



# THE VOICE

**DECEMBER 2023 - VOLUME No. 385**  
**SAINT SPYRIDON HELLENIC ORTHODOX**  
**CHURCH**

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

## *Feast Day of our Patron* *Saint Spyridon*

*Friday, December 8th, 2023*

Paraklesis to Saint Spyridon — 5:00 p.m.

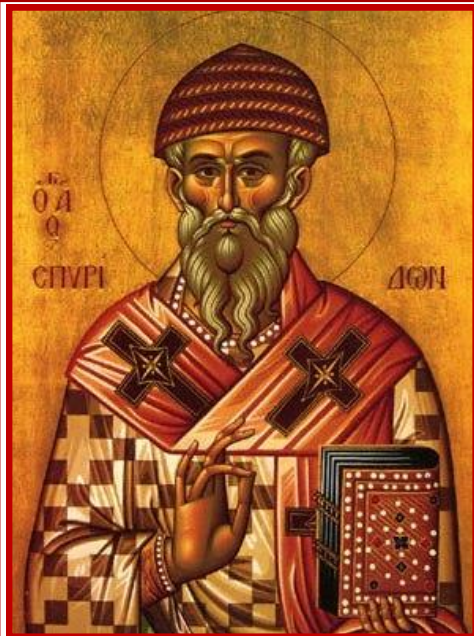
*Monday, December 11th, 2023*

Hierarchical Vespers — 7:00 pm.

*Tuesday, December 12th, 2023*

Orthros — 8:00 a.m.

Hierarchical Divine Liturgy — 9:30 a.m.



## **GODPARENTS BRUNCH**



**SPARTA SOCIETY  
OF CHICAGO  
HONORING FATHER  
GEORGE LAMBERIS  
AXIOS!!!**







## **SPARTA SOCIETY OF CHICAGO ΣΠΑΡΤΙΑΤΙΚΟΣ ΣΥΛΛΟΓΟΣ ΣΙΚΑΓΟΥ HONORING FATHER GEORGE LAMBERIS – AXIOS!!!**

The Sparta Society of Chicago honored our very own Father George at its annual dinner dance on November 25th at the Chateau Ritz Banquets in Niles, Illinois. Father George was recognized as a worthy member of the Greek-American community for his excellent works throughout the years. AXIOS!!!

It was a warm and festive evening of fellowship where Father George was joined by his family, his Saint Spyridon family as well as many friends and students from former parishes. The Consul General, of the Consulate General of Greece in Chicago, Mr. Emmanuel Koubarakis, also attended the event and was a guest speaker. The society hosts a dinner dance each year to bring together all Laconians and Hellenes to strengthen and preserve its traditions and values with the younger generations, to assist with philanthropic efforts, and to celebrate its heritage.





## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Saint Spyridon Parish Family,  
Χαίρεται, με θερμές ευχές να έχουμε έναν ευλογημένο Καλό Μήνα, με Καλές Γιορτές και Καλά Χριστούγεννα με υγεία, χαρά και γαλήνη. Greetings and Happy December! It is with much hope and prayer that all of our families are staying healthy and doing well.

The Christmas Lenten Sarantaleitourgo Holy Services continue to move forward. We await with great anticipation, for the many more beautiful Feast Days to come, including the Feast Day of our beloved Patron Saint Spyridon, and then reaching the height of the holidays with the birth of our Holy Savior Jesus Christ! We are grateful to our Father George, through the intercessions of our beloved Saint Spyridon, for his efforts and guidance during this extra meaningful time of the year. Thank you to chanter, Alexia Chibucos, and all of the chanters that have honored our parish by volunteering to complete the Sarantaleitourgo schedule. It is inspiring to see during the holy services, Alexia surrounded by, and leading her Byzantine Music Class students! Thank you to parish council member, Bill Kiliyas, for volunteering as reader and providing helpful support at the chant stand.



Thank you to Sotiria Simantirakis for helping keep St. Spyridon's Church looking extra beautiful, maintained and clean.

Thank you to parish council member Nick Argyropoulos, and all of the parish council and parish volunteers (with special mention to Mr. Kostas (Gus) Rougas), for encouraging a warm and welcoming church order to assist the faithful and visitors during the holy services.



The parish council elections are scheduled to take place on December 10th. Applications for parish council candidacy have been mailed to the parish and are also available in the church office. There is a need for more volunteers to offer their time and skills to help the ministries and operation of the parish. Please consider applying as a candidate or otherwise become involved in a ministry, a committee, one of the schools or any of the many events and activities. Every volunteer and their actions matter as they help take ownership and provide responsibility for some portion of our beloved Saint Spyridon's church. Please volunteer by contacting Father George, any of the parish council members, any of the ministry/school leaders

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, participating and leading the church ministries for the benefit of us, our families, parish and community.

