



THE VOICE

MARCH 2025 - VOLUME No. 399
SAINT SPYRIDON HELLENIC ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

Triumph of Orthodoxy PAN ORTHODOX VESPERS

Sponsored by the Orthodox Christian Clergy Association of Greater Chicago



6:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 9, 2025

Assumption Greek Orthodox Church
 601 S Central Avenue, Chicago, IL

Homilist: His Grace Bishop Alexei
 Diocese of Sitka and Alaska
 of the Orthodox Church in America (OCA)

Responses by
 The Pan Orthodox Choir
 of Greater Chicago

Gordana Trbuhovich, Director



THE SYNODIKON

THIS is the Faith of the Apostles!
 THIS is the Faith of the Fathers!
 THIS is the Faith of the Orthodox!
 THIS is the Faith which has
 established the Universe!

METROPOLIS -WIDE VESPERS OF FORGIVENESS



SUNDAY, MARCH 2ND

6:00 PM

ST. DEMETRIOS, ELMHURST

PRESIDED BY:
 HIS EMINENCE,
 METROPOLITAN NATHANAEL

ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND



Inaugural Meeting of New Men's Ministry



FATHER'S MESSAGE

WHEN PASCHA COMES, WHO SHALL I BE?

Beloved Faithful,

We are just beginning Holy and Great Lent, and in three weeks, we will find ourselves at the midpoint of this sacred journey toward Holy Pascha, the Feast of Feasts. It is often around this time that many of us start to feel the weight of the fast and long for it to be over. Yet, we will still be only halfway through.



On the third Sunday of Great Lent, the Cross will be placed at the center of our focus to give us strength and courage, presenting it as a symbol of triumph. However, I must gently offer a reflection: too often in sermons, we are encouraged to revere the Cross, but the deeper reason for its power is not always made clear. It sometimes feels as if we are asked to celebrate the Cross as if it were a mere symbol or banner, like a team flag, rather than something far more profound.

So, let us be clear: The Cross is an encouragement to us because of the death and resurrection of Christ. If we are not entering this season of Lent with the intent to die and be raised with Him, then we have missed the heart of this journey. That is the Gospel we are called to live—there is no other purpose to this holy season than to be united with Christ in His Passion and Resurrection.

As the Cross will soon stand before us, we will find ourselves at a crossroads—a moment of decision. How will we continue this journey toward Pascha? Will we press forward as dutiful ascetics, drawing strength from the mere image of the Cross? Will we place our hope in the unfolding liturgical drama of Great Lent, Holy Week, and Pascha? Or will we simply go through the motions, only to return to the comforts of the world

when the fast is over?

The road I hope we will take, and the one I long to follow myself, is this: I will die and be resurrected with Christ. Everything in my life will be for Christ. The Church will be revealed as Christ, “the fullness of Him Who fills all in all” (Eph. 1:23).

As we approach this crossroad, I pray that we will all find (and re-find) our-

selves in Christ. To that end, I offer these beautiful words from Georges Khodr, Metropolitan of Mount Lebanon:

“How should I conduct myself at Pascha? If the word means passing over, then there’s nothing left for me except to leave everything behind to meet Christ. There is nothing in the feast except for Christ. There is nothing in Christianity except Christ. Everything else is just a way to speak of Him, an expression of Him. Once, I was asked what I would keep from this world if I were stranded on a desert island. I answered, ‘The Sermon on the Mount from Matthew and the Gospel of John.’ You know, Lord, that we Orthodox read the entire Gospel in our homes during Holy Week because the Gospel is You.

How should I conduct myself at Pascha? I try to become the Gospel, to become the Word so that people may read me and live. Christianity is to cultivate illumined faces that give light to the world. This is the living Pascha. It is what drives me to pass through people to the Father’s face. How should I live? ‘I do not live, it is Christ who lives in me.’ Christianity is not a religious system; it is love—that is, clinging to Christ so deeply that I forget my own face to see His face, and the whole world in His face. If we are people of Pascha, we are constantly going beyond our-

FATHER'S MESSAGE

selves and the world to become Him, and for Him to become us. It is not a matter of systems, nor of theoretical principles. Everything is His face, until all faces pass away or we read Him traced upon them.

How should I conduct myself? I should forget myself until I see Him and Him alone in me, until I see myself overlooking all existence. How should I conduct myself? I should place Him before my eyes and see Him as the existence that makes everything else superfluous for me. I do not converse with Him—I encounter Him. Your face, O Lord, Your face is my desire until the moon passes away.”

May these words guide and inspire us as we begin our journey through this holy season, and may we, too, encounter Christ in the depth of our lives and actions.

Fr. George



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Χαίρετε,

Σας εύχομαι Καλή Σαρακοστή, με υγεία, ειρήνη, ταπεινότητα και συγχώρεση. Επίσης εύχομαι να είμαστε πάντα ενωμένοι και αγαπημένοι σαν μια οικογένεια.

Greetings,

I wish you a blessed Great Lent, filled with health, peace, humility, and forgiveness.

February was another exciting month for our Saint Spyridon Parish. Two major phases of the Church Beautification Project were completed and we saw a huge jump in donations.

The re-finishing of the terrazzo floors and the pews were completed simultaneously and the pews have all been reinstalled in the church. The solea railings are in the process of being fabricated. We are anticipating the solea railings will be installed in early March, followed by the installation of the hearing loop and carpet.

The total cost of the Church Beautification project is \$103,000. To date we have received approximately \$80,000 (up \$47,000 from last month) in donations, with the current net difference of \$23,000 to be funded by the Church Building Fund.

We are blessed to have all of you helping our beloved St. Spyridon Hellenic Orthodox Church in every way that you do. If you are moved by these projects, and would like to make a donation, please contact me (bkilias@yahoo.com or 708 927 0075), Fr. George, or the Church Office.

On February 16th the Archangels Academy held their annual breakfast fundraiser and it was a huge success, with 320+ attending, raising approximately \$10,000 for the school. A heartfelt thank you to Sofea Malamis, Katerina Alexakos, Evi Marouda, Evelyn Hristakos, and the entire organizing committee for their tireless work to make the breakfast such a memorable event. And a huge thank you to Chef Dean Eliacostas and the entire kitchen staff. We were all transported to Paris for a few hours, and it was wonderful to spend time with our parish community. The future of Archangels Academy is very bright!

On February 20th, Bill Katsenis and Anthony Baudo hosted the inaugural Men's Ministry event at North and Maple in Tinley Park. It was a beautiful evening of discussion, reflection, and thanksgiving, since we all realized the wonderful blessing that

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

has brought us all together. In addition to St. Spyridon the Wonderworker, Anthony and Bill selected Simon of Cyrene as the saint to guide us through this journey. Anthony read a few passages that emphasized the humility, sacrifice, and service of St. Simon. If we can only come close to matching that in our new ministry. A big Thank you to North & Maple for donating all of the food for this event.

We were blessed to have Father Sokratis from Koutlounousiou Monastery on Mount Athos join us for our first meeting. Last year the group that went on the Mount Athos pilgrimage met Father Sokratis briefly. We were on our way to Panagouda to visit Agios Paisios' keli. We stopped at Koutlounousiou to light a candle and venerate the relics. Fr. Sokratis welcomed us and asked if we could stay for vespers. We politely declined because we were trying to hike to Panagouda and back to our home base of Iera Moni Ivion before sunset. Fr. Sokratis smiled, wished us well and said, "perhaps next time".

Who knew that the next time we would see Fr. Sokratis would be at St. Spyridon in Palos Heights. Six months after we visited Mt. Athos, the Toulis family commissioned the Akathist Hymn icon for our parish to be prepared on Mt Athos, and overseen by a "close family member". Little did we all know that family member was Fr. Sokratis, who visited the USA for the first time to see his family, and to hand deliver the Akathist Hymn icon to our parish. It is the only prototype of this icon that exists outside of Mt. Athos. We are so blessed, and we thank the Toulis family, Fr. Sokratis and our beloved St. Spyridon for this great blessing.

And last, but certainly not least, on February 23 our beloved Philoptochos hosted the annual Apokriatiko luncheon. The hall was buzzing the day before with such a positive vibe, with many

volunteers helping set up. And we were blessed to have Floga perform for the parish community. Thanks to Dana Vasilakos and ALL of Philoptochos for their kindness, generosity, and hospitality. What a beautiful and memorable day.

