

# ASSUMPTION

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

# MINISTRIES

AS EACH ONE HAS RECEIVED A GIFT,  
MINISTER IT TO ONE ANOTHER, AS  
GOOD STEWARDS OF THE MANIFOLD  
GRACE OF GOD.  
1 PETER 4:10



*Christian Gonzalez*  
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## Director of Ministries

Christian Gonzalez is Assumptions Director of Ministries and interim Sunday School Director. He also serves as the Director of Ministry of Orthodox Youth Ministries (OYM), a Pan-Orthodox Youth and Young Adult Ministry agency of the Canonical Assembly of Bishops of the United States. He is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist who holds multiple degrees from Wheaton College, Azusa Pacific University, and Luther Seminary. Well known for his work developing training materials like “Effective Christian Ministry” and podcasts like “We Are Orthodoxy” and “Pop Culture Coffee Hour,” he is passionate about upbuilding the Church as the Family of God: a household that forms young people into the likeness of Christ.



*Sally Solomon*  
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602-400-8497

## Altar Guild

Decorating icons is a fun, meaningful activity to do. We celebrate our Lord and saints throughout the year. Why not make the icon look extra special on that day? Each Sunday, a group of volunteers helps to decorate the icon of the saint of each Sunday with flowers. We have the frame in the bridal bathroom in the chapel. You will need to purchase ~2 dozen flowers of your choice, and the rest of the supplies are in the drawers. Sally can show you how to decorate the frame that we use. You can decorate on Sunday morning or take the frame home before your scheduled Sunday.



*Denise Millstine*  
bookstore@assumptionaz.org

## Bookstore

The Assumption bookstore is filled with affordable books to deepen your knowledge of our Orthodox faith. There is a variety of topics that can support the convert all the way through the scholar. We also have beautiful icons, incense, burners, and accessories to help with your daily Orthodox practices. If the merchandise you seek is unavailable, check with staff to see if we can order it for you. To volunteer or learn more, please contact Denise Millstine.



*Irene Kufner*  
ikufner@kufnerbookkeeping.com



*Tina Kanelos Jones*  
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## Business

Wouldn't you like to do business with your friends? Check out the business ministry on the church website to see what our fellow parishioners have to offer. Our purpose is twofold: to build awareness of our parish's businesses and services and create a network of support for businesses. This ministry is a digital business directory with monthly/quarterly meetings that provide a forum to discuss issues within our companies and present guest speakers on business-related topics.

How is God in our business?

What does it mean to be an Orthodox business owner?

How do we improve society?

How can we support businesses within our community?

How do we live the parable of the talents?

If you own a business that you would like to be highlighted on the website, you can simply add your details for everyone to know!



*Abby Hakim*  
cafe@assumptionaz.org  
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## Heavenly Coffe House

Are you a baker who would like to share your talent with the Heavenly Coffee House? We need your help to whip up some classic Greek treats. It's fun, and you will socialize with other bakers like yourself. You don't need a recipe. We've got you covered. If baking is not for you, you may want to prepare tasty coffee drinks. We can use some help with this, too.

The Heavenly Coffee House is open Monday through Thursday, 8 am to 1 pm, and on Fridays until noon. Every Sunday, it is open following liturgy! Contact Abby for details.



*Anastázius  
Khayatidaryan*  
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## Chanting/Choir

The choir of Assumption leads the people in the liturgical services of the Orthodox Church. It is open to all ages and is actively looking to recruit members and increase participation, both for Sunday liturgy and for the other services of the church. If you are interested in joining the Assumption choir, please contact Anastázius in person or by email.



## Greek Dance

Evan Tsagaris, the current Program Director for the Greek Dance Ministry, has been involved with folk dance for almost 30 years. He has danced, instructed, led workshops, and served on multiple dance boards. We look forward to this year for the great community of dancers and families, the delight of joining hands in a circle and working together towards a common goal, and the memories made in and out of practice. Dance on by our table!