Please, let us all attend and participate as often as possible, to spiritually benefit from the holy services during this blessed time of the year.

Best wishes for everyone to have a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.



Καλή δύναμη και καλή συνέχεια  
May Saint Spyridon continue to guide us and protect us.

Humbly submitted,

**Frank Kopanis**

## FATHER'S LETTER

### A MONK WHO NEVER JUDGED



In the Prologue from Ochrid, St. Nicholai Velimirovich offers a marvelous account of the lives of many saints. In the month of March on the 30th day, there is an unnamed monk who is commemorated who is described as “Lazy, carless, disinclined to prayer...” This is not the description we would expect to read in the life of any Saint of the Church!

Within this reading, we are told that as this monk was close to his departure from this world, he was full of joy. His brother monks knew very well of this monk’s short-comings, and they all were confused how one so seemingly negligent could be facing death so joyfully. When they asked him how this could be possible, he responded: “I have seen the angels, and they showed me a page with all my sins. I said to them: The Lord said, **‘Judge not, that you not be judged.’** I have never judged anyone and I hope in the mercy of God, that He will not judge me.”

The monk ended his remarks by telling his brothers that the angels, upon hearing that the monk had never judged anyone, immediately tore up the long list of his sins. The story ends by saying that all the monks marveled at this and learned from it.

There is probably nothing to which our Lord attached a greater warning than judging our brother.

“Judge not so that you may not be judged. For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged and with the same measure you use, it will be measured back to you” (Matthew 7:1-2).

So many of our Saints speak to us about not judging! St. Dorotheos of

Gaza from the 7th century said, “Nothing angers God so much or strips a man so bare or carries him so effectively to ruin as condemning or despising his neighbor. There are three things here; running a man down; condemning him unjustly, and despising him.” For St. Dorotheos, running a man down is gossiping about his behavior or lifestyle. Condemning a man is judging the state or condition of his soul. Despising, of course, is wishing or rejoicing in his ruin or destruction.

Is it any wonder that God hates it when we judge our brother? We now understand why this unnamed monk was assured of heaven. Despite his negligence, he never judged anyone.

Instead, St. Dorotheos tells us if we want to be saved we should never scrutinize the sins of anyone. We should scrutinize our own sin and we should then set out to eliminate them.

He continues by telling the story of Isaac the Theban. An angel appeared before Isaac and presented before him the soul of someone who had just died. “Here is the soul of a person you have judged,” said the angel. “Where do you order him to be put, into the Kingdom or into eternal punishment?”

Since you want to judge the just

and the unjust, what do you command for this poor soul?”

Isaac was afraid to hear these words, and therefore he spent the rest of his life praying with tears to be forgiven of this sin. He had seen how serious it is to judge.

During this Christmas season, let us learn from Isaac, St. Dorotheos and the unnamed monk and make the decision to not “run a man down, condemn him or despise him.” The more we judge, the more we gossip, the farther away from the love of God we drive ourselves.

There will be a day, like there was for the unnamed monk, when we will be confronted with death. Let us pray that our sins are also torn apart. Will we be judged to the degree that we judged others? Like Isaac, may we feel the severity of judgement and also tremble at the thought of the consequences of judging others. Instead, let us dedicate the remaining time of our lives to Christ our God, repenting and avoiding this dangerous sin. Stop judging – stop condemning – Don’t despise!

I leave you with a quote from St. Makarios the Great – “Christians should judge no one, neither an open harlot, nor sinner, nor dissolute people, but should look upon all with simplicity of soul and a pure eye. Purity of heart, indeed, consists in seeing sinful and weak men and having compassion for them and being merciful.” Let us do our best to be pure so that we may emulate and present the pureness and love of God’s kingdom, always, now and forever.

*Fa. George*



# ARCHANGELS ACADEMY

Last month was all about being thankful, and we definitely have a lot to be thankful for. On Wednesday, November 8th, our class celebrated the feast day of our school by attending church and offering Artoklasia. We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to Mrs. Kathy Gofis for making the loaves for the Artoklasia. We thank her for her continued love and support for our school. Her kindness has touched the hearts of many.

Our annual Thanksgiving Feast was once again a hit! It was truly an amazing afternoon celebrating as a family. The food was delicious...THANK YOU to all our parents who volunteered to help and for all your hard work. We couldn't have done this without you! We are truly blessed in so many ways!

Upcoming events for December:

\*Monday, December 11th - Field Trip to Moraine Valley Theater-AlphaBet Soup Productions - *The Christmas that almost wasn't*

\*Thursday, December 21st - Annual Christmas Program





# ANNUAL CHRISTMAS RETREAT

The Family Night Ministry held our annual Christmas Retreat on Saturday, November 18th. The event was graciously sponsored entirely by our PTA.

