



# THE 2026 ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM ORATORICAL AND FINE ARTS FESTIVAL

DATE: FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2026

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE SALUTATIONS TO THE THEOTOKOS

**The Oratorical Festival** provides a valuable educational opportunity for youth to express their faith, gain important skills in public speaking, and to deepen their knowledge about theology and its application to the world today.

**The 2026 finalists are eligible to receive a Chrysostom Scholarship to Hellenic College. This scholarship provides awards ranging from \$2,500 up to \$30,000 per year.**

**All eligible students are encouraged to participate in our Parish's annual Oratorical and Fine Arts Festival.**

Winners in the Junior and Senior categories will advance to the Metropolis Festival, which is held on **Bright Saturday, April 18, 2026** Host Parish: **St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church, 3450 Irving Avenue South, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 55408.**

Access the official [Metropolis Information Packet](#) and [Topics, Tips, and Resources](#)

As part of our ongoing commitment to the spiritual growth and development of our youth, we are excited to announce the upcoming **Oratorical and Fine Arts Festival** at our parish. This enriching event will take place after the Divine Liturgy on **March 6th** , **immediately following the Salutations to the Theotokos.**



The Oratorical Festival is a tradition within our parish, designed to offer our young people a platform to express their faith and explore their creative talents in a supportive and nurturing environment.

Categories include: **Speech, Poetry, Iconography, Vocal Chant, and Vocal Solo** for students in grades 7-12.

**Students in grades 3-6** are highly encouraged to participate. Projects should be rooted in Orthodox teachings.

**All projects are due by Sunday, March 1, 2026** to ensure that we have enough time to prepare them for display during the Oratorical and Fine Arts Festival. **Examples of projects: posters, dioramas, icons, drawings, prayer journal, storybook, shadow box.**

## Overview of Topics

Elementary (Grades 3-6)	Junior (Grades 7-9)	Senior (Grades 10-12)
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is your favorite <b>Bible story</b> and what does it teach?</li> <li>2. What do you <b>love</b> most about your Orthodox church?</li> <li>3. Which <b>saint</b> inspires you and how can we be like them?</li> <li>4. What <b>Orthodox tradition</b> does your family celebrate and why?</li> <li>5. Describe an <b>icon</b> you like: what story or lesson does it show?</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Pick a <b>hymn from Liturgy</b> and explain its meaning.</li> <li>2. Choose a <b>young Saint</b> and share what we learn.</li> <li>3. Who is the <b>Ecumenical Patriarch</b> and why is he important?</li> <li>4. Choose an <b>Old Testament story</b> and its lesson today.</li> <li>5. Pick an <b>Orthodox feast day</b> and explain its importance</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Explain an <b>Orthodox icon</b> (Pantocrator, Hodegetria, Resurrection) and its meaning and theological significance.</li> <li>2. Explain <b>Pentecost's importance</b> and what it teaches us about the Holy Spirit's work.</li> <li>3. Choose a <b>"light" teaching from Saint John</b> and explain how it shapes Christian life.</li> <li>4. Explain how <b>ancient and modern martyrs</b> strengthen, guide, and inspire the Church today.</li> <li>5. Explain <b>Orthodox teaching on death as "sleep"</b> and our hope in the <b>resurrection.</b></li> </ol>



Scan the QR code for the official [Metropolis Information Packet](#) and [Topics, Tips, and Resources](#)

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