Thanks to the entire parish for all of your love and support for **St. Spyridon the Wonderworker** and our **St. Spyridon Hellenic Orthodox Church**.

Καλή συνέχεια με υγεία

Bill Kiliass

Parish Council President



ANNOUNCEMENTS



**BETTER
LUCK
THIS
YEAR!**

28th Annual GOLF OUTING
SAVE the DATE

06.05.25

ODYSSEY GOLF FOUNDATION
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**ΨΥΧΟΚΑΒΒΑΤΟ
SATURDAY OF THE SOULS**



8:00 am Orthros and Divine Liturgy
Saturday, February 22
Saturday, March 1
Saturday, March 8



Saint Spyridon Hellenic Orthodox Church
12307 S Ridgeland Ave, Palos Height, IL

The Voice Η φωνή
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St. Spyridon
Hellenic Orthodox Church
12307 S. Ridgeland Avenue
Palos Heights, IL 60463
Rev. Fr. George Lamberis
PARISH PRIEST

Church Office

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Phone: 708-385-2311

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E-mail: office@Saint-Spyridon.net

Web: www.Saint-Spyridon.net

Parish Council Officers

Bill Kilias	President
Nick Kournetas	Vice-President
James Korbakes	2nd Vice-President
Spiros Tzanetakos	Secretary
Panagiotis Stamus	Assistant Secretary
Caryn Chibucos	Treasurer
Gus Kolyvas	Assistant Treasurer

Auxiliary Officers

Alexia Tuhaime	Chanter
Dana Vasilakos	Philoptochos
Vicky Argyropoulos	P.T.A.
Gus Rougas	Kentro
James Korbakes	Kentro
Marianna Haniotakis	Plutarchos
Sofea Malamis	Archangels
Evelyn Christakos	Cherubs
Zoe Kopanis	Sunday School
StacyVallianatos	G.O.Y.A.
Stephane Collopy	G.O.Y.A.
Pres. Diana Lamberis	Family Night
Ria Hronis	Family Night
Viaian Tzanetakos	Family Night
Labros Malfas	Altar Boys
Zachary Chibucos	Altar Boys
Vicky Argyropoulos	Handmaidens
Demetrius Marines	Athletics
Nick Tsinoukas	Athletics
Stella Parhas	Food Pantry
Kalli Theodoropoulos	Church Office
Marianna Haniotakis	Church Office
Litsa Tsarouhis	Church Office
Soteria Simantirakis	Custodian
Pete Mihalopoulos	Iconography
Sophia Christofer	Floga Dance
Evi Marouda	Floga Dance
Anastasia Deligiannis	Floga Dance
Patty Pappas	Floga Dance
Olga Baroudos	Floga Dance

ARCHANGELS ACADEMY

The month of February has been nothing short of amazing here at Archangels Academy Preschool. We are thrilled to share the success of our Annual Fundraiser Breakfast, which was an incredible achievement with over 330 attendees expressing their love and support for our beloved school. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all our families, for their donations - whether it was food, raffle items, or their precious time. The success of our fundraiser would not have been possible without the unwavering support of each and every one of you, and for that we are truly grateful.

As we head into the warmer months, we have our sights set on summer! Our Summer camp is just around the corner and will run the week of June 9th. With limited space available, we encourage you to reach out to Sofea Malamis to reserve your child's spot today.

Looking even further ahead, we are excited to announce that enrollment for the Fall 2025-2026 academic year is now open! Given the limited availability, we urge interested families to visit our website at archangelsacademy.org for tuition information and to download the application today. While there, take a moment to explore our photo gallery and read some parent testimonials to discover why our preschool is truly extraordinary. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at any time.

Warm regards,

Sofea Malamis
Director

ARCHANGELS ACADEMY



DIVINE LITURGY SCHEDULE

Saturday, March 1st	2nd Saturday of the Souls, Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 8:00—10:30 a.m. * Vespers—5:00 p.m.
Sunday, March 2nd	Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 8:00—11:15 a.m. * Forgiveness Vespers at St. Demetrios, Elmhurst, 6:00 p.m.
Monday, March 3rd	Clean Monday * Great Compline, Part 1 of St. Andrew Canon, 5:00—6:15 p.m. * Koulouma Dinner
Tuesday, March 4th	Confession, 1: 00 p.m. —3:00 p.m. Great Compline with Canon of St. Andrew (Part 2), 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday, March 5th	9th Hour & Presanctified Liturgy, 5:45 p.m.
Thursday, March 6th	Great Compline with Canon of St. Andrew (Part 3) , 6:00 p.m.
Friday, March 7th	Confession, 4:00 p.m. —6:00 p.m. 1st Salutations to the Theotokos, 6:30 p.m.
Saturday, March 8th	3rd Saturday of the Souls, Orthros and Divine Liturgy, 8:00 a.m. Confession, 2:00 p.m. —3:30 p.m. *Great Vespers, 5:00 pm
Sunday, March 9th	Sunday of Orthodoxy, Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 8:00 a.m.* Pan-Orthodox Vespers-- Assumption Greek Orthodox Church, Chicago, IL, 6:30 p.m.
Monday, March 10th	Great Compline, 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday, March 11th	Confession, 1:00 p.m. —3:00 p.m.
Wednesday, March 12th	9th Hour & Presanctified Liturgy, 5:45 p.m.
Friday, March 14th	Confession, 4:00 p.m. —6:00 p.m. 2nd Salutations to the Theotokos, 6:30 p.m.
Sunday, March 16th	2nd Sunday of Great Lent, Orthros and Divine Liturgy, 8:00 a.m. Solemn Vespers at Holy Apostles, Westchester, IL, 6:30 p.m. (Book Week)
Monday, March 17th	Great Compline, 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday, March 18th	Confession, 1:00 p.m. —3:00 p.m.
Wednesday, March 19th	9th Hour & Presanctified Liturgy, 5:45 p.m.
Friday, March 21st	Confession, 4:00 p.m. —6:00 p.m. 3rd Salutations to the Theotokos, 6:30 p.m. (Oratorical Fest Presentations)
Saturday, March 22nd	Confession, 4:00 p.m. —5:30 p.m. Great Vespers at Holy Cross, Justice, IL, 7:00 p.m.
Sunday, March 23rd	Sunday of the Veneration of the Cross, Orthros and Divine Liturgy, 8:00 a.m.
Monday, March 24th	Great Vespers for the Annunciation of the Theotokos at Annunciation Cathedral, Chicago, 7:00 p.m. or Annunciation in Kankakee, IL, 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday, March 25th	Annunciation of the Theotokos—Orthros and Divine Liturgy—8:00 a.m. Confession, 1: 00 p.m. —3:00 p.m.
Wednesday, March 26th	9th Hour & Presanctified Liturgy, 5:45 p.m.
Friday, March 28th	Confession, 4:00 p.m. —6:00 p.m. 4th Salutations to the Theotokos, 6:30 p.m.
Saturday, March 29th	Confession, 2:00 p.m. —3:30 p.m. *Vespers, 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, March 30th	4th Sunday of Lent, St. John of the Ladder Orthros and Divine Liturgy, 8:00 a.m.
Monday, March 31st	Great Compline, 6:00 p.m.