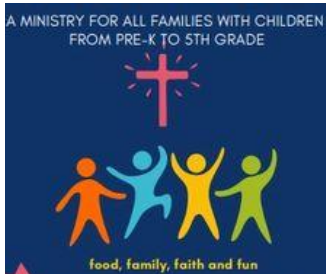
This year our children learned about the life of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker. They painted a wooden shoe for their craft, to reinforce what they learned in their lesson. The children also learned the hymn of St. Nicholas, along with some traditional Christmas songs. They also made snow globes to be given to the residents of the Greek American Nursing Home. Finally, we ended the day with family Gingerbread house decorating.

It was a fun filled day and the children enjoyed themselves. We thank the PTA for their generosity in sponsoring this event!





# FAMILY NIGHT



On Friday, November 3rd, we learned how to make prosphoro! Each person was able to press the seal on their own dough ball. After dinner, Father George taught our families how the priest prepares the prosphoro for Divine Liturgy. He

cut a prosphoro while the kids cut their own paper prosphoro and explained what each piece meant. How beautiful it is that our priests pray for us each by name- both the living and those who have fallen asleep. Thank you to the families that joined us and to all the volunteers who helped organize the day!

Please plan to join us on Friday, December 8th for a our Annual Christmas PJ Party Movie Night.





## SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES



# Celebrate The Nativity of Jesus Christ

Friday, December 1st	Agiasmos & Divine Liturgy—8:00 a.m.—9:45 a.m.
Saturday, December 2nd	St. Porphyrios, Divine Liturgy—7:45 a.m.—9:00 a.m. *Great Vespers—5 p.m.
Sunday, December 3rd	Orthros & Divine Liturgy—8:00 a.m.—11:30 a.m.
Monday, December 4th	St. Barbara & St. John of Damascus, 1st Hour & Divine Liturgy—8:00 a.m.—9:30 a.m.
Tuesday, December 5th	1st Hour & Divine Liturgy—8:00 a.m.—9:30 a.m. Great Vespers at St. Nicholas—7 p.m.
Wednesday, December 6th	Orthros & Divine Liturgy at St. Nicholas, Oak Lawn—8:15 a.m.
Thursday, December 7th	St. Ambrosios of Milan, Orthros & Divine Liturgy—8:00 a.m.—10:15 a.m.
Friday, December 8th	1st Hour & Divine Liturgy—8:00 a.m.—9:30 a.m. * Paraklesis to St. Spyridon—5:00 p.m.
Saturday, December 9th	1st Hour & Divine Liturgy—8:00 a.m.—9:30 a.m.
Sunday, December 10th	Orthros & Divine Liturgy—8:00 a.m.—11:15 a.m.
Monday, December 11th	1st Hour & Divine Liturgy—8:00 a.m.—9:30 a.m. <b>Feast Day of Saint Spyridon, Great Vespers—7:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Tuesday, December 12th</b>	<b>St. Spyridon the Wonderworker, Orthros &amp; Divine Liturgy—8:00 a.m.</b>
Wednesday, December 13th	1st Hour & Divine Liturgy—8:00 a.m.—9:30 a.m.
Thursday, December 14th	1st Hour & Divine Liturgy—8:00 a.m.—9:30 a.m.
Friday, December 15th	St. Eleftherios, 1st Hour & Divine Liturgy—8:00 a.m.—9:30 a.m. *Holy Unction—5:00p.m
Saturday, December 16th	1st Hour & Divine Liturgy—8:00 a.m.—9:30 a.m. * Great Vespers—5:00 p.m.
Sunday, December 17th	St. Dionysios of Zakynthos, Orthros & Divine Liturgy—8:00 a.m.—11:30 a.m.
Monday, December 18th	1st Hour & Divine Liturgy—8:00 a.m.—9:30 a.m.
Tuesday, December 19th	1st Hour & Divine Liturgy—8:00 a.m.—9:30 a.m.
Wednesday, December 20th	1st Hour & Divine Liturgy—8:00 a.m.—9:30 a.m.
Thursday, December 21st	1st Hour & Divine Liturgy—8:00 a.m.—9:30 a.m.
Friday, December 22nd	Royal Hours—8:00 a.m.—10:00 a.m. ***
Saturday, December 23rd	1st Hour & Divine Liturgy—8:00 a.m.—9:30 a.m.
Sunday, December 24th	Orthros & Divine Liturgy—8:00 a.m.—11:15 a.m. Great Vespers—5:00 p.m. ***
Monday, December 25th	<b>Nativity of our Lord - Orthros &amp; Divine Liturgy of St. Basil—8:00 a.m.—11:15 a.m.***</b>
Wednesday, December 27th	St. Stephen, Orthros & Divine Liturgy—8:00 a.m.—10:15 a.m.
Sunday, December 31st	Orthros & Divine Liturgy—8:00 a.m.—11:15 a.m.

\*\*\* Times/services for this date is subject to change per guidance from the Holy Metropolis.



## ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑ ΙΕΡΩΝ ΑΚΟΛΟΥΘΙΩΝ


Παρασκευή 1 Δεκεμβρίου	Θεία Λειτουργία & Αγιασμός—8:00 π.μ.—9:45 π.μ.
Σάββατο 2 Δεκεμβρίου	Αγ. Πορφυρίου, Θεία Λειτουργία—7:45 π.μ.—9:00 π.μ. Μέγας Εσπερινός—5:00 μ.μ.
Κυριακή 3 Δεκεμβρίου	Όρθρος και Θεία Λειτουργία—8:00 π.μ.—11:30 π.μ.
Δευτέρα 4 Δεκεμβρίου	Αγίας Βαρβάρας & Αγίου Ιωάννου Δαμασκηνού, 1η Ωρα και Θεία Λειτουργία—8:00 π.μ.—9:30 π.μ.
Τρίτη 5 Δεκεμβρίου	1η Ωρα & Θεία Λειτουργία—8:00 π.μ.—9:30 π.μ. Μέγας Εσπερινός στον Ι. Ν. Αγ. Νικολάου—7:00 μ.μ.
Τετάρτη 6 Δεκεμβρίου	Όρθρος και Θεία Λειτουργία—8:15 π.μ. (Ι.Ν. Αγίου Νικολάου)
Πέμπτη 7 Δεκεμβρίου	Αγίου Αμβροσίου, Όρθρος και Θεία Λειτουργία—8:00 π.μ.—10:15 π.μ.
Παρασκευή 8 Δεκεμβρίου	1η Ωρα & Θεία Λειτουργία—8:00 π.μ.—9:30 π.μ. Παρακλησις του Αγ. Σπυριδωνος—5:00 μ.μ.
Σάββατο 9 Δεκεμβρίου	1η Ωρα & Θεία Λειτουργία—8:00 π.μ.—9:30 π.μ.
Κυριακή 10 Δεκεμβρίου	Όρθρος και Θεία Λειτουργία—8:00 π.μ.—11:30 π.μ.
Δευτέρα 11 Δεκεμβρίου	1η Ωρα & Θεία Λειτουργία—8:00 π.μ.—9:30 π.μ. <b>Αρχιερατικός Εσπερινός Αγίου Σπυριδωνος—7:00 μ.μ.</b>
Τρίτη 12 Δεκεμβρίου	<b>Αγίου Σπυριδωνος, Όρθρος και Αρχιερατική Θ. Λειτουργία—8:00 π.μ.</b>
Τετάρτη 13 Δεκεμβρίου	1η Ωρα & Θεία Λειτουργία—8:00 π.μ.—9:30 π.μ.
Πέμπτη 14 Δεκεμβρίου	1η Ωρα & Θεία Λειτουργία—8:00 π.μ.—9:30 π.μ.
Παρασκευή 15 Δεκεμβρίου	Αγ. Ελευθερίου, 1η Ωρα & Λειτουργία—8:00 π.μ.—9:30 π.μ. Ευχέλαιον—5:00 μ.μ.
Σάββατο 16 Δεκεμβρίου	1η Ωρα & Θεία Λειτουργία—8:00 π.μ.—9:30 π.μ. Μέγας Εσπερινός—5:00 μ.μ.
Κυριακή 17 Δεκεμβρίου	Αγίου Διονυσίου Ζακύνθου, Όρθρος και Θ. Λειτουργία—8:00—11:30 π.μ.
Δευτέρα 18 Δεκεμβρίου	1η Ωρα & Θεία Λειτουργία—8:00 π.μ.—9:30 π.μ.
Τρίτη 19 Δεκεμβρίου	1η Ωρα & Θεία Λειτουργία—8:00 π.μ.—9:30 π.μ.
Τετάρτη 20 Δεκεμβρίου	1η Ωρα & Θεία Λειτουργία—8:00 π.μ.—9:30 π.μ.
Πέμπτη 21 Δεκεμβρίου	1η Ωρα & Θεία Λειτουργία—8:00 π.μ.—9:30 π.μ.
Παρασκευή 22 Δεκεμβρίου	Ακολουθία των Μεγάλων Ωρών—8:00 π.μ.—10:00 π.μ.
Σάββατο 23 Δεκεμβρίου	1η Ωρα & Θεία Λειτουργία—8:00 π.μ.—9:30 π.μ.
Κυριακή 24 Δεκεμβρίου	Όρθρος και Θεία Λειτουργία—8:00 π.μ.—11:30 π.μ. * Μέγας Εσπερινός—5:00 μ.μ.
Δευτέρα 25 Δεκεμβρίου	<b>ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥΓΕΝΝΑ, Όρθρος και Θεία Λειτουργία του Αγ. Βασιλείου —8:00 π.μ.—11:15 π.μ.***</b>
Τετάρτη 27 Δεκεμβρίου	Αγ. Στεφάνου, Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία, 8:00 π.μ.—10:15 π.μ.
Κυριακή 31 Δεκεμβρίου	Όρθρος και Θεία Λειτουργία—8:00—11:30 π.μ.

