

THE VOICE

MARCH 2024 - VOLUME No. 388
SAINT SPYRIDON HELLENIC ORTHODOX CHURCH

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



St. Spyridon Ladies Shaping A Healthier & Warmer Community Through Volunteerism and Unity



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Χαίφετε,

Αν και ο Φεβοουάριος πέρασε γρήγορα ήταν πραγματικά συναρπαστικός! Το πιο σημαντικό απ' όλα για μένα προσωπικά ήταν το ταξίδι στην Ελλάδα, και το Ιερό προσκύνημα στο Αγιον Όρος. Θέλω να ευχαριστήσω τον πατέρα Γεώργιο, και τον δ. Χαράλαμπο Μπουσάλη γι' αυτό το ταξίδι και την φιλοξενία τους.

Το γκοουπ μας μας θαύμασε με δέος το πόσες πολλές εκκλησίες υπάρχουν μέσα σε 5 km² στην πόλη της Θεσσαλονίκης. Είχαμε την ευλογία να επισκεφτούμε παραπάνω από 10 Ιερούς Ναούς: Μητροπολιτικός Ναός Αγίου Γρηγορίου Παλαμά, Αγία Σοφία, Παναγία Αχειροποίητος, Παναγία Ελεούσα, Παναγία Δεξιά, Άγιος Χαράλαμπος, Άγιοι Ανάργυροι, Άγιος Κωνσταντίνος και Αγία Ελένη, Άγιος Γεώργιος, Άγιος Αντώνιος, και την εκκλησία του Αγίου Δημητρίου Του Μυροβλύτη. Προσκυνήσαμε και τον τάφο του Αγίου Παϊσιου (Σουρωτή) στην Θεσσαλονίκη.

Στο Άγιον Όφος μείναμε στην μονή Ιβήφων, αλλά επισκεφτήκαμε και άλλα τέσσεφα μοναστήφια. Μας φιλοξένησαν πολλοί μοναχοί και είχαμε την ευκαιφία να καθίσουμε για ομιλία με τον Αφχιμανδφίτη Βασίλειο, τον Πφώην Ηγούμενο της μονής. Μεφικά από τα θέματα που κάλυψε κατά την διάφκεια της συνάντησής μας ήταν ότι η "Ορθοδοξία είναι η αληθινή πίστη", "η Θεία Λειτουργία μας

ενώνει παγκόσμια", "η Θρησκεία μας δεν έχει σύνορα", και "εάν κάνουμε το προσκύνημά μας σωστά, μπορούμε να επισκεφτούμε το Άγιον Όρος όπου θέλουμε".

Στις 18 Φεβουαρίου είχαμε το Archangels' Breakfast με 330 άτομα. Ένα μεγάλο ευχαριστώ στη Σοφία Μαλάμη, την Κατερίνα Αλεξάκου, την Εύη Μαρούδα, και σε όλους πού βοήθησαν σε αυτό το έργο. Θέλω να ευχαριστήσω τον Κωνσταντίνο Ηλιακώστα και τον Βασίλη Περάκη, και όλους όσους δούλεψαν στην κουζίνα, όπως επίσης και το Ελληνικό σχολείο και την Φλόγα για την υποστήριξη και συνεργασία.

Στις 18 Μαφτίου αφχίζει η Σαφακοστή, μια πεφίοδος νηστείας, συγχωφήσεως, μετάνοιας, και ταπεινοφφοσύνης. Εύχομαι αυτή η πεφίοδο να φέφει ειφήνη στον κόσμο και στα σπίτια μας.

Με αγάπη,

Βασίλης Κίλιας





PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Hello St. Spyridon Parish Family,

February went by quickly, but it was an exciting month. The fondest memory for me was the Mount Athos Pilgrimage led by Father George, and our host and guide, Dr. Harry Boosalis.

Our entire group was in awe of the many churches within Thessaloniki proper. We were blessed to visit 10+ churches, including Agios Haralambos (on 9 Feb Feast Day), Agios Antonios (Sunday 11 Feb service where Father presided alongside Fr. Chrysostom Nassis), and St. Demetrios, the patron saint of Thessaloniki. We were blessed and humbled to stand at the crypt where St. Demetrios was martyred. To this day, his tomb exudes a sweet smelling myrrh, hence the name St. Demetrios the Myrovliti. And we also visited St. Paisios tomb in Souroti, and his keli in Panagouda.

On Mount Athos, we were blessed to spend time with several monks at Iviron Monastery, including Archimandrite Vasileios, the former Abbott of Iviron. He spent an hour with our group, and the key themes that he delivered were that "Orthodoxy is the TRUE FAITH", the "Divine Liturgy UNITES us", and that "Orthodoxy has no borders". Our experience and time spent there is beyond words. It is truly Panayia's Perivoli, and all of the monasteries have a rich history.