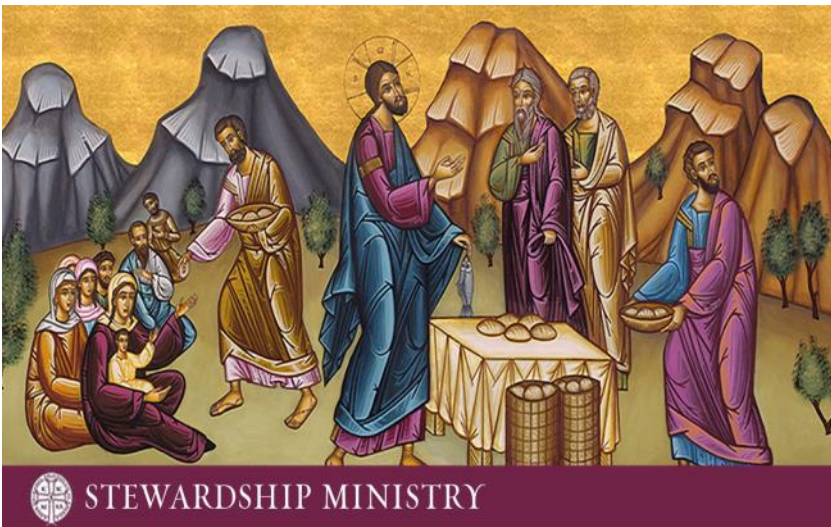
ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑ ΙΕΡΩΝ ΑΚΟΛΟΥΘΙΩΝ

Σάββατο 1 Μαρτίου	2ο Ψυχοσάββατο—Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία, 8:00—10:30 π.μ.* Εσπερινός—5:00 μ.μ.
Κυριακή 2 Μαρτίου	Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία, 8:00—11:15 π.μ. * Κατανυκτικός Εσπερινός της Συγχωρήσεως στον Ι Ν Αγίου Δημητρίου, 6:00 μ.μ.
Δευτέρα 3 Μαρτίου	Μέγα Απόδειπνο με τον Κανόνα του Αγίου Ανδρέου (1ο μέρος), 5:00—6: 15 μ.μ.* Κούλουμα
Τρίτη 4 Μαρτίου	Εξομολόγηση, 1:00 μ.μ. —3:00 μ.μ. * Μέγα Απόδειπνο με τον Κανόνα του Αγίου Ανδρέου (2ο μέρος)—6:00 μ.μ.
Τετάρτη 5 Μαρτίου	9η Ώρα & Προηγιασμένη Λειτουργία —5:45 μ.μ.
Πέμπτη 6 Μαρτίου	Μ. Απόδειπνο με τον Κανόνα του Αγίου Ανδρέου (3ο μέρος)—6:00 μ.μ.
Παρασκευή 7 Μαρτίου	Εξομολόγηση, 4:00—6:00 μ.μ. * Α΄ Χαιρετισμοί —6:30 μ.μ.
Σάββατο 8 Μαρτίου	Γ΄ Ψυχοσάββατο, Όρθρος και Θεία Λειτουργία —8:00 π.μ. Εξομολόγηση, 2:00 μ.μ.—3:30 μ.μ. * Μέγας Εσπερινός, 5:00 μ.μ.
Κυριακή 9 Μαρτίου	Κυριακή της Ορθοδοξίας, Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία, 8:00 π.μ.* Πανορθό -δοξος Εσπερινός στον Ι. Ν. Κοίμησις της Θεοτόκου, Σικάγο, IL—6:30 μ.μ.
Δευτέρα 10 Μαρτίου	Μέγα Απόδειπνο, 6:00 μ.μ.
Τρίτη 11 Μαρτίου	Εξομολόγηση, 1:00 μ.μ.—3:00 μ.μ.
Τετάρτη 12 Μαρτίου	9η Ώρα & Προηγιασμένη Λειτουργία, 5:45 μ.μ.
Παρασκευή 14 Μαρτίου	Εξομολόγηση, 4:00—6:00 μ.μ. * Β΄ Χαιρετισμοί, 6:30 μ.μ.
Κυριακή 16 Μαρτίου	Β΄ Κυριακή της Σαρακοστής, Όρθρος και Θεία Λειτουργία, 8:00 π.μ. Κατανυκτικός Εσπερινός—Αγ. Αποστόλους, Westchester, IL, 6:30 μ.μ.
Δευτέρα 17 Μαρτίου	Μέγα Απόδειπνο, 6:00 μ.μ.
Τρίτη 18 Μαρτίου	Εξομολόγηση, 1:00 μ.μ.—3:00 μ.μ.
Τετάρτη 19 Μαρτίου	9η Ώρα & Προηγιασμένη Λειτουργία, 5:45 μ.μ.
Παρασκευή 21 Μαρτίου	Εξομολόγηση, 4:00—6:00 μ.μ. * Γ΄ Χαιρετισμοί, 6:30 μ.μ.
Σάββατο 22 Μαρτίου	Εξομολόγηση, 4:00—5:30 μ.μ. Μέγας Εσπερινός στον Ι.Ν. Τιμίου Σταυρού, 7:00 μ.μ.
Κυριακή 23 Μαρτίου	Σταυροπροσκυνήσεως, Όρθρος και Θεία Λειτουργία, 8:00 π.μ.
Δευτέρα 24 Μαρτίου	Μέγας Εσπερινός του Ευαγγελισμού της Θεοτόκου Ι.Ν. Ευαγγελισμού— Kankakee, IL, 6 μ.μ., Ι.Ν. Ευαγγελισμού, Chicago, IL, 7:00 μ.μ.
Τρίτη 25 Μαρτίου	Ευαγγελισμός της Θεοτόκου, Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία, 8:00 π.μ. Εξομολόγηση, 1:00 μ.μ.—3:00 μ.μ.
Τετάρτη 26 Μαρτίου	9η Ώρα & Προηγιασμένη Λειτουργία —5:45 μ.μ.
Παρασκευή 28 Μαρτίου	Εξομολόγηση, 4:00 μ.μ.—6:00 μ.μ. * Δ΄ Χαιρετισμοί, 6:30 μ.μ.
Σάββατο 29 Μαρτίου	Εξομολόγηση, 2:00 μ.μ.—3:30 μ.μ. * Μέγας Εσπερινός, 5:00 μ.μ.
Κυριακή 30 Μαρτίου	Δ΄ Κυριακή της Σαρακοστής, Όρθρος και Θεία Λειτουργία, 8:00 π.μ.
Δευτέρα 31 Μαρτίου	Μέγα Απόδειπνο, 6:00 μ.μ.

March 2025 — Community Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 * Byzantine Chant Class —
2 * Sunday School — 10:30 am — 11:30 am	3 * NO Archangels Academy * Greek School — 4:30 p.m. — 6:30 p.m. * Koulouna Dinner — 6:30 p.m. * Adult Greek School (Beginners) — 6:45 pm — 8:30 pm	4 * Archangels Academy — 9:00 am * Parish Council Meeting — 7:30 pm — 9:00 pm	5 * Archangels Academy — 9:00 am * Cherubs — 10:30 a.m. * GOYA — 7:30 pm * Presanctified Potluck Host: Altar boys & Floga — 7:30 pm	6 * Archangels Academy — 9:00 am * Food distribution — 1:00 p.m.	7 * Archangels Academy — 9:00 am * Greek School — 4:30 pm- 6:30 pm	8* * Adult Greek School (Intermediate) 2:30 p.m. — 4:00 p.m. * Byzantine Chant Class (Levels 1 & 3) - 4:15 pm
9 * Sunday School — 10:30 am — 11:30 am * General Assembly — 11:30 am * Floga Advanced — 12:30 pm * Floga Competition — 1:30 pm	10 * Archangels Academy — 9:00 am * Greek School — 4:30 pm- 6:30 pm * Greek dance — 6:30 pm — 7:00 pm * Adult Gk School (Beginner) - 6:45 pm. — 8:30 pm	11 * Archangels Academy — 9:00 a.m. * Iconography — 5:30 pm	12 * Archangels Academy — 9:00 am * Presanctified Potluck & Presentation, Host: GOYA & Family Night — 7:30 pm	13 * Archangels Academy — 9:00 am * Food distribution — 1:00 p.m. * Golf Outing Meeting — 8 pm	14 * Archangels Academy — 9:00 am * Greek School — 4:30 pm- 6:30 pm	15 * Family Night, Altar Boys & Handmaidens visit to the Monastery — 10 a.m. * Adult Greek School (Intermediate) 2:30 p.m. — 4:00 p.m. * Byzantine Chant Class (Level 3) — 4:15 pm
16 * Family worship — No Sunday School * Greek School March 25 Program — 11:30 am * Floga Advanced — 12:30 pm * Floga Competition — 1:30 pm	17 * Archangels Academy — 9:30 am * Greek School — 4:30 pm. — 6:30 pm * Greek Dance — 6:30 pm — 7:00 pm * Adult Gk School (beginner) 6:45 pm — 8:30 pm * Greek School Board Mtg—	18 * Archangels Academy — 9:00 a.m. * Iconography — 5:30 pm	19 * Archangels Academy — 9:00 am * Cherubs — 10:30 a.m. * Presanctified Potluck & Presentation, Host: Handmaidens & Iconography — 7:30 pm	20 * Archangels Academy — 9:00 am * Food distribution — 1:00 p.m.	21 * Archangels Academy — 9:00 am * Greek School — 4:30 pm- 6:30 pm * Oratorical Festival presentation — 7:30 pm	22 * Fanari Lenten Retreat — 10 a.m. * Adult Greek School (Intermediate) 2:30 p.m. — 4:00 p.m. * Byzantine Chant Class (Levels 1 & 3) — 4:15 pm
23/30 * Sunday School — 10:30 p.m. — 11:30 p.m. * Floga Advanced — 12:30 pm * Floga Competition — 1:30 pm	24 * Spring Break 31 * Arch. Academy — 9:00 am * Greek School — 4:30 - 6:30 pm * Greek dance — 6:30 pm — 7pm * Adult Gk School (beginner) 6:45 pm — 8:15 pm	25 * Spring Break * Iconography — 5:30 pm	26 * Spring Break * Potluck Lenten dinner Host: Plutarchos & Archangels Teachers & Families — 7:30 pm * GOYA — 7:30 pm	27 * Spring Break * Food distribution — 1:00 p.m. * Adult Greek School (Intermediate) — 7pm — 8:30 pm	28 * Spring Break	29 * Marriage seminar — 10 am * Adult Greek School (Intermediate) 2:30 p.m. — 4:00 p.m. * Byzantine Chant Class (Levels 1 & 3) — 4:15 pm

