit” is because, “the radical uniqueness of this sacrament is that it bestows in man not any particular gift or gifts of the Holy Spirit, but the Holy Spirit Himself as gift. (Fr. Schmemmann)
- ✘ Chrismation makes us *Christs* in Christ, by anointing us with the *ointment (Chrism)* of the Holy Spirit it opens to humanity the door to union with God or theosis.
- ✘ Receive the “seal” of the gift of the Holy Spirit
 - It is the imprint on us of the One Who owns us; it is the sign of our high and unique calling.
 - In Christ, the true and unique Temple, we become the **temple** of the Holy Spirit.
 - In Christ, who is the King, the Priest and the Prophet, we are made kings, priests and prophets.

“We possess abundantly not one but all three dignities.” - St. John Chrysostom

NIKO AGNOS



Desert Mountain High School

Will attend SCC - Considering career as a fire fighter

SEAN CLARY



Scottsdale Preparatory Academy

Plans to attend college

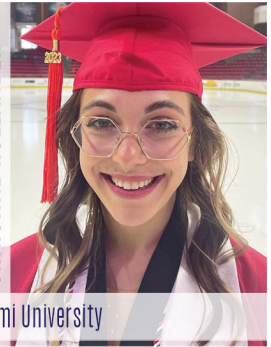
SOPHIA COSTANZO



Arizona State University

Bachelors in Elementary Education

CHRISTINE HOLLANDER



Miami University

B.S. Manufacturing Engineering

CHLOE JEFFRIES

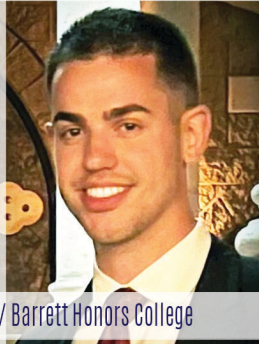


Grand Canyon University

Bachelors Degree in Psychology

Congratulations
2023
Graduates

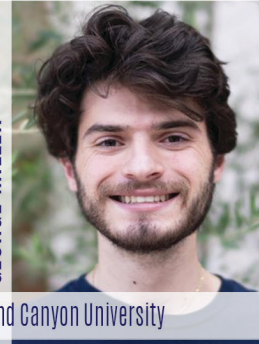
TEDDY LEWANDOWSKI



ASU / Barrett Honors College

Bachelors in Accounting - Plans to attend Law School

GEORGE MILLER



Grand Canyon University

Bachelors of Business Administration

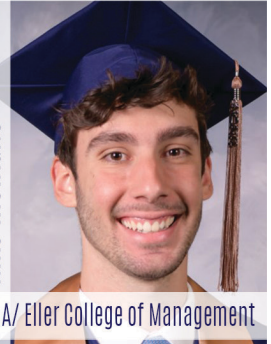
THEO PASISIS



Horizon High School

Will attend ASU - Pursuing degree in Engineering

NIKO RISTAGNO



U of A/ Eller College of Management

BS in Business Administration (MIS)

DEMITRA SIDERIS



Desert Mountain High School

Will attend Deree College in Greece - Fine Arts Degree

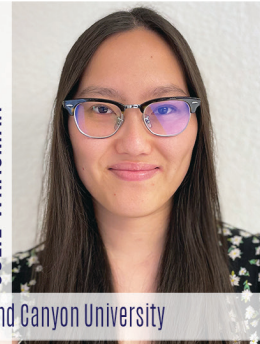
ALEXIS SOMMERSCHIELD



Fountain Hills High School

Will attend NAU - Pursuing degree in Exercise Physiology

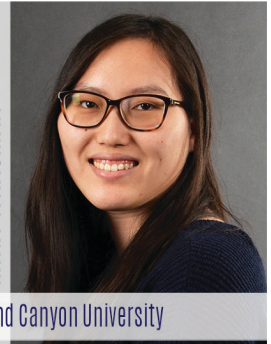
JOLIE WRASMAN



Grand Canyon University

Digital Design Degree - Emphasis in Animation

MINA WRASMAN



Grand Canyon University

Advertising and Graphic Design Degree

MEET...ALEXIS SOMMERSCHIELD

“Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity..” - 1 Tim 4:12

This new feature in the Oasis is designed to help you get to know the “stories” of fellow parishioners as we seek to embody Christ’s Church.



Senior Photo of Alexis

Q How long have you been at Assumption? What brought you here? I have been coming to Assumption since my 40-day blessing, 18 years ago. My parents have brought me to church every Sunday ever since.

Q In what ways are you (or have you been) involved at Assumption? Throughout my time at Assumption, I have been involved in a number of ways. I started with Moms-n-Tots, then moved on to Sunday school, Vacation

Church School in the summer, Greek Dance, being a myrrh bearer, Jr. & Sr. GOYA, attending All Saints Camp, and serving at Project Mexico.