Our Archangels' Breakfast was held on 18 February with a record-breaking 330 people. A huge THANK YOU to Sofea Malamis, our Archangels' Director, Katerina Alexakos, Evi Maroudas, and all of the planners and volunteers that made this a huge success. I would be remiss if I did not mention Dean Elliacostas and Bill Perakis and the entire kitchen staff. And it was good to see the support from the entire community, and the Greek School too.

Looking ahead, the Lenten season will commence on 18 March. For all of us it is a time of reflection, humility, fasting, forgiveness, and repentance, as we prepare to honor the ultimate sacrifice of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. May this time bring peace to the world, our homes, and may the Orthodox church continue to be the beacon of Light to the world.

With Love, Bill Kilias











FATHER'S LETTER

EMBRACE WHAT HAPPENS IN YOUR TIME

On my way home from Greece, I watched one of my favorite movies. The Lord of the Rings, influenced by the Christian faith of its author, is the saga of a group of sometimes reluctant people who set forth to save their world from evil.

To some degree, we see Frodo as a "type of Christ" who has to carry the burden of the ring and destroy it so that he can complete his mission. Christ of course, carried the ring of sin with Him all the way to the cross so that sinfulness and death may be destroyed. We also have the figure of Gandalf whom, early on in the movie, many think he has perished only to find out that He comes back to life.

As Orthodox Christians, we can experience great

burden and struggle in this finite world, but we can never let go of the fact that God's Kingdom is eternal. Throughout our lives we encounter various struggles. They could be related to health, sin, lack of forgiveness, anxiety of life or the unknown. Some of these things can be connected to our own disobedience to God and His

will for us, while other times we may experience struggle or tragedy with little to no understanding as to why. Life presents us with situations that can be difficult to understand. At times, we may feel like Frodo. Things may feel unbearable and may become very difficult for us to cope.

When we read the book of Ecclesiastes 3:1, we read "For everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven." We experience wet and dry seasons in Chicago, the typical seasons of winter, spring, summer and fall. There are planting seasons and harvesting seasons. There are pruning seasons and there are seasons for growth.

It reminds me of a quote from St. Ambrose of Optina – "A continuously happy life produces extremely unhappy consequences. In nature we see that there are not always pleasant springs and fruitful summers, and sometimes autumn is rainy and winter cold and snowy, and there is flooding and wind and

storms, and moreover the crops fail and there are famine, troubles, sicknesses and many other misfortunes. All of this is beneficial so that man might learn through prudence, patience and humility. For the most part, in times of plenty he forgets himself, but in times of various sorrows he becomes more attentive to his salvation."

Similarly in life, we can allow evil or struggle to tame us like it does to Gollum, or we can be more like the figure of Frodo who learns to accept his burden, tame it and grow from this experience.

When we were on the Holy Mountain (Mount Athos), I was able to speak to a monk about my own personal struggles, and without sharing too many details, I will

share what he said to me that might be helpful. When we struggle with a person or situation in our life, we are presented with a choice in the way we face it. Either we can do our best to handle it, perhaps heal from it and help us grow, or we can be debilitated by it. This is also true when we encounter someone who may be difficult in our lives. We can either

be debilitated and drained by this relationship or we can understand it as part of our life in its appropriate season. In some cases, it is better to not draw attention or focus on that which debilitates us.

At the end of the Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring, Frodo says, "I wish it need not have happened in my time," and Gandalf replies "and so do all who live to see such times. But that is not for them to decide. All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us."

Instead of combating whatever may bother us, perhaps it is better to not draw so much attention to it. In this manner, we can be released from whatever troubles us and whatever may cause us despair. Instead, through silence, prayer and the help of others, let God and His spirit guide us so that our own will and ego does not interfere. This will then allow us to become the student that God wants us to become in this world – the student who does not focus so much on the evil or struggle but on the glory of God and what we are

FATHER'S LETTER

learning through it.

In this way we can also incorporate what Gandalf says: "Yet it is not our part to master all the tides of the world, but to do what is in us for the succour of those years wherein we are set, uprooting the evil in the fields that we know, so that those who live after may have clean earth to till."

May we embrace this way of life, brothers and sisters, so that we may not be distracted by evil, sin, judgment of others or even illness, but so that we may be able to pass on the spirit of perseverance, trust and love in our God. This is the kind of attitude which will empower and strengthen the next generation, cleaning and tilling the earth, uprooting evil so that we may be strong enough to encounter and accept whatever it is that happens to us in this life. All we have to do is decide what to do with the time that is given to us. If we live with trust, unity, love, communion, worship and peace in all seasons, and embrace it to the fullest, then in the final judgment and second coming we will certainly experience the full glory of His heavenly Kingdom.



PARISH REGISTRY

Funerals

On February 13th, Mr. George February 18th: Sianis fell asleep in the Lord. His †3 months Demetra Pappas funeral took place on February + 3 years Eleftherios Vasilopoulos 22nd and he was interned at Evergreen Cemetery.