\*\*\* Το πρόγραμμα της ημέρας υπόκειται σε αλλαγές από την Ιερά Μητρόπολη





## December 2023 — Community Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					<b>1</b> 9:00am — Archangels Academy 4:30 pm — Greek School	<b>2</b> 9am — 4pm — Christmas Craft Show 3:30 p.m. — Byzantine Music Class (Beginners) 4:15 pm. — Byzantine Music Class (Intermediate)
<b>3</b> Sunday School — 11:00 — 3:00 p.m. Craft Show 4:00 — 8:00 pm. Metropolis Open House at the Carlisle Banquets	<b>4</b> 9:00am — Archangels Academy 4:30 pm — Greek School 6:40 pm — Floga Dance Troupe Beginners 7:00pm — Parish Council meeting	<b>5</b> 9:00am — Archangels Academy	<b>6</b> 9:00am — Archangels Academy 5:30pm — Iconography Class	<b>7</b> 9:00am — Archangels Academy 1:00pm — Food Distribution	<b>8</b> 9:00am — Archangels Academy 4:30 pm — Greek School 6:30 pm — Family Night Christmas Movie Night	<b>9</b> 10am — Handmaidens/ Altar Boys Meeting Floga Dance Intermediate (2:30 pm), Advanced (3:15 pm) 3 Byzantine Music Class (Beginners @ 3:30p.m.) Music Class (Intermediate @ 4:15pm )
<b>10</b> Sunday School 11:30 am — Parish Council Elections 11:30 am — Philoptochos meeting	<b>11</b> 9:00am — Archangels Academy 4:30 pm — Greek School 7:00 p.m. — Great Vespers for St. Spyridon Feast Day	<b>12 ST. SPYRIDON FEAST DAY</b>  *Office closed *9:00am — Archangels Academy	<b>13</b> 9:00am — Archangels Academy 10:30am — Cherubs 5:30pm — Iconography Class 7:00pm — GOYA Christmas Party	<b>14</b> 9:00am — Archangels Academy 1:00pm — Food Distribution 7 p.m. — Paradosis Troupe	<b>15</b> 9:00am — Archangels Academy 4:30 pm — Greek School 6:40 pm — 7:30 pm — Floga Dance Troupe Intermediate/Advanced	<b>16</b> 11:00am — Christmas Pageant Practice 3:30p.m. — Byzantine Music Class (Beginners) 4:15pm. — Byzantine Music Class (Intermediate)
<b>17</b> Family Worship Christmas Pageant PTA Bake Sale	<b>18</b> 9:00am — Archangels Academy 4:30 pm — Greek School 6:40 pm — Floga Dance Troupe Beginners	<b>19</b> 9:00am — Archangels Academy	<b>20</b> Archangels Academy — 9:00 am Christmas Basket Distribution — 10:00 — 11:30 am	<b>21</b> * Archangels Academy — 9:00 am * Archangels Christmas Program & Reception — 10:30 am	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> Family Worship	<b>25 CHRISTMAS</b> 	<b>26</b> Office Closed	<b>27</b> 10:30am — Altar Boy Social Event	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> Family Worship						



## PARISH REGISTRY

### Baptisms

The daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Young was baptized on November 5th, and was given the name Fiona Maria by her Godfather Mr. Dimitri Foukas.

The son of Zachary Brown and Krissa Manolitsis was baptized on November 11th, and was given the name Zachary Tyler by his Godfather Noah Mitchel.

*Να ζήσουν!*

### Funeral

On November 23rd Demetrious Kavvadas fell asleep in the Lord. His funeral took place on November 29th and he was interred at Bethania Cemetery.

### Memorials

#### Sunday, November 5th

†40 days Maria D. Stavrakos & †1 yr Angeliki Visvardis

#### Sunday, November 12th

†2 yrs Sotirios Charalambos, †21 yrs Ioannis Bisbikis, †24 yrs Anastasia

Bisbikis, Memorial for the departed members of St. Spyridon's Philoptochos Sisterhood.

#### Sunday, November 18th

†2 yrs Haralambos Paleothodoros

#### Sunday, November 19th

†9 yrs Nikolaos Vardalos

#### Sunday, November 26th

†40days for Stavroula Theohari

*May their memory be eternal!*



### STEWARDSHIP 2023

As Orthodox Christians, we are stewards of our Church family – those with whom we worship, have fellowship with, and serve the community. In the same way that we care for our immediate family, we also care for our Christian brothers, sisters, fathers, mothers, sons and daughters. In his book on the Eucharist/Divine Liturgy, Fr Alexander Schmemmann explains that in the early church, the Eucharistic sacrifice was offered by all the members of the church. Each person coming to the gathering of the Church brought with them everything they could spare for the needs of the Church. This meant for the sustenance of the clergy, widows and orphans, for helping the poor, and for all the good works of the Church. This is the Church that we as Orthodox Christians claim to be.

