



THE VOICE

JULY/AUGUST 2026 - VOLUME No. 409
SAINT SPYRIDON HELLENIC ORTHODOX CHURCH

12307 SOUTH RIDGELAND AVENUE, PALOS HEIGHTS, ILLINOIS 60463
 FIND US ON FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM & YOUTUBE

Spyridon's
GREEK FESTIVAL

Authentic Greek Cuisine

HOMEMADE GREEK PASTRIES • GREEK MUSIC BY DJ NIKITAS
 GREEK DANCE TROUPE PERFORMANCES 5PM & 7PM EACH NIGHT
 CHURCH TOURS 6PM EACH NIGHT • CASH RAFFLE PRIZES!

JULY 11 & 12 | **12307 S. RIDGELAND PALOS HEIGHTS**

SAT 1 PM - 10 PM
 SUN 12 PM - 10 PM

ADMISSION: ADULTS \$2
 CHILDREN UNDER 12 FREE
 FOR MORE INFO VISIT
WWW.SAINT-SPYRIDON.NET

FREE PARKING & SHUTTLE
 ST. MARY'S ORTHODOX CHURCH
 6330 W 127TH ST • PALOS HEIGHTS 60463
 & MARIST SPORTSPLEX
 SAT/SUN 3PM - 11PM

Palos Heights
4TH of JULY PARADE

ST SPYRIDON HELLENIC ORTHODOX CHURCH

DATE: **JULY 4** | TIME: **12:00 PM** | ROUTE: **125TH & HARLEM to COLLEGE DRIVE**

PARADE STARTS AT 12.

★ LINE UP STARTS 11 ★

Celebrate • Community • Freedom
 HAPPY 4TH OF JULY, PALOS HEIGHTS!

PAINTING AT THE Paralia

JOIN US FOR A FUN-FILLED PAINTING SESSION CREATING A BEAUTIFUL GREEK OCEANSIDE PAINTING LEAD BY

BLOOM ART STUDIO
 EMILY FRANZ, ARTIST & OWNER
WWW.BLOOMARTSTUDIO.COM

11 JULY: 4 - 8 PM
 12 JULY: 4 - 8 PM

FLEX START - ONE HOUR SESSIONS IN THE COMMUNITY CENTER SUITABLE FOR ALL LEVELS \$20 / PERSON

Adult Art Schedule - \$20 (ages 12& over)

11 July: 4 - 8 pm - Instructor: *Emily Franz*
 12 July: 1 - 4 pm - Co-Instructor: *Litsa Tsarouhis*
 12 July: 4 - 8 pm - Instructor: *Emily Franz*

KidsPaint & Craft - \$10/project (ages 12& under)

11 July: 1 - 8 pm - Instructor: *Evi Coines*
 12 July: 1 - 8 pm - Instructor: *Evi Coines*

ST. SPYRIDON HELLENIC ORTHODOX CHURCH
 12307 SOUTH RIDGELAND AVENUE
 Palos Heights, IL



**Archangels Academy
 2025-26
 Graduation Program**



Walk Against Cancer

2026 GOLF OUTING PICTURES



FATHER'S MESSAGE

TAKING INITIATIVE IN THE LIFE OF CHRIST'S CHURCH

"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

There is a phrase often heard in leadership circles: "Take initiative." Usually, it means stepping up, solving problems, or doing something without being asked. While that can be helpful advice, the Orthodox understanding goes much deeper. Initiative is not primarily about leadership skills or ambition. It is about love.

Initiative is love taking responsibility for the gifts and opportunities God has entrusted to us.

When we love Christ, we stop waiting for someone else to act. We begin asking, "Lord, what would You have me do?" We recognize that every talent, every ability, every opportunity, and every moment is a gift from God—not to be buried, but to be offered back to Him in service.

Throughout the Scriptures, those closest to God rarely waited for an invitation.

The Prophet Isaiah heard the Lord ask, "Whom shall I send?" Isaiah did not hesitate. He responded, "*Here am I! Send me!*" (Isaiah 6:8).

St. Andrew did not keep the joy of meeting Christ to himself. The first thing he did was find his brother Peter and bring him to Jesus (John 1:41-42). No one assigned him this task. Love compelled him.

The Myrrh-bearing Women rose before dawn and went to the tomb, even though they knew there were guards and a massive stone blocking the entrance. Their love for Christ was greater than their fear.

Joseph of Arimathea boldly approached Pontius Pilate to ask for Christ's body. While many disciples hid in fear, Joseph took responsibility because love demanded action.

This is the pattern of the saints. They did not wait for perfect conditions. They did not ask whether someone

else would do it. They recognized the opportunity God had placed before them, and they responded with courage and faith.

St. John Chrysostom beautifully reminds us:

"The road to heaven is paved with works of mercy."

Love is never passive. It always seeks the good of another.

The same is true in parish life.

At St. Spyridon, we have been blessed to see so many faithful men and women step forward over the years to teach, sing, coach, mentor, visit, organize, build, and serve. Their willingness has helped shape the parish

we love today. As we look to the future, God is calling a new generation of servants to continue that work.

Every thriving ministry, every welcoming smile, every meal prepared, every lesson taught, every visit to the sick, every child encouraged, every candle lit, every choir member who sings, every volunteer who quietly

cleans after an event—all began because someone chose to take responsibility for the gifts and opportunities God had entrusted to them.

Sometimes we tell ourselves, "*Someone else will do it.*"

But perhaps God is asking us the same question He asked Isaiah:

"Whom shall I send?"

Perhaps He has allowed you to notice the need because He is inviting you to become part of the answer.

This does not mean doing everything ourselves. In fact, genuine initiative often means inviting others to serve alongside us. It is recognizing a need, praying about it, and taking the first faithful step. It is trusting that God will bless our willingness, even when we do not know exactly how everything will unfold.

You don't need to have every answer or every skill be-



fore you begin serving. God is not looking for perfection; He is looking for willing hearts. Throughout history, He has taken ordinary people who made themselves available and accomplished extraordinary things through them.

The Parable of the Talents reminds us that God does not simply ask us to preserve what He has entrusted to us. He asks us to multiply it. The servant who buried his talent was not condemned because he committed some terrible sin. He was condemned because he failed to act. He allowed fear to become an excuse for inaction. God blesses faithful action born from love.

Our parish does not need more spectators. It needs more disciples who are willing to say:

"Here am I, Lord. Use me."

There are many opportunities in the life of our parish where your gifts could make a meaningful difference. Whether your passion is **working with our youth, singing or supporting our music ministry, helping grow our stewardship efforts, coaching or assisting with athletics, serving through social media and communications, welcoming visitors, participating in outreach, supporting educational programs, or helping with parish events**, there is a place for you. God has entrusted each of us with unique gifts, and when we offer them back to Him in love, the entire parish is strengthened and the Gospel is proclaimed more powerfully.

Perhaps God has given you a talent, an idea, or a passion that could bless His Church. Don't assume someone else will step forward. The very fact that you see a need may be God's way of inviting you to become part of the solution.

If you have a desire to serve—or even if you're simply wondering where your gifts might best be used—I warmly invite you to speak with me, our Parish Council President, or any member of the Parish Council. We would love to listen, help you discover where your talents can flourish, and connect you with opportunities to serve.

Together, let us continue building a parish where every person discovers that they are not simply members of the Church—they are active participants in

Christ's mission.

When initiative is rooted in humility rather than pride, and in love rather than recognition, it becomes something beautiful. It becomes stewardship. It becomes ministry. It becomes our free response to God's grace. We do not act because we are trying to earn His love; we act because we have already received it.

May the Lord help each of us to recognize the gifts He has entrusted to us, to have the courage to use them, and to joyfully take our place in His vineyard. For when each of us offers what we have, the whole Body of Christ is strengthened, and His Church shines more brightly in the world.

May we never wait for someone else to build the Kingdom of God. Instead, may we each ask, *"Lord, what can I do with the gifts and opportunities You have entrusted to me?"* And when He answers, may we have the courage to respond with the words of the Prophet:

"Here am I. Send me."

F. George

FLOWERS FOR THE ICON OF PANAGIA

As the Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos is approaching, once again we are asking for your donation towards the adornment of the icons of Panagia. Donations are accepted by mail, in the church office and in the designated donation box in the church narthex.

ΛΟΥΛΟΥΔΙΑ ΓΙΑ ΤΗΝ ΕΙΚΟΝΑ ΤΗΣ ΠΑΝΑΓΙΑΣ

Φέτος και πάλι, παρακαλούμε όλους όσους έχουν την ευχαρίστηση να προσφέρουν χρήματα για την αγορά λουλουδιών για τον στολισμό της εικόνας της Παναγίας μας για τις Αγίες ημέρες του Δεκαπανταύγουστου, να επικοινωνήσουν με το γραφείο της Εκκλησίας μας.



ΤΟ ΜΗΝΥΜΑ ΤΟΥ Π. ΓΕΩΡΓΙΟΥ

ΚΑΘΕ ΧΑΡΙΣΜΑ ΜΕΤΡΑΕΙ

ΑΝΑΛΑΜΒΑΝΟΝΤΑΣ ΠΡΩΤΟΒΟΥΛΙΑ ΣΤΗ ΖΩΗ ΤΗΣ ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑΣ ΤΟΥ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥ

«Έκαστος καθώς ἔλαβεν χάρισμα εἰς ἑαυτούς αὐτὸ διακονοῦντες ὡς καλοὶ οἰκονόμοι ποικίλης χάριτος Θεοῦ»

— Α΄ ΠΕΤΡΟΥ 4:10

Υπάρχει μια φράση που ακούγεται συχνά στους ηγετικούς κύκλους : «Πάρε πρωτοβουλία». Συνήθως σημαίνει να κάνεις το βήμα μπροστά, να λύνεις προβλήματα ή να ενεργείς χωρίς να σου το ζητήσουν. Αν και αυτή η συμβουλή μπορεί να είναι χρήσιμη, η ορθόδοξη κατανόηση πηγαίνει πολύ βαθύτερα. Η πρωτοβουλία δεν αφορά πρωτίστως ηγετικές ικανότητες ή φιλοδοξία. Αφορά την αγάπη.

Η πρωτοβουλία είναι η αγάπη που αναλαμβάνει την ευθύνη για τα χαρίσματα και τις ευκαιρίες που μας έχει εμπιστευθεί ο Θεός.

Όταν αγαπούμε τον Χριστό, παύουμε να περιμένουμε να ενεργήσει κάποιος άλλος. Αρχίζουμε να ρωτούμε: «Κύριε, τι θέλεις να κάνω;» Αναγνωρίζουμε ότι κάθε ταλέντο, κάθε ικανότητα, κάθε ευκαιρία και κάθε στιγμή είναι δώρο του Θεού — όχι για να το θάψουμε, αλλά για να Του το προσφέρουμε πίσω μέσα από τη διακονία.

Σε όλη την Αγία Γραφή, εκείνοι που ήταν πιο κοντά στον Θεό σπάνια περίμεναν πρόσκληση.

Ο Προφήτης Ησαΐας άκουσε τον Κύριο να ρωτά: «Τίνα αποστείλω;» Ο Ησαΐας δεν δίστασε.

Απάντησε: «Ιδού εγώ· ἀποστείλόν με» (Ησαΐας 6:8).

Ο Άγιος Ανδρέας δεν κράτησε για τον εαυτό του τη χαρά της συνάντησής του με τον Χριστό. Το πρώτο πράγμα που έκανε ήταν να βρει τον αδελφό του, τον Πέτρο, και να τον οδηγήσει στον Ιησού (Ιωάννης 1:41-42). Κανείς δεν του ανέθεσε αυτή την αποστολή. Η αγάπη τον ώθησε.

Οι Μυροφόρες Γυναίκες σηκώθηκαν πριν ακόμη ξημερώσει και πήγαν στον τάφο, παρόλο που γνώριζαν ότι υπήρχαν φρουροί και ένας τεράστιος λίθος που έκλεινε την είσοδο. Η αγάπη τους για τον Χριστό ήταν μεγαλύτερη από τον φόβο τους.

Ο Ιωσήφ από την Αρριμαθαία πλησίασε με τόλμη τον Πόντιο Πιλάτο για να ζητήσει το σώμα του Χριστού. Ενώ πολλοί μαθητές κρύβονταν από φόβο, ο Ιωσήφ ανέλαβε την ευθύνη, επειδή η

αγάπη απαιτούσε δράση.