STEWARDSHIP 2025



NEW STEWARDS FEBRUARY 1ST—FEBRUARY 28TH

Mr. & Mrs. Nika Alex
Mr. & Mrs. Dimitrios Alexakos
Mr. & Mrs. Kostas Alexopoulos
Mr. Angelo Angelos
Mrs. Penelope Arges
Mr. & Mrs. Zacharias Bousies
Mr. Zachary Chibucos
Ms. Zoe Christou
Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Christy
Ms. Eleni Dimis
Mr. & Mrs. Dean Eliacostas
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Georgiopoulos
Ms. Efrosine Kanellakes
Mr. & Mrs. Andreas Kavvadas
Mr. & Mrs. Louis Kloris
Mrs. Stavroula Kloris
Mr. & Mrs. George Korbakes
Mr. & Mrs. James Kotsiviras
Mr. Eraklis Labrakis
Mrs. Stavroula Malamis
Ms. Angela Malfas
Mr. Labros Malfas
Mrs. Yiannoula Malfas
Mrs. Evelyn Paleothodoros
Mr. & Mrs. Tassos Panagiotopoulos
Mr. Philip Papamakarios
Mr. & Mrs. Ted Pappas
Mr. John Pavlopoulos
Mr. & Mrs. James Petropoul
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Roumeliotis
Mr. & Mrs. Leonidas Skiadopoulos
Mr. & Mrs. Andreas Tsantilis
Mr. & Mrs. Nick Tsinoukas
Mr. & Mrs. Har Tzouanopoulos
Ms. Dana Vasilakos
Mrs. Helen Vlamis
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Xydakis

Total number of Stewards 152

Consider the Following Info...

Coming to worship and participating in the sacramental life sanctifies our soul and body so that we may contribute to the sanctification of the world. It is an important component of stewardship. Christ's gift to us through the Eucharist is an invitation for us to truly experience the Lord and receive Him. In gratitude, centered and strengthened by worship, we offer our entire life in return to Him. This is the greatest form of stewardship which fuels our souls to offer ourselves entirely to Him! With over 170 services offered annually at our parish, we encourage you to participate in 10%—20% more worship opportunities than the previous year.

We wish to thank the 152 Stewards who have made a stewardship commitment for 2025.

Stewardship materials for 2025 are available at the church office and on our website.

Ευχαριστούμε τις 152 οικογένειες που εκπλήρωσαν τις υποσχέσεις τους για το έτος 2025. 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 σας.

GREAT LENT

Preparation for Holy Confession

The gift of God's forgiveness is received through private prayer, corporate worship, the disciplines of prayer and fasting, penitential services and above all through the sacrament of Holy Confession. The value of Holy Confession is twofold. First, through this sacramental act of the ordained priest and the Christian believer we have the assurance of divine forgiveness, according to the words of Christ (Jn 20:23). Secondly, Holy Confession provides the opportunity to talk about one's deep concerns, to receive counsel and to be encouraged toward spiritual growth, all of which are universally recognized as extremely beneficial to personal life.

Holy Confession is appropriate at least twice a year and more often if an Orthodox Christian feels the need for it. It is also a part of our total spiritual preparation during the fast periods leading up to the great feasts of Pascha, Christmas, the Falling Asleep of the Theotokos and the Feast of Twelve Apostles. However, Holy Confession is especially necessary: when a serious sin has been committed; when a habitual sin has overwhelmed a Christian, or when a Christian has stopped growing spiritually and needs a reexamination of priorities. We confess our sins to God and the power of forgiveness is God's. However, the gift of God's forgiveness, although assured, is not magical. It does not automatically spare us from spiritual struggle - the continual vigilance against evil and the unceasing warfare against sin. Holy Confession will bear fruits in the Spirit only when the believer hates evil, utterly rejects sin and patiently cultivates positive habits of the life in Christ.

How can one prepare for Holy Confession? Preparation for Holy Confession is a prayerful examination of thoughts, words, acts, attitudes, habits, values, priorities, goals, direction and way of life. This prayerful self-examination includes not only the personal religious life, but also family relationships, social activities, job conduct, business dealings, political commitments and even recreational pursuits, because our entire existence should be lived in under the light of the Holy Spirit is not to condemn ourselves, but to affirm our true selves in Christ who has given us access to God's mercy and forgiveness and who has taught us to live for God's glory. Please remember that Holy Confession is not a counseling session. If you wish to speak about general concerns and challenges please schedule an appointment to see the priest at his office outside of the times for confession. Holy Confession is a sacrament in which we are ready and prepared to express our sins. We should prayerfully prepare to receive the sacrament by thinking of what we will say before we come. It is often helpful to write down our confession so that we do not forget our list at the time of Confession. Finally, Holy Confession involves **our** sins. There is no need to speak of the sins of

others or to contextualize our sins within the sins and imperfections of others. God is aware of our circumstances. There is no need to justify or lighten our sins in the sight of God. He already knows and He will forgive us according to the measure that we have forgiven others. Our Confession is the seal of His forgiveness which is promised to those who repent through the commission given to the Church by Christ Himself.

"So Jesus said to them again,

"Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." (John 20:21-23)

Prayer, Fasting & Charity

During Great Lent, our Orthodox Church calls us to renew our discipline of prayer, fasting, and charity. Private prayer must accompany all the church services. The fasting rules during Lent are as follows: On weekdays and Holy Saturday, meat, fish, dairy products, wine and oil are not allowed, with the exception of March 25th when fish, wine, and oil are allowed. On Saturday and Sunday, oil and wine are allowed, with the exception of Palm Sunday when fish is also allowed. Finally, in order for prayer and fasting to be meaningful and spiritually beneficial, they need to be accompanied by vigilance, abstinence, forgiveness, charity, and acts of compassion.

For more information on Great & Holy Lent please visit <http://lent.goarch.org/>

Flowers for Lent & Holy Week

The Great Lent and Pascha Season is upon us, and once again we are asking for your contributions and donations towards the adornment of our St. Spyridon Church. Please call the Church office if you are interested in donating flowers for the Epitaphios or for individual icons. Donations can be sent to the church office or made through the church website.

- **Flowers for Panagia \$100/per Friday**
- **(Five Fridays)**
- **Flowers for Sunday of the Cross—\$150**
- **Palms for Palm Sunday—\$250**
- **Icon of the Last Supper—\$150**
- **Icon of the Crucifixion—\$150**
- **Icon of the Apokathelosis—\$150**
- **Carnations for the Epitaphios—\$300**
- **Decorative flowers for the Epitaphios—\$250**
- **Four (4) Bouquets for the Epitaphios—\$150/each**
- **Icon Sts. Raphael, Nicholas & Irene—\$150**

ΙΣΤΟΡΙΚΕΣ ΑΛΗΘΕΙΕΣ ΑΠΟ ΑΥΤΟΥΣ ΠΟΥ ΑΓΩΝΙΣΘΗΣΑΝ ΜΕ ΠΑΘΟΣ ΓΙΑ ΤΗΝ ΕΛΕΥΘΕΡΙΑ ΜΑΣ



Ἡ Ἐπανάσταση ἡ δική μας δέν ὁμοιάζε μέ καμιά ἀπ' ὅσες γίνονται σήμερα στήν Εὐρώπη. Τῆς Εὐρώπης οἱ ἐπαναστάσεις ἐναντίον τῶν διοικήσεών τους εἶναι ἐμφύλιος πόλεμος. Ὁ δικός μας πόλεμος ἦταν πιά δίκαιος, ἦταν ἔθνος μέ ἄλλο ἔθνος. Ὁ σουλτάνος ποτέ δέν θέλησε νά θεωρήσει τόν ἑλληνικό λαό ὡς λαό, ἀλλά τούς ἐβλεπε ὡς σκλάβους.