Memorials

February 4th:

† 40 days Panagiota Poziopoulos † 3 years Panagiotis Perivoliotis

February 25th:

†3 years Panagiotis Perivoliotis †4 years Christos Katsoulis

May their memory be eternal!



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

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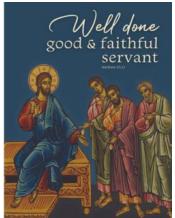
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Pete Mihalopoulos Sophia Christofer Evi Marouda

Church Office Church Office Custodian Iconography Floga Dance

Floga Dance Anastasia Deligiannis Floga Dance **Patty Pappas** Floga Dance

STEWARDSHIP 2024



The Stewardship Committee thanks our 137 Stewards who have fulfilled their pledge for the 2024 year. We wish to express our gratitude for your commitment to the Lord's work through our Church of Saint Spyridon and we encourage everyone to offer their stewardship for the good of the Church. Let us work together to make 2024,

an exemplary year of growth and renewed blessings for our beloved parish of Saint Spyridon.

Ευχαριστούμε τις 137 οικογένειες που εκπλήρωσαν τις υποσχέσεις τους για το έτος 2024. 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. Χρειαζόμαστε την βοήθεια και την υποστήριξη όλων σας.

Ministries supported by your Stewardship:

Worship & Sacraments -Philanthropy - Sunday School - Archangels Academy - Plutarchos Hellenic Academy - Missions & Diakonia - Social & Cultural Events - Elderly Ministry -Family Night Ministry -Cherubs - G.O.Y.A. - Altar Boys - Handmaidens - Floga Greek Dance - Athletics -Byzantine Music School -VOICE Publication - Internet Ministry - Kentro Bookstore -Archdiocese Ministries -Metropolis Ministries



Growing our Church and Ministries through Stewardship. This can only be done through the generosity, attendance, and involvement of our Stewards. Please consider strengthening and broadening your contributions in all 3 areas of Stewardship.

STEWARDS JANUARY 25TH—FEBRUARY 24TH

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Mr. & Mrs. Vasilios Vasilopoulos

Mr. Nicholas Voutiritsas

Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Xydakis

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE



Saturday, March 2nd Great Vespers—5:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 3rd Orthros and Divine Liturgy -8:00 a.m.

Saturday, March 9th 1st Saturday of the Souls, Orthros and Divine Liturgy —8:00 a.m.

Great Vespers – 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 10th Orthros and Divine Liturgy -8:00 a.m.

Saturday, March 16th 2nd Saturday of the Souls, Orthros and Divine Liturgy —8:00 a.m.

Great Vespers — 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 17th Orthros and Divine Liturgy —8:00 a.m. * Forgiveness Vespers at St. De-

metrios, Elmhurst, IL — 6:00 p.m.

Monday, March 18th Great Compline with Canon of St. Andrew (Part 1)—5:00 p.m.

Koulouma Dinner

Tuesday, March 19th Confession -1: 00 p.m. -3:00 p.m.

Great Compline with Canon of St. Andrew (Part 2)—6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, March 20th Presanctified Liturgy – 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, March 21st Great Compline with Canon of St. Andrew (Part 3) -6:00 p,m.

Friday, March 22nd Confession—4:00 p.m.—6:00 p.m.

1st Salutations to the Theotokos -6:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 23rd 3rd Saturday of the Souls, Orthros and Divine Liturgy —8:00 a.m.

Pan-Orthodox Vespers-- St. John the Baptist Church, Des Plaines, IL

-6:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 24th Sunday of Orthodoxy, Orthros and Divine Liturgy —8:00 a.m.

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.

Monday, March 25th Annunciation of the Theotokos—Orthros and Divine Liturgy—8:00 a.m.

Great Compline — 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, March 27th Presanctified Liturgy —6:00 p.m.

Friday, March 29th Confession—4:00 p.m.—6:00 p.m.

2nd Salutations to the Theotokos−6:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 30th Confession — 2:30 p.m. — 4:30 p.m.

Great Vespers – 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 31st 2nd Sunday of Great Lent, Orthros and Divine Liturgy —8:00 a.m.

Solemn Vespers at St. Spyridon — 6:00 p.m.

