

THE VOICE

SEPTEMBER 2023 - VOLUME No. 382 SAINT SPYRIDON HELLENIC ORTHODOX CHURCH

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



Archbishop Aristovoulos' of Madaba (Jordan) visit











President's Letter

Dear Saint Spyridon Parish Family, Χαίφετε, καλό μήνα και καλή χφονιά γεμάτο με υγεία, γαλήνη, ταπείνωση και Χφιστιανικά έφγα. Ο Θεός να είναι πάντα μαζί μας στο καινούφγιο εκκλησιαστικό έτος. Greetings and wishes of good health to everyone and all of our families on the new ecclesiastical year that began on September 1st. We wish a Happy Two-Year Anniversary to our Father George since arriving at our parish and are grateful to him as our spiritual leader. Father George, through the intercessions of our beloved Patron Saint Spyridon, keeps the church doors



open and invites us, our parish, and community to attend, participate and spiritually benefit from the many beautiful holy services. Axios!

We look forward to the new school year as Father George, the school teachers, the parish council members, the school committees, the PTA and all of the volunteers make ready our parish schools to receive the students. Best wishes to the Archangels Preschool, Greek School and Sunday School students! $K\alpha\lambda\eta$ Χρονιά και $K\alpha\lambda\eta$ Πρόοδο!

The Charles C. Condes Memorial Scholarship took place on Sunday, August 13th. May his memory be eternal. Lia Prassas was the scholarship award recipient this year. Congratulations to Lia and best wishes for continued success with her academic endeavors. $K\alpha\iota \sigma\epsilon \alpha\nu\omega\tau\epsilon\rho\alpha!$ Thank you to parish council member and Memorial Scholarship Committee Chairman, Spiros Tzanetakos, for leading this meaningful ministry. It is ministries such as the Charles C. Condes Memorial Scholarship that help support the spiritual foundation of our parish young adults' efforts as they work towards building their future.

As the new ecclesiastical year begins, the parish committees will be meeting in the next days and weeks to move the ministries forward that benefit our children, parish and community. Volunteers of all backgrounds

and abilities are needed. Please volunteer for the church ministries, events and fundraisers by contacting Father George, any parish council member or the church office at (708) 385-2311 for more information.

Thank you to Father George, the parish council members, all of the church organizations and committees, the parishioners, volunteers and donors for supporting our parish.

Please attend church and partake in the beautiful holy services.

May Saint Spyridon continue to guide us and protect us.

Humbly submitted, Frank Kopanis



FATHER'S LETTER

Stop Complaining and Look at the Son of man

Brothers and sisters,

As the New Ecclesiastical Year begins, we are guided immediately to the Elevation of the Holy Cross on September 14. The cross is so vital to our spiritual lives that the Sundays before and after are also dedicated to it. What does it mean, and why do we focus on it so much?

The Sunday before the Cross, we read from the gospel of John 3:14: "As Moses Lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up." What is Jesus talking about? What serpent? We know the Son of Man is Christ who was to be lifted up on the cross. In predicting the crucifixion, why does He make this reference to a serpent?

Jesus is alluding to the 21st Chapter of the book of Numbers in the Old Testament. The Hebrews are wandering through the desert after they were freed from slavery in Egypt. For decades they wandered. Would they ever reach the Promised Land? Numbers 21: 4 - 9 reads as follows:

"Then they journeyed from Mt. Hor by the way of the red sea to go around the land of Edom. The soul of the people became very discouraged along the way and the people spoke against God and against Moses. "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? There is no food and no water, and our soul loathes this worthless bread. So the Lord sent fiery serpents amongst the people and they bit the people, and many of the people of Israel died. Therefore the people came to Moses and said, "we have sinned for we have spoken against the Lord and against you! Pray to the Lord that he may take away these serpents from us."

Moses prayed for the people. Then the Lord said to Moses, "make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and it shall be that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, shall live. So Moses made a bronze serpent and put it on a pole. And so it was, if a serpent had bitten anyone, if he looked at the bronze serpent, he lived."

In this account, we see that the people of Israel begin to complain about how hard their life in the desert is. When they complain about the "worthless bread" they may have been talking about the manna that God sent from heaven to feed them every day. Because of their ingratitude, God sent snakes among them to bite and kill many. This bronze snake is what Jesus references when he says, "As Moses Lifted up the Serpent in the wilderness, so must the son of Man be lifted up that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."

One of the things I find myself saying and I hear others say when someone asks, "how are you?" is the response, "I can't complain." However, when life gets challenging, the human condition often leads us to the sin of complaining. We complain about life, situations, people, suffering, etc. St. Paul, in his epistle to the Philippians 2:14-15, exhorts us to "do all things without complaining...that you may become blameless and harmless children of God."

Complaining can feel good in the moment so we like to let our opinion be known. We blame someone or something for things we don't like, and then what happens? We usually instantly forget all of the blessings that God has given us. The people of Israel were literally being fed every single day by a miracle! God even sent them a flock of quails once when they complained about not having meat. This wasn't good enough for them. Yes, life is difficult! No one will deny that. Sometimes we feel like we are in the desert too! Sometimes it feels like we are in the same struggle every day. But like the Israelites, we have also been given a deliverance by God from slavery. For us, God has delivered us from the slavery to sin and has also fed us miraculously with the precious body and blood of Jesus Christ.

But we still complain! As we continue to do so, we make ourself suffer – WE suffer when we complain! We hurt OUR body and OUR soul. We open ourselves to the venom and snakes of the world, and the rest of the world experiences this poison through us.

FATHER'S LETTER (CONTINUED)

Complaining can become an addiction that overtakes us and ruins everything about life, and because of our fallen nature, it can become a contagious disease. Whole families, whole work places, whole churches can be consumed by complaining. They should not be surprised when they are bitten by bitterness and strife as a result when faith and joy are poisoned and killed.

So how are we cured of this poisonous and contagious addiction? We are cured in the same way that the Israelites were cured. We look to the sign raised up in the wilderness. We look to Jesus Christ, the great Physician, who cures our addictions and calms the contagions that rage within our lives. How? We place our faith in Him and Him alone. We are faithful and content with whatever He sends us, convinced that it is for our salvation – especially if we don't like it.