We wish to thank the 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 332 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 συμβάλουμε την συνδρομή μας. Συμπληρώστε την κάρτα συνδρομής με την προσφορά σας και βοηθήστε να συνεχίσουμε όλοι μαζί την διακονία της ιεράς κοινότητός μας.

## **NEW 2023 STEWARDS NOVEMBER 1ST—NOVEMBER 30**

Mr. Angelo P. Angelos  
Mr. & Mrs. John Karopulos  
Mr. & Mrs. John Korbakis  
Mrs. Zoe Korbakis  
Ms. Kathryn Pappas

Mr. & Mrs. Tony Shamma  
Mrs. Athena Tsinoukas  
Mrs. Patricia Vardalos  
Mr. & Mrs. Spyros Vlahos

**Total # of Stewards: # 332**



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





## PHILOPTOCHOS

Dear St. Spyridon Family,

Kalo Mina! November was a busy month for our ladies! On Tuesday, November 21st we participated in the Feed the Hungry program for our Metropolis. With your support we were able to feed over 150 people on that day. It truly was a blessing to partake & be part of this great ministry in our Metropolis!

This year our Philoptochos started a new outreach project with our college students. With the blessing of Father George we were able to deliver care packages to 26 of our college students! The care package included, letter from Father George, \$10 Amazon gift card, orthodox spiritual booklet, koulourakia, protein bars, candy & much more! It was great to receive all the "Thank You" and appreciative messages from our students & their parents.

We hope that you will support us this month by attending our Annual Craft Show December 2nd & 3rd. Our ladies have been busy preparing our traditional delicious sweets & food for this event. Look forward to seeing you there!

Save these Dates!

*\*Saturday, December 2nd - Sunday, December 3rd - St. Spyridon Craft Show & Food Festival*

*\*Sunday, December 3rd – Metropolitan Open House @ Carlisle Banquets from 4:00pm-8:00pm*

*\*Monday, December 11th – St. Spyridon Vespers*

*\*Tuesday, December 12th – St. Spyridon Feast Day*

*\*Saturday, December 30th – Philoptochos Christmas Party @ Kefi*

Our monthly meeting will be held on *Wednesday, January 10th at 6:30 p.m.* at church.

On behalf of our Philoptochos sisters & myself, we wish you & your families a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!!

*Sisterly Agapi,  
Dana Vasilakos*



The  
St. Spyridon Philoptochos Society  
cordially invites you to join us for our annual  
CHRISTMAS PARTY

Saturday, December 30<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 p.m.

\$30 per person – cash bar

Kefi Greek Cuisine & Bar

12200 S. Harlem Avenue, Palos Heights, IL

RSVP on or before December 26<sup>th</sup>

Ruth E. Faklis at 1. 708.530.9064 or  
[rodothea52@hotmail.com](mailto:rodothea52@hotmail.com)

Please make checks payable to:

St. Spyridon Philoptochos





# SUNDAY SCHOOL

This has been a busy year for our Sunday School and it's hard to believe 2023 is soon coming to a close.

Many thanks to all of the families who participate in Sunday School and all the teachers who dedicate their time and talent each week to ensure that our Program is successful.

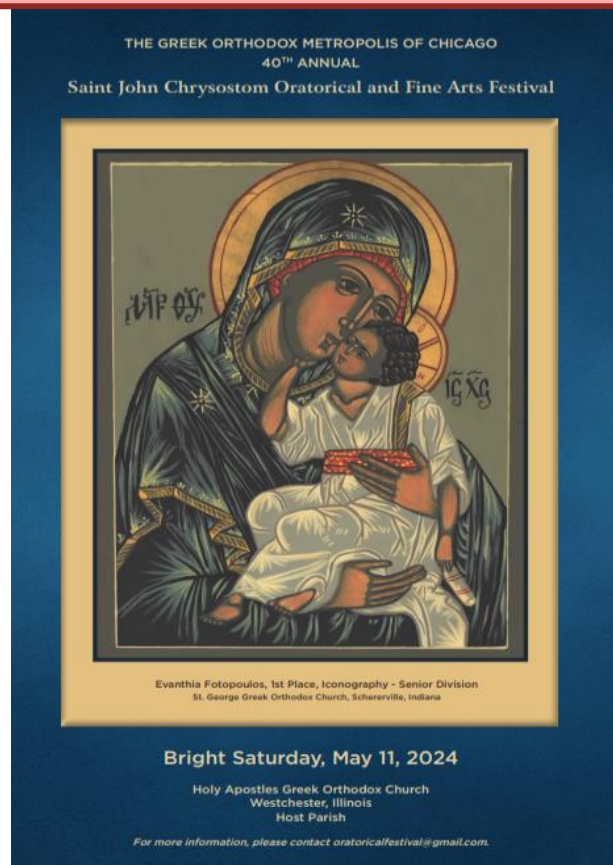
Our teachers for **PreK-** Vicky Argyropoulos, Maria Tsinoukas, Toni Eliopoulos and Kathy Karopulos. **Kindergarten/1st grade** Tricia Pappas and Annie Mihalopoulos. **2nd & 3rd grade** – Helen Halikias, Amy Korolis, Vicky Kournetas, Connie Georgiou and Helen Pappas. **4th & 5th grade** teachers, Litsa Tsarouhis, Christina Killias and George Scarlatis. **6th, 7th & 8th grade** Maria Baltsas and Irena Karopulos.