Αυτό είναι το πρότυπο των Αγίων. Δεν περίμεναν τις ιδανικές συνθήκες. Δεν αναρωτιούνταν αν κάποιος άλλος θα το έκανε. Αναγνώριζαν την ευκαιρία που ο Θεός έθετε μπροστά τους και ανταποκρίνονταν με θάρρος και πίστη.

Ο Άγιος Ιωάννης ο Χρυσόστομος μάς υπενθυμίζει όμορφα:

«Ο δρόμος προς τον ουρανό είναι στρωμένος με έργα ελέους.»

Η αγάπη δεν είναι ποτέ παθητική. Πάντοτε αναζητά το καλό του άλλου.

Το ίδιο ισχύει και στη ζωή της ενορίας.

Στον Άγιο Σπυρίδωνα έχουμε ευλογηθεί να δούμε τόσους πολλούς πιστούς άνδρες και γυναίκες να προσφέρουν όλα αυτά τα χρόνια, διδάσκοντας, ψάλλοντας, προπονώντας, καθοδηγώντας, επισκεπτόμενοι, οργανώνοντας, χτίζοντας και διακονώντας. Η προθυμία τους συνέβαλε στη διαμόρφωση της ενορίας που αγαπούμε σήμερα. Καθώς κοιτάζουμε προς το μέλλον, ο Θεός καλεί μια νέα γενιά διακόνων να συνεχίσει αυτό το έργο.

Κάθε ζωντανή διακονία, κάθε εγκάρδιο χαμόγελο υποδοχής, κάθε γεύμα που ετοιμάζεται, κάθε μάθημα που διδάσκεται, κάθε επίσκεψη σε ασθενή, κάθε παιδί που ενθαρρύνεται, κάθε κερί που ανάβει, κάθε μέλος της χορωδίας που ψάλλει, κάθε εθελοντής που διακριτικά καθαρίζει μετά από μια εκδήλωση — όλα ξεκίνησαν επειδή κάποιος επέλεξε να αναλάβει την ευθύνη για τα χαρίσματα και τις ευκαιρίες που ο Θεός του είχε εμπιστευθεί.

Μερικές φορές λέμε στον εαυτό μας: «Κάποιος άλλος θα το κάνει.»

Όμως ίσως ο Θεός μάς απευθύνει το ίδιο ερώτημα που απηύθυνε στον Ησαΐα:

«Τίνα αποστείλω;»

Ίσως σου επέτρεψε να διακρίνεις μια ανάγκη, επειδή σε προσκαλεί να γίνεις μέρος της

Το Μηνύμα Του Π. Γεωργίου

απάντησης.

Αυτό δεν σημαίνει ότι πρέπει να τα κάνουμε όλα μόνοι μας. Στην πραγματικότητα, η γνήσια πρωτοβουλία συχνά σημαίνει να προσκαλούμε και άλλους να υπηρετήσουν μαζί μας. Σημαίνει να αναγνωρίζουμε μια ανάγκη, να προσευχόμαστε γι' αυτήν και να κάνουμε το πρώτο πιστό βήμα. Σημαίνει να εμπιστευόμαστε ότι ο Θεός θα ευλογήσει την προθυμία μας, ακόμη κι όταν δεν γνωρίζουμε ακριβώς πώς θα εξελιχθούν όλα.

Δεν χρειάζεται να έχεις όλες τις απαντήσεις ή όλες τις δεξιότητες πριν αρχίσεις να υπηρετείς. Ο Θεός δεν αναζητά την τελειότητα· αναζητά πρόθυμες καρδιές. Σε όλη την ιστορία, πήρε συνηθισμένους ανθρώπους που προσφέρθηκαν διαθέσιμοι και πραγματοποίησε μέσω αυτών εξαιρετικά πράγματα.

Η Παραβολή των Ταλάντων μάς υπενθυμίζει ότι ο Θεός δεν μας ζητά απλώς να διαφυλάξουμε ό,τι μας έχει εμπιστευθεί. Μας ζητά να το πολλαπλασιάσουμε. Ο δούλος που έθαψε το ταλάντό του δεν καταδικάστηκε επειδή διέπραξε κάποιο φοβερό αμάρτημα. Καταδικάστηκε επειδή δεν ενήργησε. Άφησε τον φόβο να γίνει δικαιολογία για αδράνεια. Ο Θεός ευλογεί την πιστή δράση που γεννιέται από την αγάπη.

Η ενορία μας δεν χρειάζεται περισσότερους θεατές. Χρειάζεται περισσότερους μαθητές που είναι πρόθυμοι να πουν:

«Ιδού εγώ, Κύριε. Χρησιμοποίησέ με.»

Υπάρχουν πολλές ευκαιρίες στη ζωή της ενορίας μας όπου τα χαρίσματά σας μπορούν να κάνουν ουσιαστική διαφορά. Είτε το ενδιαφέρον σας είναι η εργασία με τη νεολαία μας, η ψαλτική ή η υποστήριξη της μουσικής διακονίας, η ενίσχυση της διακονίας της προσφοράς, η προπονητική ή η βοήθεια στον αθλητισμό, η προσφορά μέσω των μέσων κοινωνικής δικτύωσης και της επικοινωνίας, η υποδοχή επισκεπτών, η συμμετοχή σε δράσεις εξωστρέφειας, η υποστήριξη εκπαιδευτικών προγραμμάτων ή η βοήθεια σε ενοριακές εκδηλώσεις, υπάρχει θέση για εσάς. Ο Θεός έχει εμπιστευθεί στον καθένα μας μοναδικά χαρίσματα και, όταν τα προσφέρουμε πίσω σε Εκείνον με αγάπη, ολόκληρη η ενορία ενδυναμώνεται και το Ευαγγέλιο κηρύσσεται με μεγαλύτερη δύναμη.

Ίσως ο Θεός σας έχει χαρίσει ένα ταλέντο, μια ιδέα ή ένα ενδιαφέρον που θα μπορούσε να ευλογήσει την Εκκλησία Του.

Μην υποθέτετε ότι κάποιος άλλος θα κάνει το βήμα μπροστά. Το ίδιο το γεγονός ότι βλέπετε μια ανάγκη μπορεί να είναι ο τρόπος με τον οποίο ο Θεός σας προσκαλεί να γίνετε μέρος της λύσης.

Αν έχετε την επιθυμία να προσφέρετε — ή ακόμη κι αν απλώς αναρωτιέστε πού θα μπορούσαν να αξιοποιηθούν καλύτερα τα χαρίσματά σας — σας προσκαλώ θερμά να μιλήσετε μαζί μου, με τον Πρόεδρο του Ενοριακού Συμβουλίου μας ή με οποιοδήποτε μέλος του Ενοριακού Συμβουλίου. Θα χαρούμε να σας ακούσουμε, να σας βοηθήσουμε να ανακαλύψετε πού μπορούν να ανθίσουν τα ταλέντα σας και να σας συνδέσουμε με ευκαιρίες διακονίας.

Ας συνεχίσουμε μαζί να οικοδομούμε μια ενορία όπου κάθε άνθρωπος ανακαλύπτει ότι δεν είναι απλώς μέλος της Εκκλησίας, αλλά ενεργός συμμετέχων στην αποστολή του Χριστού.

Όταν η πρωτοβουλία έχει ως ρίζα την ταπείνωση και όχι την υπερηφάνεια, και την αγάπη και όχι την αναγνώριση, τότε γίνεται κάτι όμορφο. Γίνεται υπεύθυνη διαχείριση των δωρεών του Θεού.

Γίνεται διακονία. Γίνεται η ελεύθερη ανταπόκρισή μας στη χάρη Του. Δεν ενεργούμε επειδή προσπαθούμε να κερδίσουμε την αγάπη Του ενεργούμε επειδή την έχουμε ήδη λάβει.

Είθε ο Κύριος να βοηθήσει τον καθένα μας να αναγνωρίσει τα χαρίσματα που του έχει εμπιστευθεί, να έχει το θάρρος να τα χρησιμοποιήσει και να λάβει με χαρά τη θέση του στον αμπελώνα Του. Διότι όταν ο καθένας μας προσφέρει αυτό που έχει, ολόκληρο το Σώμα του Χριστού ενδυναμώνεται και η Εκκλησία Του λάμπει πιο φωτεινά μέσα στον κόσμο.

Είθε να μη περιμένουμε ποτέ κάποιον άλλον να οικοδομήσει τη Βασιλεία του Θεού. Αντίθετα, ας ρωτά ο καθένας μας:

«Κύριε, τι μπορώ να κάνω με τα χαρίσματά και τις ευκαιρίες που μου έχεις εμπιστευθεί;»

Και όταν Εκείνος απαντήσει, είθε να έχουμε το θάρρος να ανταποκριθούμε με τα λόγια του Προφήτη:

«Ιδού εγώ. Απόστειλόν με.»

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Χαίρετε,

Σας εύχομαι καλό καλοκαίρι με αγάπη, υγεία, και ευτυχία.
Εύχομαι να σας δω όλους στο φεστιβάλ του Αγίου Σπυριδώνα
στις 11 και 12 Ιουλίου.

Greetings, I wish you all a wonderful summer, filled with love, health, and happiness. And I look forward to seeing everyone at the St. Spyridon Festival on July 11th and 12th.

We had a beautiful month of May, which included the conclusion of the school year, and the Greek School and Archangels graduations. The graduation ceremonies are amongst my favorite events of the year. It is amazing to witness the progress that our children—the future of our community—made throughout the year.

Our collective thanks to Marianna Haniotakis, George Vythoulkas, and Sofea Malamis for leading our schools. Also, a big THANK YOU to Evi Marouda, and Evelyn and Pete Hristakos for their work to organize and decorate all Greek School and Archangels events. Finally, we thank all our teachers for their tireless work in educating our youth.

May concluded with the YAL BBQ, and the Floga end of year Panigiri, celebrating another successful year. The Young Adults ministry has really taken off under the guidance of Fr. George and the leadership of Eraklis Labrakis and Mariam Xydakis. It's heartwarming to see the engagement of this group, and how they are all growing spiritually together.

The Floga ministry also continues to engage our youth, with participation from several neighboring churches. Thank you to Sophia Christofer and Anastasia Deligiannis for their leadership of this wonderful ministry.

Philoptochos hosted Christianiki Philoxenia on June 2nd with a very strong turnout. We had 150+ in attendance at the luncheon, including a live band this year. Thank you to Lambro Tzimas and Dean Eliacostas, along with his Moraine Valley students, for the wonderful meal.

On June 4th we held the 29th annual Golf Outing. Another year of 100+ golfers. Our thanks for the leadership of Nick Kourmetas and the entire Golf Committee, Odyssey Golf Foundation, and Hellenic Heartbeat for their unwavering support. Also our thanks to Kalli Theodoropoulos, Zoe Kopanis, Maria Malamis, and Evi Coines for their help.

On June 7, we honored our graduates, from middle school through graduate school. We extend our heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to each of them as they continue their educational and professional journeys. May God bless and guide them in all that lies ahead.

Despite a few weather-related challenges, our summer programs—Archangels' Fairy Tale Camp, Cooking Camp, Camp Kalo-kairaki, and Vacation Church School with its "Super Saints" theme—were a tremendous success. Each program was well attended and provided our youth with meaningful opportunities to grow in faith, build friendships, and enjoy time together in a fun and nurturing environment.

And finally, I am looking forward to seeing everyone at our Annual Festival July 11th and 12th. If you are able to work and help that would be greatly appreciated. Scan the QR code below to volunteer! We are also seeking donations to help offset the costs of our festival. If you would like to contribute, please scan the QR code in the flyer above. Thank you for your generosity and support!

Καλή συνέχεια με υγεία

Bill Kiliass



Dear Parish Family,

We are only weeks away from St. Spyridon's 2026 Festival, which will be on

- Saturday, 11 July (1:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.), and
- Sunday, 12 July (12:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.)

With costs continually on the rise, we are seeking your assistance to offset the increase in costs to run the festival. While we are fortunate to have some items donated (e.g. Gyros, food containers, etc.), the vast majority of the items necessary to run the festival are purchased by the parish.