In this way, we can draw close to Him in our prayer and worship. We ask others to pray for us that we may be forgiven. We must remember that Israel had to be purified before it came to the Promised Land. They had lived so long in slavery that they did not know how to be free. They didn't know how to take responsibility for their own feelings and well-being. They did not know how to be grateful. We also have to be purified as we wander in our desert toward our Promised Land.

After Jesus compares himself to the serpent, he says, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son...Not to condemn the world, but so that the world might be saved through Him (John 3:16)"

He came with the sole purpose of saving us. So we love Him, believe in Him, we journey with Him, we trust Him and realize how blessed we truly are to have what we have. Therefore, there is no need to complain.

Randy Pausch, a well-known professor at Carnegie Mellon University, once said,

"I've always believed that if you take one-tenth of the energy you put into complaining and applied it to solve a problem, you would be surprised at how well things can become. And remember, it's always possible to be thankful for what is given rather than to complain about what is not given. One or the other becomes a habit of life."

Brothers and sisters, we are Eucharistic beings. The church is training us throughout the year with Divine Liturgy to form habits of gratitude for all the blessings from above. May we heed this call so that we may not murmur but "give thanks to God the Father for all things" (Ephesians 5:20). Repent, forgive, love, pray, contemplate, connect with God and trust that He will carry us through this life and, one day, into His Kingdom. With love in Christ,

7. Hoge

VISIT OF ARCHBISHOP ARISTOVOULOS OF MADABA



DIVINE LITURGY SCHEDULE

Friday, September 1st Beginning of the Ecclesiastical Year,

Orthros, Liturgy & Agiasmos – 8:00 a.m. –11:00 a.m.

Sunday, September 3rd Orthros & Divine Liturgy —8:15 a.m. —11:15 a.m.

Friday, September 8th Nativity of Theotokos,

Orthros & Divine Liturgy – 8:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Saturday, September 9th Vespers – 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, September 10th Orthros & Divine Liturgy —8:15 a.m. —11:15 a.m.

Wednesday, September 13th Great Vespers at Holy Cross Church, Justice, IL —7:00 p.m.

Thursday, September 14th Elevation of the Precious Cross

Orthros & Divine Liturgy - 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Saturday, September 16th St. Euphemia

Orthros & Divine Liturgy – 8:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Vespers – 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, September 17th Sts. Sophia, Faith, Hope & Love

Orthros & Divine Liturgy – 8:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

Sunday, September 24th St. Thekla—Orthros & Divine Liturgy—8:15 a.m.—11:15 p.m.

Tuesday, September 26th St. John the Theologian

Orthros & Divine Liturgy – 8:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

Saturday, September 30th Vespers—5:00 p.m.

ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑ ΙΕΡΩΝ ΑΚΟΛΟΥΘΙΩΝ

Παρασκευή 1 Σεπτεμβρίου Αρχή της Ινδίκτου

Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία, Αγιασμός — 8:00 π.μ.

Κυριακή 3 Σεπτεμβρίου Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία -8:15 π.μ. -11:15 π.μ.

Παρασκευή 8 Σεπτεμβρίου Το Γενέθλιον της Θεοτόκου

Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία-8:00 π.μ.-10:30 π.μ.

Σάββατο 9 Σεπτεμβοίου Εσπεοινός – 5:00 μ.μ.

Κυριακή 10Σ επτεμβρίου Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία $-8:15 \pi.\mu.-11:15 \pi.\mu.$

Τετάρτη 13 Σεπτεμβρίου Μέγας Εσπερινός στον Ι.Ν. Τιμίου Σταυρού – Justice, IL – 7:00 μ.μ.

Πέμπτη 14 Σεπτεμβοίου Ύψωσις του Τιμίου Σταυοού

Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία-8:00 π.μ. 11:00 π.μ.

Σάββατο 16 Σεπτεμβοίου Αγ. Ευφημίας

Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία-8:00 π.μ. 10:30 π.μ.

Εσπερινός – 5:00 μ.μ.

Κυριακή 17 Σεπτεμβρίου Αγ. Σοφίας, Πίστεως, Αγάπης & Έλπίδας

Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία – 8:15 π.μ. – 11:15 π.μ.

Κυριακή 24 Σεπτεμβρίου Ποωτομάστυρος Αγ. Θέκλας

Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία-8:15 π.μ.-11:15 π.μ.

Τρίτη 26 Σεπτεμβρίου Αγ. Ιωάννη του Θεολόγου

Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία-8:00 π.μ.-10:30 π.μ.

Σάββατο 30 Σεπτεμβρίου Εσπερινός – 5:00 μ.μ.



September 2023

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SUNDAI	MONDAI	IOESDAI	WEDNESDAY	IHONSDAL	1	2
ъ	4 LABOR DAY Office Closed	5 9:00 am—1st Day of Arch- angels Academy	6 9:00 am — Archangels Academy 6:30 pm — Philoptochos Meeting	7 9:00 am—Archangels Academy 1:00 pm—Food Distribu- tion	8 9:00 am — Archangels Academy 4:30 pm — 6:30 pm — 1st Day of Greek School with Agiasmos Service	9 10:00 pm—Altar Boy Meeting 10:00 am—Handmaidens 3:30 p.m.—Byzantine Music Class (Beginners) 4:15 pm.—Byzantine Music Class (Intermediate)
10 10:30 am—1st Day of Sunday School	11 9:00 am—Archangels Academy 4:30 pm—Greek School	12 9:00 am—Archangels Academy 7:00 pm —Parish Council Meeting	13 9:00 am—Archangels Academy	14 9:00 am—Archangels Academy 1:00 pm—Food Distribu- tion	15 9:00 am —Archangels Academy 4:30 pm —Greek School 6:30 pm —Family Night	16 3.30 p.m. — Byzantine Music Class (Beginners) 4:15 pm. — Byzantine Music Class (Intermediate)
17 10:30 am — Sunday School	18 9:00 am—Archangels Academy 4:30 pm—Greek School	19 9:00 am—Archangels Academy 10:00 am—Christianiki Philoxenia at Sts. Constantine & Helen—Palos Hills	20 9:00 am—Archangels Academy 10:30 am—Cherubs Playgroup 5:30 pm—Archangels Back to School Night 7:00 pm—GOYA	21 9:00 am—Archangels Academy 1:00 pm—Food Distribu- tion	22 9:00 am — Archangels Academy 4:30 pm — Greek School 6:30 pm — Floga Dance Troupe Parent/Student Meeting	23 3:30 p.m.—Byzantine Music Class (Beginners) 4:15 pm.—Byzantine Music Class (Intermediate)
24 10:30 am — Sunday School	25 9:00 am—Archangels Academy 4:30 pm—Greek School	26 9:00 am—Archangels Academy	27 9:00 am—Archangels Academy 5:30 pm—Iconography class	28 9:00 am—Archangels Academy 1:00 pm—Food Distribu- tion	29 9:00 am —Archangels Academy 4:30 pm —Greek School	3.30 p.m.—Byzantine Music Class (Beginners) 4:15 pm.—Byzantine Music Class (Intermediate)