Μιά φορά, ὅταν πήραμε τό Ναύπλιο, ἦρθε ὁ Χάμιλτον νά μέ ἰδεῖ. «

-Πρέπει, μοῦ εἶπε, οἱ Ἕλληνες νά ζητήσετε συμβιβασμό καί ἡ Ἀγγλία θά μεσιτεύσει.

Ἐγώ τοῦ ἀποκρίθηκα:

-Αὐτό δέν γίνεται ποτέ. Ἐλευθερία ἢ θάνατος! Ἐμεῖς, καπετάν Χάμιλτον, ποτέ δέν κάμαμε συμβιβασμό μέ τούς Τούρκους. Ἄλους ἐκοψαν, ἄλλους σκλάβωσαν μέ τό σπαθί καί ἄλλοι, καθῶς ἐμεῖς, ζούσαμε ἐλεύθεροι ἀπό γενιά σέ γενιά. Ὁ βασιλιάς μας (ἐνν. τόν *Κωνσταντῖνο Παλαιολόγο*) σκοτώθηκε, καμιά συνθήκη δέν ἔκαμε. Ἡ φρουρά του εἶχε παντοτινό πόλεμο μέ τούς Τούρκους καί τά φρούρια ἦταν πάντοτε ἀνυπότακτα.

- Ποιά εἶναι ἡ φρουρά του; μοῦ εἶπε, καί ποιά τά φρούρια;

- Ἡ φρουρά τοῦ βασιλιά μας εἶναι οἱ κλέφτες, τοῦ εἶπα, καί τά φρούρια, ἡ Μάνη, τό Σούλι καί τά βουνά.

«Ἀπομνημονεύματα» Θ. Κολοκοτρώνη



Μιά χούφτα ἀπόγονοι ἐκείνων τῶν παλαιῶν Ἑλλήνων, χωρίς ντουφέκια καί πολεμοφόδια καί τ' ἄλλα τ' ἀναγκαῖα τοῦ πολέμου, ξεσκεπάσαμε τή μάσκαρα τοῦ Σουλτάνου.

Πάμε νά ἰδοῦμε τούς παλιούς τούς Ἕλληνες εἰς τό μέρος ὅπου κατοικοῦν νά τούς εἰποῦμε τίς χαροποιές εἰδήσεις, ὅτι ἀντιστάθηκαν οἱ ἀπόγονοί τους, ὅπου ἦταν χαμένοι καί σβημένοι ἀπό τόν κατάλογον τῆς ἀνθρωπότης...

Ὁ Θεός ὁ ἀληθινός τούς ἀνάστησε – ξυπόλυτους, γυμνοῦς, νηστικούς, δεμένα τά ντουφέκια τους μέ σχοινιά. Οἱ περισσότεροι πολεμοῦσαν μέ ξύλα καί χωρίς τ' ἀναγκαῖα. Οἱ Τούρκοι ἦταν πλῆθος καί γυμνασμένοι. Οἱ δυστυχεῖς Ἕλληνες, ὀλίγοι καί ἀγύμναστοι, νίκησαν!

«Ἀπομνημονεύματα» Μακρυγιάννη

Ο ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΣΜΟΣ ΤΗΣ ΘΕΟΤΟΚΟΥ



Ὁ καιρός ὁ κατάλληλος ἔφτασε. Ἡ ἀνθρωπότητα δέν ἀντεχε περισσότερο στήν προσμονή. Ἡ ἀνάγκη γιά λύτρωση εἶχε γίνει ἐπιτακτική. Καί ὁ Θεός, πιστός στίς ὑποσχέσεις Του, θέτει πλέον σέ ἐφαρμογή τό προαιώνιο σχέδιό Του, μέ τρόπο θαυμαστό καί μεγαλόπρεπο:

«Ὁ μέγας στρατηγός τῶν αὐλῶν ταγμάτων», ὁ Ἀρχάγγελος Γαβριήλ, κατέρχεται ἀπό τούς οὐράνιους θόλους, σχίζει τούς αἰθέρες καί σπεύδει νά ἐκπληρώσει τοῦ Θεοῦ τή μυστική ἐντολή. Νά, σταματᾷ στό ταπεινό σπιτάκι τῆς Ναζαρέτ. Ἐκεῖ μέσα ἀνθεῖ «κρίνον τῆς ἀγνότητος», Παρθένος Κόρη, ἡ Μαριάμ. «Χαῖρε, Κεχαριτωμένη, ὁ Κύριος μετά σου...». Ὁ Ἀρχάγγελος τῆς φέρνει τό πιό χαρούμενο ἀγγελμα, ὅτι ὁ Θεός ὡς ἄνθρωπος ἀπό αὐτήν θά γίνει βρέφος, γιά νά ἀναδημιουργήσει ὅλο τό ἀνθρώπινο γένος. Ἡ Παρθένος ἀκούει, θαυμάζει, συγκλονίζεται, δέχεται τή θεία βουλή καί ἀποκρίνεται ταπεινά «ἰδού ἡ δούλη Κυρίου...».

Τό σκοτάδι ὑποχωρεῖ. Τό φῶς σέ λίγο θά λάμψει. Ἐρχεται ὁ Ἥλιος τῆς Δικαιοσύνης. Τό σχέδιο τοῦ Θεοῦ ἐνεργοποιεῖται, ἡ εὐλογημένη ὥρα τῆς συναντήσεως τοῦ Οὐρανοῦ μέ τή γῆ!



PLUTARCHOS ACADEMY

We would like to extend our heartfelt congratulations to all the students who participated in the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago Department of Greek Education Annual Agrafon competition. This year's theme was *the Olympic Games*. Our very own Ioanna Marouda, Elessa McNeall and Vasileios Vythoulkas received an award for their essays. The Awards Ceremony took place at the Ascension of our Lord Greek Orthodox Church in Libertyville. Και εις ανώτερα!



Looking ahead, we have several important events planned in the coming months:

Clean Monday (Καθαρά Δευτέρα)

On **Monday, March 3rd**, our Greek School students will be attending the church service marking the beginning of Great Lent. Students will have regular lessons until 5:45 p.m. and then go to church as a class. We warmly invite all parents and extended families to join us for this special service that starts at 5:00 p.m. and to stay afterwards for a Lenten meal, generously hosted by our Philoptochos. This is a wonderful opportunity for our community to come together in prayer and fellowship as we begin this sacred season.

Greek Independence Day Celebration (March 16th):

On **Sunday, March 16th**, we will be celebrating Greek Independence Day. Our students have been working hard to prepare a special program featuring poems, songs, and traditional dances in honor of this important day in our history. This celebration is a wonderful opportunity for our students to showcase their talents and for our community to come together in pride and remembrance of Greece's struggle for freedom.

Greek Independence Day Parade (April 6th):

In Chicago, this year's Greek Independence Day Parade will take place on Sunday, April 6th. Students are required to wear the Ethnic Greek Costume (Tsolia and Amalia) or the blue and white school uniform.

Spring Break (the week of March 24th):

We will have no classes on Monday, March 24th and Friday, March 27th.

Camp Kalokairaki (the week of June 16th):

This year's Camp Kalokairaki will be held June 16th-20th with the theme "Καλοκαιρινές περιπέτειες στην Ελλάδα: Γίνε ήρωες της Μυθολογίας!". Details to follow soon.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School has started, but it is not too late to join us! Sunday School classes will continue to be offered during the month of March, April and May for grades PreK – High School.

During the month of March, classes will be held each Sunday, with the exception of March 16th. This month, our students will be focusing on The St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival. As part of our ongoing commitment to the spiritual growth and development of our youth, we are excited to have all students participate. Each teacher will be reviewing the projects that the class will be working on. Friday, March 21st, after the Salutations to our Theotokos, we will have our Parish Oratorical Festival, led by Maria Baltas.