Provided below is a list of costs that we incur to run the annual festival. While we are keeping food and drink prices relatively unchanged, with only minimal increases of \$1 for some items, we are seeking monetary DONATION assistance to help offset some of the costs outlined below. Any donation, for any \$ amount will help and be greatly appreciated.

ITEM	BUDGETED COST
Permits /Other	\$ 1,300
Soda / Water / Ice	\$ 1,600
Rides	\$ 1,800
Equipment Professional Cleaning	\$ 1,900
DJ	\$ 2,000
Bus Rental w/ drivers	\$ 2,700
Advertising / Signs / Flyers / Tickets	\$ 2,700
Security (incl. overnight)	\$ 4,000
Clean Up Crew	\$ 4,200
Food Cost*	\$ 7,000
Liquor (Beer, Wine)	\$ 7,500
Tents & Equipment Rental	\$ 19,000
All Other	\$ 5,300
GRAND TOTAL	\$ 61,000

*Gyros and chicken were donated in 2025

Any donations received will improve our festival profit. If you have any questions, please reach out to the office, Fr. George, Dean Eliacostas, or Bill Killias.



Thank You!

Fr. George Lambers & St. Spyridon Parish Council

Your support helps keep our tradition strong and our community growing!

Every Donation MAKES A DIFFERENCE!



Click on QR Code and Select "Festival donations"



Scan to volunteer for our St. Spyridon Food Fest!

2026 GOLF OUTING

St. Spyridon's 29th annual golf outing and dinner social took place on Thursday, June 4th at the Odyssey in Tinley Park.

The day was filled with fellowship as participants enjoyed golfing, a continental breakfast, lunch, a delicious BBQ themed dinner, awards, and a prize-filled raffle including two 70-inch televisions. We were blessed with yet another year of an abundance of golfers with over 100 participating and several more for dinner.

Congratulations to Jim Tourloukis, Andy Bendy, Rick Stupit and Jack Bracken for winning the best team golf score contest coming in at 10 under par. Nic Bendy won the longest drive contest and Al Torto won longest putt. Naso Grammatis and Dan Lawinger each won closest to the pin contests. This important fundraiser helps support the St. Spyridon Church Building Fund. This year's donations will help with various church repairs and heavy maintenance over some of the church areas, offices and classrooms and will provide safety to our parishioners.

Thank you to Father George Lamberis for his spiritual leadership, golf committee members who donated countless hours of their time, sponsors, golfers, volunteers, dinner guests and everyone for supporting our church and making it a memorable and fun event.

—Nick Kournetas, Golf Committee Chair.



2026 GOLF OUTING SPONSORS

HOLE-IN-ONE SPONSORS \$1,000+

- BITE SIZE PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY- DR. DENISE BOZONELOS
- CAREY'S SMALL ARMS RANGE VENTILATION
- DWF FOOD & PAPER REDISTRIBUTORS, INC.
- RETRO BURGER
- THE DANOS FAMILY
- THE ODYSSEY

EAGLE SPONSORS \$500-\$999

- ADELPHIA PROPERTIES
- AUTOAGENT
- CHRIST PANOS FOODS
- DONNY G'S RISTORANTE- ELMWOOD PARK
- NEALEY FOODS
- NORTH & MAPLE KITCHEN + BAR
- SPIRRCO REAL ESTATE
- STATE FARM INSURANCE AGENT, PHIL CALI
- WORLD KIA- JOLIET

BIRDIE SPONSORS \$200-\$499

- APPLIED WELLNESS CLINIC- DR. NICK MALLIOS
- ATHENIAN BODY SHOP
- CURI CAPITAL- DIMITRI ELIOPOULOS
- DR. CHRIS & JANN KOLYVAS
- EGGHEADZ CAFE- TINLEY PARK
- GALLAGHER INSURANCE, RISK MANAGEMENT & CONSULTING
- GEORGE SKARPATHIOTIS MD, SC
- HUCK FINN RESTAURANTS
- KALLEMEYN AUTO REBUILDERS
- LES BROTHERS RESTAURANTS
- MORSE FRESH MARKET- GEORGE THEOHARIS
- NICK & CHRISTINE PIPIKIOS
- PETE'S PRODUCE
- PROVIDENCE BANK & TRUST
- THE ARISTIDIS HALIKIAS FAMILY
- ZIEBELL WATER SERVICE PRODUCTS

DINNER SPONSORS (\$650)

- BITE SIZE PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY- DR. DENISE BOZONELOS
- CHRIST PANOS FOODS
- NEALEY FOODS

LUNCH SPONSORS (\$450)

- ADELPHIA PROPERTIES
- AUTOAGENT
- BITE SIZE PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY- DR. DENISE BOZONELOS
- DONNY G'S RISTORANTE- ELMWOOD PARK

BEVERAGE CART SPONSORS (\$350)

- DR. CHRIS & JANN KOLYVAS
- GALLAGHER INSURANCE, RISK MANAGEMENT & CONSULTING
- HUCK FINN RESTAURANTS
- KALLEMEYN AUTO REBUILDERS
- NORTH & MAPLE KITCHEN + BAR
-

BREAKFAST SPONSORS (\$250)

- CURI CAPITAL- DIMITRI ELIOPOULOS
- LES BROTHERS RESTAURANTS
- PROVIDENCE BANK AND TRUST
- SPIRRCO REAL ESTATE
- THE ARISTIDIS HALIKIAS FAMILY
- THE PAPPAS FAMILY

HOLE SPONSORS

- APPLIED WELLNESS CLINIC- DR. NICK MALLIOS (2 HOLES)
- BRIKI CAFÉ, ADDISON
- DIXMOOR FRUIT & MEAT MARKET
- EGGHEADZ CAFÉ, TINLEY PARK
- EGGMAN'S RESTAURANT, ALSIP
- ELENI BIZOUKAS
- FRANK KOPANIS & FAMILY
- HOMETOWN DENTAL CARE, DR. AMIEL PAPPAS
- HUCK FINN RESTAURANT
- IN MEMORY OF GEORGE PAPPAS
- IN MEMORY OF JOHN PERAKIS
- JAMESON'S PUB, FRANKFORT
- KEFI RESTAURANT, PALOS HEIGHTS
- KONICHIWA BOYS
- MORSE FRESH MARKET, GEORGE THEOHARIS (2 HOLES)
- MULTICARE HEALTH CENTER – DR. TED MIKROULIS
- NAXOS RESTAURANT, ITASCA
- NICK & CHRISTINE PIPIKIOS
- NICK'S BBQ
- NICK BOBIS
- NORTH & MAPLE KITCHEN + BAR
- OLYMPIC STAR RESTAURANT, TINLEY PARK
- OMORFIA AESTHETICS & WELLNESS, LLC.
- PETE'S PRODUCE- LOOMIS
- PETE'S PRODUCE- STONY
- SPIRRCO REAL ESTATE
- STATE FARM- KEN ANDERSON
- STATE FARM- PHIL CALI (3 HOLES)
- T&A AUTO SERVICE, TIM GEORGIOPOULOS, WORTH
- TASOS PANAGIOTOPOULOS
- THE MCCABE FAMILY
- THE PAPPAS FAMILY
- THE PATIO RESTAURANTS
- SPRINGDALE EYE CARE, DR. TANYA HALIKIAS
- XL ENERGY
- ZIEBELL WATER SERVICE PRODUCTS

GOLF OUTING COMMITTEE

NICK KOURNETAS, BILL KILIAS, JIM ARGYROPOULOS, NICK ARGYROPOULOS, ZACHARY CHIBUCOS, ADAM COLLOPY, JOHN FARSATIS, NICK HALIKIAS, MIKE HANIOTAKIS, PETE HRISTAKOS, GUS KOLYVAS, FRANK & ZOE KOPANIS, NICK MAZARAKOS, BILL PERAKIS, JIM TOURLOUKIS, NICK TSINOUKAS, SPIROS TZANETAKOS

PARISH REGISTRY

BAPTISMS

The son of Mr. & Mrs. Greg Kristo was baptized on May 7th and was given the name Grei Martin by his godfather John Puka.

The daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Christos J Peroulas was baptized on May 8th and was given the name Ioanna by her godfather Milos Kunac.

The son of Mr. & Mrs. Robert Frank Eyler was baptized on June 27th and was given the name Philip Charles by his godfather Peter Chris Korbakes.

The son of Mr. & Mrs. John Chris Korbakes was baptized on June 28th and was given the name Chris John by his godfather Peter Xeros.

Να σας ζήσουν!

WEDDINGS

Mark R Sisson and Maria Pappas were joined in Holy Matrimony on Sunday, May 24th. Their sponsor was George & Katerina Lois.

Να ζήσετε!



FUNERALS

On June 4th, Gregory Louis Kelsey fell asleep in the Lord. His funeral service took place on June 12th and he was interred at Fairmount Willow Hills Memoria Park.

MEMORIALS

May 3rd: †9 months Anastasios Kyres & †1 year Ioannis Kritikos

May 10th: †1yr Georgia Kekempanos

May 17th: †1yr Mary Paras, †1yr Vasiliki Manikas, †11 yrs Demetrios Manikas & †2 yrs Georgia Kariofilas

May 24th: † Tree of Love Memorial Service

June 7th: †9yrs Metropolitan Iakovos, †40 days Christos Tsakiris & †3yrs Arhontia Hatziharalambous

June 14th: † Peter Manasses, †3yrs Konstantina Petropoulos, †2 yrs Periklis Tzavaras, †14 yrs Argyro Tzavaras & †6 yrs Spyridon Kofis

June 28th: : †3 yrs Harriet Glikis (nee Pappas), †62 yrs Peter Glikis, †5yrs Athanasios Treantafeles, †7yrs Alexander Pappas, †7yrs Athanasia "Nancy" Papadogianis & †6yrs John Lordots

May their memory be eternal!

TREE OF LOVE

In the main hallway of St. Spyridon stands a golden and bronze "**Tree of Love**" with an icon of our patron saint at its base.

This "Tree of Love" is a symbol of our commitment to the ministry of our community. With great hope for our community's future and with love for St. Spyridon, we invite you to join the numerous supporters whose names are engraved on these golden and bronze leaves in recognition of their gifts to the Church. There are numerous ways to contribute to our "Tree of Love" such as to honor a friend or in memory of loved ones. For more information, please call the church office.



DIVINE LITURGY SCHEDULE

Sunday, July 5th	Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 8:00 a.m.
Tuesday, July 7th	St. Kyriaki, Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 8:00 a.m.
Sunday, July 12th	St. Paisios, Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 8:00 a.m.
Sunday, July 19th	Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 8:00 a.m.
Sunday, July 26th	St. Paraskeve, Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 8:00 a.m.
Sunday, August 2nd	Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 8:00 a.m.
Monday, August 3rd	Paraklesis, 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, August 4th	Paraklesis, 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, August 5th	Vespers at Transfiguration Monastery, Harvard, IL, 6:00 p.m.
Thursday, August 6th	Transfiguration of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 8:00 a.m. * Paraklesis, 6:30 p.m.
Friday, August 7th	Paraklesis, 6:30 p.m.
Sunday, August 9th	Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 8:00 a.m. * Paraklesis, 6:30 p.m.
Monday, August 10th	Vigil of St. Spyridon, 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, August 11th	Paraklesis, 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, August 12th	Paraklesis, 6:30 p.m.
Thursday, August 13th	Paraklesis, 6:30 p.m.
Friday, August 14th	Gr Vespers at Assumption Chicago, Homer Glen, & Hegewisch, 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, August 15th	Dormition of the Virgin Mary , Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 8:00 a.m.
Sunday, August 16th	Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 8:00 a.m.
Sunday, August 23rd	Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 8:00 a.m.
Monday, August 24th	St. Kosmas , Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 8:00 a.m.
Thursday, August 27th	St. Fanourios, Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 8:00 a.m.
Saturday, August 29th	Beheading of St. John the Baptist , Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 8:00 a.m.
Sunday, August 30th	Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 8:00 a.m.

ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑ ΙΕΡΩΝ ΑΚΟΛΟΥΘΙΩΝ

Κυριακή 5 Ιουλίου	Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία, 8:00 π.μ.
Τρίτη 7 Ιουλίου	Αγία Κυριακή, Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία, 8:00 π.μ.
Κυριακή 12 Ιουλίου	Αγίου Παΐσιου, Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία, 8:00 π.μ.
Κυριακή 19 Ιουλίου	Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία, 8:00 π.μ.
Κυριακή 26 Ιουλίου	Αγία Παρασκευή, Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία, 8:00 π.μ.
Κυριακή 2 Αυγούστου	Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία, 8:00 π.μ.
Δευτέρα 3 Αυγούστου	Παράκλησις, 6:30 μ.μ.
Τρίτη 4 Αυγούστου	Παράκλησις, 6:30 μ.μ.
Τετάρτη 5 Αυγούστου	Μέγας Εσπερινός στην Ιερ. Μονή Μεταμορφώσεως, Harvard, IL, 6:00 μ.μ.
Πέμπτη 6 Αυγούστου	Μεταμόρφωση Σωτήρος, Όρθρος & Θ Λειτουργία, 8:00 π.μ.* Παράκλησις, 6:30 μ.μ.
Παρασκευή 7 Αυγούστου	Παράκλησις, 6:30 μ.μ.
Κυριακή 9 Αυγούστου	Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία, 8:00 π.μ. * Παράκλησις, 6:30 μ.μ.
Δευτέρα 10 Αυγούστου	Αγρυπνία Αγίου Σπυρίδωνα—6:00 μ.μ.
Τρίτη 11 Αυγούστου	Παράκλησις—6:30 μ.μ.
Τετάρτη 12 Αυγούστου	Παράκλησις—6:30 μ.μ.
Πέμπτη 13 Αυγούστου	Παράκλησις, 6:30 μ.μ.
Παρασκευή 14 Αυγούστου	Μέγας Εσπερινός στους Ι Ν Κοιμήσεως Της Θεοτόκου στο Σικάγο, Homer Glen & Hegwisch, 7:00 μ.μ.
Σάββατο 15 Αυγούστου	Η Κοίμησις της Θεοτόκου, Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία, 8:00 π.μ.
Κυριακή 16 Αυγούστου	Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία, 8:00 π.μ.
Κυριακή 23 Αυγούστου	Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία, 8:00 π.μ.
Δευτέρα 24 Αυγούστου	Αγίου Κοσμά, Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία, 8:00 π.μ.
Πέμπτη 27 Αυγούστου	Αγίου Φανουρίου, Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία, 8:00 π.μ.
Σάββατο 29 Αυγούστου	Της Αποτομής της Τιμίας Κεφαλής του Αγ. Προδρόμου, Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία, 8:00 π.μ.
Κυριακή 30 Αυγούστου	Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία, 8:00 π.μ.

2026 STEWARDS (JAN. 1ST—JUNE 20TH)

As of June 20th, stewardship gifts have been received for 2026 from 260 individual/families. We are so thankful to these stewards.

Have you sent in your 2026 Stewardship Commitment Form? Forms are available in the Narthex of the church and online. Thank you to our stewards who have already made their pledge for 2026!

Ευχαριστούμε τις 260 οικογένειες που εκπλήρωσαν τις υποσχέσεις τους για το έτος 2026. Υπενθυμίζουμε σε όλους ότι έχουν ταχυδρομηθεί οι Καταστάσεις Υπόσχεσης του Καλού Οικονόμου για το τρέχον έτος. Σας παρακαλούμε να ανανεώσετε την συνδρομή σας το γρηγορότερο δυνατόν. Οι δραστηριότητες και τα έξοδα της ενορίας μας έχουν αυξηθεί κατά πολύ και χρειαζόμαστε την βοήθεια και την υποστήριξη όλων

Dr. & Mrs. Alex Alemis	Dr. & Mrs. Dean Danos	Mr. & Mrs. Peter Hristakos
Dr. & Mrs. Chris Alemis	Mr. & Mrs. Panagiotis Deligiannis	Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Iovino
Mr. & Mrs. Dimitrios Alexakos	Ms. Heather Demacopoulos	Ms. Nevila Kambylis
Dr. & Mrs. Panagiotis Alexakos	Ms. Bess Demopoulos	Mr. & Mrs. Gus Kapsaskis
Ms. Katerina Alexopoulos	Ms. Eleni Dimis	Mr. Vaios Karagiannis
Mr. & Mrs. Kostas Alexopoulos	Mr. George Drikos	Mr. & Mrs. Dimitrios Karamagianis
Mr. Gus Alikakos	Mr. & Mrs. Dean Eliacostas	Mr. & Mrs. Nick Karamagianis
Mr. & Mrs. John Arestis	Mrs. Martha Eliopoulos	Mr. & Mrs. Dean Karampelas
Ms. Penelope Arges	Mrs. Georgia Evangelopoulos	Mrs. Roula Karampelas
Mr. & Mrs. James Argyropoulos	Mr. & Mrs. Robert Eyler	Dr. & Mrs. George Karanastasis
Mr. & Mrs. Nick Argyropoulos	Ms. Ruth Faklis	Mr. George Karuntzos
Mr. Christos Arvanitis	Mr. & Mrs. Joshua Falcone	Dr. Georgia Karuntzos
Mr. & Mrs. John Arvanitis	Ms. Rena Falcone	Mr. James Karuntzos
Mr. & Mrs. John Baltsas	Mr. & Mrs. John Farsatis	Mrs. Helen Katris
Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Baroudos	Mrs. Sophia Felecoc	Mr. Bill Katsenis
Ms. Olga Baroudos	Dr. Sylvia Felecoc	Mrs. Tarsi Katsoulakis
Mrs. Chrisi Bastas	Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Feltz	Mrs. Dina Katsoulis
Mr. & Mrs. John Bastas	Mr. & Mrs. Nikos Fragiskatos	Mr. & Mrs. George Kattos
Mr. & Mrs. James Berdusis	Mr. & Mrs. George Galetsis	Mr. & Mrs. Pete Kavvadas
Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Bertzos	Mr. & Mrs. Peter Gatses	Mr. & Mrs. Larry Kekempanos
Mrs. Mary Bisbikis	Mr. & Mrs. Demetrios Gatsinos	Ms. Andriana Kiliias
Mr. Nikolaos Bizios	Mr. & Mrs. George Gatsios	Mr. & Mrs. Bill Kiliias
Ms. Eleni Bizoukas	Mr. & Mrs. Theofanis Gatsios	Mr. & Mrs. Richard Kikpatrick
Mr. Nicholas Bobis	Dr. & Mrs. George Georgelos	Mr. & Mrs. George Kladis
Mr. & Mrs. Zaharias Bousies	Mr. & Mrs. Bill Georgiopoulos	Mrs. Tasia Kladis
Mr. & Dr. Yiorgos Bozonelos	Mr. & Mrs. Nick Georgiopoulos	Mr. & Mrs. Pete Klementzos
Mr. & Mrs. Felix Briseno	Mr. & Mrs. Ted Georgiopoulos	Mr. & Mrs. Louis Kloris
Mr. Christos Catsogiannis	Mr. Tim Georgiopoulos	Mrs. Stavroula Kloris
Mrs. Anna Charalambos	Mr. & Mrs. Andreas Glikis	Ms. Tina Kliros
Mrs. Caryn Chibucos	Mr. & Mrs. Peter Glikis	Mr. & Mrs. Demetrios Kollintzas
Mr. Zachary Chibucos	Mrs. Ekatenini Grapsas	Ms. Ioanna Tzaferis Kolios
Mr. & Mrs. Christos Chrimpouras	Mr. James Halikas & Family	Dr. & Mrs. Chris Kolyvas
Mr. & Mrs. Chris Christofer	Mr. & Mrs. Aris Halikias	Mr. Gus Kolyvas
Ms. Aggeliki Christopoulos	Mr. & Mrs. Aristidis Halikias	Mr. Pete Kolyvas
Mr. & Mrs. Spero Christos	Mr. & Mrs. Michael Haniotakis	Mrs. Anna Kontaris
Mr. & Mrs. Nick Christy	Mr. & Mrs. Apostolis Hardaloupas	Mr. Spiro Kontaris
Mr. & Mrs. Adam Collopy	Dr. & Mrs. Aris Hatzidimitriadis	Mr. & Mrs. Frank Kopanis
Mr. & Mrs. Niko Dagres	Dr. & Mrs. Michael Hohlastos	Ms. Sophia Kopanitsanos

2026 STEWARDS (JAN. 1ST—JUNE 20TH)

Mr. & Mrs. Chris Korbakes	Ms. Kiki Miller	Ms. Rita Sperlakis
Mr. & Mrs. George Korbakes	Ms. Catherine Nakos	Mr. Andrew Stameson
Mr. James Korbakes	Mrs. Evelyn Paleothodoros	Mr. & Mrs. Panagiotis Stamus
Mr. & Mrs. John Korbakes	Mr. & Mrs. Tasos Panagiotopoulos	Mr. & Mrs. Gus Stergiopoulos
Mr. Peter C Korbakes	Mr. & Mrs. Bob Papadatos	Mr. & Mrs. Nikolas Sterpis
Mr. & Mrs. Peter G Korbakes	Ms. Demetria S Papadopoulos	Ms. Alexandra Stolis
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Kostopoulos	Mr. & Mrs. George Papadopoulos	Mr. & Mrs. Khalil Sweis
Mr. & Mrs. James Kotsiviras	Mr. & Mrs. Dinos Papamihail	Mr. & Mrs. Ioannis Synadinos
Mr. & Mrs. Demetrios Kottaras	Mrs. Carol Pappas	Mr. & Mrs. Georgios Theoharis
Mr. Chris Koulogeorge	Mr. & Mrs. Gus Pappas	Ms. Xenia Theoharis
Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Kournetas	Ms. Maria Pappas	Mrs. Fay Thiakos
Mr. & Mrs. John Koutsoubas	Mr. & Mrs. Sotirios Pappas	Mr. & Mrs. William Toullos
Mr. & Mrs. John Koziocas	Mr. & Mrs. Ted Pappas	Mr. & Mrs. Jim Turloukis
Mr. & Mrs. George Kristo	Ms. Athanasia Paraskevopoulos	Mr. & Mrs. Konstantinos Trahanas
Mr. & Mrs. Greg Kristo	Mr. & Mrs. Paul Paraskevopoulos	Mrs. Leah Treantafeles
Ms. Tina Kritikos	Mr. & Mrs. Peter Paraskis	Ms. Joanne Effie Triantafilloy
Mrs. Pam Kyres	Ms. Stella Parhas	Mr. Angelo Tsagalis
Mr. & Mrs. Greg Kyriakopoulos	Mr. & Mrs. Odysseas Parr	Mr. & Mrs. Christos Tsakiris
Mr. & Mrs. George Kyroudis	Mr. John Pavlopoulos	Mr. & Mrs. Andreas Tsantilis
Mr. Eraklis Labrakis	Mr. & Mrs. Peter Paxinos	Mr. & Mrs. George Tsigolis
Mr. & Mrs. Konstadinos Labrakis	Mrs. Koula Perivoliotis	Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Tsinoukas
Mr. & Mrs. Gus Lamberis	Mr. & Mrs. Christos Peroulas	Mr. John Tsoukalas
Fr. George & Pres. Diana Lamberis	Mr. & Mrs. Nick Petinatos	Mr. & Mrs. Kyriakos Tsoukalas
Mrs. & Mrs. James Laris	Ms. Andreana Petrakos	Mr. & Dr. Vasileios Tsoukalas
Ms. Joanna Les	Mr. & Mrs. Jim Petrakos	Mr. & Mrs. Spiros Tzanetakos
Mrs. Betty Lillios	Mr. & Mrs. James Petopoul	Mr. & Dr. Lampros Tzimas
Mr. & Mrs. George Limperis	Mr. & Mrs. Stamatis Pierrakeas	Mr. Michael Valaris
Dr. & Mrs. Makis Limperis	Mr. & Mrs. Alex Polymenakos	Mr. & Mrs. Elias Valaveris
Mr. & Mrs. Rob McNeill	Mrs. Penny Poninski	Mrs. Patricia Georgelos Vardalos
Ms. Georgia Malamis	Mr. & Mrs. Panayotis Prassas	Mr. & Mrs. George Vasilakos
Mr. & Mrs. Tasos Malamis	Mr. & Mrs. Dan Prett	Mr. & Mrs. Konstant. Vasilopoulos
Ms. Angela Malfas	Mr. & Mrs. Tom Primbas	Mr. & Mrs. Vasilios Vasilopoulos
Mr. Labros Malfas	Mr. & Mrs. Richard Reinhart	Mr. & Mrs. Apostolos Vassilakis
Mrs. Yiannoula Malfas	Mr. & Dr. Kostas Retsinas	Mr. & Mrs. Angelo Velissaris
Mr. & Mrs. Demetri Manasses	Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Riley	Mr. & Mrs. Labros Vlachos
Mr. Theodoros Manasses	Mr. & Mrs. Gus Rougas	Mr. & Mrs. George Vythoulkas
Mrs. Tina Manasses	Mr. & Mrs. Charles Roumeliotis	Mr. & Mrs. Rocky Wagner
Mr. & Mrs. Theophanes Manikas	Mr. & Mrs. Edmond Ryan	Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Watne
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Mantice	Dr. & Mrs. George Scarlatis	Mr. & Mrs. James Xeros
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Marinakos	Mr. & Mrs. Nick Scarlatis	Mr. Peter Xeros
Mr. & Mrs. Demetrios Marines	Mr. & Mrs. Tony Shamma	Mrs. Goldie Xirafakis
Mr. Eustratios Marinos & Family	Mrs. & Mrs. Nickolas Shizas	Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Xydakis
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Markatos	Ms. Anastasia Simeakis	Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Young
Mr. & Mrs. Hrisoval. Maroudas	Mr. & Mrs. Dimitrios Simeakis	Mr. & Mrs. Alexander Ziogas
Mr. John Mazarakos	Mr. & Mrs. Emmanuel Simeakis	Mrs. Effie Zorbas
Ms. Kathy Michalarias	Dr. & Dr. Leonidas Skiadopoulos	Ms. Andriana Zougras
Mr. & Mrs. Dino Mihas	Dr. & Mrs. Peter Sotiropoulos	