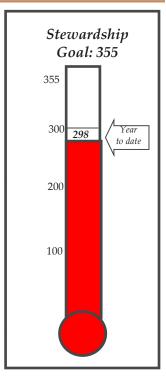
STEWARDSHIP 2023

STEWARDSHIP GOALS FOR 2023: 355 STEWARDS

Invite your family and friends to become Stewards of our parish.

Please help us reach our average stewardship goal!

In light of the Gospel and Christian Tradition, it is appropriate for the Church to be a real item in the budget of each family and each individual. The concept of total commitment, which is the only acceptable way of life for a Christian, means that we must begin, as indeed many parishes have already done, to encourage people to consider seriously the urgency of adopting the pledge system, tithe, or any other system in which they could give freely and generously to God's work, to respond to the responsibility of mission, to complete the work of sanctification of their whole lives. Parishes, in their turn, rather than being selfishly turned in upon themselves must make the work of the whole Church and the carrying out of its mission their own concern. This means that parish budgets should include regular and generous contributions and allotments to work outside their own boundaries — to mission, to education (particularly to seminaries), and to works of mercy.



Finally, it should be understood that there is a close relationship between the spiritual life and one's financial commitment to the Church. Over and over again in the Bible, it is made clear that one's willingness to give of his possessions to God's work is the measure of his willingness to give himself, and one's self if the only acceptable offering. "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." (Luke 12:34)"

We wish to thank the 298 Stewards who have committed their stewardship for 2023. Stewardship materials are available at the church office, in the community hall and on our website.

Ευχαριστούμε τους 298 ενορίτες που προσφέρατε την συνδρομή σας για το 2023. Η υποστήριξη όλων είναι απαραίτητη για την σωστή και θεάρεστη λειτουργία της ενορίας μας. Παρακαλούμε όπως όλοι συμβαλουμε την συνδρομή μας. Συμπληρώστε την κάρτα συνδρομής μέ τήν προσφορά σας και βοηθήστε να συνεχίσουμε όλοι μαζί την διακονία της ιεράς κοινότητός μας.

STEWARDS 2023—AUGUST 1ST—31ST

As of August 31st, stewardship gifts have been received for 2023 from 298 individual/families. We are so thankful to these stewards.

Have you sent in your 2023 Stewardship Commitment Form? Forms are available in the Narthex of the church and online. Thank you to our stewards who have already sent their 2023 pledge forms!!

Mr. & Mrs. John Baltsas

Mrs. Chrisi Bastas

Mr. Kostas Gountanis

Dr. & Mrs. Michael Hohlastos

Mr. & Mrs. Peter Hristakos

Mr. & Mrs. Constantine Koutsoubas

Ms. Eleni Loubroukos

Mr. Dennis Marudas

Mr. & Mrs. Georgios Marudas

Mr. & Mrs. Tomas Reinl

Mr. & Dr. Kostas Retsinas

Mr. & Mrs. Kyriakos Tsoukalas



In gratitude for God's blessings, I commit to Christ and His Church as a Steward of Saint Spyridon with my 2023 Stewardship.

Parish News

Memorials

Sunday, August 13th †40 days Filippos Stolis †7 years Charles C. Condes May their memory be eternal!

40 Day Blessing

Congratulations to the Miller family who brought their son, Joseph Ioannis, for the 40 day blessing.

CHARLES C. CONDES MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

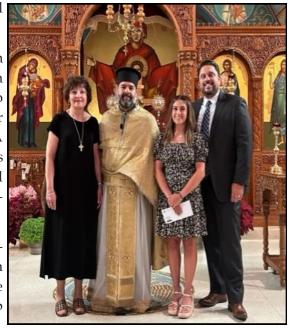


This year's Charles C. Condes Memorial Scholarship recipient is Lia Prassas.

Lia is pursuing a bachelor's degree in health sciences at Butler University, in Indianapolis, IN, which provides her to be on track for her Medical Career. After her first year, Lia has earned a 3.76 GPA in Pharmacy and Medical classes. Lia's passion for the healthcare industry and

dedication to her Orthodox faith has been reflected by her multiple experiences through her high school and college years.

These included many years at St. Spyridon's schools and ministries, being an assistant at the Northwestern Dental Center, a Fanari Camp Counselor this summer, a founding member in the Hellenic Student Association and Orthodox Christian Fellowship at Butler University.



Congratulations again Lia!

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Welcome back to Sunday School! Our classes begin on September 10th. Please make sure to register your children as soon as possible.

Where do the seeds of faith take root? It's here, at church and in the Sunday School classroom. We will have classes on September 10th, 17th and 24th. We are very excited to have our students back in class. To achieve anything, we must decide from the beginning if we are able to make a special effort to make it successful. The success begins by attending liturgy and class every week. The liturgy begins at 9:30. After Holy Communion, we will have the students proceed to their classrooms. While Sunday School is certainly not mandatory, we would like to see all of our students participate in Sunday School. Sunday School provides an opportunity for our students to get to know one another. It also allows them to bond with their peers, have discussions and learn about their faith, together. Classes are offered for PreK 3-year-old students through High School. Our Sunday School teachers dedicate their time and talent weekly to help the youth of St. Spyridon understand their faith better. They create lesson plans that include reinforcement of the Gospel Reading, discussion of the various Saints, talk about the liturgical calendar and other topics which include things we can do in our daily lives to move closer to God. Many thanks to all of our Sunday School teachers for their continued commitment to this important ministry and for helping us build a foundation of Faith for the future of Saint Spyridon.