On Sunday March 9th, all students are encouraged to bring an icon from home for the Sunday of Orthodoxy procession.

On March 23rd, all students will participate in a procession for the Veneration of the Holy Cross. All students will sit in the Sunday school pews on these days, and line up after communion.

Zoe Kopanis, Sunday School Director

O Lord and Master of my life!
Take from me a spirit of sloth,
despair, lust of power, and idle talk.

But give rather the spirit of
chastity, humility, patience,
and love to your servant.

Yes, Lord and King!
Grant me to see my own
errors and not to judge
my brother, for You are
blessed unto ages of ages.

Amen.



St. Spyridon Hellenic Orthodox Church

VCS

VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL 2025

SAVE THE DATE

JUNE 23-27 2025
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Theme:
**Egypt: Joseph's Journey
from Prison to Palace**

Volunteer to help make VCS a success!
Contact Presvytera Diana
at diamberis@gmail.com

Made with PosterMyWall.com

SAVE THE DATE

SUMMER

KIDS CAMPS

AT SAINT SPYRIDON

- ARCHANGELS ACADEMY PRESCHOOL
JUNE 9 - 13, 2025
DAILY FROM 9 AM - 1 PM
AGES 3-5
- PLUTARCHOS ACADEMY
CAMP KALOKAIRAKI
JUNE 16 - 20, 2025
DAILY 9 AM - 1 PM
GRADES K - 6TH
- VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL
JUNE 23 - 27, 2025
GRADES PREK - 6TH
DAILY 9 AM - 12 PM

12307 S. RIDGELAND
PALOS HEIGHTS, IL

SUNDAY SCHOOL

As part of our ongoing commitment to the spiritual growth and development of our youth, we are excited to announce the upcoming **Oratorical Festival** at our parish.

This enriching event will take place after the Salutation Service on **Friday, March 21st**.

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

- **Junior Division for grades 7–9**
- **Senior Division for grades 10–12.**



2025 ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM ORATORICAL FESTIVAL

Senior Division (Grades 10-12) • Junior Division (Grades 7-9)

AWARDS

National finalists are eligible to receive the following:

St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival Scholarship: \$500 to \$2000

FAITH: An Endowment for Orthodoxy and Hellenism: to be announced

Finalists at any level are eligible to receive the following:

Chrysostom Scholarship to Hellenic College: \$2,500 up to \$30,000 per year

All students are strongly encouraged to participate in this year's Oratorical Festival. Projects should be rooted in Orthodox teachings. **Projects are due by Sunday, March 16,** to ensure that we have enough time to prepare them for display during the Oratorical Festival. **Examples of projects (for students in Grades 1-6): Posters, dioramas, icons, drawings, prayer journal, storybook, shadow box.**



Topics

- *The Life of a Saint*
- *The Meaning of a Holy Day*
- *A Miracle of the Orthodox Church*
- *My Favorite Bible Story*
- *The Importance of Prayer*
- *Icons and their Significance*
- *A Significant Sacrament*
- *The Importance of Kindness*
- *Why We Light Candles in Church*
- *The Significance of the Cross*
- *The Role of a Priest in the Church*



Scan the QR Code
for Topics, Tips, and
Resources

For additional information,
please contact

Maria Baltas , Oratorical Chair
englishteacher30@yahoo.com (773)
615-1719

PHILOPTOCHOS



FLOGA HELLENIC DANCE TROUPE

The **St. Spyridon Floga Hellenic Dance Troupe** had another fantastic month! The **Floga Advanced** group showcased their talents at the **Papaflessa Apokriatiko Dinner Dance**, while **The Spring of Basil** and **The Wonderworkers** performed beautifully at the **Archangels Breakfast**. The children did an amazing job at both events, and we all had a wonderful time celebrating together. These performances were not only fun but also a great opportunity for bonding and creating lasting friendships.

We sincerely thank **Papaflessa** and **Archangels** for inviting us to their events—it was truly an honor to be part of these joyous occasions.

Looking ahead, our **final performance of the season** will be at the **St. Spyridon Apokriatiko Luncheon**, where the **Wonderworkers & Advanced Floga** will once again take the stage, sharing their love for Greek dance with the community. We look forward to an afternoon filled with dancing and celebration!

As we enter the Lenten season, our **Friday practices** will be moved to either **Saturdays or Sundays after church** to encourage families to attend services. Updates will be shared via the **Remind app**.

On behalf of the **Floga family**, we thank you all for your continued support. **Kali Sarakosti!**

Sophia Christofer



ALTAR BOYS

On Saturday, February 18th we had our Altar Boy meeting. Fr. George prepared a lesson plan about the Prodigal Son, and our altar boy captains taught the lesson to our younger altar boys. Afterwards, our youth cleaned the church and then enjoyed some delicious donuts. It's important that we think about training others so they can become the leaders of the future.



GOYA NEWS

GOYA continues to have a great year! We kicked off the month of February with our bake sale to help raise funds to offset the cost of our GOYA Outreach trip to Minnesota. Thank you to everyone who came to help and support our GOYA.

At the end of the month, we threw in a fun evening of roller skating at Tinley Park Roller Rink.

Please come and support our GOYA's fundraising effort by supporting our Pizza Puff Sale!!!

Stay up to date and sign up for GOYA notifications through the REMIND APP. TEXT @jrgoyag to 81010

You will receive a text to confirm you are signed up.

Wishing everyone a blessed Great Lent

Mark your calendars for the GOYA March events:

- 3/9, 3/16 and 3/23 - Lenten Pizza Puff sale after church
- 3/12 - Pre-sanctified Liturgy + Lenten Meal
- 3/26 - Pre-sanctified Liturgy + meeting



PARISH REGISTRY

BAPTISM

The daughter of Nicholas & Paulina Paleothodoros was baptized on February 2nd and was given the name Evgenia by her godparents John & Angela Sarantopoulos.

The son of Aristidis & Christina Halikias was baptized on February 16th and given Haralambos Panagiotis by his godmother Madgalene Maria Mikroulis.

NA ZHSEOYN!



FUNERALS

Gus Vlamis fell asleep in the Lord on February 19th. His funeral took place on February 26th and he was interned at Bethania Cemetery.

MEMORIALS

February 9th: +1 yr Theodore Limperis & +5 yrs Christos Katsoulis

February 16th: +9 months George Tzouanopoulos

February 26th: +50 yrs Peter Pappas, +42 yrs John Pappas, +62 yrs Panagiota Lazarakou & +20 yrs Evgenia Pappas

May their memory be eternal!

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS



Our **SPRING ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING** for the year 2025 will be held on **SUNDAY, March 9th, 2025 immediately after the Divine Liturgy**. At this meeting many important topics concerning our parish will be discussed. All parishioners are welcome to attend this meeting, but only members in Good Standing for the calendar year 2025 will be allowed to vote.

Please plan to attend this very important assembly, for it gives everyone the opportunity to be involved and informed on matters of our community.



Τιμώτατοι αδελφοί Τεράρχαι καὶ τέκνα ἐν Κυρίῳ εὐλογημένα,

Εἰσερχόμεθα καὶ πάλιν, εὐδοκία καὶ χάριτι τοῦ ἀγαθοδότου Θεοῦ, εἰς τὴν Ἁγίαν καὶ Μεγάλην Τεσσαρακοστήν, τὴν εὐλογημένην περίοδον νηστείας καὶ μετανοίας, πνευματικῆς ἐγρηγόρσεως καὶ συμπορεύσεως μετὰ τοῦ ἐρχομένου πρὸς τὸ ἐκούσιον πάθος Κυρίου, ἵνα φθάσωμεν προσκυνῆσαι τὴν λαμπροφόρον Αὐτοῦ Ἀνάστασιν, καὶ ἀξιοθῶμεν ἐν αὐτῇ τῆς ἡμετέρας «διαβάσεως» ἐκ τῶν ἐπιγείων εἰς «ἃ ὀφθαλμός οὐκ εἶδε καὶ οὐς οὐκ ἤκουσε καὶ ἐπὶ καρδίαν ἀνθρώπου οὐκ ἀνέβη» (Α΄ Κορ. β΄, 9).