		March	2024—Community Calendar	ity Calendar		
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					* Archangels Academy, 9:00 a.m. * Greek School, 4:30 pm *Floga dance (intermediate/ advanced), 6:40—7:30pm	* Handmaidens, 10 —11:30 am * Byzantine Music Class Beginners, 3:30 pm Intermediate, 4:15 pm
3 * Sunday School, 10:30 am * Philoptochos Meeting, 11:30am	4 * Archangels Academy, 9:00 am * Greek School, 4:30 pm- 6:30 pm * Floga dance (beginners) 6:40 pm 7:10 pm	* Archangels Academy -9:00 am *Floga Committee Meeting-5:30 p.m. *Parish Council Mtg-7 pm	6 * Archangels Academy, 9:00 a.m. * Iconography, 5:30 — 7:00 pm * GOYA—7:00 pm	* Archangels Academy—9:00 am * Food Distribution—1:00 pm—2:00 pm * *Golf Outing Committee Virtual Meeting,— 8:00 p.m.	* Archangels Academy— 9:00 a.m. * Greek School—4:30 p.m. *Family Night (Koliva Making)—6:30 p.m.	*Floga dance (intermediate/advanced)—1:30pm * Byzantine Music Class Beginners—3:30 pm * Byzantine Music Class Intermediate—4:15 pm
10 * Sunday School, 10:30 am * Philoptochos Apokreatiko Luncheon	** Archangels Academy, 9:00 am ** Greek School, 4:30 pm-6:30 pm ** Floga dance (beginners) 6:40 pm-7:10 pm	12 * Archangels Academy —9:00 am	* Archangels Academy, 9:00 a.m. * Cherubs, 10am — 12 pm * Iconography, 5:30 — 7:00 pm	* Archangels Academy— 9:00 am * Food Distribution—1:00 pm—2:00 pm	* Archangels Academy— 9:00 a.m. * Greek School Program 4:30 p.m. *Floga dance (intermediate/ advanced)—6:40 pm— 7:30 pm	16 * Altar Boy meeting—11 am * Byzantine Music Class Beginners—3:30 pm * Byzantine Music Class Intermediate—4:15 pm
* Sunday School, 10:30 am * General Assembly, 11:30 am	* Archangels Academy, 9:00 am * Greek School, 4:30 pm * *Koulouma — 6:30 p.m. Clean Monday	* Archangels Academy —9:00 am	* Archangels Academy— 9:00 a.m. * Lenten Dinner hosted by Handmaidens	* Archangels Academy— 9:00 am * Food Distribution—1:00 pm—2:00 pm	* Archangels Academy— 9:00 a.m. Greek School—4:30 p.m.	*Floga(Advanced)—1:30pm **Floga (Intermed)—2:30pm * Byzantine Music Class Beginners—3:30 pm * Byzantine Music Class
24 *Family Worship 31 *Family Worship	25	26 * Iconography Class— 5:30 pm—7:00 pm	* Iconography, 5:30 — 7:00 pm * Lenten Dinner hosted by Kentro & Parish Council Members	* Food Distribution—1:00 pm—2:00 pm	29	**Floga(Advanced)—1:30pm **Floga(Intermed)—2:30pm ** Byzantine Music Class Beginners—3:30 pm ** Byzantine Music Class Intermediate—4:15 pm

ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑ ΙΕΡΩΝ ΑΚΟΛΟΥΘΙΩΝ



Σάββατο 2 Μαρτίου Εσπερινός – 5:00 μ.μ.

Κυριακή 3 Μαρτίου Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία – 8:00 π.μ.

Σάββατο 9 Μαρτίου Α΄ Ψυχοσάββατο - Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία - 8:00 π.μ.

Εσπερινός – 5:00 μ.μ.

Κυριακή 10 Μαρτίου Ορθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία – 8:00 π.μ.

Σάββατο 16 Μαρτίου Β΄ Ψυχοσάββατο – Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία – 8:00 π.μ.

Εσπερινός – 5:00 μ.μ.

Κυριακή 17 Μαρτίου Ορθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία – 8:00 π.μ. * Κατανυκτικός Εσπερινός Ι.Ν.

Αγίου Δημητοίου, Elmhurst, IL-6:00 μ.μ.

Δευτέρα 18 Μαρτίου Μέγα Απόδειπνο με τον Κανόνα του Αγίου Ανδρέου (1ο μέρος)—5:00

μ.μ. * Κούλουμα

Τοίτη 19 Μαρτίου Εξομολόγηση – 1:00 μ.μ. – 3:00 μ.μ.

Μ Απόδειπνο με τον Κανόνα του Αγ Ανδρέου (2ο μέρος) – 6:00 μ.μ.

Τετάρτη 20 Μαρτίου Προηγιασμένη Λειτουργία -6:00 μ.μ.

Πέμπτη 21 Μαρτίου ΜΑπόδειπνο με τον Κανόνα του Αγίου Ανδρέου (3ο μέρος) – 6:00 μ.μ.

Παρασκευή 22 Μαρτίου Εξομολόγηση -4:00 μ.μ. -6:00 μ.μ.

Α΄ Χαιρετισμοί -6:30 μ.μ.

Σάββατο 23 Μαρτίου Γ΄ Ψυχοσάββατο, Όρθρος καί Θεία Λειτουργία -8:00 π.μ. * Πανορθό-

δοξος Εσπερινός – Αγ. Ιωάννης ο Βαπτιστής, Des Plaines, IL – 6:30 μ.μ.