SAINT SPYRIDON MINISTRIES

Archangels Academy: The institution of the family lies at the Handmaidens: Girls ages 7-17 are called to serve as Handthe Orthodox way of life is instilled and adopted by tomorrow's generation. Archangels Academy, the first Orthodox tember 9th. Bilingual Preschool of the south suburbs offers an excellent Preschool program for our Orthodox families. Archangels Academy is welcoming all students who are 3 years old by September 1st. Classes are held Monday through Friday, 9:00am — 12:00am. School begins the day after Labor Day and ends the Thursday before Memorial Day.

Sunday School: Sunday School is held during the regular school year (September thru May). Grade levels are from Preschool through 12th grade and registration is held in August and September. We ask all parents to enroll their children in Sunday School and have them attend on a regular basis so that they may come close to the Church and learn more about our beautiful Orthodox faith. Registration Fee for Sunday School is \$40/ student payable to Saint Spyridon.

Plutarchos Academy: The Afternoon Greek School is held twice a week on Mondays and Fridays from 4:30-6:30p.m. and recognized by the Education Department of Greece and the FEK 49/T.B./6-2-1991. Grade levels are Pre-School through 6th Grade followed by the Ellinomathia seminars. The curriculum encompasses the Greek language, Reading, Writing, Speaking, History, Religion, Ecclesiastical Hymns, Geography of Greece, Greek Ethnic Hymns and Greek Dance. Tuition Agreement Form Required.

Family Night: Our family night ministry is for children in Pre-School through 5th grade. We meet monthly on Friday evening, from 6:30-8:00. Light dinner is served, followed by games, lesson and craft. We also have social events planned. Flyer is forthcoming.

Cherubs: Under the wing of the Archangels Academy, Cherubs is a toddler-caregiver program that welcomes our young children from 6 months to 4 years old, along with caregivers. The group meets ever other Wednesday, 10:30a.m.-12noon. The program runs September through May and it is offered free of charge to all area Orthodox families.

Athletics: All youth (boys and girls) between the ages of 5-17 are invited to join the Athletics Program of our parish. We are in need for coaches for the basketball season and for Jr. Olympics. For more information or to volunteer as a coach for one of the teams, please contact our athletic directors, Mr. Demetrius Marines &Mr. Nick Tsinoukas through the Church Office.

IUNIOR G.O.Y.A. & G.O.Y.A. Boys and girls in 6th-12th are welcome to join. Various athletic, social and religious activities are held as well as other programs. Meetings are weekly, a schedule will be announced.

Altar Boys: Boys in 1st grade through High School are called to serve as Altar Boys. Along with their Altar duties, regular meetings and other programs are held. If you wish for your child to participate please contact Fr. George.

center of the success of every Orthodox community because it maidens. Meetings are geared toward service projects that is in the family setting that dedicated Christians grow and teach young girls to offer their time and talents to the church thrive. It is in the family context where Christian values and and to the community at large. All meetings are held on Saturdays at 10:00. Our first meeting will be on Saturday, Sep-

> Choir: Our Senior and Junior Choir meet together once a month. The Choir chants hymns during the Divine Liturgy during the entire year except the summer months of July and August. Practice and Liturgy schedule will be announced.

> Floga Greek Dancing: Greek ethnic and cultural dances are taught to children of all ages. The Dancers participate in community ethnic events as well as the parish festival.

> Byzantine Music Classes: Adults and Students 1st grade through 12th grade are St. Spyridon Hellenic Orthodox Church 9 Saint Spyridon Ministries welcome. BeginnerClasses are held every Saturday from 3:30 pm - 4:15 pm, and Intermediate classes every Saturday from 4:15 pm - 5:00 p.m.

> Orthodox Missions: A program that seeks to bring our Lord's message of salvation to all who thirst for the water of Life, supporting in any possible way the overseas and home missions of the "Orthodox Christian Mission Center" Saint Augustine, FL.

> Kentro of Orthodox Martyria: The Kentro is a ministry of our parish whose aim is to spread the word of God, further educate all the faithful in the Orthodox faith. The bookstore has available for purchase Byzantine Icons, religious books, religious videos of various Saints, cassettes analyzing our Orthodox faith (in Greek and English) and more.

> Diakonia Agapes: A Parish ministry that provides aid and relief to those in need, the poor, the destitute, the sick and all those who may need help. Major food distributions are given to families in need for the major holidays of Pascha, Christmas, and Thanksgiving. Assistance is also provided to these and other families throughout the year. Please support our food pantry and our donation box for the poor located in the church narthex.

> **VOICE Publication:** Parish news, announcements and religious articles are published every month in our monthly publication, "The Voice". This monthly newsletter, along with other announcements is available by e-mail or at our website: www.Saint-Spyridon.net.

> Iconography: Our "Sts. Raphael, Nicholas & Irene Iconography School" classes will begin again under the leadership of Mr. Panagiotis Mihalopoulos. Classes are open to all Orthodox Christians, children (12 and up) and adults. The sessions are held weekly at St. Spyridon's Church, where students learn step-by-step the techniques of Byzantine iconography. Classes are on Wednesday evenings at 5:30 pm-7:00 pm. First day of class: September 27th, 2023. Registration fee is \$100/year plus supplies.

PTA News



ST. SPYRIDON

September 2023

PTA NEWSLETTER (



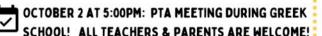












FUNDRAISERS & EVENTS

TROT-A-THON - ALL PARTICIPANTS GET A FREE
INDIVIDUAL PIZZA FROM LOU MALNATIS!
LOOK OUT FOR THE EMAIL!

(IF YOU DIDN'T RECEIVE AN EMAIL BUT WANT TO PARTICIPATE PLEASE EMAIL US)

OCTOBER 28TH: TREATS ON THE TRAIL

AT LAKE KATHERINE 11-1PM FLYER COMING SOON!



