

ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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(208) 232-5519
Live-Stream Services
Website
www.assumptionpocatello.net

On-Line Giving: http:assumptionpocatellochurchtrac. com/give

PRIEST

Fr. Constantine A. Zozos (805) 570-6525 frczozos@cableone.net

PARISH COUNCIL

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David Harmer-Treasurer
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Volume 9, Issue 7

JULY 2020

Father's Message



Dear faithful,

Near the top of every world ranking in terms of freedom, prosperity, security, and health, we are only the 33rd happiest people on the planet.

How is that possible—with everything that we have? Because we're looking for happiness in the wrong places.

The main purpose of Psalm 1, which serves as kind of a preface to the entire Book of Psalms, is to tell us what is required for us to be happy. "Blessed is the person who doesn't do these things; blessed is the person whose delight is in the instruction of the Lord." And the word blessed means "happy." Whenever you see the word "blessed" in the Bible, it's talking about happiness. But even more, it means a deep and true and lasting kind of happiness, a deep joyfulness, a deep satisfaction. It's not just a happiness that comes and goes depending on our mood, on our circumstances, on other people, but one that endures any hardship or setback or disappointment or failure. The true key to happiness is to fall in love with the Lord.

Our lives as Christians, the Bible tells us, ought to be characterized by this kind of happiness. Are they? I think the main problem is that true and lasting happiness is not something we can achieve by pursuing it directly. Nowhere in the Bible does it say, "Blessed are those who pursue blessedness"—or "happy are those who pursue happiness." Jesus doesn't say, in the Beati-

tudes, "Happy are those who hunger and thirst for happiness, for they shall be satisfied." No, he says, "Happy are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied."

The Prodigal Son realized what real happiness was all about and returned with humility to his father. This is what pursuing righteousness looks like: when we are prepared to go to our heavenly Father and be His humble servant, asking for and expecting nothing in return, just grateful for his forgiveness and mercy, grateful that He's saved us from death—when we go to the Father like that, then and only then will He give us more than we could possibly dream of or hope for.

Having a right attitude with the Lord will change our life, if we truly love Him as we sav we do. Ask vourself this question, "What can I do for you today, Lord? I'll gladly do it." You want me to step outside my comfort zone and serve you in the church? Done. You want me to witness to my friends and invite them to church? Done. You want me to tithe? Done. You want me to give up these sinful behaviors and trust in you more and more? Done." These things aren't hard... not really. Not if we're in love with the Lord. Life sometimes crowds out the Lord and His Church. Other things became a higher priority. And we lose the love we had at first... like the Prodigal Son, He's inviting us to come back home. Hope to see you on Sunday!

In His Vineyard, Father Constantíne Volume 9, Issue 7 Page 2

SUNDAY SERVICES VOLUNTEERS MONTH OF JULY

Sunday, July 5th Orthros 9am, Liturgy 10am
Orthros Reader, Bill McCurdy, Epistle Reader - Dean Harris
Ushers - Vicky Fullmer, John Apostle
Prosphoron - Rebecca Tysor
Zoom Agape Coffee Fellowship 11:45am

Sunday, July 12th Orthros 9am, Liturgy 10am

Orthros Reader, John Apostle, Epistle Reader - Bill McCurdy Ushers - Tressa Rockwood, John Mermigas Prosphoron - Trisha Reddin

• A 16-Year Memorial will be said for the Servant of God Nick Koseris and his mother Sophia. Zoom Agape Coffee Fellowship 11:45am

Sunday, July 19th Orthros 9am, Liturgy 10am
Orthros Reader, Bill McCurdy, Epistle Reader - John Apostle
Ushers - Tim Swore, Vicky Fullmer
Prosphoron - Evangelia Papapavlos
Zoom Agape Coffee Fellowship 11:45am

Sunday, July 26th - Orthros 9am, Liturgy 10am
Orthros Reader, John Apostle, Epistle Reader - Gregory Painter
Ushers - Tom Beseris, Dave Harmer
Prosphoron - Sophie McCurry
Zoom Agape Coffee Fellowship 11:45am

MINISTRY PROGRAM CALENDAR

- <u>Thursday, July 16th</u> Zoom Parish Council Meeting, 7pm Zoom Invitation will be sent to Parish Council Members
- Zoom Agape Coffee Fellowship following the Liturgy on Sundays at 11:45am

