



# *Assumption of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church* 714 19th St.

*Assumption of the Virgin Mary  
Greek Orthodox Church  
P.O. Box 655*

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FATHER STELIOS SITARAS (361) 510-1357 [FRSTELIO@AOL.CO](mailto:FRSTELIO@AOL.CO)*

## Parish Council

*Mary Jo Naschke,  
President.  
Tina Meschede West,  
Vice President  
Lee Douvry,  
Treasurer  
Stephanie Petas,  
Secretary  
Paul Aiello  
Nicholas Tsougarakis  
George Kostas*

*Council Meeting  
February 4*



**Greek Orthodox  
Ladies'  
Philoptochos Society**

**Cornelia Chapter**

*Elizabeth George  
President*

*Vasilopita  
Sunday, January 14*

*All ladies are invited  
to join the  
philanthropic arm of  
the church*



**George Marinos  
Chapter**

*Stanley Marinos  
President*

February 2024

Beloved Sisters and Brothers in The Lord,

“Lord, now your servant depart in peace; according to Your word: for my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared before the face of all peoples: a light to enlighten the gentiles, and for the glory to Your people Israel”. (Luke 2:29-32).

These are the words of Simeon, recited at every Vespers Service. And on every February 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Orthodox Church, we celebrate a significant Feastday which commemorates the Presentation of Christ to the Temple. It was the common practice to bring Jewish children to the temple after the 40 days of purification, and in the Orthodox Church, we continue this tradition when we welcome the 40-day old newborn child, as well as for the child’s mother back to the Church. We call this tradition the “Churching of a baby”.

The event is described in the Gospel of Luke (Luke 2:22–40). According to the gospel, Mary and Joseph took the infant Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem forty days after his birth to complete Mary's ritual purification after childbirth, and to perform the redemption of the firstborn, in obedience to the Law of Moses (Leviticus 12, Exodus 13:12-15, etc.). The Gospel of Luke says that Joseph and Mary take the option provided for poor people (those who could not afford a lamb) (Leviticus 12:8), sacrificing "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." Leviticus 12:1-4 indicates that this event should take place forty days after birth for a male child, hence the Presentation is celebrated forty days after Christmas.

Upon bringing Jesus into the temple, they encountered Simeon. The Gospel records that Simeon had been promised that "he should not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ" (Luke 2:26). Simeon prayed the prayer that would become known as the Canticle of Simeon, which prophesied the redemption of the world by Jesus.

We are very blessed in the Orthodox Church to continue this beautiful 40-day baby blessing tradition, when we warmly welcome our youngest members into the Church. As we begin the month of February, it is my sincere prayer that all of you be richly blessed by Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Your Brother in The Lord,

Fr. Stelios Sitaras

# Calendar

## NO BIBLE STUDY THIS MONTH

### Friday, February 2

**9 am:** Divine Liturgy  
*The Presentation of Christ to the Temple*  
Liturgy

**Prosforo:** Mary Jo Naschke  
**Council:** Mary Jo Naschke  
Kostas

### Sunday, February 25

**9 am** Orthros  
**10 am** Divine

**Prosforo:** Tina West  
**Fellowship:** George

**Council:** Paul Aiello  
Lee Douvry

### Sunday, February 4

**9 am:** Orthros  
**10 am:** Divine Liturgy

**Prosforo:** George Kostas  
**Fellowship:** Elizabeth George  
**Council:** Lee Douvry  
Paul Aiello

### Sunday, February 11

**9 am:** Orthros  
**10 am:** Divine Liturgy

**Prosforo:** Roxann Kriticos  
**Fellowship:** Penny Routsas  
**Council:** Mary Jo Naschke  
George Kostas

### Sunday, February 18

**9 am:** Orthros  
**10 am:** Divine Liturgy

**Prosforo:** Penny Routsas  
**Fellowship:** Rouz Ahkras  
**Council:** Tina West  
Nichols Tsougarakis

**Silence Cell Phone Prior to Entering the Sanctuary**

**Blessing of the Water**

*Thank you to the Harris & Vicky Pappas family for the warm hospitality and beautiful lunch hosted for our parish.*

*It was an honor to have His Grace Bishop Constantine us for the Blessing of the Water.*

**Vasilopita - Philoptochos**

*A very special thank you to John Karageorgos for preparing the delicious lunch we enjoyed and to the ladies who baked vasilopita for the auction.*

**Father Stelios will be traveling this month.**

Monday, February 5, - Saturday, February 10, 2024.

Monday, February 19 – 22 attending the Clergy Retreat in Tulsa Okla.

**Prosforo:** Please bake extra prosforo and bring to the church. We keep prosforo on hand to counter additional needs and we are currently running low. You may deliver it to Father's office. If it is your Sunday to bake, please bring 3 loaves.

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