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



SEPTEMBER 5

HOLY AND GLORIOUS PROPHET ZACHARIAS, FATHER OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST MUCH OF HIS STORY IS TOLD IN THE FIRST CHAPTER OF LUKE'S GOSPEL. THE SYNAXARION CONTINUES:

'AFTER THE BIRTH OF CHRIST, ZACHARIAS PLAINLY DECLARED THE VIRGINITY OF MARY AND SHOWED HER TRULY TO BE THE MOTHER OF GOD: FOR HE APPOINTED HER A PLACE IN THAT PART OF THE TEMPLE RESERVED FOR THE VIRGINS AND SO BROUGHT UPON HIMSELF THE HATRED OF THE PRIESTS AND LEVITES. WHEN JOHN WAS SIX MONTHS OLD, ZACHARIAS HID HIM AND HIS MOTHER IN A CAVE BEYOND THE JORDAN BECAUSE KING HEROD, HEARING OF THE BIRTH IN BETHLEHEM OF THE KING OF THE JEWS AND FEARING A RIVAL OF HIS OWN WORLDLY POWER, SENT SOLDIERS TO KILL ALL THE MALE CHILDREN OF BETHLEHEM. HIS ENEMIES SEIZED THIS OPPORTUNITY TO DENOUNCE ZACHARIAS TO HEROD, WHO HAD HIM PURSUED AND PUT TO DEATH WITHIN THE PRECINCT OF THE TEMPLE, AT THE VERY PLACE THE MOTHER OF GOD ABODE FOR A WITNESS TO HER VIRGINITY. AS THE PROPHET'S BLOOD FLOWED WITHIN THE SANCTUARY, IT SIGNIFIED THE WITHDRAWING OF THE DIVINE PRESENCE, PRIESTS CAME TO TAKE UP HIS BODY AND THEY BURIED HIM WITH HIS FATHERS. FROM THAT MOMENT SIGNS AND PROPHECIES OCCURRED IN THE TEMPLE, INDICATING THAT THE RIGHTS OF THE LAW WOULD SOON BE ABOLISHED. NO LONGER WOULD THE PRIESTS BEHOLD THE ANGELS OF GOD, OR HAVE THE GRACE OF PROPHECY: NO LONGER WOULD THEY BE ABLE TO DELIVER ORACLES OR ENLIGHTEN THE PEOPLE UPON THE DARK PLACES OF HOLY

Source: abbamoses.com

THIS MONTHS FASTING DATES

SCRIPTURE, AS THEY HAD BEEN WONT TO DO.

1ST, 6TH, 8TH (FISH ALLOWED), 13TH, 14TH, 15TH,

20TH, 22ND, 27TH AND 29TH

GOA GUIDE ON FASTING



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON FASTING SCAN HERE

SUNDAY SCHOOL 2023-2024 CALENDAR



2023/2024 St. Spyridon Sunday School PLEASE NOTE DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE



September &

10- 1st Day of Sunday School

17- Sunday School

24- Sunday School





- 1-Sunday School 8-Sunday School
- 15-Sunday School
- 22-Sunday School
- *29- No Sunday School Family Worship *26-No Sunday School Family Worship



October November

- *5 Godparent Sunday Luncheon-No Sunday School Famy Worship
 - 12-Sunday School
 - 19-Sunday School



🕭 <u>December</u> 🔿



- 3-Sunday School 10-Sunday School
- 17- Sunday School Christmas **Pageant**

En jou Christmas Break!!





- 7 Sunday School Resumes Vasilopita Cutting
- 14- Sunday School
- *21-No Sunday School Family Worship
- 28-Sunday School



<u>February</u>



- 4- Sunday School
- 11-Sunday School
- *18- No Sunday School Family Worship
 - 25-Sunday School

March



- 3-Sunday School
- 10- Sunday School
- 17- Sunday School
- 24- Sunday of Orthodoxy: Bring an icon to class for procession
- 31- No Sunday School Family Worship



April





- 7 Sunday School
- 14- Sunday School
- *21-No Sunday School Family Worship
 - 28- Sunday School



May May

- 5- Χριστός Ανέστη!
 - 12-Sunday School
- *19-Graduation Sunday No Sunday
 - School
 - *26-No Sunday School



June



July

August 🔍



A GREAT

SUMMER

ARCHANGELS ACADEMY



HANDMAIDENS

Join the Handmaidens on September 9th and 10:00 for our first meeting!

We invite all 1st-12th grade girls to participate in this ministry! There are a lot of fruitful and fun things planned for the year and we would love to have you!

HANDMAIDENS SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER 9: 10:00 AM



OCTOBER 7: 11:30- 1:15 FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN; AURORA;
MUST RSVP FOR THIS EVENT.

STAY CONNECTED! EXT @HANDMADE TO 81010

NOVEMBER 4 - 10:00 AM

DECEMBER 9: 10:00 AM CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

JANUARY 13: DIVE FOR THE HOLY CROSS; LOCATION TBD

FEBRUARY 3: 10:00 AM

8

MARCH 2: 10:00 AM

APRIL 20: 10:00 AM MANDATORY MYROFORES PRACTICE

MAY 18: 10:00 AM END OF THE YEAR CELEBRATION

WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL!!!

We would like to officially welcome all the Archangels' students back to school. We are excited to be back in session with a full class. This will be Archangels Academy's 19th year.

Our staff Mrs. Sofea, Kyria Katerina, Kyria Evi and Mrs. Angela are looking forward to another great year. On September 5th, we will be welcoming our students and parents with an Agiasmo service and the blessing of our classroom. We are looking forward to a fun productive school year!

Date to Remember:

Wednesday, September 20th—Back to school Night—5:30 p.m.—6:30 p.m. for students and parents.

Donate to our Class Wish List!

Dear Parents and Families,

Please consider donating to our classroom's wish list to help us have all materials and supplies we need for a successful and productive school year! Every donation is truly appreciated and will make a difference in our classroom!

This is absolutely not required, but if you are interested in donating, please scan the QR code to view our Amazon Wish List. If you have not used a QR code before, simply open your camera app on your phone and place your phone over the QR code. A link will automatically pop on. Click on the link.