I am extremely grateful for each of these people for their continued dedication and commitment to our school.

For the month of December, we will have class on December 3rd and 10th. Our annual Christmas Pageant will take place on Sunday December 17th, with our practice on Saturday, December 16th at 10am-11:30am. At Pageant practice, the students will be assigned their costumes (if applicable) and will rehearse a couple times. Greek School will also be practicing with us. We could use help during practice and day of the event to get the little ones ready, so please help if you are able. During class on December 10th, we will ask the students if they would like to volunteer for specific parts, so please encourage your children to participate. Looking forward to a blessed 2024 with all of our Sunday School family.

With love,

Zoe Kopanis





## FLOGA DANCE

The dance groups have had an exciting month of practice and getting to know one another. Our beginner group has been practicing basic fundamental concepts. Our Intermediate & Advanced groups have been learning new dances from Pontos and Crete. We have also had a guest teacher, Olga Baroudos, who has been dancing for decades and is an expert in Pontian dances. She has taught competitive dance in California for 10+ years for the Folk Dance Festival (FDF). She has taught us some basic fundamental concepts and working on our styles of dance based on the region of Greece. We are trying to plan a dance showcase at some point after the holidays for the parents to see what their children have been learning. We will keep you posted.

We want to wish you & your families a happy and blessed holiday season with love and peace to bring us all into the New Year (and maybe a little dancing too!). Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



## GOYA

This month was action packed for the GOYA group. Our first gathering in November focused on The Lord is My Rock, and the kids made a beautiful rock icon to carry around for strength. The next GOYA gathering was at Target to shop for two DCFS children. The GOYAN's picked out all of their wish list items and more! This month finished up with the Thanksgiving Food Drive basket assembly. The GOYAN's helped assist in placing all the items in the boxes and bags for 65 families in need. A great GOYA Giving time!!! Thanks to all who have donated time and talents to make these opportunities a success! Mark your calendar for the GOYA Christmas party on Wednesday, December 13 at 7pm, place TBD.



## HONORING OUR MUSICIANS...

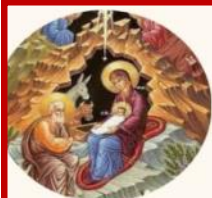


Ruth Faklis, the President of the Federation of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians of the Metropolis of Chicago, and Father George presented an award to Bobby Papadatos for his 10 years of service as a member of the Saint Spyridon choir. We congratulate and thank Bobby for his dedication to our parish.



Father George presented Angelo P. Angelos with an icon depicting Saint Spyridon and the icon of the Holy Archangels in honor of Angelo's many years of service to our community. It was wonderful to have Angelo back at the chanter's stand, and we welcome him to come and chant whenever his schedule allows for it.

## 2023 CHRISTMAS CARD



### SAINT SPYRIDON 2023 CHRISTMAS CARD



**Family and Friends of St. Spyridon,  
Please consider joining the St. Spyridon Family to wish all  
your friends and family a Merry Christmas! Your name will  
be included in our annual Christmas card.**

**Scan the QR Code to submit payment on-line (\$25) or  
visit the link:**

**<https://qrco.de/bebSW9>**

**You can also send a check payable to:**

**St. Spyridon Hellenic Orthodox Church  
12307 S. Ridgeland Ave  
Palos Heights, IL. 60463**

**Payment (\$25) must be received by December 10.  
You can also call the church office 708.385.2311  
with your request to pay over the phone.**





# PLUTARCHOS ACADEMY



On Friday, October 27th, we had an in-school OXI day celebration. The students recited poems, rehearsed songs, made beautiful drawings and learned about the history of OXI Day. What a beautiful way to commemorate the Greek Heroes of 1940 and celebrate the importance of Freedom and Peace!

Our students will participate at the Community Christmas Pageant on Sunday, December 17th. Join us after the Divine Liturgy and enjoy our festive performance, joyous carols and Christmas spirit.