ARCHANGELS ACADEMY

What an incredible year it has been at Archangels Academy Preschool, ending on a truly joyful note!

On May 21, we gathered for our Annual Graduation Banquet to celebrate the remarkable growth, accomplishments, and memories made throughout the 2025–2026 school year. With hearts full of pride and joy, we congratulate our ten graduates as they begin an exciting new chapter in their educational journey. Throughout the year, we watched these amazing children grow academically, socially, and spiritually. They worked hard, formed lasting friendships, built confidence, and achieved milestones they never imagined possible. They truly shined like stars, and we know they are ready for the adventures that await them.

We are truly grateful to all of our wonderful parents for their unwavering love, support, and partnership throughout the year. Thank you for entrusting us each day with your most precious gifts—your children. It has truly been an honor and a blessing to be a part of their lives. We would also like to thank everyone who joined us at our Graduation Banquet to celebrate our shining stars and support our beautiful school.

As we enjoy these beautiful summer months and take some well-deserved time to rest and recharge, preparations are already underway for another exciting school year. We are thrilled to announce that Archangels Academy Preschool will begin the 2026–2027 school year with a FULL class! We look forward to welcoming both our returning families and all of our new students into our preschool family.

Until then, we wish everyone a safe, relaxing, and joy-filled summer. May your days be filled with sunshine, laughter, precious time with family and friends, and countless beautiful memories.

Have a wonderful summer, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back in September for another amazing year at Archangels Academy Preschool!

Sofea Malamis



FLOGA DANCE TROUPE

This year was truly a wonderful and blessed year for our Greek Dance program at St. Spyridon. Through dance, our children and young adults not only learned traditional Greek dances, but also strengthened their faith, friendships, confidence, and sense of community.

Our program consisted of two groups: the Wonderworkers, for students in 1st through 5th grade, and Floga, for students in 6th grade through college. Together, over 40 dancers participated in our annual showcase, proudly performing the dances they worked so hard to learn throughout the year for their moms, dads, yiyaiades, papoudes, family, and friends.

Greek dance continues to be much more than learning steps and choreography. It is a way for our youth to connect with their heritage, build lasting friendships, support one another, and grow in confidence both on and off the dance floor. Watching our dancers encourage each other, celebrate together, and form deep bonds has been one of the greatest blessings of this ministry.

We are also excited for a busy summer ahead for our Floga dancers, who will be performing at the Holy Trinity Festival, Holy Cross festival both days of the St. Spyridon Festival, and Saints Constantine and Helen Festival.

We thank all of our families for their continued love and support throughout the year and look forward to another wonderful season ahead.

As we look to next year, the Wonderworkers practice will move to Fridays. Registration information for the upcoming dance year will be available sometime in August.

Sophia Christofer



YOUNG ADULT GROUP

The St. Spyridon YAL has had a successful spring with a variety of events from spiritual to social. Our YAL is a community that brings Orthodox young adults together to connect spiritually and can foster lasting relationships through Christ.

We kicked off spring by hosting a Presanctified Liturgy potluck in March. We were blessed to have His Grace Bishop Athenagoras, attend this service and give our young adults an insightful lecture on Orthodoxy. Our potluck brought everyone together, from children to adults, where everyone could sit down, eat, and learn more about those who have the same faith as themselves. Bishop Athenagoras' lecture was incredibly insightful and encouraged the young adults to maintain their faith and strengthen their relationship with God, even when they are met with hardships.

In April, we had a social event at X's and O's; young adults throughout the southside came together and rekindled their friendships. Although this was a more casual gathering, our young adults had a wonderful time reconnecting with friends and meeting new people who share their Orthodox faith.

To end the school year, we hosted a BBQ at the end of May at St. Spyridon Church. This event was a mix of spiritual and social. YAL brought young adults together again to share a meal and strengthen the bonds they made at previous events. We were blessed to have so many people in attendance and enough food to feed everyone. Father George blessed us with a wonderful spiritual message, which encouraged us all to keep moving forward and trust in God while we're finding our way.

On Thursday, June 25th, we hosted a mini golf event at Puttshack in Oakbrook from 7-9 pm. In July, we will encourage our friends to come to Liturgy, then share a meal at Xando, and promote our St. Spyridon Greek Fest. We also encourage all of our young adults to volunteer for the fest. Stay tuned for more events at the end of each month!

Submitted by Mariam Xydakis



The Voice—Η φωνή Official Bi—Monthly Community Publication of St. Spyridon

Hellenic Orthodox Church
12307 S. Ridgeland Avenue
Palos Heights, IL 60463

Rev. Fr. George Lamberis
PARISH PRIEST

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Kalli Theodoropoulos	Church Office
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Soteria Simantirakis	Custodian

Parish Council Officers

Bill Kilias	President
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Spiros Tzanetakos	Secretary
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Alexia Tuhaimeer	Chanter
Kathy Korbakes	Philoptochos
Gus Rougas	Kentro
James Korbakes	Kentro
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Sofea Malamis	Archangels
Denise Skiadopoulos	Cherubs
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Stacy Vallianatos	G.O.Y.A.
Stephane Collopy	G.O.Y.A.
Eraklis Labrakis	YAL
Pres. Diana Lamberis	Family Night
Ria Hronis	Family Night
Labros Malfas	Altar Boys
Zachary Chibucos	Altar Boys
Vicky Argyropoulos	Handmaidens
Demetrius Marines	Athletics
Nick Tsinoukas	Athletics
Stella Parhas	Food Pantry
Dana Coronado	Prison Ministry
Pete Mihalopoulos	Iconography
Sophia Christofer	Floga Dance
Evi Marouda	Floga Dance
Anastasia Deligiannis	Floga Dance
Patty Pappas	Floga Dance
Olga Baroudos	Floga Dance
Tim Georgiopoulos	Men's Ministry
Bill Katsenis	Men's Ministry
Vaios Karagiannis	Men's Ministry

P.T.A.



St. Spyridon PTA generously supported our students, teachers, and parish community the past couple of months. On Mother's Day, the PTA hosted a special Coffee Hour in honor of all mothers, featuring a delicious assortment of breakfast pastries, sandwiches, fruit skewers, and desserts.

A Fanari Leadership Award was given to a student who has demonstrated leadership within our church and the community. Nicolette Dagues will be attending a complimentary trip to Fanari Camp during this summer. St. Spyridon PTA also appreciates the dedication and hard work put forth from our teachers. They were given a gift card to enjoy as a small token of appreciation. Graduates of Archangels Academy and Plutarchos Greek School also received a special gift to celebrate their accomplishments. To conclude the school year, all students enjoyed a sweet treat with either an ice cream sundae bar or popsicles.

St. Spyridon PTA is always welcoming new members. We invite everyone to join us for our next meeting on Sunday, August 16, immediately following the Divine Liturgy. We look forward to seeing you there!

VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL

This year's St. Spyridon 2026 Vacation Church School was a great success! We welcomed 42 children, and this year's theme was "Super Saints."

Throughout the week, the children learned about St. John the Baptist, St. George, St. Katherine, St. Nektarios, and Sts. Constantine and Helen. Each lesson was reinforced through every part of the day—including the classroom lesson, drama, crafts, music, athletics, and even snack time! Our wonderful volunteers found creative and fun ways to connect every activity to each saint, making the lessons more meaningful for the children. They also attended Divine Liturgy on Wednesday for the birth of St. John the Baptist, which just so happened to tie in perfectly this year! How wonderful to come together to worship and receive holy communion! The week concluded with the children performing several of the songs they learned, followed by lunch and a gelato truck for everyone to enjoy.

We are grateful for all of the children who joined us this year, and we hope to welcome even more next summer! We are equally thankful for our incredible volunteers—both adults and teenagers—whose time, energy, and love made this year's Vacation Church School such a wonderful week for everyone.

Submitted by Presvytera Diana Lamberis



SUNDAY SCHOOL GRADUATION

As we come to the end of our Sunday School year, I would like to thank everyone who helps our program thrive. To all the Sunday School teachers, who share their time and talent weekly and are committed to teaching our Orthodox faith.

To the parents, or yiayia and papou, who bring their children or grandchildren and make Sunday School a priority. To the PTA, who are always looking for ways to connect our Sunday School and Greek School students and support us. The list goes on and on, because each of us support Sunday School in a different way. It is only together that we make it a success. Some of our Sunday School teachers have taught for over a decade! That is a true testament to their level of commitment. They serve as role models and play such an important part in the lives of their students. Students will always remember their Sunday School teacher, which is why, I think, many of our teachers choose to come back, year after year. We are truly blessed to have many students enrolled in our program. I look forward to our Sunday School family growing and continuing to thrive. Congratulations to all of our graduates, and best wishes for summer "break".

--Zoe Kopanis, Sunday School Director



PLUTARCHOS ACADEMY



On Friday, May 22nd we celebrated the end of another memorable school year with our Annual End of the Year Program. A special highlight of the evening was the participation of our Adult Greek school students. Their heartfelt speeches and wonderful performances were a beautiful reminder that learning Greek is truly a lifelong journey!

Congratulations to all our graduates and many thanks to our teachers for the amazing program. Many thanks to our PTA and all that helped with the set up and brought food and treats for the reception.

Don't Forget! Take advantage of our Early Bird Registration for the 2026-27 school year before July 17th to secure your spot and receive early registration benefits.

We will like to wish everyone a wonderful and restful summer! Καλό καλοκαίρι!

Mrs. Nicky Glikis, Mrs. Sofia Charalambous, Mrs. Patricia Vythoulkas, Mrs. Anastasia Vossos, Mrs. Stavroula Koutsis, Mrs. Georgia Georgelos, Mrs. Evi Marouda, Mrs. Marianna Haniotakis and Ms. Christina Drikos.



PLUTARCHOS ACADEMY



GREEKTOWN EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION 2026 ART PROJECT

Plutarchos Academy proudly participated in this year's Annual Greek Town Beautification Project in Chicago! Students and teachers joined the festive ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the completion of the beautiful new murals and paintings. This year's theme was especially meaningful — celebrating the 250th anniversary of the United States of America.