Please feel free to contact me with any more questions. Thank you,

Mrs. Sofea Malamis director@archangelsacademy.org



Scan me!



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BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Welcome back!

We are excited to welcome all the new and returning families of our church, Saint Spyridon.

Our annual back to school retreat was held on Saturday, August 26th. The children shared laughs, made crafts, played games, reunited with friends and ended the retreat with a blessing of the their backpacks. A big thank you to our PTA for organizing such a great event.

The first day of Sunday school is Sunday, September 10th.

The first day of Greek school is Friday, September 8th at 4:30. Students will begin with an Agiasmos service and head to their classrooms for a Meet and Greet with their teachers. Parents are welcome. Please have students dress appropriately for church service.

Ευχόμαστε σε όλους μια υπέροχη σχολική χρονιά!



FLOGA DANCE

The Floga dance troupe has had an exciting summer. We started off the summer season with a performance at the St. Demetrios Chicago festival. We then had both groups performing at the St. Spyridon annual festival. The children did such a great job and were very excited to show off what they have learned during the year.

The advanced group had a special performance this summer at the Sox game. The children performed for the pre-game show for Hellenic heritage night. They were very excited & did a great job representing our Greek community. They also performed at the St. Constantine & Helen festival,

which once again doing a great job. We had a lot of support and love from the St. Constantine & Helen community and we thank them for that.

We are now planning for the 2023/2024 dance season and are very excited to announce that we will have three groups: Beginners, Intermediate & Advanced. Watch out on our Facebook page (Floga Hellenic dance troupe) for more details and fliers in the bulletin.

Thanks again to the parish for all their support and we are looking forward to another great year! OPA!

Sophia Christofer & Evie Marouda







JOIN THE ST. SPYRID<mark>ON</mark> FLOGA HELLENIC DANCE TROUPE

SPRINGS OF BASIL (BEGINNERS GROUP)
KINDERGARTEN - 2ND GRADE (PRACTICE MONDAY NIGHT)

THE WONDERWORKERS (INTERMEDIATE GROUP)
3RD GRADE - 5TH GRADE (PRACTICE FRIDAY NIGHT)

FLOGA (ADVANCED PERFORMING GROUP) 6TH GRADE AND ABOVE (PRACTICE FRIDAY NIGHT)

REGISTRATION COMING THIS SEPTEMBER.

PRACTICE BEGINS LATE SEPTEMBER TIME TBD

CONTACT SOPHIA OR EVI AT FLOGADANCEGROUP@GMAIL.COM





PHILOPTOCHOS

Dear St. Spyridon Family,

It was great to see all of our children & families that attended the "Back to School Retreat" that was on Saturday, August 27th. Our Philoptochos was invited to be part of this event along with all of our parish ministries. We were able to connect with our families and learn more about our Philoptochos & all that we do as an organization!

Thank you to our St. Spyridon families for the school supply donations & being part of our National Philoptochos initiative "Operations Classroom". With your generosity & support, we were able to make a contribution to James Bowen High School & the Shavon L. Dean Serenity Organization Inc.

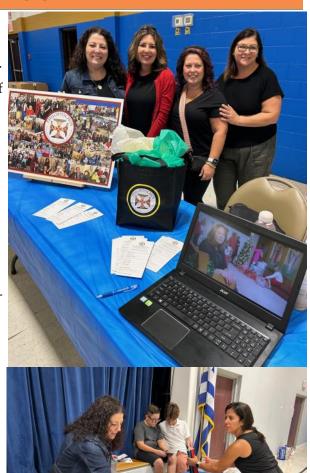
On Sunday, August 27th, we held our 1st annual meeting of the new year. Thank you to all the members that attended & our Parish Council President, Mr. Frank Kopanis for his attendance and continued support. It was great to see everyone!

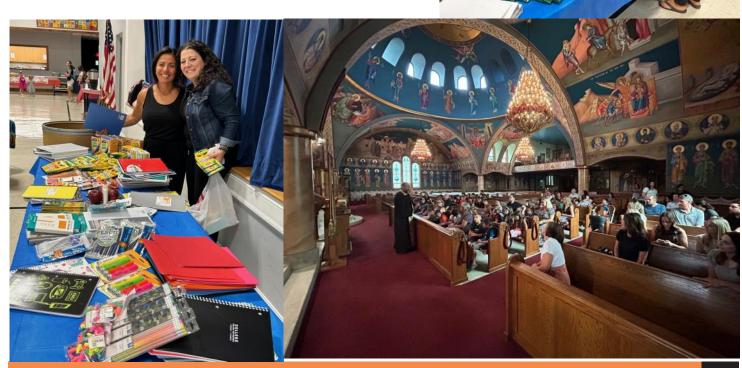
We will be attending our Metropolis annual luncheon on Saturday, September 23rd at the Concorde Banquets. Thanks to the generous parish grant through the Hellenic Foundation, transportation for the luncheon has been provided for our members along with our fellow sisters from Assumption, Homer Glen & Holy Cross. Be on the look out for the information related to the luncheon & transportation.

Looking forward to the new month!

Sisterly Agapi,

Dana Vasilakos





THE REPOSE OF THE HOLY APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST JOHN THE THEOLOGIAN

The Holy, Glorious All-laudable Apostle and Evangelist, Virgin, and Beloved Friend of Christ, John the Theologian was the son of Zebedee and Salome, a daughter of Saint Joseph the Betrothed. He was called by our Lord Jesus Christ to be one of His Apostles at the same time as his elder brother James. This took place at Lake Gennesareth (i.e. the Sea of Galilee). Leaving behind their father, both brothers followed the Lord.

The Apostle John was especially loved by the Savior for his sacrificial love and his virginal purity. After his calling, the Apostle John did not part from the Lord, and he was one of the three apostles who were particularly close to Him. Saint John the Theologian was present when the Lord restored the daughter of Jairus to life, and he was a witness to the Transfiguration of the Lord on Mount Tabor.