Εἰς τὴν ἀρχαίαν Εκκλησίαν, ἡ Ἁγία καὶ Μεγάλη Τεσσαρακοστή ἦτο περίοδος προετοιμασίας τῶν κατηχουμένων διὰ τὸ βάπτισμα, τὸ ὁποῖον ἐτελεῖτο κατὰ τὴν Θεῖαν Λειτουργίαν τῆς Ἀναστάσεως. Τὴν ἀναφορὰν πρὸς τὸ βάπτισμα διασώζει καὶ ἡ θεώρησις

καὶ βιώσις τῆς Μεγάλης Τεσσαρακοστῆς ὡς κατ' ἐξοχὴν καιροῦ μετανοίας, ἡ ὁποία χαρακτηρίζεται ὡς «ἀνάκλησις βαπτίσματος» καὶ ὡς «δεύτερον βάπτισμα», ὡς «συνθήκη πρὸς Θεὸν δευτέρου βίου», ἀναβίωσις δηλαδὴ τῶν δωρεῶν τοῦ βαπτίσματος καὶ ὑπόσχεσις πρὸς τὸν Θεὸν δι' ἑναρξιν νέας πορείας ζωῆς. Αἱ ἀκολουθίαι καὶ ἡ ὕμνολογία τῆς περιόδου συνδέουν αὐτὸν τὸν πνευματικὸν ἀγῶνα τῶν πιστῶν μετὰ τὴν προσδοκίαν τοῦ Πάσχα τοῦ Κυρίου, διὰ τῆς ὁποίας ἡ τεσσαρακονθήμερος νηστεία ἀναδίδει εὐωδίαν πασχαλίου χαρᾶς.

Ἡ Ἁγία καὶ Μεγάλη Τεσσαρακοστή εἶναι εὐκαιρία συνειδητοποιήσεως τοῦ βάθους καὶ τοῦ πλούτου τῆς πίστεώς μας ὡς «προσωπικῆς συναντήσεως μετὰ τὸν Χριστόν». Ὁρθῶς τονίζεται ὅτι ὁ Χριστιανισμὸς «εἶναι στό ἔπακρο προσωπικός», χωρὶς αὐτὸ νὰ σημαίνει ὅτι εἶναι «ἀτομοκεντρικός». Οἱ πιστοὶ «συναντοῦν, ἀναγνωρίζουν καὶ ἀγαποῦν τὸν ἕνα καὶ τὸν αὐτὸν Χριστόν», ὁ ὁποῖος «τὸν ἀληθινὸν ἄνθρωπον καὶ τέλειον... πρῶτος καὶ μόνος ἔδειξεν» (Νικόλαος Καβάσιλας). Ἐκεῖνος καλεῖ πάντας πρὸς σωτηρίαν καὶ τὸν κάθε ἄνθρωπον προσωπικῶς, ὥστε ἡ ἀνταπόκρισις τοῦ καθενός, πάντοτε «ριζωμένη στὴν κοινὴ πίστη», νὰ εἶναι «ταυτόχρονα μοναδική».

Ἐνθυμούμεθα τὸ ὑπέροχον Παύλειον «Ζῶ δέ οὐκέτι ἐγώ, ζῇ δέ ἐν ἐμοί Χριστός· ὁ δέ νῦν ζῶ ἐν σαρκί, ἐν πίστει ζῶ τῇ τοῦ υἱοῦ τοῦ Θεοῦ τοῦ ἀγαπήσαντός με καὶ παραδόντος ἑαυτὸν ὑπὲρ ἐμοῦ» (Γαλ. β΄, 20). Ἐδῶ τὸ «ἐν ἐμοί» τὸ «μέ» καὶ τὸ «ὑπὲρ ἐμοῦ» δέν λέγονται ἐν ἀντιθέσει πρὸς τὸ «ἐν ἡμῖν, τὸ «ἡμᾶς» καὶ τὸ «ὑπὲρ ἡμῶν» τῆς «κοινῆς σωτηρίας». Ὁ Ἀπόστολος τῆς ἐλευθερίας, ἄκρως εὐγνώμων διὰ τὰ οὐράνια ἀγαθὰ τῆς ἐν Χριστῷ ἀναγεννήσεώς του, «τὸ κοινόν ἴδιον ποιεῖται», ὡς ὁ προαιώνιος Λόγος τοῦ Θεοῦ νὰ ἐνηνθρώπησε, νὰ ἐσταυρώθῃ καὶ νὰ ἀνέστη ἐκ νεκρῶν «δι' αὐτόν προσωπικῶς».

«Μοναδική» καὶ «βαθιά προσωπική» εἶναι ἡ βιώσις τῆς πίστεώς μας ὡς χριστοδωρήτου ἐλευθερίας, ἡ ὁποία εἶναι ἐν ταύτῳ «οὐσιωδῶς ἐκκλησιαστική», ἐμπειρία «κοινῆς ἐλευθερίας». Αὐτὴ ἡ ἀληθεστάτη ἐν Χριστῷ ἐλευθερία ἐκφράζεται ὡς ἀγάπη καὶ ἔμπρακτος συμπαράστασις πρὸς τὸν συγκεκριμένον πλησίον, ὅπως αὐτὴ περιγράφεται εἰς τὴν παραβολὴν τοῦ «Καλοῦ Σαμαρείτου» (Λουκ. ι΄, 30-37) καὶ εἰς τὴν περικοπὴν τῆς τελικῆς κρίσεως (Ματθ. κε΄, 31-46), ἀλλὰ καὶ ὡς σεβασμὸς καὶ μέριμνα διὰ τὴν κτίσιν καὶ εὐχαριστιακὴ χρῆσις αὐτῆς. Ἡ ἐν Χριστῷ ἐλευθερία ἔχει προσωπικὸν καὶ ὀλιστικὸν χαρακτήρα, ὁ ὁποῖος ἀποκαλύπτεται ἰδιαίτερος κατὰ τὴν Ἁγίαν καὶ Μεγάλην Τεσσαρακοστήν εἰς τὸν τρόπον κατανοήσεως τοῦ ἀσκητισμοῦ καὶ τῆς νηστείας. Δέν γνωρίζει ἡ χριστιανικὴ ἐλευθερία, ὡς ὑπαρκτικὴ αὐθεντικότης καὶ πληρότης, σκυθρωπὸν ἀσκητισμὸν, ζωὴν χωρὶς χάριν καὶ χαράν, «σάν νά μὴν ἦλθε ποτὲ ὁ Χριστός». Καὶ ἡ νηστεία δέν εἶναι μόνον «βρωμάτων ἀποχή», ἀλλ' «ἀμαρτημάτων ἀναχώρησις», ἀγὼν κατὰ τῆς φιλαυτίας, ἀγαπητικὴ ἐξοδος ἀπὸ τὸν ἑαυτὸν μας πρὸς τὸν ἐν ἀνάγκαις ἀδελφόν, «καῦσις καρδίας ὑπὲρ πάσης τῆς κτίσεως». Ἡ ὀλιστικότης τῆς πνευματικότητος τρέφεται ἀπὸ τὴν ἐμπειρίαν τῆς Μεγάλης Τεσσαρακοστῆς ὡς πορείας πρὸς τὸ Πάσχα καὶ ὡς προγεύσεως τῆς «ἐλευθερίας τῆς δόξης τῶν τέκνων τοῦ Θεοῦ (Ρωμ. η΄, 21).