Agape Coffee Fellowship Zoom Invitation: Open Link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82616131751

Meeting ID: 826 1613 1751

• <u>Bible Study Tuesdays</u> with the Zoom app, at <u>6:30pm</u>. The Zoom invitation is included below. The Group is studying "The Apocalypse of St. John, A Revelation of Love and Power"

Zoom Bible Study <u>recurring invite</u> at:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83778704100

Meeting ID: 83778704100

NO Bible Study Tuesday, July 7th,

DIVINE SERVICES are being celebrated at Church every Sunday and we are also LIVE-STREAMING SERVICES

During the pandemic, we have realized that there is a need for more outreach with those living a distance from the church. We have seniors unable to drive, others that are in assisted living facilities, others who are caregivers and unable to attend services. Also when winter begins and the highways are not safe those who live in the Idaho Falls area and Rupert/Burley area will be able to tune in and watch the service live-stream. Another plus is that we have noticed many non Orthodox people are also going on our livestream broadcast. Perhaps seeking to learn more about the Orthodox faith.

It is our hope that more and more of our faithful will attend in person. We have taken extraordinary measures to make the sanctuary safe for our faithful.

LIGHT A CANDLE

If you are unable to attend a service you may light a candle on line at our website.
Fr. Constantine will light your candle(s) at 8:50am on Sunday.



You may also make a Tray Offering through the website On Line Giving Tab

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT!

Dear Faithful and Friends,

Due to these challenging times and after much deliberation, we decided it would be prudent to cancel the Greek Festival for this year. In the past many of you have donated food items, put Ads into the Festival Brochure, or made outright donations to help defray expenses. In order to make up some of the financial shortfall we are asking our parishioners and friends of the parish to consider a donation in lieu of items.

With your generosity we can continue to be a "Beacon in Southeastern Idaho" and resume the renovation of our historic facilities. Please use the enclosed list as a guide for your donation. With much appreciation!

In Our Blessed Lord, Father Constantine

Tressa Rockwood Parish Council, President

Donation Items for your consideration	Sodas Water	\$250.00 \$90.00	In the past these items were prepared and Donated	Others included an Ad in the Festival Booklet
40 Lamb Legs \$30.00 ea.	Eggs	\$60.00	Dolmades	you may consider a donation of:
Filo \$480.00 Gyro Meat \$1,900.00	Spinach Cottage Cheese	\$360.00 \$135.00	(Grape Leaves) Tyropita	\$100.00 \$250.00
	Eating Utensils		Loukaniko (Greek Sausage)	\$500.00
Butter \$535.00 Feta \$365.00	Elec. Billboards Napkins	\$400.00 \$45.00	Tzatziki Spanakopita	All Gift Donations are appreciated. THANK YOU!
	Sterno Cans	\$45.00	Spanakopita Salad Material	mark 100.
Walnuts/almond\$110.00 Rice \$60.00	Lemon Juice Red Wine Vinegar	\$40.00 • \$22.00		
Olives \$80.00	Sugar	\$30.00		
Pepperoncini \$50.00	Liquid Eggs	\$90.00		

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2020 GREEK FESTIVAL DONATION FORM

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I/We would like to offer a cash donation to defray the <u>financial shortfall</u> for the cancelled Festival

Donation Amount \$ _	
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NAME

Address

Please make checks payable to:
Assumption Greek Orthodox Church
P.O. Box 4567
Pocatello, Idaho 83205

* Your donation is tax deductible and will appear on your Annual Church Statement.

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WHAT A GLORIOUS DAY AT THE ASSUMPTION

On Sunday, June 28th nine Catechumens embraced the Orthodox Faith through the Sacrament of Holy Chrismation. Prior to Holy Communion they were assembled on the solea with their sponsors holding lit candles surrounded by the faithful and Holy Saints. After renouncing previously held erroneous beliefs and heretical dogmas and teachings the Catechumens affirmed to remain firm in the Orthodox Faith. After reciting the Symbol of Faith the Catechumens were anointed with Holy Chrism and were sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit. The newly-Chrismated were then tonsured giving a first offering from the hair of their head in thanksgiving. They received Holy Communion with their Sponsors and were given a cross to wear as the following was recited, "Whoever wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Me." The newly-Chrismated were warmly welcomed by those in attendance both to the Faith and to the Parish Family.