During the Last Supper, he reclined next to the Lord, and laid his head upon His breast. He also asked the name of the Savior's betrayer. The Apostle John followed after the Lord when they led Him bound from the Garden of Gethsemane to the court of the iniquitous High Priests Annas and Caiphas. He was there in the courtyard of the High Priest during the interrogations of his Teacher and he resolutely followed after him on the way to Golgotha, grieving with all his heart.

At the foot of the Cross he stood with the Mother of God and heard the words of the Crucified Lord addressed to Her from the Cross: "Woman, behold Thy son." Then the Lord said to him, "Behold thy Mother" (John 19:26-27). From that moment the Apostle John, like a loving son, concerned himself over the Most Holy Virgin Mary, and he served Her until Her Dormition.

After the Dormition of the Mother of God the Apostle John went to Ephesus and other cities of Asia Minor to preach the Gospel, taking with him his own disciple Prochorus. They boarded a

ship, which floundered during a terrible tempest. All the travellers were cast up upon dry ground, and only the Apostle John remained in the depths of the sea. Prochorus wept bitterly, bereft of his spiritual father and guide, and he went on towards Ephesus alone.

On the fourteenth day of his journey he stood at the shore of the sea and saw that the waves had cast a man ashore. Going up to him, he recognized the Apostle John, whom the Lord had preserved alive for fourteen days in the sea. Teacher and disciple went to Ephesus, where the Apostle John preached incessantly to the pagans about Christ. His preaching was accompanied by such numerous and great miracles, that the number of believers increased with each day.

During this time there had begun a persecution of Christians under the emperor Nero (56-68). They took the Apostle John for trial at Rome. Saint John was sentenced to death for his confession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, but the Lord preserved His chosen one. The apostle drank a cup of deadly poison, but he remained alive. Later, he emerged unharmed from a cauldron of boiling oil into which he had been thrown on orders from the torturer.

After this, they sent the Apostle John off to imprisonment to the island of Patmos, where he spent many years. Proceeding along on his way to the place of exile, Saint John worked many miracles. On the island of Patmos, his preaching and miracles attracted to him all the inhabitants of the island, and he enlightened them with the light of the Gospel. He cast out many devils from the pagan temples, and he healed a great multitude of the sick.

Sorcerers with demonic powers showed great hostility to the preaching of the holy apostle. He especially frightened the chief sorcerer of them all, named Kinops, who boasted that they would destroy the apostle. But the great John, by the

grace of God acting through him, destroyed all the demonic artifices to which Kinops resorted, and the haughty sorcerer perished in the depths of the sea.

The Apostle John withdrew with his disciple Prochorus to a desolate height, where he imposed upon himself a three-day fast. As Saint John prayed the earth quaked and thunder rumbled. Prochorus fell to the ground in fright. The Apostle John lifted him up and told him to write down what he was about to say. "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end, saith the Lord, Who is and Who was and Who is to come, the Almighty" (Rev 1:8), proclaimed the Spirit of God through the Apostle John. Thus in about the year 67 the Book of Revelation was written, known also as the "Apocalypse," of the holy Apostle John the Theologian. In this Book were predictions of the tribulations of the Church and of the end of the world.

After his prolonged exile, the Apostle John received his freedom and returned to Ephesus, where he continued with his activity, instructing Christians to guard against false teachers and their erroneous teachings. In the year 95, the Apostle John wrote his Gospel at Ephesus. He called for all Christians

to love the Lord and one another, and by this to fulfill the commands of Christ. The Church calls Saint John the "Apostle of Love", since he constantly taught that without love man cannot come near to God.

In his three Epistles, Saint John speaks of the significance of love for God and for neighbor. Already in his old age, he learned of a youth who had strayed from the true path to follow the leader of a band of robbers, so Saint John went out into the wilderness to seek him. Seeing the holy Elder, the guilty one tried to hide himself, but the Apostle John ran after him and besought him to stop. He promised to take the sins of the youth

upon himself, if only he would repent and not bring ruin upon his soul. Shaken by the intense love of the holy Elder, the youth actually did repent and turn his life around.

Saint John reposed when he was more than a hundred years old. He far outlived the other eyewitnesses of the Lord, and for a long time he remained the only remaining eyewitness of the earthly life of the Savior.

When it was time for the departure of the Apostle John, he went out beyond the city limits of Ephesus with the families of his disciples. He bade them prepare for him a cross-shaped grave, in which he lay, telling his disciples that they should cover him over with the soil. The disciples tearfully kissed their beloved teacher, but not wanting to be disobedient, they fulfilled his bidding. They covered the face of the saint with a cloth and filled in the grave. Learning of this, other disciples of Saint John came to the place of his burial. When they opened the grave, they found it empty.

Each year from the grave of the holy Apostle John on May 8 came forth a fine dust, which believers gathered up and were healed of sicknesses by it. Therefore, the Church also celebrates the memory of the holy Apostle John the Theologian on May 8.

The Lord bestowed on His beloved disciple John and John's brother James the name "Sons of Thunder" an awesome messenger accompanied by the cleansing power of heavenly fire. And precisely by this the Savior pointed out the flaming, fiery, sacrificial character of Christian love, the preacher of which was the Apostle John the Theologian. The eagle, symbol of the lofty heights of his theological thought, is the iconographic symbol of the Evangelist John the Theologian. The appellation "Theologian" is bestown by Holy Church only to Saint John among the immediate disciples and Apostles of Christ, as being the seer of the mysterious Judgments of God.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS



Please Join US

On Tuesday, September 19 for

Christianiki Philoxenia

At Saints Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church 11025 S Roberts Rd, Palos Hills, IL 60465

Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM Followed by Luncheon & Fellowship

*Hosted by St. Helen Women's Philoptochos

Please call for reservations by September 12, 2023.

Sts. Constantine & Helen Church Office (708) 974-3400



Christianiki Philoxenia "Christian Love, Fellowship, Hospita is a "free of charge" event for the ministry dedicated to our Senior Citizens established and hosted by five Greek Orthodox Parishes, Southside Chicago: Constantine & Helen, St. Nicholas, Holy Cross, Assumption, St. Spyrid

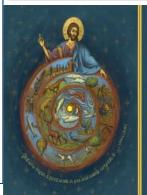


ΧΡΙΣΤΙΑΝΙΚΗ ΦΙΛΟΞΕΝΙΑ

Οι κυρίες της Φιλοπτώχου από τις πέντε Ορθόδοξες Κοινότητες των νοτίων προαστίων του Σικάγου, προσκαλούν όλους τους πιστούς της χουσής ηλικίας των εωοριών μας στο φετινό γεύμα που θα προσφερθεί στην κοινότητα ων Αγίων Κωνστανίνου και Έλένης.