Q Do you have a favorite memory from your time in this community? Some of my favorite memories are the great friendships I’ve made over the years. Spending time at Camp with my siblings and friends and learning about our faith and having fun.

Q What is your most meaningful takeaway from having served at Project Mexico? My first trip to St. Innocent Orphanage and Project Mexico was the summer of 2022. I am returning from a family trip to Greece early this summer, so I can serve again. The biggest thing I took away from Project Mexico was the compassion and love you feel giving back to others. It is an indescribable feeling knowing you are helping someone in such a big way.



Alexis at VCS in 2013

Q What kind of things are you involved in outside of church? I was a competitive swimmer for four years at my high school and the Scottsdale Aquatic Club. I really enjoy going to the gym, reading, running, spending time with my friends and exploring Arizona. I also love my job working as a PT Technician at a physical therapy clinic.

Q Where do you plan to attend college? Do you have ideas for how will you stay connected to your faith? I will be attending Northern Arizona University in the fall. I plan to major in exercise physiology and then hope to earn a doctor of physical therapy degree. I am really excited for this new chapter in my life and am looking forward to meeting new people and expanding out on my own. I also am really



Alexis at Project Mexico in 2022

excited to learn how to ski and snowboard in the winters. I plan to stay connected to my faith through prayer and guidance from family and friends.

Q Has there been any specific person (or people) that have helped you grow in your faith? I have had amazing people in my life help me grow in my faith over the years. I have had really great young adults that I look up to, and of course Fr. Andrew and Fr. Jacob that have taught me so much.

Q What piece of advice would you give to other young people at Assumption? My advice for other young people at Assumption is to have fun getting involved and actively participating in the youth ministries.



The Sommerschild Family

ALL SAINTS CAMP AND ITS LASTING IMPACT

Welcome back, All Saints Camp! You may have seen the countless flyers and heard the many announcements, or perhaps even donated to this ministry in the past, but if you have never been to camp, here's a look into how our program runs.

ASC will return for another year of fun, faith, and fulfillment in the mountains of Prescott, Arizona, from May 30 to June 3, 2023. This pan-Orthodox ministry hosts campers from all throughout Arizona, for children going into the 3rd grade through those who have just graduated high school. Run by a seasoned management team and an enthusiastic and well-trained staff, this has been an impactful ministry in the Valley for over 38 years. The staff is filled with young adults who have been trained at camps such as Ionian Village in Greece, the Metropolis of San Francisco Summer Camp, Camp Angelos in Portland, Camp Saint Paul of the DOD, and more! Many of this year's counselors are Assumption members and have even been campers themselves.

This year's theme is *Apologia*, taken from the words of St. Peter's letter to the church (1 Peter 3:15), where he told Christians to be ready to make their defense (apologia) of their faith in Christ. In a world where it may be difficult for our campers to maintain their faith, and in places where people might try to take it from them, we want them to better understand their faith and feel confident enough to defend it and share it with the world.

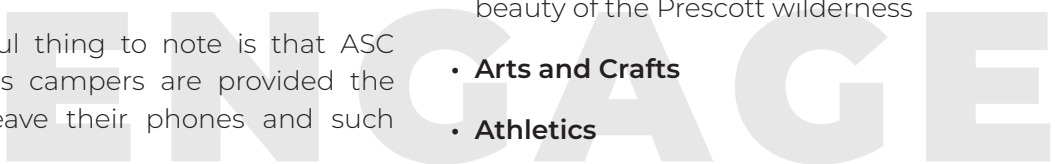
Another wonderful thing to note is that ASC is "unplugged", as campers are provided the opportunity to leave their phones and such

behind to move through the week untethered. As parents and grandparents, it may not be lost on you that many of our children are bombarded and overwhelmed with all of the technology and stresses in their daily lives. All Saints Camp, although only a week, allows the youth to recenter themselves, refocus on Christ, and create and strengthen their relationships with other young Orthodox Christians.

As Fr. Jacob has noted before, ASC is focused on prayer: it's a camp where we "pray, and then pray some more, and then after breakfast we pray again, only to learn more prayers" and so on. The proof is in the pudding, well evidenced by the high attendance rate and the return campers. When we put Christ first, things seem to fall into place. Of course, there is no shortage of fun to be had! This year's campsite has a rock wall, ropes course, and even a zip line and there are many other fun activities to enjoy as well, like hiking, large group games, arts and crafts, and more!