*Evan Tsagaris*  
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*Janis Demetrulias*  
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## All Saints Camp Fundraising

Our annual fundraisers benefits Orthodox youth attending All Saints Camp. The mission of the All Saints Camp is to bring the youth and staff of All Saints Orthodox Summer Camp closer to Christ and one another through a safe, fun, and prayerful environment. The program offers an experience of fellowship and fun, with activities ranging from campfires to the Olympics, all within the context of living an Orthodox Christian life of daily Matins, Vespers, and discussion with clergy.



*Irene Kufner*  
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*Loretta Nations*  
library@assumptionaz.org  
480-772-7699

## Archangel Michael Library

Inquirers, seekers, catechumens, stewards, and members of Assumption Greek Orthodox Church are invited to become registered library patrons. Our library collection of Orthodox Christian consists of books, video / cassette tapes, and digital video recordings covering the Orthodox Church's rich spiritual and theological understanding tradition.

Registration forms are available online and in the library Self Help area. Search our online library catalog 24/7:

[www.assumptionaz.org/library](http://www.assumptionaz.org/library)

Come visit the library upstairs in the SW corner. The library is open Sundays after Liturgy or by appointment. Registered patrons can utilize the Self Help Check-Out form if the Librarian is unavailable.

Interested in helping? Volunteers are needed after Liturgy to register patrons / check out Library items.

Questions or want to arrange a visit? Contact the Librarian at [library@assumptionaz.org](mailto:library@assumptionaz.org). You can visit the website at [www.assumptionaz.org/library](http://www.assumptionaz.org/library).





*Helen Noplos*  
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## Loving Life +50

We are a social organization for Assumption people who want to get out and meet other fellow parishioners. We have monthly lunches at the cafe, and we will have additional activities such as hikes, trips to the museum, and other cultural events and day trips. These events are at a cost for individuals who would like to attend. Some activities require walking, but luncheons are for all.



*Jason Vines*  
703-919-9077

## Men's Ministry

Assumption's Men's Ministry was created in late 2021 to allow an incredibly diverse group of younger, middle-aged, and older adults to regularly join in fellowship, Christian dialogue and studies, and community works. Proudly, our membership includes single young adults, fathers, and grandfathers, including many recent converts to Orthodoxy. We launched a breakthrough program in conjunction with Walmart's exclusive online "Registry for Charity," which supplies Mom's Pantry with much-needed baby supplies for families and backpacks for the homeless. For the last 10 months, we have also helped the Holy Virgin Mary and St. Macarius Sisterhood build an inside chapel and rework their temporary four-bedroom home in Laveen Village to accommodate the 11 young nuns and 6 regularly visiting nuns.



*Christina Pullos*  
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480-577-8993

## Mom's Pantry

Mom's Pantry is a local food pantry where we assist with packing bags of food for clients and stock the pantry's shelves with the various donations received. The maximum number of volunteers is 10. Children 9 to 15 years are allowed if an adult or guardian is accompanied. We volunteer every third Saturday of the month from 9:00 am – 2:00 pm. Please contact Christina if you are interested.



*Takis Makridis*  
pcpresident@assumptionaz.org

## Parish Council

The parish council is responsible for supporting the church's administration and its clergy's leadership. The council is responsible for overseeing and approving the preparation of the church's financial statements and annual budget and contributing toward various operational, stewardship, and evangelism initiatives. The council aims to represent the entire congregation's interests and needs through informal and formal outreach with parishioners. Most recently, the council has focused on stewardship initiatives, managing rentals of the new community center, launching Heavenly Coffee House, and investing in infrastructure to support the ongoing growth of AGOC. The council is blessed and eternally thankful for the congregation's abundant generosity, grace, and kindness.