We are thrilled to have contributed with a stunning painting that our talented students named *"One Flame, Two Nations, Shared Ideals"* On the 250th birthday of the United States of America this artwork celebrates the enduring friendship between Greece and the United States, united by the values of freedom, democracy, courage, and opportunity. The torch bearing "250" symbolizes a legacy of liberty that continues to inspire future generations, while the flowing flags represent the strong bond between two nations connected by history and shared ideals. The Parthenon honors the birthplace of democracy, and the Chicago skyline reflects the promise to carry the torch within our community. Together, these symbols remind us that when people stand united in purpose and respect, they can carry the flame of freedom, honor, beauty and hope into the future.

A big heartfelt thank you to the Greek Town Education Foundation for making this inspiring project possible and for continuing to celebrate and uplift our Greek-American heritage!

Next time you are downtown stroll through Halsted Street and these art remind you that Hellenism is alive, dynamic and proudly rooted here in Chicago.



GRADUATES 2026

MIDDLE SCHOOL GRADUATES

Demetri Christofer
Nicolette Dagnes
Mariam Halikias
Panagiota Korolis

Elessa McNeill
Evan Panagiotopoulos
Marianna Petropoul
Georgie Theodorou

Fotini Toulios
Demi (Demetra) Wagner

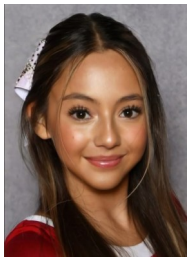
HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

GEORGE ALEX

George graduated from Carl Sandburg High School, where he dedicated much of his time and energy to playing hockey, a sport that taught him discipline, teamwork, and resilience. After graduation, he will continue his education at Moraine Valley Community College as he begins exploring a future career in the medical field. We are proud of the young man he is becoming and excited to see where his hard work and determination lead him next.



more advanced teaching role with kindergarten and first grade students. However, Christina's passion for education extended beyond Greek School and into the broader community through her internship at Meadow Ridge School, where she worked with third grade students. There, she demonstrated an ability to keep students engaged while encouraging curiosity and enthusiasm for learning. Christina also shared her talents with preschoolers through the CSHS Little Eagles program, where her teaching style emphasized both academic growth and the development of important social skills. Christina's experiences in the classroom have solidified her desire to dedicate her life to supporting children and helping them succeed. She will continue pursuing that dream at Illinois State University, where she plans to major in Special Education with a concentration in Behavior and Learning Specialist studies. With her compassion, creativity, and dedication to education, Christina is certain to make a meaningful impact on the lives of future students.

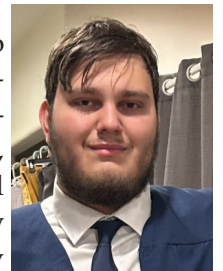


ELENI BALTSAS

Eleni is the daughter of John and Maria Baltas. Eleni is a graduate of Mother McAuley Liberal Arts High School where she was part of Mother McAuley's competitive Varsity Cheer team. Eleni was active in cheer all 4 years and also participated in Varsity sideline cheer at Brother Rice for 4 years. Eleni also served as a Student Ambassador at McAuley. Eleni will attend the University of Wisconsin- Milwaukee, where she plans to pursue a degree in Business. She also plans to join the university's collegiate cheer team in the fall.

ANDREW SAVA KAVVADAS

Andrew graduated from Amos Alonzo Stagg High School. He excelled academically in math and economics, has a natural talent for woodworking and welding, took lead positions in culinary, and breezed through technologies. Andrew will attend Moraine Valley Community College this fall, and wants to pursue career in culinary and stock management.



CHRISTINA DRIKOS

Graduating from Carl Sandburg High School's 2026 class is Christina Drikos, whose educational journey began at St. Spyridon's very own Archangels Academy. From then on, she exhibited a natural talent for teaching others. Throughout her high school career, Christina cultivated her passion for teaching at St. Spyridon Plutarhos. At Greek school, she began as a teacher's assistant for preschool through 1st grade, working with students to create the foundational comprehension of the Greek language. By the time she reached senior year, she began a



GEORGE DEMETRIOS KOTTARAS

George graduated from Marist High School. He will attend Butler University in Indianapolis to major in Sports Media, with a minor in Journalism and Business. George is the son of Demetria Papadopoulou and Demetrios Kottaras. George has been active in the St. Spyridon community throughout his life. He is a graduate of

GRADUATES 2026

Archangels Academy, Plutarchos Greek School (attaining the Level A1 Ellinomatheia), and St. Spyridon Sunday School. He is an Altar Boy Captain, a member of GOYA, a Jr. Olympics participant, and an ongoing volunteer with the Food Pantry, Philoptochos, and the annual Greek Festival. George has enjoyed attending Fanari Camp every summer and he is looking forward to Lighthouse Camp this year. He is grateful to his family and his church community for their support and guidance throughout his faith journey. At Marist High School, he is the Head manager of the Varsity Football, Basketball, Baseball and Lacrosse teams, as well as the PA Announcer for these teams and several others. He also helped run the youth basketball summer camps. George was the recipient of the 2026 Coach Roche Managerial Scholarship. Additionally, he is an active member of the Student Council, serving as Secretary, National Honor Society, and a Student Ambassador Officer. As part of Marist High School's MHS News, George is a regular co-anchor for weekly newscasts, sports roundtables and special reports. He was awarded top honors at the 2026 Scholastic Press Association of Chicago Awards, individual recognition for Excellence for Sports Feature Story, and group recognition for Superior Broadcast Special Coverage. In class, George is an AP Scholar with Honor. He was a Leader on his school's 199th Kairos religious retreat, a Peer Leader for sophomore English classes, and participated Little RedHawk tutoring program for grammar school children after school. Outside of school, George has been a member of the scouting community since third grade. As Senior Patrol Leader, his dedication and service to the community and Boy Scout Troop 596, culminated this year with him attaining the rank of Life Scout.

ZAFIRI MALAMIS

Zafiri graduated from Lemont High School. His educational journey began at St. Spyridon's Archangels Academy Preschool, and he also attended Plutarchos Greek School, where he continued to grow in his faith and Greek heritage. While attending Lemont High School, Zafiri played baseball and was actively involved throughout his high school years. This fall, he will continue his education at Moraine Valley Community College.



KATERINA PANAGIOTOPOULOS



Katerina graduated from Victor J. Andrew High School, where she pursued rigorous academic, athletic and extra-curricular paths. During her high school career, she was recognized for the following academic and service achievements: Top 1% of the class of 2026; T-Bolt Legacy Award for over 150 hours of dedicated service to Andrew's community; Illinois State Scholar; AP Scholar with Distinction; and Andrew Scholar Athlete Award for maintaining a GPA greater than 3.5 all 4 years. She had the honor of competing with Andrew's Varsity Dance team all 4 years, a highly awarded team recognized both as a top-10 State finalist and National finalist. Throughout her team tenure, she was recognized as a leader and named All-Conference Athlete, All-State Athlete, and Team MVP. She was an active member within the following school organizations: National Honors Society as Secretary for 2 years; Spanish Honors Society; T-Bolt Pep Club as Social Media manager for 2 years; Varsity Athletic Leadership Team; Junior Class President within Student Government and a member of the Greek Club. However, her most rewarding time was spent giving back to Andrew's community as a Peer Helper Lead where she worked with peers living with neurodivergent conditions, working with elementary school children as VALT leader, and tutoring underclassman as a Center Tutor Lead. Katerina has been a devoted member of the St. Spyridon community since early childhood having attended Archangels Academy, Plutarchos Greek school, Elinomatheia and Sunday school. Her fondest memories within the community were spent as a Handmaiden and volunteering during the church's summer festival and summer camps and competing in Junior Olympics. She will be attending Miami University of Ohio in the fall, where she will major in Biology and minor in Neuroscience. She will also be competing as a Division 1 athlete as a member of Miami University's Dance team. Her passion for helping others and her strong sense of community built within the church and school, has inspired her to pursue a future career in healthcare.

CONSTANTINOS TOULIOS

Constantinos has been accepted to Central Michigan University. He will be majoring in Economics and Pre-Law. Constantinos has signed to play Division Three Hockey for Central Michigan this fall.



GRADUATES 2026

COLLEGE GRADUATES

MARIA CHIBUCOS

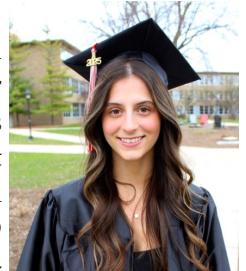
Maria Chibucos, daughter of Caryn Chibucos and the late Nicholas Chibucos, graduated from Saint Mary's College of Notre Dame with a Bachelor of Arts, double majoring in Sociology & Criminology and Philosophy. Throughout her undergraduate years, she dedicated herself to professional development, leadership, and research. She worked as a Law Clerk with the Office of the Illinois Attorney General, where she assisted in preparing briefs and motions and conducted legal research. She also served as a Judicial Intern in the Chambers of the Honorable Elizabeth Hurley, observing civil and criminal proceedings, analyzing judicial reasoning, and assisting with case documentation and courtroom administration. On campus, she served as Co-President of the Notre Dame Orthodox Christian Fellowship, led discussions in the Philosophy Reading Club, and contributed as a Community Outreach Board Member for the Sociology Club. During her summers, Maria also volunteered as a camp counselor at Fanari Camp. A devoted member of St. Spyridon, Maria grew up attending Plutarchos Greek School, Sunday School, and participating in Greek Dance, GOYA, Junior Olympics, Handmaidens, Myrofores, and Byzantine Chant School. She continues to give back through her service at the annual Greek Fest. She is deeply grateful for the philoxenia and love of the St. Spyridon community, especially for the care packages and prayers that reminded her of home throughout her college journey.



festivals, and Fanari Camp, while also volunteering within the Greek School community. His lifelong commitment to faith, family, and community has helped shape the person he is today, and he looks forward to a future of continued growth, achievement, and service.

ADRIANA KILIAS

Andriana Kiliias graduated with a Bachelor of Science from Saint Xavier University in May 2026. She has worked as a pharmacy technician at Walgreens for the last four years. In August 2026 she will begin PharmD studies at University of Illinois Chicago in the Class of 2030.



MARIA MALAMIS

Maria graduated from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign with a Bachelor's in Speech and Hearing Science. During her time at UIUC, she served on the executive board for the Orthodox Christian Fellowship, where she helped organize community service initiatives, volunteer events, and faith-based activities on campus. This fall, she will continue her education at Governor State University, where she will pursue a Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology. Maria would like to thank the St. Spyridon community and her friends and family for their love and support throughout the years!

CHRISTOS PARASKEVOPOULOS

Christos Paraskevopoulos graduated from Southern Illinois University Carbondale with a Bachelor of Science degree in Aviation Management and Aviation Flight. During his time at SIU, Christos earned his Private Pilot Certificate, Instrument Rating, and Commercial Pilot Certificate,



and is currently working toward his Multi-Engine Rating. Following graduation, he plans to continue his flight training by earning his Certified Flight Instructor (CFI) certificate, with the goal of becoming a flight instructor to build flight experience as he works toward a career as an airline pilot. Christos would like to thank his family, friends, instructors, and the St. Spyridon community for all of their love and support throughout his journey. He is the son of Paul and Calliope Paraskevopoulos and the grandson of Christos Catsogiannis.

TOMMY DAGRES

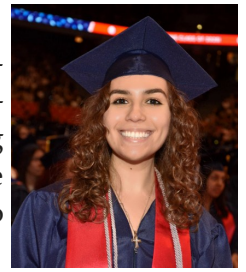


Tommy Dagres graduated in December 2025 from the University of Illinois Chicago with a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering. Shortly after graduation, he accepted his first professional position in the City of Chicago, reflecting his dedication, perseverance, and strong work ethic. Tommy looks forward to building a career focused on innovation, professional excellence, and service to the community. Raised in the St. Spyridon Greek Orthodox Church parish community, Tommy attended Archangels Academy Preschool, Plutarchos Greek School, Sunday School, and Ellinomatheia classes. He served as an altar boy and participated in the Floga dance troupe, Byzantine chant, GOYA, church retreats, the Oratorical Festival, parish

GRADUATES 2026

MARIAM XYDAKIS

Mariam graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of Illinois Chicago with a bachelor's in Anthropology. While at UIC, she presented her research on the Greek and Armenian Genocide to her department and was awarded the Terry award for being an outstanding and dedicated student. Over the summer, Mariam will be part of a field school to hone the anthropology skills she learned at UIC. Mariam hopes to one day work in a museum and to continue her research on the Greek and Armenian Genocide.