They included: Adam Rapolla-Sponsor David Sandborgh, Savanna (Christina) Rapolla-Sponsor Filio Paloukos, Nikko Yanase-Sponsor Gregory Painter, Tom Hugie-Sponsor John Apostle, Diane (Constantina) Stepp-Sponsor Stella Firkins, Ellise (Nicole) Marks-Sponsor Candice Apostle, Tracey (Juliana) Hugie-Sponsor Yolanda Riech, Andrea Marks-Olenda Painter, Tommy Marks-Sponsor Anthony Hoskin.

NOTE: Since Father Constantine was assigned to serve the parish part-time beginning 2008, and serving full-time beginning the Summer of 2016 God has blessed our parish with many Adult Baptisms as well as many Chrismations and Non-Infant Baptisms. God is great!!

- 10 Adult Baptisms
- 32 Adult Chrismations
- 13 Non-Infant Baptisms
- 12 Infant Baptisms



Fr. Constantine, Anthony Hoskin, with Newly Chrismated Tommy Marks Adam Rapolla and David Sandborgh

Father Z. anointing Tracey (Juliana) Hugie with sponsor Yulanda Riech Ellise Marks-Candice Apostle

Father Z. anointing Tom Hugie with Sponsor John Apostle Stella Firkins-Diane Stepp







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Andrea Marks-Olenda Painter Adam Rapolla

Nikko Yanase-Gregory Painter Ellis Savanna Rapolla-Filio Paloukos

Ellise Marks-Candice Apostle Tom Hugie-John Apostle ukos Diane Stepp-Stella Firkins



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ASSUMPTION OF THE VIRGIN MARY FEAST DAY will be celebrated on

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15th - DIVINE LITURGY 9:00am

This is one of the major holidays of the liturgical year and a call for each of us to honor and thank the Theotokos for her continuous prayers and love for us. The Orthodox Church observes the Feast of the Falling Asleep (Koimissis) of the Theotokos during the first fifteen days of August. As we approach the days of August in preparation for Feast of the Dormition of the Blessed Theotokos, we respectfully ask

that you remember our Church and our Patron Saint of our Parish, the Blessed Theotokos, with your prayers and gifts. It is your continued support and love that allows this Church, through the Theotokos, to minister and continue to spread the Grace, Love and Word of Jesus Christ.

"In giving birth to God you preserved your virginity. At your Dormition you did not forsake the world, O Theotokos. You passed over life, Mother who has given to Life. And through the prayers of intercession, from death you have delivered our souls."

May our journey to the Feast Day of our beloved Theotokos, the Mother of God, strengthen and enrich us all.

Concerning the Dormition of the Theotokos, this is what the Church has received from ancient times from the tradition of the Fathers. When the time drew nigh that our Savior was well-pleased to take His Mother to Himself, He declared unto her through an Angel that three days hence, He would translate her from this temporal life to eternity and bliss. On hearing this, she went up with haste to the Mount of Olives, where she prayed continuously. Giving thanks to God, she returned to her house and prepared whatever was necessary for her burial. While these things were taking place, clouds caught up the Apostles from the ends of the earth, where each one happened to be preaching, and brought them at once to the house of the Mother of God, who informed them of the cause of their sudden gathering. As a mother, she consoled them in their affliction as was meet, and then raised her hands to Heaven and prayed for the peace of the world. She blessed the Apostles, and, reclining upon her bed with seemliness, gave up her all-holy spirit into the hands of her Son and God. With reverence and many lights, and chanting burial hymns, the Apostles took up that God-receiving body and brought it to the sepulchre, while the Angels from Heaven chanted with them, and sent forth her who is higher than the Cherubim.

LIVING	DEPARTED

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2020 Assumption Stewards as of June 28th