## Philoptochos

The mission of Saint Barbara's Philoptochos Chapter at Assumption Greek Orthodox Church is to promote charitable, benevolent, and philanthropic outreach, to preserve the sanctity of life and family, and to perpetuate and promote our Orthodox faith and traditions. The word "Philoptochos" means friends of the poor. For over 90 years, Philoptochos has been the philanthropic arm of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. We are blessed to have a large and vibrant chapter. We invite you to join us to share your time, talent, and treasure to glorify God.

*Cynthia Wrasman*

[philoptochos@assumptionaz.org](mailto:philoptochos@assumptionaz.org)

602-793-0624



## Project Mexico

The summer house-building program, Project Mexico, allows participants to perform works of mercy in the name of Jesus Christ by transcending cultural barriers and building homes for the poor in Mexico. Assumption Church leads approximately twenty youth and young adults to Mexico each summer to participate in this beautiful ministry. Once there, volunteers spend one week outside Tijuana, spending each day building a part of the house and each evening back at the ranch with the boys of St. Innocent Orphanage. The days begin and end with prayers in the open-air chapel in the hills of Baja, California, with Divine Liturgy served on Sunday morning. Volunteers camp underneath the stars and share meals with the orphanage boys and participants from other Orthodox churches across the country. Project Mexico gives its volunteers an unforgettable experience of being Christ's hands and feet, meeting lifelong friends, and an authentic experience of the Apostolic Orthodox faith characterized by a self-emptying serving of our neighbors. Visit [projectmexico.org](http://projectmexico.org) for more information.

*Fr. Jacob Saylor*  
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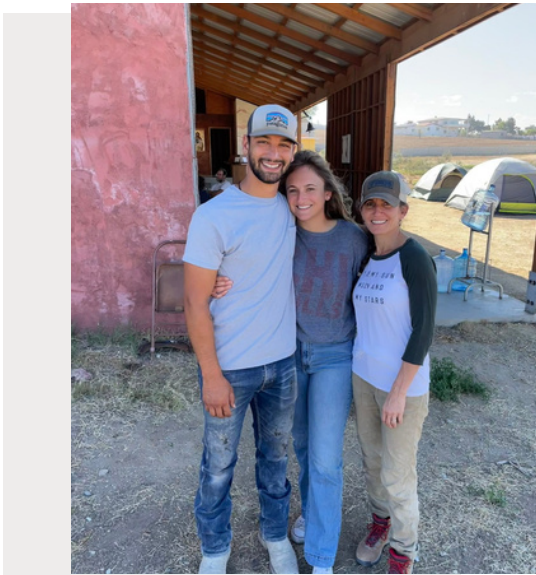
*Sally Solomon*  
sally.solomon@cox.net  
602-400-8497

## Staying in Touch

Being alone can be challenging. It can be lonely and unexpected chores can arise that you can't do without assistance. What do you do? You can call the staying in touch ministry. The purpose of this ministry is to serve parishioners living alone by maintaining contact and checking up on them. Communication and connection will be made mainly by phone, text, or email, whichever medium is most preferred. We can take them to appointments or help with simple tasks.

## Welcome Ministry & Visitors

The Welcome Team is all about hospitality. For current parishioners, we are the familiar face when they enter the narthex and for new visitors, we are responsible for making them feel welcome, comfortable, and at home by giving them as much information as we can about Assumption.



*Melisa Bill*  
welcome@assumptionaz.org  
602-538-6734



*Presvytera Andrea*  
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602-989-1835

## Women's Book Club

The Assumption Women's Book Club meets once a month to discuss books from various genres. The reading list and dates for the upcoming year are available on the Assumption website. For more information, please contact Presvytera Andrea Barakos.



*Niko Paris*  
nicholastparis@gmail.com  
952-232-8412

## Youth & Young Adults

Assumption youth ministries provide kids from kindergarten to 12th grade the opportunity to grow deeper in their relationships with Christ alongside their peers. Through events such as GOYA, First Fridays, weekend retreats, and more. The youth of Assumption have a place to learn, question & grow into stronger Orthodox Christians.