Όρθρος και Θεία Λειτουργία θα αρχίσουν στις 10:00 π.μ. και θα ακολουθήσει δωρεάν γεύμα στην κοινοτική αίθουσα της ενορίας.

Το γεύμα προσφέρεται δωρεάν αλλά μέχρι της 12 Σεπτεμβοίου θα ποέπει να τηλεφωνήσεται στο κοινοτικό γραφείο των Αγίων Κωνσταντίνου και Ελένης,(708)974-3400, για κρατήςσεις θέσεων.



METROPOLIS OF CHICAGO CLERGY-LAITY ASSEMBLY

OCTOBER 11-13, 2023

MERIDIAN BANQUET & CONFERENCE CENTER

ACCOMMODATIONS

HOST PARISHES

Saint Spyridon Hellenic Orthodox Church

A MINISTRY FOR ALL FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN FROM PRE-K TO 5TH GRADE





FRI, SEPT 15TH 6:30 PM **FANOUROPITA BAKING**

Upcoming Family Night Dates

Fri, Oct 6th | Saint Spyridon, 6:30-8pm

Fri, Nov 3rd | Prosforo Baking at Saint Spyridon, 6:30-8pm

Sat, Nov 18th | Annual Christmas Advent Retreat at Saint Spyridon, 11am

Fri, Dec 8th | Christmas PJ Party/Movie Night at Saint Spyridon, 6:30-8pm



>>> Come visit our sign up table at the backpack blessing! Or send an email to Presvytera Diana at dlamberis@gmail.com for more info!



SAINT SPYRIDON HELLENIC ORTHODOX CHURCH





Our mission is to provide wholesome and fun activities in which the child and caregiver will work together and create a venue where Orthodox parents (yiayia, papou, etc.) and children can interact with others, form bonds of friendships and develop spiritually.

Each meetup varies to include storytime, songs, playtime, crafts and a spiritual lesson in a developmentally appropriate manner for their age.



JOIN US! WE WELCOME CHILDREN FROM 40 DAYS OLD TO 3 YEARS OLD

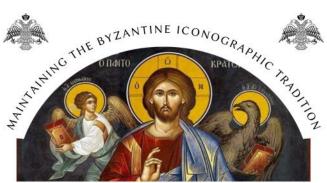
> **FALL/WINTER 2023 CALENDAR** 10:00AM - 12:00PM

9/20/23 10/4/23 10/18/23 11/1/23

11/15/23 11/29/23 12/13/23

SEND AN EMAIL TO EHRISTAKOS@GMAIL.COM TO SIGN UP!

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS



ICONOGRAPHY CLASSES

LEARN THE FUNDAMENTAL TECHNIQUES OF BYZANTINE ICONOGRAPHY

TEACHER: PANAYIOTIS MIHALOPOULOS

Wednesdays 5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m. First class : September 27 St. Spyridon's Hellenic Orthodox Church \$100 per Student + cost of materials







BYZANTINE MUSIC CLASSES

FOR BEGINNERS AND INTERMEDIATE LEVELS
CLASSES ARE HELD EVERY SATURDAY
(STARTING SEPTEMBER 9 THROUGH
APRIL OF 2024)

3:30 - 4:15 PM - Beginner Class 4:15 PM - 5:00 PM - Intermediate Class Cost: \$100/person or \$150 total per family with 2 or more students)

FOLLOWED BY VESPERS AT 5 PM

SAINT SPYRIDON HELLENIC ORTHODOX CHURCH 12307 S. RIDGELAND AVENUE, PALOS HEICHTS, H. WWW. SAINT-SPYRIDON.NET

STUDENTS: 1ST GRADE THROUGH 12TH GRADE AND ADULTS ARE WELCOME

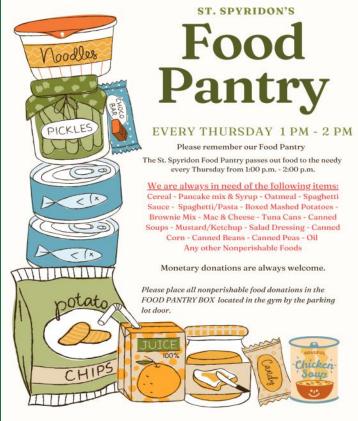
INSTRUCTOR: ALEXIA CHIBUCOS











Parish Announcements



ST. SPYRIDON GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH



CALLING ALL 6TH GRADERS - HIGH SCHOOL JOIN US FOR FUN MINISTRIES, BONFIRES AND OUTREACH PROJECTS

ICE CREAM SOCIAL - WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 @ 7PM COME TASTE THE SWEETNESS OF ORTHODOX LIFE

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR UPCOMING MEETINGS: SEPTEMBER 20, OCTOBER 4 & 18, NOVEMBER 1 & 15, DECEMBER 13 2024 DATES TBD

*** GOYA FEE = \$20 TO COVER OUTREACH PROJECT EXPENSES***

JOIN GOYA REMIND APP GROUP TO STAY UP TO DATE TEXT @JRGOYAG TO 81010



1401 Wagner Rd. Glenview, IL 60025

3Etreats are a Pan-Orthodox opportunity to connect with other Orthodox Christians in your area.

Open to ministry leaders, parents, teens, and young adults!

REGISTER HERE:



www.theOYM.org/events

Saturday, September 16, 5pm Vespers

Saturday, September 16, 7pm-8:30pm Young Adult Event Join us for connection and conversation and dinner







connec

SEPTEMBER 29 - OCTOBER 1, 2023

THEME: REFUGE **MATTHEW 11:28**

REGISTRATION OPENS JULY 17 CONNECTORTHODOX.ORG









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Μιλάω ελληνικά