Κυριακή 24 Μαρτίου Κυριακή της Ορθροδοξίας, Όρθρος καί Θεία Λειτουργία -8:00 π.μ.

Μέγας Εσπερινός του Ευαγγελισμού της Θεοτόκου, Ι.Ν. Ευαγγελι-

σμού – Kankakee, IL 6 μ.μ., I.N. Ευαγγελισμού – Chicago, IL – 7:00 μ.μ.

Δευτέρα 25 Μαρτίου Ευαγγελισμός της Θεοτόκου - Όρθρος καί Θεία Λειτουργία -8:00 π.μ.

Μέγα Απόδειπνο -6:00 μ.μ.

Τετάρτη 27 Μαρτίου Προηγιασμένη Λειτουργία -6:00 μ.μ.

Παρασκευή 29 Μαρτίου Εξομολόγηση -4:00 μ.μ. -6:00 μ.μ.

Β' Χαιρετισμοί -6:30 μ.μ.

Σάββατο 30 Μαρτίου Εξομολόγηση -2:30 μ.μ. -4:30 μ.μ.

Μέγας Εσπερινός -5:00 μ.μ.

Κυριακή 31 Μαρτίου Β΄ Κυριακή της Σαρακοστής, Όρθρος καί Θεία Λειτουργία -8:00 π.μ.

Κατανυκτικός Εσπερινός – Ι.Ν. Αγ. Σπυρίδωνος – 6:00 μ.μ.

PHILOPTOCHOS

Dear St. Spyridon Family,

February has come & gone! Its hard to believe that we will be soon preparing for Great Lent & the celebration of Pascha.

On February 4th, we kicked off our coffee social month with celebrating "Go Red Sunday" (Support of Women's Heart Health). All of our members wore red that Sunday, including Father George! Our ladies hosted a festive coffee social in support of Women's Heart Health. Many thanks to Dr. Chris Kolyvas for providing us with heart healthy information.

Don't forget to make your reservations for our upcoming annual Aprokreatiko event! Our committee has been busy planning for the festive event! Look forward to seeing you there!

Wishing you & your family a Kali Sarakosti!!

Save these Dates!

*Monday, March 18th - Koulouma Dinner (Clean Monday)

*Sunday, April 7th - Loukoumades (Sunday of the Holy Cross)

***Saturday, April 13th** - Philoptochos Metropolis Retreat — St. George, Chicago

*Sunday, April 28th - Palm Sunday Bake Sale

Our monthly meeting will be held on Sunday, March 3rd after church.

Sisterly Agapi, Dana Vasilakos – Philoptochos President



\$2,000 YOUTH LEADERSHIP

Students who are in their undergraduate studies in a 4 year college/university are encouraged to apply for the Philoptochos Youth Leadership Scholarship.

This scholarship opportunity has been made possible through the generous support of the Dr. and Mrs. Gregory Papadeas and Family Charitable Fund, who have contributed a grant of \$1,000. Additionally, \$1,000 of this scholarship fund is also provided by the Philoptochos.

The Philoptochos Youth Leadership Scholarship will be awarded in early August. Please note that applicants who have been awarded a scholarship by the Philoptochos organization in the previous two years are ineligible to apply for this scholarship.

Please scan the QR code or visit https://saintspyridon.net/ for additional details. application materials should be emailed to englishteacher30@yahoo.com before May 31, 2024.



- Format: PDF or GOOGLE DOC
- Official College Transcripts
- 2 letters of recommendation Deadline: Friday, May 31, 2024







ST. SPYRIDON

March 2024

PTA NEWSLETTER

DATES TO REMEMBER



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MARCH 23-30: GREEK SCHOOL SPRING BREAK



MARCH 25-29: ARCHANGELS SPRING BREAK



MARCH 24: NO SUNDAY SCHOOL



MARCH 31: NO SUNDAY SCHOOL







LAMBATHES SALES BEGIN ON APRIL 7TH EVERY SUNDAY UNTIL PALM SUNDAY AFTER LITURGY





APRIL 27TH- SATURDAY OF LAZARUS RETREAT- SAVE THE DATE!



PTA relies on volunteers to provide all of the services we offer! Get involved today to help us make a difference.
Email spyridonpta@gmail.com to help!