2020 Assumption Stewards

Father Constantine A. Zozos

Betty Angelos James Annest

John and Candice Apostle

Jim Arvas

Naglaa and Chris Bargelski

Tom and Molly Beseris

Belayneh Yimer & Mahlet Asfaw

Asjaw

John N. Christ

Mary Frances Cozakos

Nick Cozakos

Chris Drakos Les and Helene Poulos Edmo

Stella Firkins

Angela Fullmer
Vicky and Rocky Fullmer

Nicholas & Stella Gdontakis

Vivian Goodner

Frank Grant

Beverly Harmer

Dave and Jeanne Harmer

Dean and Kathy Harris Goldie Homan

Philip Homan Wilma Homan

Anthony and Svitlana Hoskin

John Davis Katsilometes

Gus and Demetra Kalabokias

Greg Maeser Dina Manolis Treon Maroudas

William James McCurdy Mitch and Sophie McCurry

John & Stephanie Mermigas

Nicolette Maw

Bobby and Katlin Miklos

Patricia Pahis

Gregory and Olenda Painter

Sam and Filio Paloukos

Maria Poulos Yolanda Riech

Tressa and Scott Rockwood

David Sandborgh

Kade & Devyn Schmalz

Annie Semons Rita Sherburne

Jeff and Panayota Short

Diane Stepp Karen Solomon

LuAnn and Philip Spain Pamela and Gary Swan

Steve & Jacqueline Swanson

Tim and Maria Swore

Pauline Thiros

Nicholas and Tacia Tsakrios

Vadym Ustianskyi

Anna and John Workman

Nikko Yanase Elaine Young

PRAYER REQUESTS



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 the prayers during the divine services. The prayer list will be published in The Epistle and The Herald so that our parishioners can include the names in their personal prayers as well. Contact Father Constantine (805) 570-6525.

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: Roxanne, Bill, Anna, Steve, Christopher, Freda, Larry, Maria, Judy, Ignatius, Elaine, George, Barbara, Nicholas, Matthew, Jeff, Jacqueline, Dianna, Alton, Anna, Pete, Betty, Larry, Paula, Stacey, Orestes, Helen, Catherine, Andrew, Mary, Steve, Nich-

olas, Scarlett, Elizabeth, Marie, Demetrios, George, Martha, Melissa, Galina, Sofia, Cheryl, Christ, Carolyn, Paul, Mary, Nick, John, Elaine, Nicholas, 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.

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"NEW" ONLINE GIVING

Our Assumption Parish is pleased to announce the introduction of an electronic option for making your stewardship payments and other regular and special offerings.

To use On-Line Giving you must first create an account with your password.

You can 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



You may use your Credit /Debit Card or the ACH (direct out of your Checking Account) There is a 2.9% fee for Credit Card use. If you select to use a Credit Card you can choose to pay the fee by checking the box option. We recommend using the ACH, the fee is only .25 cents, less expensive than mailing in your donations.

HAVE YOU REGISTERED?

YOU CAN HELP THE ASSUMPTION CHURCH EARN DONATIONS JUST BY SHOPPING WITH YOUR FRED MEYER REWARDS CARD!



The Fred Meyer Community Rewards Program is a great program. Anyone who shops at Fred Meyer and who has a Rewards Card can link their card to our Assumpcommunity tion number listed. You have to have a rewards card and are signed up online; if you rewards have a card and are not signed up online you will need to make sure to create an account online, then within your account information go to Community Rewards and type in the 84169 number or Assumption Greek Orthodox Church, Pocatello. Fred

Meyer donates a percentage based on what that person or persons spend at their store. It does not affect the shopper's points or take anything away from the shopper. Then, every time you shop and use your Rewards Card, you are helping our Assumption Church earn a donation!

PRAYER THAT SAVES FROM ANY DANGER

Any prayer said from the bottom of the heart reaches God, which means that the Lord comes to the rescue.

But help can manifest itself in different ways – it will not necessarily be a direct answer to what is requested. The Lord always knows best what we need and when.

Often we ask for some things, not being ready for them: someone wants a family, not considering their strength and the measure of their readiness for this, someone is eager for a new job, because they don't appreciate the old one, meanwhile being not much in a hurry to work and change, and someone asks for other earthly goods, not realizing that they will ruin him or crush him with their load.

Perhaps all that we request will happen in our life, but not now. The right moment should come – the readiness of one's soul for such a gift. The Lord is the only one Who knows when this hour will come. He is preparing us for this.

One of the main prayers of believers, which protects us in any difficult circumstances, is the angelic prayer, or the Trisagion: "Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us." Let us boldly sing along with the Angels here on earth, glorifying the Creator with an earthly and heavenly choir. There are no more beautiful words in the world than these angelic exclamations:

"Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us." by Metropolitan Anthony (Pakanich)

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Patron Saint and Protector from Plagues and Epidemics



It is ironic to discover an early saint and martyr of the Church by the name of Corona. The following is an edited compilation of what I could glean about her from several sources. Her name means 'crown' in Latin and the current COVID-19 virus is a type of the coronavirus strain so named because of its crown-like structure. She is both a Catholic and Orthodox Saint. Her name, in reference to the Latin word for crown, surely refers to her martyrdom, as she received the "martyr's crown."

