

December 20, 2020 — Sunday Before Nativity

ASSUMPTION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

REV. FR. JARROD RUSSELL

2245 E Baldwin Road, Grand Blanc, MI 48439

(810)771-4611

CHURCH HOURS:

SUNDAY'S: ORTHROS 9:00 AM
DIVINE LITURGY 10:00 AM

OFFICE HOURS:

Tuesday—Friday: 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Website: <http://assumptiongrandblanc.org>
Priest's Email: frjarrod@gmail.com
Secretary's Email: chsecagoc@gmail.com

We welcome all visitors to the Assumption Church! We are delighted to have you present with us this morning.

Holy Communion: Orthodox Christians who are prepared to receive Holy Communion will be invited during the Divine Liturgy to approach the chalice in order to reverently receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. **If you are not an Orthodox Christian or you are an Orthodox Christian not prepared to receive Holy Communion this morning, please remain in your pew during the distribution of Holy Communion.** All persons present at the service this morning will be invited to receive a piece of blessed bread (antidoron) at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy.

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:

Lucas Paul (Holland), Nikolaos Karabinas,
George Pappadakis and Charlie Paraschos

PLEASE SEE INSERT FOR TODAY'S EPISTLE READING AND GOSPEL READING

Prosphora provided by Matthew & Lori Rivette

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ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Christmas Divine Services at Assumption Church. Our Church will be celebrating the Birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ with the following Divine Services:

Thursday, December 24 at 9:00 am: Royal Hours for the Nativity of Christ (NOT Live-Streamed)

Thursday, December 24 at 6:00 pm: Vespers Divine Liturgy for Christmas Eve (Live-Streamed)

Friday, December 25 at 10:00 am: Divine Liturgy for Christmas (NOT Live-Streamed)

Outreach and Evangelism. The Metropolis of Detroit Outreach and Evangelism Committee is working on a program to assist parishes welcome visitors and seekers of the Orthodox Christian faith. If you are interested in learning more about outreach and evangelism as well as welcoming visitors and seekers, please contact Fr. Jarrod.

Fish Fry. The fish fry is closed on Christmas Day.

Church Office Hours. The church office will be closed from Thursday, December 24 through Friday, January 1. Normal church office hours will resume on Tuesday, January 5.

Sunday Divine Services at Assumption Church. The Church is open, and **everyone** is welcome to attend the Divine Services on Sundays. For now, the Sunday Divine Liturgy will continue to be live-streamed on the church Facebook page.

The following Divine Services will be celebrated at Assumption Church:

Sunday, December 27 at 9:00 am: Orthros (NOT Live-Streamed).

Sunday, December 27 at 10:00 am: Divine Liturgy (Live-Streamed).

Wisdom from the Saints. "There is an electric generator and in the room is a lamp. If, however, we don't flip the switch, we will remain in darkness. Similarly, there is Christ and there is our soul. If, however, we don't flip the switch of prayer, our soul will not see the light of Christ and will remain in the darkness of the devil." St. Porphyrios

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. An online donation portal, the Church Square Store, may be accessed through the Church website. Thank you for supporting our beloved Assumption Church!

"HOPE IN A BOX"

December — Socks, Towels, Toiletries & New Toys

Please place your donations in the box in the Hall.

PROSPHORON SCHEDULE

December:

- 6: Steve & Martha Poulos
- 13: Ken & Kathy Richards
- 20: Matthew & Lori Rivette
- 27: Sally Rogind

Reader Schedule

December	January
6 John Kaloydis	3 John Costa
13 Debra Chinonis	10 Cathy Yeotis
20 Tim Welch	17 John Kaloydis
27 Ruth Karabina	24 Debra Chinonis
	31 Tim Welch

If you are unable to make your assigned reading date, please contact the church office, 810-771-4611 so we can find a replacement. Thank you!

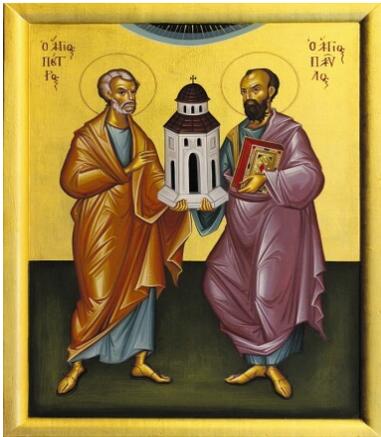
Priest: Let us be attentive.

Reader: *Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our fathers.
Verse: For you are just in all you have done.*

Priest: Wisdom.

Reader: The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews
(11:9-10; 32-40)

Priest: Let us be attentive.



BRETHREN, by faith Abraham sojourned in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city which has foundation, whose builder and maker is God.

And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets - who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated - of whom the world was not worthy - wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.all, and in all.

Sunday Before Nativity

The Gospel According to Matthew 1:1-25

The book of the Genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram, and Aram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the king.

And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asa, and Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amon, and Amon the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Salathiel, and Salathiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ.

So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations.

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel" (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called his name Jesus.