Camp consists of a daily schedule, part of which is filled with our five program sessions:

- **Orthodox Life** (OL) - led by our clergy with the goal of bringing our campers closer to Christ and helping them gain a stronger mastery of our faith
- **Liturgical Hour** (LH) - a session intended to help campers return to parishes with a better understanding of what's happening in liturgical services and to encourage them to participate
- **Great Outdoors** (GO) - exploration of the beauty of the Prescott wilderness
- **Arts and Crafts**
- **Athletics**



Kids are also able to enjoy three hallmarks of our camping ministry:

- **Siesta** - post-lunch down time in cabins to rest before the afternoon activities start up again
- **Flex Time** - unstructured time for campers to work on arts and crafts, eat snacks, do a number of athletic activities, and enjoy free time doing whatever they choose
- **Devotionals** - nightly cabin talks deepening relationships between campers and helping them understand more about their own relationships with Christ

Please note, spots are quickly filling up! If you were thinking about signing up your child for camp, now is the time! This year we also have a donations page to help with funding portions of our camping ministry - including sponsoring campers, bus transportation, and staff orientation, to name a few. Our website has a page set up for specific donations and also a link to our Amazon Storefront.

To sign your child up for camp, to donate to this camp ministry, for scholarship details, and for more information about All Saints Camp, visit <http://www.allsaintscamparizona.org> or email info@allsaintscamparizona.org. Summer is back, Arizona!



MAY 30 - JUNE 3, 2023
PRESCOTT, AZ

[CLICK HERE TO VISIT THE WEBSITE FOR DETAILS](http://www.allsaintscamparizona.org)

KIDS PAGE

BRING THIS COMPLETED PAGE TO FIRST FRIDAYS FOR A TREAT!

FIND THE HIDDEN WORDS IN THE WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

ASCENSION
BREAK
CAMP
CULTIVATE
FUN
GRADUATE
GROW

HOT
LEARN
SAINTS
SERVE
SUMMER
TRAVEL
VACATION

LEARN A NEW WORD

grow | It means to increase, spread, become greater in size, and to mature. In the Bible, Colossians 1:9-10 talks about "growing in the knowledge of God". We want to continually develop in our life of faith.

During summer break, look for ways to grow in your faith. Ask someone for ideas **HOW** you might do that.

COLORING FUN



WORD SEARCH



SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS

This summer, I am looking forward to...

Handwriting practice lines consisting of a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line, with several blank lines for writing.

CRAFT IDEA

PLANT A MINI EGGSHELL GARDEN
USE [THIS LINK](#) FOR IDEAS AND INSTRUCTIONS

NOW THE
PARABLE IS THIS:
THE SEED IS THE
WORD OF GOD.
-LUKE 8:11



MAY-JUN

sundays...

8:00 am Matins

9:30 am Liturgy

10:30 am Sunday School (through May 21)

tuesdays...

5:00 pm Greek School

wednesdays...

9:30 am Moms & Tots (May 3, May 17, Jun 7 and Jun 21)

6:00 pm GOYA (May 3 and May 17)

6:00 pm YA Forum (May 10)

thursdays...

6:30 am Men's Monthly Breakfast (Jun 8)

7:00 pm Women's Book Club (May 25)

fridays...

6:00 pm First Fridays (May 5)

saturdays...

9:00 am Mom's Pantry (May 20 and Jun 17)

HIGHLIGHTED EVENTS

May 3 @ 6:00 pm | Sr GOYA

May 5 @ 6:00 pm | First Fridays

May 10 @ 6:00 pm | YA Forum

May 10 @ 6:00 pm | Business Ministry Meeting

May 11 | Philoptochos Mtg (5:30pm Board, 7pm General)

May 13 @ 4:00 pm | Philoptochos Piano Concert

May 17 @ 6:00 pm | Sr GOYA

May 20 @ 9:00 am | Mom's Pantry

May 21 | Sunday School Graduation

May 25 | Holy Ascension

May 25 @ 7:00 pm | Women's Book Club

May 30 | Women's Book Club Year-End Celebration

May 30-Jun 3 | All Saints Summer Camp (Prescott)

Jun 4 | Holy Pentecost

Jun 8 @ 6:30 am | Monthly Men's Breakfast

Jun 11 | Sunday of All Saints

Jun 12-16 | Vacation Church School (9am-noon daily)

Jun 12-29 | Apostles Fast

Jun 15 @ 7:00 pm | Ministry Leaders Meeting

Jun 17 @ 9:00 am | Mom's Pantry

SPECIAL SERVICES

MAY 6

5:00 pm Great Vespers

MAY 9

5:00 pm Vespereal Liturgy

MAY 24 | Leave-Taking of Pascha & Ascension

6:00 pm Great Vespers

MAY 25 | Holy Ascension

8:00 am Matins

9:15 am Liturgy

JUN 3 | Saturday of the Souls

8:00 am Matins

9:00 am Liturgy

10:00 am Saturday of Souls Memorial

JUN 5 | Monday of the Holy Spirit

8:00 am Matins

9:15 am Liturgy

JUN 24 | Nativity of the Forerunner John the Baptist

8:00 am Matins

9:00 am Liturgy

JUN 28

5:00 pm Vespereal Liturgy

JUN 30 | Synaxis of the Twelve Holy Apostles

5:00 pm Healing Service



* FOR MORE DETAILS AND THE MOST ACCURATE INFORMATION USE THE QR CODE TO LINK TO THE ASSUMPTION CALENDAR ONLINE.