SAINT STORY OF THE MONTH



MARCH 17

ST PATRICK, ENLIGHTENER OF IRELAND (~461)

"SAINT PATRICK, THE APOSTLE OF THE IRISH, WAS SEIZED FROM HIS NATIVE BRITAIN BY IRISH MARAUDERS WHEN HE WAS SIXTEEN YEARS OLD. THOUGH THE SON OF A DEACON AND GRANDSON OF A PRIEST, IT WAS NOT UNTIL HIS CAPTIVITY THAT HE SOUGHT OUT THE LORD WITH HIS WHOLE HEART. IN HIS CONFESSION, THE TESTAMENT HE WROTE TOWARDS THE END OF HIS LIFE, HE SAYS, 'AFTER I CAME TO IRELAND — EVERY DAY I HAD TO TEND SHEEP, AND MANY TIMES A DAY I PRAYED — THE LOVE OF GOD AND HIS FEAR CAME TO ME MORE AND MORE, AND MY FAITH WAS STRENGTHENED. AND MY SPIRIT WAS SO MOVED THAT IN A SINGLE DAY I WOULD SAY AS MANY AS A HUNDRED PRAYERS, AND ALMOST AS MANY AT NIGHT, AND THIS EVEN WHEN I WAS STAYING IN THE WOODS AND ON THE MOUNTAIN: AND I WOULD RISE FOR PRAYER BEFORE DAYLIGHT, THROUGH SNOW, THROUGH FROST, THROUGH RAIN, AND I FELT NO HARM." AFTER SIX YEARS OF SLAVERY IN IRELAND, HE WAS GUIDED BY GOD TO MAKE HIS ESCAPE, AND AFTERWARDS STRUGGLED IN THE MONASTIC LIFE IN AESIR IN GAUL [NOW FRANCE], UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF THE HOLY BISHOP GERMANUS, MANY YEARS LATER HE WAS ORDAINED BISHOP AND SENT TO IRELAND ONCE AGAIN. ABOUT THE YEAR 432. TO CONVERT THE IRISH TO CHRIST. HIS ARDUOUS LABOURS BORE SO MUCH FRUIT THAT WITHIN SEVEN YEARS. THREE BISHOPS WERE SENT FROM GAUL TO HELP HIM SHEPHERD HIS FLOCK, 'MY BRETHREN AND SONS WHOM I HAVE BAPTIZED IN THE LORD -- SO MANY THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE, HE SAYS IN HIS CONFESSION. HIS APOSTOLIC WORK WAS NOT ACCOMPLISHED WITHOUT MUCH 'WEARINESS AND PAINFULNESS,' LONG JOURNEYS THROUGH DIFFICULT COUNTRY, AND MANY PERILS: HE SAYS HIS VERY LIFE WAS IN DANGER TWELVE TIMES, WHEN HE CAME TO IRELAND, AS ITS ENLIGHTENER, IT WAS A PAGAN COUNTRY: WHEN HE ENDED HIS EARTHLY LIFE SOME THIRTY YEARS LATER, ABOUT 461, THE FAITH OF CHRIST WAS ESTABLISHED IN EVERY CORNER." (GREAT HOROLOGION) THE WORK OF ST PATRICK AND HIS BRETHREN HAS BEEN CALLED THE MOST SUCCESSFUL SINGLE MISSIONARY VENTURE IN THE HISTORY OF THE CHURCH.

Source: abbamoses.com

THIS MONTHS FASTING DATES

IT IS SAID OF ST PATRICK THAT HE CHANTED THE ENTIRE PSALTER EVERY DAY.

March 6th, 8th, 10th (Meatfare Sunday) 11th -17th GOA GUIDE (Cheesefare), March 18th-May 5th Great Lent ON EASTING



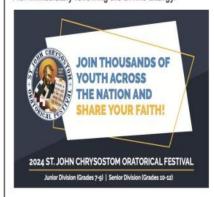
SUNDAY SCHOOL

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 -8th grade, During the month of March, classes will be held each Sunday, with the exception of March 31st. This month, our students will be focusing on The St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival. Each teacher will be reviewing the projects that class will be working on. On Sunday March 24th, all students are encouraged bring an icon from home for the Sunday of Orthodoxy

procession.

Saint John Chrysostom Oratorical and Fine Arts Festival

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 Divine Liturgy on Sunday, April 14th immediately following the Divine Liturgy.



National finalists are eligible to receive the following St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival Scholarship: \$500 to \$2000 FAITH. An Endowment for Orthodoxy and Helienism: to be announced

SCHOLARSHIPS

Finalists at any level are eligible to receive the following Chrysostom Scholarship to Hellenic College: \$2,500 up to \$30,000 per year

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

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

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



Scan the QR Code for Topics, Tips, and Resources

Students in grades 1-6 are highly encouraged to participate. Projects should be rooted in Orthodox teachings. All projects are due by Sunday, April 7 to ensure that we have enough time to prepare them for display during the Oratorical Festival. Examples of projects: 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



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

HANDMAIDENS

Our handmaidens worked hard, hand knitting chunky yarn blankets for adult cancer patients at our last meeting! We also kept up with our tradition of passing out Valentines to all our parishioners.

Join us for our next meeting on March 2nd at 10:00 AM where we will be making holy light lanterns that will be for sale this lenten period. Please support our mission so that we can continue helping others.