GRADUATE STUDENTS

ALEXANDRA 'ALECIA' CHIBUCOS



Alexandra 'Alecia' Chibucos, wife of Zachary Chibucos, graduated from University of Notre Dame with a Master of Science in Business. During her time in the graduate program, she was published as a second author in *Organization Science*, one of the top journals in the field, and has another second-author research paper under review at another leading journal. Her research areas included sportsmanship, underdog mindsets, meaning in work, employee free speech and organizational censorship, and bridging partisan divides in the workplace. Her primary research focus examined prosocial behaviors between individuals who are members of opposing groups in the workplace, inspired by the teachings on loving one's enemies.

ANDREAS N CHRISTY, DO

Andreas graduated from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. During his medical school career, he spent time studying in Pennsylvania, Maryland, Florida, Ohio, Illinois and Michigan. His favorite part of medical school was seeing his patients smile and receiving his annual care package from the Philoptochos. He plans on starting his residency training in July 2026!



IRENA KAROPULOS



Irena graduated from Lewis University with her Master of Education in ESL Curriculum and Instruction. Throughout her program at Lewis, she earned a 4.0 GPA and she balanced graduate school with her full-time job as an EL/English teacher, as well as being a sponsor of Yearbook club, Project Diversity, and Greek club. She loves working with emergent bilingual students and enjoys seeing them grow in their English proficiency skills. She believes her students' identities and linguistic backgrounds are truly unique, and she values

their diverse cultures within her lessons. Irena hopes to teach classes at the college level and she will continue to support all of her students with their future endeavors. She is very thankful to the St. Spyridon community who has shown her love and support throughout her educational journey! She is the daughter of John and Kathy Karopulos.

VIVIAN KILIAS

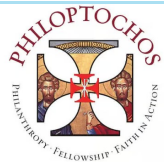
Vivian Kiliias graduated in May 2026 with a Law Degree from Chicago-Kent College of Law. Vivian was an educator prior to pursuing her law degree. She has a Bachelor's of Education from Lewis University and taught for high school for two years. Vivian clerked at Beerman LLP during her law school years.



ATHANASIA PARASKEVOPOULOS

Athanasia Paraskevopoulos graduated from Midwestern University, earning her Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology with highest honors. Throughout her graduate program, she has gained extensive clinical experience working with diverse pediatric populations, developing skills in assessment, intervention, and collaborative care. Athanasia was an active member of the National Student Speech Language Hearing Association, where she further strengthened her commitment to the field through professional involvement and service. Following graduation, Athanasia will begin her career as a Clinical Fellow Speech-Language Pathologist, serving students at Riley Elementary school in Arlington Heights and Frost Elementary school in Mount Prospect within Community Consolidated School District 21. She would like to thank the St. Spyridon Community and her friends and family for their love and support throughout the years. Athanasia is the daughter of Paul and Calliope Paraskevopoulos and granddaughter of Christos Catsogiannis who have been members since the Roseland years.





St. Spyridon Philoptochos Coming To The Aid Of Those In Need

In addition to our monthly national & Metropolis financial commitments, a look at how our St. Spyridon chapter has provided for those in need with outreach and for our parish:

AUGUST 2025

- Delivery of backpacks to Almost Home, Oak Lawn
- Visit to Greek American Nursing Home
- Donation of \$1000 to His Grace Bishop Athenagoras of Myrina for mission work in Caribbean
- Donation of \$2000 for caregiving services to a parish family in need

SEPTEMBER 2025

- Members provided 2 weeks of meals for a parish family in need
- Supported Metropolis Philoptochos September Luncheon
- Attended Christianiki Philoxenia – SS. Constantine & Helen, Palos Hills
- Hellenic College/Holy Cross Seminary National Commitment
- Retired Clergy/Widowed Presbyteres National Commitment

OCTOBER 2025

- Monthly Breakfast Gathering – giving back to restaurants who support our chapter & parish – Blueberry Fields, South Holland
- Visit to Greek American Nursing Home
- College Outreach Packages sent to St. Spyridon college students
- Operation Classroom – donation of math and reading supplies to Blue Island elementary school
- Community Outreach – Winter Coat Drive for Together We Cope, Tinley Park
- Attended Christianiki Philoxenia – Holy Cross, Justice
- Theater Outing to Drury Lane, Oak Brook
- Emergency Philoptochos Fund National Commitment

NOVEMBER 2025

- Philoptochos Sunday – passing of special tray for Patriarchate Fund
- Monthly Breakfast & celebrating patron saints of Philoptochos, Sts. Cosmas & Damianos, Southfork, Orland Park
- Feed The Hungry at Annunciation
- Attended Christianiki Philoxenia – Assumption Homer Glen
- Thanksgiving Food Pantry \$500 Donation
- Philoptochos partners with Floga Dancers - Book Drive for University of Illinois Chicago Hospital Pediatrics & Neonatal Unit
- Operation Classroom – collected Hats, Mittens, Scarves for Palos School District 128
- Operation Classroom - 15 Backpacks donated for Palos School District 128

- Prison Ministry Donation of crosses for inmates visited by Fr. George
- Ecumenical Patriarchate National Commitment
- Benevolent Fund National Commitment

DECEMBER 2025

- 43rd Annual Christmas Craft Show & Food Festival - proceeds to St. Spyridon Building Fund - \$5000; Crisis Center of South Suburbia - \$1000; Bishop Athenagoras – Mission Work in Caribbean - \$2500 for wheelchairs
- Operation Classroom Giving Tree – Gift Cards for Teens
- St. Spyridon Vespers with Refreshments
- St. Spyridon Feast Day and Luncheon for Guests
- Christmas Gifts of Love Monetary Donations to parishioners in need
- Christmas Food Pantry \$500 Donation
- Christmas Luncheon Party – Kefi Restaurant with Toy Drive for Courage Group, Oak Lawn
- Philoptochos with Floga Dancers – Presentation of collected books to UIC Hospital – Pediatrics & Neonatal Units
- United Nations International Children’s Emergency National Commitment
- General Medical Fund National Commitment

JANUARY 2026

- Membership Drive Kick-Off Every Sunday of January
- Membership Mix & Mingle - Zachary’s, Palos Heights
- Attended Metropolis Vasilopita at St. Andrew -with bus transportation provided by Hellenic Foundation Golden Circle Program for southside parishes
- Winter Warm Up Soup Fundraiser - partial proceeds to Pediatric Oncology Treasure Chest Foundation
- Cancer & Other Major Illnesses National Commitment
- Social Services National Commitment
- St. Basil Academy & Youth/Young Adult Programs National Commitment

FEBRUARY 2026

- Go Red Sunday – Wearing red to support Women’s Heart Health Awareness with Healthy Coffee Social & blood pressure readings
- Monthly Breakfast Gathering at Harvest Room, Palos Heights
- College Outreach – Lent Package sent to St. Spyridon college students
- Presentation of \$1000 Donation to Pediatric Oncology Treasure Chest Foundation, Tinley Park
- Clean Monday – hosted Koulouma dinner
- Presentation of \$1000 donation to Crisis Center of South Suburbia, Orland Park
- Theater Outing - Musical “Les Miserables”
- St. Photios National Shrine National Commitment

MARCH 2026

- Visit of His Eminence Metropolitan Ambrosios of Korea & Exarch of Japan – co-hosted Pre-Sanctified Dinner with GOYA – Presentation of \$500 Donation

PHILOPTOCHOS

- Monthly Breakfast Gathering at Blissful Banana, Orland Park
- Loukoumades – Sunday of the Holy Cross
- Attended Metropolis Lenten Retreat at St. George, Schererville with bus provided by Hellenic Foundation for southside parishioners
- Donation of Lenten Koulouria for SS. Constantine & Helen for ordination of Bishop Dionysios
- Altar Freezer donated by Morfo Bountinas
- Metropolis Philanthropy Commitment
- Support A Mission Priest Fund National Commitment
- Orthodox Missions Fund National Commitment
- Hellenic College/Holy Cross Lenten Fund National Commitment

APRIL 2026

- Easter Bake Sale Fundraiser on Palm Sunday
- Dying of Red Eggs on Holy Tuesday
- Lenten Centerpieces -re-designed by Yiannoula Malfas; \$500 donation by Kiki Marinos Georgacopoulos
- Feed the Hungry at Annunciation
- Easter Gifts of Love Monetary Donations to parishioners in need
- Easter Food Pantry \$500 Donation
- Attended Bright Friday at St. Iakovos Retreat Center with bus provided by Hellenic Foundation for southside parishioners
- Attended Christianiki Philoxenia at St. Nicholas
- Metropolis Bishop's Welfare Fund Commitment
- Metropolis Membership Commitment
- IOCC National Commitment
- Sisterhood of St. Basil Academy National Commitment

MAY 2026

- Take 'N Bake Pita Fundraiser with portion of proceeds to Philoxenia House
- New aprons for members donated by Chris Alexopoulos
- Theater Outing to "Les Miserables"
- Monthly Breakfast Gathering at Stacked, Oak Lawn
- Eldercare National Commitment

JUNE 2026

- Christianiki Philoxenia at St. Spyridon
- 5th Annual Cancer Walk - Paraklesis, Memorial & Luncheon - \$7000 Donation benefitting Testicular Cancer
- Philoptochos Scholarships – Peter Manasses Memorial Scholarships – 4 awards totaling \$12,000 - donated by Tina Manasses in memory of her husband, Peter
- Preparation for Festival Pitas & Pastries
- Prison Ministry National Commitment

JULY 2026

- Annual Greek Festival

AUGUST 2026

- Ronald McDonald House Meal with Men's Ministry – preparing & serving



A special birthday for a special lady, longtime St. Spyridon Philoptochos member Toula Georgiopoulos! She's done it all - many terms as president, as well as Metropolis Board member and National Board member. Many more years! Χρόνια Πολλά!



Our Philoptochos from St. Spyridon enjoyed a fun evening attending the theater classic, Les Miserables. Many thanks to our Social Committee for organizing this event and other outings throughout the year.



PHILOPTOCHOS WALK AGAINST CANCER



On Saturday, June 13, the St. Spyridon Philoptochos held their 5th Annual Walk Against Cancer. Well over a hundred and thirty attendees participated in the event representing numerous churches.

The day began offering prayers in a Paraklesis Service to St. Nektarios. Names were read of those currently battling a cancer diagnosis and for the wellness of those who have survived their cancer. Immediately after the service, all participants began the Walk which is held as a remembrance of the struggles endured by those we've lost to cancer. We ended the half-mile Walk at St. Mary's Antiochian Orthodox Church where a Memorial Service was held. At this service, names were read of those who succumbed to their cancer. The return half-mile Walk was held in celebration of those who have survived their cancer and lead us into the hall of St. Spyridon where all participants gathered for lunch and camaraderie.

Fr. George Lamberis and Fr. Mousa Haddad joined in the spirit of Pan-Orthodoxy on behalf of this event offering prayers, love, strength and hope.

The Walk Against Cancer held their first event in June of 2022. Since that Walk ALL monies donated have been distributed – in full – to the following organizations: 2022 - \$5,000 – American Cancer Society, 2023 - \$5,000 -University of Chicago: Pediatric Cancer Wing, 2024 - \$5,000 – American Liver Foundation, 2025 - \$7,500 – National Ovarian Cancer Coalition (NOCC), and this year's recipient will be the Testicular Cancer Awareness Foundation.

The committee members thank everyone who participated in this event. It reaches beyond our Philoptochos Chapter and it reaches beyond our church's walls. Families, individuals, seniors in their 90's, young adults, teens and newborn babies all participated this year. We welcome all to join us in this fight.

A sincere and humble 'thank you' to our participants and donors. See you next year!



PHILOPTOCHOS PRESENTS THE 2026 PETER MANASSES MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

On Sunday, June 14th, the St. Spyridon Philoptochos Society presented the 2026 Peter Manasses Memorial Scholarships to four exceptional young women from our parish.

These annual awards recognize students who demonstrate outstanding academic achievements, leadership, and a commitment to community service.

This year's distinguished high school winners are Katerina Panagiotopoulos, who will be attending Miami University (Ohio), and Anna-Maria Mantzilas, who has been admitted to Nova Southeastern University. The undergraduate recipients are Dena Prassas, who currently attends Butler University, and Victoria Zdenovec, who is enrolled at the Kelley School of Business at Indiana University.