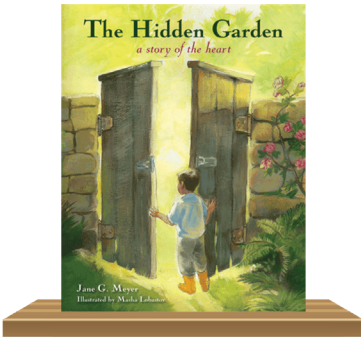
BOOK SPOTLIGHT

The Hidden Garden *a story of the heart*

Author: Jane G. Meyer

Illustrated by Masha Lobastov

Within every heart is a hidden garden. We can neglect it until the weeds take over and the flowers wither and die. Or, with the help of Christ, we can care for it and make it a place of beauty, grace, and joy. This charming parable will encourage children (and adults) to open the gate to Christ and tend the garden of their heart with loving care.



About the Author:

Jane G. Meyer is a children's book author and editor who lives in Santa Barbara, California, with her husband and children. She loves the outdoors, learning new languages, fiddling in her garden, and making things with her hands. Besides her editorial work for Ancient Faith Publishing, she is the author of several books for children.

Books spotlighted here, as well as a wide range of other meaningful works to strengthen your spiritual journey, are available for purchase in the Assumption Bookstore. For further information contact: bookstore@assumptionaz.org.

summer reading recommendations



The Assumption Women's Book Club group has compiled this list of recommended titles for your summer reading pleasure:

- ✦ **The Island of Missing Trees**
by Elif Shafak
- ✦ **The Book of Lost Names**
by Kristen Harmel
- ✦ **Fresh Water for Flowers**
by Valerie Perrin
- ✦ **The Island**
by Victoria Hislop
- ✦ **Sparks Like Stars**
by Nadia Hashimi
- ✦ **Become a Healing Presence**
by Albert S. Rossi, PhD
- ✦ **The Book of Longings**
by Sue Monk Kidd
- ✦ **Where the Wandering Ends**
by Yvette Manassis Corporon
- ✦ **Memory Eternal**
by Sarah Byrne-Martelli

If you would like to join us for a discussion, we will have our last meeting of the year on Thursday, May 25. We will select the books for next year's reading list in August. Feel free to pass along any title suggestions you would like considered. For more details, please contact Pres. Andrea at bookclub@assumptionaz.org.

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SUNDAY SCHOOL

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WOMEN'S MINISTRY BIBLE STUDY

Laurie Stamas | lastamas@gmail.com

Tammy Belt | tammybelt3@gmail.com

WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

Pres. Andrea Barakos | bookclub@assumptionaz.org

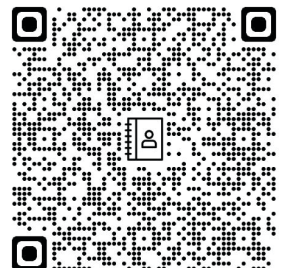
YOUNG ADULTS

Fr. Jacob Saylor | frjacob@assumptionaz.org

YOUTH (K-12) - FIRST FRIDAYS, GOYA, ETC.

Niko Paris | youth@assumptionaz.org

TO ACCESS THE FULL MINISTRY DIRECTORY WITH MORE INFORMATION CLICK ON THE QR CODE BELOW



CONNECT

ST. BARBARA'S PHILOPTOCHOS PRESENTS

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

FEATURING THE PEACEFUL PIANIST, MARK DAMISCH

SATURDAY, MAY 13, 2023

4:00 PM

ASSUMPTION COMMUNITY CENTER

TICKETS | \$55

**INCLUDES CHAMPAGNE TOAST | CASH BAR AND APPETIZERS SERVED*

COCKTAIL ATTIRE



FOR MORE INFORMATION

VISIT ONLINE: [HTTPS://ONE.BIDPAL.NET/PIANOCONCERT2023](https://one.bidpal.net/pianoconcert2023) OR CONTACT
CAROL KOSTARAS @ 817-891-3413 OR MARIA KOSTARAS @ 480-273-0905

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GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH



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