PLUTARCHOS ACADEMY



Many exciting things are happening in March. The first of the month the PTA is sponsoring an In School Pottery Field Trip. Students will take an interactive lesson about Ancient Greek pottery,

create their own vase and enjoy Greek Food.

The Greek School Program, in honor of 25th of March 1821, will be held on **Friday, March 15th**, at 4:30 p.m.. All students are required to wear the Ethnic Greek Costume (Tsolia/Amalia) or the blue and white school uniform. Parents are asked to help their kids learn their poems and songs and bring a treat for everyone to share after the program (please no meat/dairy is allowed during Cheesefare week).

Καθαρά Δευτέρα is on Monday, March 18th. Our students will attend great compline services with their teachers. Everyone is welcome to stay for the Koulouma Dinner afterwards.

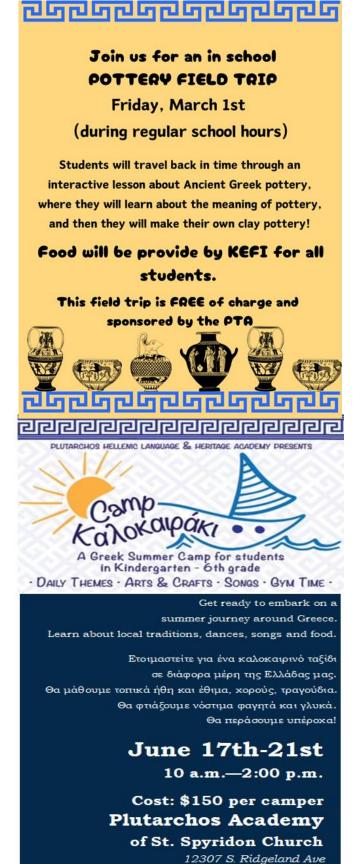
Our school will be closed for spring break March 23rd-30th.

Sunday, April 7th, the Annual Greek Parade will be held at Greektown, Halsted Street in Chicago. Parade starts at 2:30 p.m. Students are required to wear the Ethnic Greek Costume (Tsolia/Amalia) or the blue and white school uniform.

Applications for the Ellinomatheia Exams are now been accepted until March 20th. The exams are organized by the Center for the Greek Language (CGL) in Thessaloniki, Greece.

Certificates are issued for candidates who successfully pass the exams at the following six levels of attainment in Greek: A1 (A1 for children 8-12 and A1 for adolescents and adults), A2, B1, B2, C1, and C2. The authorized examination center for the Ellinomatheia Exams in Illinois is the Hellenic American Academy, 445 Pine Street, Deerfield, IL 60015.

The Exams will take place on May 14th for levels A1, A2, May 15th for levels B2 and C1, and May 16th for levels B1 and C2. Candidates can apply online at http://www.greek-language.gr/certification/application/index.html.



Palos Heights, IL 60463

FLOGA DANCE

The Springs of Basil and Wonderworkers performed at the Archangels Safari breakfast on Sunday February 18th. The children all did an amazing job performing the dances they have learned these past few months and it was a memorable experience for all.

The children will continue to learn new dances in the months to come. The Floga Advanced group will be performing at a couple of Apokriatika dinner dances and the St Spyridon Apokriatiko luncheon which will also include the Wonderworkers. We look forward to these future performances and watching our children with enthusiasm.

Once again I would like to thank all the teachers and everyone involved in coordinating all our performances. On behalf of the Floga family we would like to thank everyone for your continued and amazing support.

Sophia Christofer





FAMILY NIGHT

Family Night was held on February 2nd to learn about our Lord's Presentation to the Temple at 40 days old, have dinner and play relay games. Fr George assigned children as "parents" to a baby and role played the event. We ended the night with a craft.

Join us for our next Family Night March 8th. We will learn how to make koliva!



CHERUBS

Our little Cherubs are growing by the week. With so many new and friendly faces, the kids had a great time playing with each other.

We celebrated Valentine's Day with treats and crafts. We are so excited to continue exploring. They have come to familiarize themselves with the altar, and after many attempts, love posing for group pictures.

Join us for our next meeting on March 13th @ 10:00.

Evelyn Hristakos



FAMILY NIGHT BOWLING



ALTAR BOYS



On Saturday, February 17, our altar boys had their meeting. They played a fun game, cleaned the altar, and Father George spoke to them about his trip to Mount Athos.

Our next meeting will be on Saturday, March 16 at 10 am.

ARCHANGELS ACADEMY

February: A Month of Success and Looking Ahead to Summer and Fall at Archangels Academy Preschool"

The month of February has been nothing short of amazing at Archangels Academy Preschool! We are thrilled to share the success of our Annual Fundraiser Breakfast, which was an incredible achievement with over 335 attendees expressing their love and support for our beloved school. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all our families, past and present, for their donations - whether it was food donations, raffle items, or their precious time. The success of our fundraiser would not have been possible without the unwavering love and 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 for two consecutive weeks in June. With limited space available, we encourage you to reach out to the church office or message Sofea Malamis to reserve your child's spot today!