These scholars, who were selected by the Philoptochos scholarship committee, embody the core values of hard work, perseverance, and dedication to their communities. The organization feels incredibly blessed by Mrs. Manasses's profound generosity, supporting these awards for the fifth year in a row to honor her late husband's values and legacy. Warmest congratulations and blessings to all the recipients and their families!



CHRISTIANIKI PHILOXENIA

The Christianiki Philoxenia gathering is always highly anticipated by our southside seniors, this time hosted by St. Spyridon Philoptochos. The φιλότιμο shown by our Philoptochos was felt by over 150 guests!

The gathering for Divine Liturgy and luncheon for our seniors is rotated by the parishes of Ss. Constantine & Helen-Palos Hills, St. Nicholas-Oak Lawn, Holy Cross-Justice, Assumption Homer Glen, All Saints-Joliet, Annunciation-Kankakee and St. Spyridon. Our Philoxenia brings together seniors from these parishes for a day of faith, fellowship and fun.

It was a big party! Special recognition for birthdays and feast days were celebrated. Everyone joined in to sing and dance to traditional songs.

Chairladies Toula Georgiopoulos, Olga Paxinos and Maria Karamangianis did an outstanding job with attention to every detail.

Our very own Chef Dean Eliacostas and his crew prepared a delicious luncheon.

Special thanks to Sophia Kopanitsanos and Dina Katsoulis for preparing the Artous and bread for the tables.

All of our Philoptochos ladies assisted to make everything special for our guests.

A special treat this year - music by Grecian Formula!

Και του χρόνου!



Hi everyone!

Hope all is well & that your summer is off to a great start! We wanted to thank everyone for participating in the Junior Olympics! We had another great turn-out this year with over 80 kids participating and although it started out cloudy & on the cool side, the weather eventually was once again beautiful and made for a wonderful weekend!

Thank you to Father George for all of your guidance and support & also those in the office - Kalli, Gus & Marianna - for all your assistance. Also, thank you to Father George, Maria Tsinoukas and Vicky Argyropoulos for another awesome design of the t-shirts!

We also would like to thank all of the coaches below for their hard work! It is a huge commitment with all of the practices, the games, etc. & doing their best to make sure all of the kids have fun! A great job by all & thank you again, it is much appreciated!

COACHES:

Basketball:

Aris Halikias (ages 7-10 & 11-13)

William Karopulos (ages 7-10 & 11-13)

Soccer:

Terry Pappas (ages 7-9)

Kosta Vasilopoulos & Apostoli Hardaloupas (ages 10-12)

Apostoli Hardaloupas (ages 10-12)

Angelo Velissaris & Bill Tsoukalas (ages 13-15)

Bill Tsoukalas (ages 13-15) Michael Haniotakis & Andy Watne (ages 16-18)

Volleyball (girls 13-18):

Kleopatra "Kleo" Vasiliades & Andreana Kekempanos

Softball (ages 13-18):

Tom Bisbikis

Track & Field (ages 7-18):

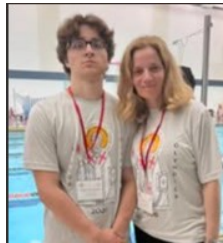
Rob McNeill & Niki McNeill

Swimming (ages 7-18):

Mihael Karanastasis & Sofia Sofou

Bowling (ages 13-18):

Connie Briseno



A SUMMARY OF SOME OF THE HIGHLIGHTS:

This was the third year of **bowling** after the Metropolis brought it back a couple of years ago and it kicked off the weekend on Friday night. We had nine bowlers (two teams of four plus an alternate) and once again everyone seemed to have a great time. Maria Petrakos earned the bronze medal for St. Spyridon!

This is a really fun event where the kids & everyone have a chance to just hang out, bowl, have some pizza, etc. and it's all covered by the parish. Hopefully next year we will have even more bowlers!

Both of our basketball teams played exceptionally well and competed in exciting games. Our 7-10 team got off to a strong start, winning its opening game before falling in the next round, while our 11-13 team battled hard in a closely contested game but came up just short. Both teams represented St. Spyridon with great effort and sportsmanship, and the experience will serve as a wonderful foundation for the future.

In recent years, our **volleyball** players joined with Holy Cross to form a combined team. Last year, however, we had enough girls to field our own team, and this year we were blessed to have both our own girls' and boys' teams. While neither team advanced, both competed with great effort and enthusiasm. More importantly, it was wonderful to see so many of our youth representing St. Spyridon, building friendships, developing their skills, and laying a strong foundation for the future of our volleyball program.



We had a **softball** team for the first time that I can remember and they played well, had the lead for much of the game though could not hold on for the win. One unique highlight was His Eminence Metropolitan Nathanael pinch hitting and running for both teams during the game. It was great that we had our own team & the kids had a lot of fun so a great experience for them going forward.

Our **soccer** teams won some & lost some - the 7-9 team

2026 JUNIOR OLYMPICS

had a tough game and did not advance and our 10-12 team won their first game 5-1 though did not advance. Our 13-15 team started out strong with a 8-0 win though tied their next game 2-2 and lost on penalty kicks. For 16-18, we did not have enough kids for our own team so they combined with Holy Cross. Our kids played great and were the driving force for an impressive run to the gold medal game which they won after a double shoot-out! That was awesome, congratulations to them & next year we definitely hope to have our own 16-18 team & kudos again!



For the **board games**, Platon Belesiotis won the silver in Chess (16-18).

For **Track & Field** we had the following medals:

Andreas Baltas - Bronze - Boys, 11-12 Long Jump
 Eva Hardaloupas - Silver - Girls 16-18 1,600 Meters
 Vasiliki Hatzidimitriadis - Bronze - Girls 13-15 1,600 Meters
 Niko Korolis - Silver - Boys 13-15 400 Meters
 Elessa McNeill - Gold - Girls 16-18 800 Meters
 Elessa McNeill - Gold - Girls 13-15 1,600 Meters
 Sophia McNeill - Gold - Girls 13-15 800 Meters
 Adult division: Amy Korolis - Gold - Women 10K

Congratulations to all of the medal winners & participants!! Thank you again everyone & until next year, have a great summer! *Nick Tsinoukas and Demetrius Marines*



For **swimming** after nearly a decade, Mario Halikias passed the coaching reins to Mihael Karanastasis & Sofia Sofou. Thank you Mario for the impressive run and helping turn St. Spyridon into a swimming powerhouse! The team had an excellent year as they won 23 medals - 7 Gold, 12 Silver & 4 Bronze. An impressive performance & below are the medal winners with their events:

TJ Collopy

Silver - Boys 18 & Under 200 Yard Medley Relay

Silver - Boys 18 & Under 100 Yard Freestyle

Christos Deligiannis

Silver - Boys 18 & Under 200 Yard Medley Relay

Gold - Boys 15 & Under 50 Yard Freestyle

Marko Hardaloupas

Bronze - Mixed 10 & Under 100 Yard Freestyle Relay

Despina Karanastasis

Gold - Girls 18 & Under 200 Yard Medley Relay

Silver - Girls 18 & Under 50 Yard Breaststroke

Gold - Girls 18 & Under 50 Yard Breaststroke

Gold - Girls 18 & Under 100 Yard Freestyle

Elessa McNeill

Gold - Girls 18 & Under 200 Yard Medley Relay

Silver - Girls 15 & Under 50 Yard Freestyle

Bronze - Girls 18 & Under 50 Yard Freestyle

Silver - Girls 15 & Under 50 Yard Breaststroke

Silver - Girls 15 & Under 200 Yard Freestyle Relay

Sophia McNeill

Gold - Girls 18 & Under 200 Yard Medley Relay

Silver - Girls 15 & Under 200 Yard Freestyle Relay

Zoe McNeill

Gold - Girls 18 & Under 200 Yard Medley Relay

Silver - Girls 15 & Under 200 Yard Freestyle Relay

Demitra Papamihail

Bronze - Mixed 10 & Under 100 Yard Freestyle Relay

Anna Perkins

Bronze - Mixed 10 & Under 100 Yard Freestyle Relay

Elias Perkins

Silver - Boys 18 & Under 200 Yard Medley Relay

Gus Perkins

Silver - Boys 18 & Under 200 Yard Medley Relay

Nia Vasilopoulos

Silver - Girls 15 & Under 200 Yard Freestyle Relay

THE GREAT MIRACLE OF ST. SPYRIDON ON AUGUST 11, 1716

Vigil of St. Spyridon on Monday, August 10th at 7:00 pm

Our holy father among the saints, Spyridon, wrought miracles at all times. However, the most exceptional and remarkable one was whereby he preserved Kerkyra impregnable in the face of the Turkish invasion of 1716. Every corner of the island marvels and proclaims this extraordinary event in a resounding voice. The matter took place as follows:

War erupted between the Venetians and Ishmaelites (Turks), resulting in the capture of the Peloponnesos. The Turks considered it to their advantage to take Kerkyra also. Therefore, on the 24th day of June, in the year 1716, a powerful Turkish fleet sailed into the city's harbor. Due to this unexpected move, the inhabitants were overwhelmed and surprised. A great army of Turks landed on the beautiful island shores, their purpose being to lay siege and pillage the island by land and sea.

A fierce battle ensued, but the barbarians succeeded in overpowering the Christians by fire and sword. After fifty days of violent combat, the infidels' main thrust came to be directed against the city of Kerkyra. Then, the beleaguered Orthodox Christians, having no other recourse, sought refuge in their holy hierarch and defender, Saint Spyridon. Day and night, they entreated him with tears and vigils, begging him to rescue them from imminent annihilation. (Verily, this occurred!)

One day, the Turkish army stormed the outer walls of the city (and shortly after, many of them met an evil end, as they were evil). They were vanquished by the intervention of the wonderworking Spyridon. The outcome of this further enraged the barbarians, so they marched on the outlying towns, committing heartless and brutal murders wherever they went. In addition to this, they threatened new raids which would exterminate all the natives either by an evil death or by bitter enslavement. The hapless islanders intensified their vigils and prayers to the saint to deliver them from this peril. At the point where they anticipated defeat by the Turks,



suddenly, at dawn, our great father Spyridon appeared against them, accompanied by a vast celestial host, wielding a sword of lightning in his hand with which he angrily scattered the marauders. This awesome sight struck panic in their ranks, and they turned to flight; their eyesight having been darkened, they were cast into confusion and slew one another. Therefore, they were routed, driven from the land by fear rather than by fire, sword, or any adversary. All this was accomplished solely by Saint Spyridon and the incorporeal hosts of heaven.

Meanwhile, the infantry and cavalymen fled, and the fleet sailed away in the face of the great power of the holy hierarch, which delivered the city of Kerkyra. However, after calm was restored (unbeknownst to the islanders), the Kerkyraeans expected further attacks, yet there was no enemy in sight, nor sound to be heard; only absolute silence. Therefore, being puzzled by these peculiar circumstances, they left the city walls and proceeded in the direction of the enemy tents. It was then that they realized that a miracle had taken place, to their utter amazement, and with sheer delight, they leapt for joy. For strange it was and unprecedented for Turks to disappear and leave all their gear behind. As they fled, they acknowledged to everyone wherever they went that they were driven out by a venerable monk (that is, Saint Spyridon) and a glorious celestial army which appeared in the air, forcing them out with great speed.

Therefore, with extreme reverence everyone hastened to render honor and chant hymns of thanksgiving to the wonderworking hierarch. Furthermore, the expulsion was acknowledged by the Venetians (who ruled the island at the time), who proclaimed the rescue by the saint and the Christ-loving heavenly host, and honored them with a procession and hymns of praise. The memory of this miracle is celebrated on the 11th of August.

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For more information please contact the church office at 708*385*2311 or by email at office@saint-spyridon.net

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Attention St. Spyridon College Students!

St. Spyridon's Memorial Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce the 2026 Charles C. Condes Scholarships for undergraduate and graduate students!



SCHOLARSHIPS OFFERED:

- (1) \$2,500
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- (1) \$1,250

Applications must be submitted by **July 24th, 2026**

MORE INFORMATION:
<https://saint-spyridon.net/>




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