Δεόμενοι τοῦ Σωτῆρος ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ, ὅπως ἀξιώσῃ πάντας ἡμᾶς νὰ διατρέξωμεν ἐν ἀσκήσει, μετανοίᾳ, συγχωρητικότητι, προσευχῇ καὶ ἐνθέῳ ἐλευθερίᾳ τὸν δόλιχον τῆς Ἁγίας καὶ Μεγάλης Τεσσαρακοστῆς, κατακλείομεν μέ τούς λόγους τοῦ πνευματικοῦ ἡμῶν πατρός μακαριστοῦ Μητροπολίτου Χαλκηδόνος Μελίτωνος, κατὰ τὴν Θεῖαν Λειτουργίαν τῆς Κυριακῆς τῆς Τυρινῆς τοῦ ἔτους 1970 εἰς τὸν Μητροπολιτικὸν Ναὸν Ἀθηνῶν: «Εἰσερχόμεθα εἰς τὴν Ἁγίαν Τεσσαρακοστήν καὶ στό βάθος μᾶς ἀναμένει τὸ ὄραμα, τὸ θαῦμα καὶ τὸ βίωμα τῆς Ἀναστάσεως, τὸ κατ' ἐξοχὴν βίωμα τῆς Ὁρθοδόξου Ἐκκλησίας. Ἄς πορευθῶμεν πρὸς αὐτὸ τὸ ὄραμα καὶ βίωμα, ὅχι ἀσυγχώρητοι, ὅχι μὴ συγχωρήσαντες, ὅχι ἐν νηστείᾳ ἀπλῶς κρέατος καὶ ἐλαίου, ὅχι ἐν ὑποκρισίᾳ, ἀλλὰ ἐν θείᾳ ἐλευθερίᾳ, ἐν πνεύματι καὶ ἀληθείᾳ, ἐν τῷ πνεύματι τῆς ἀληθείας, ἐν τῇ ἀληθείᾳ τοῦ πνεύματος».

Ἁγία καὶ Μεγάλη Τεσσαρακοστή, βκε'


+ Ὁ Κωνσταντινουπόλεως Βαρθολομαῖος

διάπυρος πρὸς Θεὸν εὐχέτης πάντων ὑμῶν

ANNOUNCEMENTS




PASCHA PSALTER



Please contact Vicky Kournetas at
halikiasv@gmail.com.
A detailed email will be sent to you.
Please signup by March 3rd

HAVE A BLESSED LENT



"Let us say, O brethren, even to those that hate us: Let us forgive all things on the Resurrection; and thus let us cry: Christ is risen from the dead, by death He has trampled down death, and on those in the tombs He has bestowed life."



Lenten Retreat

An Eternal Perspective

Orthodox Christian families with children and adults with disabilities are welcome to an afternoon Lenten Retreat with a speaker for parents/caregivers and activities for participants with disabilities, supported by 1-to-1 volunteers, and their siblings. **All interested in the topic are welcome! Register here.**

8 March 2025 | St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church, Des Plaines

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

- 1:30-2 pm Arrival**, participants with disabilities paired with volunteers
- 2-4:45 pm**
 - Workshops for Adults: Fr. Ephraim Peters
 - Participants with disabilities, volunteers, and siblings will participate in music, art, gross motor, and other activities adapted for all needs.
- 4:45-6 pm Dinner**
- 6 pm Vespers**

Email abbyvlahos@gmail.com with questions.




THIS EVENT IS FUNDED BY A GENEROUS GRANT FROM THE HELLENIC FOUNDATION.



SPEAKER
Fr. Ephraim Peters

Fr. Ephraim is the pastor at St. George Greek Orthodox Church in Keene, NH in the Metropolis of Boston. He'll be leading the workshops for parents/caregivers around the theme of an Eternal Perspective on parenting, especially the particular challenges and blessings of being a parent of a child with disabilities. He'll be bringing his own personal experience as the parent of two adult autistic sons.



Metropolis of Chicago Philoptochos

ANNUAL LENTEN RETREAT

Hosted by the Annunciation Church
In Milwaukee, WI

SATURDAY, MARCH 15, 2025

Please join the ladies of our Philoptochos for this annual Lenten event, which is a spiritually rewarding ministry of our Metropolis Philoptochos.

There are simultaneous presentations for you to attend either in English or Greek

Bus transportation to Milwaukee is being provided by The Hellenic Foundation. The bus will depart from the St. Spyridon Church, Palos Heights at 7:30 A.M.

It is important that you reserve your bus seat by **Wednesday, March 5th** and at the same time to indicate which language Lecture you will attend.

To place your reservation, please call
Sophia Kopanitsanos: 708-361-2894

If you are not a member of our Philoptochos, please consider joining this year. Our Philanthropy affects the lives of so many people here and around the world.

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COMMUNITY HALL IMMEDIATELY AFTER
5:45 PM LITURGY

Wednesday, March 5th ✝
Hosted By Floga Dance Troupe & Altar Boys

Wednesday, March 12th ✝
Hosted By Family Night Ministry & GOYA
Presentation: "The 40 Holy Martyrs" by Alex Magdalinos

Wednesday, March 19th ✝
Hosted By Handmaidens & Iconography
Presentation: "Writing the light: The Rich Tradition of Byzantine Iconography" by Iconographer, Mr. Panagiotis Mihalopoulos

Wednesday, March 26th ✝
Hosted By Teachers & Families of Plutarchos Greek School & Archangels Academy Preschool
Presentation: Protecting the Ecumenical Patriarchate

Wednesday, April 2nd ✝
Hosted By Men's Ministry of St. Spyridon
Presentation: A Pilgrimage to Mount Athos
by Frank Kopanis, Bill Kilias, Panagiotis Stamus,
Nick Argyropoulos & Alex Magdalinos






ANNOUNCEMENTS



Food Pantry Donations for EASTER

Our parish will be distributing food baskets to local needy families. Your generous donations will enable us to purchase all items needed for the baskets, which are valued at \$65 each.

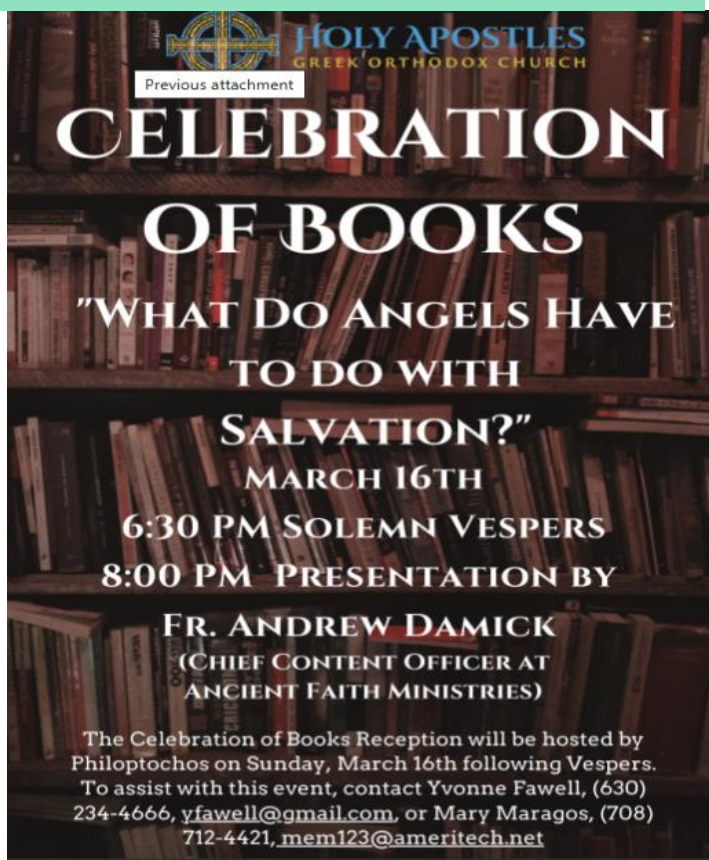
Cash/Checks are accepted in the church office weekdays from 9am - 2pm or


Donate online at saint-spyridon.net

(Select "FOOD PANTRY" from the drop-down menu).

Donation deadline is Sunday, April 13th.

Thank You!



 **HOLY APOSTLES**
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Previous attachment

CELEBRATION OF BOOKS

"WHAT DO ANGELS HAVE TO DO WITH SALVATION?"

MARCH 16TH

6:30 PM SOLEMN VESPERS
8:00 PM PRESENTATION BY

FR. ANDREW DAMICK
(CHIEF CONTENT OFFICER AT
ANCIENT FAITH MINISTRIES)

The Celebration of Books Reception will be hosted by Philoptochos on Sunday, March 16th following Vespers. To assist with this event, contact Yvonne Fawell, (630) 234-4666, yfawell@gmail.com, or Mary Maragos, (708) 712-4421, mem123@ameritech.net

FANARI

REGIONAL LENTEN RETREAT

Current 5th-12th Graders

March 22, 2025

10AM-3PM

Locations:

SS. Constantine & Helen, Merrillville, IN

St. Nicholas, St. Louis, MO

SS. Constantine & Helen, Wauwatosa, WI

St. Spyridon, Palos Heights, IL

St. Andrew, Chicago, IL

St. Haralambos, Niles, IL

fanari.camp/retreat



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