Looking even further ahead, we are excited to announce that enrollment for the fall of 2024-2025 is open. Given the limited availability, we urge interested families to visit our website at archangelsacademy.org for tuition information and A to download the application for enrollment 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.

With an exciting February behind us, we eagerly anticipate the adventures of March.





ADVERTISE IN THE VOICE

We call upon all our faithful and friends to continue to sponsor our monthly newsletter by advertising your business for the benefit of all the parishioners. Your ad will reach our parish families, four hundred email addresses in our listsery, over 1,000 Thank you to Jullianni's Pizzeria and Pub for advertising in the VOICE followers of our Facebook page, and of course everyone who picks up a copy of our Voice newsletter from the church narthex or community center. Please contact the church office for more information or to submit an advertisement for your business.

The advertising opportunities are the following:

Small - \$100/year Medium - \$150/year Large - \$250/year



FOOD PANTRY

We thank our donors for their ongoing support. Because of these very generous donations, we kept our pantry shelves stocked and passed out food to 30 local families during our Drive-Thru food pantry in February (Every Thursday from 1pm - 2pm.)

We will be distributing food baskets for Easter on March 27th. With the price of food continuing to rise, we ask for your help once again. Your monetary gifts and donations of food will help us feed local families. Each food basket that we assemble is valued at \$65. The deadline for all donations is Sunday, March 24th.

If you know of anyone in need, please refer them to the church office to reserve a food basket for Easter 708.385.2311.

With gratitude,

- The Food Pantry Team



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

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

> Donate online at saint-spyridon.net (Select "FOOD PANTRY").

Donation deadline is Sunday, March 24th.

Thank You!



Canned Corn Mac & Cheese **Canned Peas Dry Beans & Lentils Canned Fruit Peanut Butter & Jelly** Cereal or Oatmeal **Canned Green Beans** Vegetable Oil **Boxed Mashed Potatoes** Tomato Paste **Tomato Sauce** Pancake mix & syrup Spaghetti Sauce **Boxed Pasta Brownie Mix Canned Tuna Canned Soup** Mustard/Ketchup Salad Dressing Crackers

> Please place all non-perishable food donations in the FOOD PANTRY DONATION BOX.

located in the gym. Monetary donations are always welcome.

Thank You!

GOYA

This past month GOYA had the pleasure of gathering together to build friendships and community! Our first February gathering focused on the topic of teamwork with many bible passages to highlight working as a team in Christ. Of course games were played that required amazing teamwork too! We also made Valentine's Day cards to take to Palos Heights Senior Center – memory care wing. Our love filled cards definitely brightened the day of many!

Our GOYANs also had the opportunity to learn about the Triodion period and how to prepare for Great and Holy Lent. Our GOYANs love learning about our faith but they truly enjoy playing games together. We always find time for some fun games!!!

Mark your calendar for upcoming GOYA events: March 6, 17 or 18 (Forgiveness services), April 3, 17 (Presactified liturgy + Lenten meal). May 8 and 28.

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.



PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS



PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

SAINT SPYRIDON HELLENIC ORTHODOX CHURCH WELCOMES ALL TO THE

PRE-SANCTIFIED LITURGY



....join us during the 40 days of lent as we enjoy dishes prepared by our church ministries

COMMUNITY HALL IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING
6 PM PRE-SANCTIFIED LITURGY

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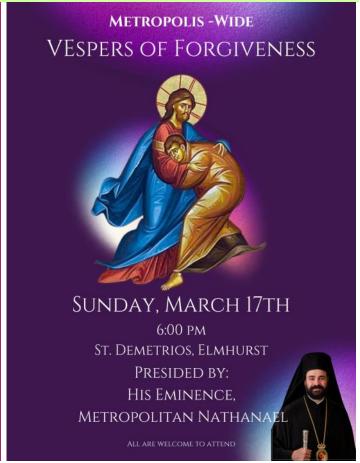
Wednesday, March 20th Hosted By Handmaidens

Wednesday, March 27th Hosted By Parish Council and Kentro

Wednesday, April 3rd Hosted By Saint Spyridon Floga Dance Troupe

Wednesday, April 10th Hosted By Plutarchos Greek School

Wednesday, April 17th Hosted By GOYA











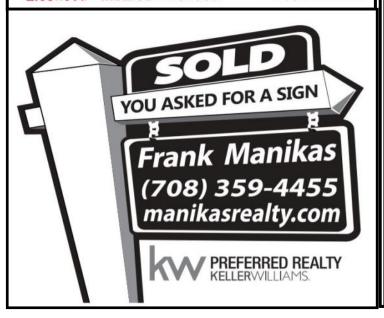


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