St. Corona was an early Christian martyr of the mid second century who lived in the Roman province of Syria. In Latin her name means 'crown,' the Greek translation of her name is 'Stephanie' – sometimes she's referred to as St. Stephanie. There are several early Latin and Greek accounts of her life. Ac-

cording to some accounts she was the teenage wife of an Imperial Roman soldier named Vincent who was stationed at Damascus. Vincent's close friend and fellow soldier Victor was arrested for his Christian faith during the persecution under Emperor Antonius Pius in 165 AD.

Victor was imprisoned and tried by a notorious Roman judge named Sabastian. Refusing to deny his faith in Christ, Victor was brutally tortured even having his eyes gouged out. Corona, who was also a Christian, witnessed his torture and admired his steadfast faith. She attempted to comfort and care for him in prison. While ministering to Victor she had a vision of two martyrs' crowns descending from heaven. She related this vision to all her acquaintances and the story eventually became known to the Roman authorities who quickly had Corona arrested and interrogated. When asked her name, she boldly answered 'my name is Christian.'

Victor was beheaded shortly after Corona's arrest. Corona's husband, Vincent, was also arrested for his Christian faith, tortured and executed. Vincent and Corona had been married for one year and four months. Before the judge, Corona refused to deny her faith in Jesus Christ and she was sentenced to death. Corona was tortured and tied by her hands and feet between two bent palm trees and torn apart when the trunks were released. The date of her martyrdom is recorded as 24 November in the year 165.

Fellow Christians gathered and preserved the relics of the three holy martyrs and centuries later they were declared Saints and a church in their honor was dedicated in Antioch. During the Crusades the relics of St. Corona were taken to Germany and enshrined at the Imperial cathedral in Aachen. She became popular in Austria and Bavaria in the late middle-ages and several churches there are named for her. When the Black Death or bubonic plague devastated Europe in the early 14th century, the people of this region called upon St. Corona for her intercession and protection. Reportedly many villages were spared the ravages of that epidemic. Because of this she is regarded as the Patron Saint and Protector from Plagues and Epidemics. About St. Corona, we can say that Divine Providence truly has given her to us at this time, and that she is surely praying for us and our world in this dire situation.

St. Corona is commemorated by Western Christians on May 14th and by Orthodox Christians on November 24th.

"O Lord our God, Healer of our bodies and souls, visit us now with Your loving-kindness and stretch forth Your hand of healing. Rescue us from all sickness, and heal us of every disease and fever. Deliver each of us, our parish, this city and every city and country from every plague and epidemic through the intercession and prayers of Your glorious Martyr and Saint Corona. We ask this as we pray and honor You, our most holy Father, gracious Son and life-giving Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

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

assumptionchurchpocatello@gmail.com **Parish Organizations & Ministries**

Philoptochos Society: Sophie McCurry

-Church School: Candice Apostle

-Choir: David Sandborgh

-Acolytes: Dean Harris, Adam Painter

-Bible Study: Fr. Constantine

-Chanters and Readers: David Sand-borgh, Vivian Goodner, Bill McCurdy, John Apostle

-Catechism Class: Fr. Constantine

-Epistle Readers: Philip Homan, David Sandborgh, Dean Harris, Bill McCurdy

-Prosphoron - Evangelia Papapavlos

-Festival - Maria Swore, Trisha Reddin

-Youth Dance Group - Angela Fullmer

-Fellowship: Goldie Homan and

Vivian Goodner

Live-stream - David Sandborgh Zoom Coordinator - Tracey Hugie The Epistle

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2020 COLLEGE AND HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES HONORED

(l-r) Tom Beseris, Molly Beseris with daughter Callie Swallow a graduate of Century High. John Mermigas represent-

ing his son John Mermigas a Graduate of Utah State, Dan Milovanovic representing his son Nicola, a graduate of Century High. Not pictured is Andrea Marks, graduate of Idaho State University, daughter of Tracey Hugie.



Assumption Greek Orthodox Church P.O. Box 4567 (518 N. 5th Avenue) Pocatello, ID 83205

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