Our parent-teacher conferences are coming up on Friday, January 19th. Sign up sheets will be available during drop off and pick up during school days. You can also schedule your conference by emailing the office at [office@saint-spyridon.net](mailto:office@saint-spyridon.net) or calling at 708-385-2311.

We wish everybody a blessed Holiday Season, a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year!



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Sunday, December 17th : Christmas Pageant

Monday, December 18th: Last day before Christmas Break

Friday, January 5th: Classes resume





# BEARS GAME PLUTARCHOS ACADEMY FUNDRAISER

On Thursday, November 9th, our Annual Bears game fundraiser was held at X's and O's Sports Lounge.

The event was a tremendous success, bringing our community together for a great cause. Over 50 people came to watch the Bears vs the Panthers and enjoy time together. Funds raised will directly benefit our school.

Many thanks to X's & O's and everyone that supported our fundraiser.



# THANK YOU!





## CHERUBS

Our little Cherubs had a great time playing with sensory bins, making thanksgiving crafts, singing with Father George, and of course riding our favorite bikes! We hope that all our families had a Happy and Healthy Thanksgiving! We can't wait to see you all in December. Join us! We welcome children from 40 days old to 3 years old, together with their caregiver.

Email [cherubs12307@gmail.com](mailto:cherubs12307@gmail.com) to sign up for this wonderful free ministry!





# MERRY CHRISTMAS

# ST. SPYRIDON

December 2023

## PTA NEWSLETTER



### DATES TO REMEMBER

- DECEMBER 11TH: VESPERS FOR ST SPYRIDON
- DECEMBER 17: SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT (SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUMES ON JANUARY 7TH)
- DECEMBER 18TH-JANUARY 5TH: NO GREEK SCHOOL
- DECEMBER 23RD-JANUARY 8TH: ARCHANGELS BREAK

### FUNDRAISERS & EVENTS

ARCHANGELS COOKIE DECORATING KIT  
CONTACT SOFEA MALAMIS

DECEMBER 17TH- PTA BAKE SALE

### PTA NEEDS YOU!

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](mailto:spyridonpta@gmail.com) to help!

### SAINT STORY OF THE MONTH

DECEMBER 13

HOLY VIRGIN MARYR LUCY OF SYRACUSE (304)

DURING DIOCLETIAN'S PERSECUTIONS, THE CHRISTIAN MAIDEN LUCY WENT WITH HER MOTHER ON PILGRIMAGE TO THE TOMB OF ST AGATHA (FEBRUARY 5), TO PRAY FOR HER MOTHER'S HEALING FROM AN AILMENT. SAINT AGATHA APPEARED TO LUCY IN A DREAM AND SAID 'LUCY, MY SISTER, WHY DO YOU ASK FROM ME WHAT YOUR OWN FAITH CAN OBTAIN? YOUR MOTHER IS HEALED. YOU WILL SOON BE THE GLORY OF SYRACUSE AS I AM OF CATANIA.' LUCY'S MOTHER WAS HEALED FROM THAT DAY, AND LUCY DETERMINED TO CONSECRATE HERSELF ENTIRELY TO GOD. SHE BROKE OFF AN ENGAGEMENT TO A NOBLY-BORN YOUNG MAN AND GAVE HER LARGE DOWRY OF LAND AND JEWELS TO THE POOR. HER WOULD-BE HUSBAND ANGRILY DENOUNCED HER AS A CHRISTIAN TO THE GOVERNOR OF SYRACUSE.

AT THE TRIBUNAL, LUCY FIRMLY CONFESSED HER FAITH IN CHRIST AND REFUSED TO MAKE SACRIFICE TO THE GODS. THE GOVERNOR ORDERED THAT SHE BE PLACED IN A BROTHEL, BUT HIS MINIONS WERE UNABLE TO MOVE HER FROM THE PLACE WHERE SHE STOOD, EVEN WHEN THEY TIED HER WITH ROPES AND ATTEMPTED TO DRAG HER WITH OXEN. THE GOVERNOR ASKED WHAT WITCHCRAFT SHE USED, TO WHICH SHE ANSWERED 'I DO NOT USE WITCHCRAFT — IT IS THE POWER OF GOD THAT IS WITH ME. BRING TEN THOUSAND OF YOUR MEN IF YOU WISH: THEY WILL NOT BE ABLE TO MOVE ME UNLESS GOD WILLS IT.' THE MEN THEN LIT A FIRE AROUND HER, BUT IT DID NOT HARM HER. FINALLY THEY BEHEADED HER WHERE SHE STOOD. WITH HER LAST WORDS, SHE PREDICTED THE DEATHS OF MAXIMIAN AND DIOCLETIAN, AND THE COMING OF PEACE TO THE CHURCH.

Source: [abbamoses.com](http://abbamoses.com)

### THIS MONTHS FASTING DATES

- NATIVITY FAST UNTIL CHRISTMAS DAY (FISH ALLOWED UNTIL DECEMBER 11TH)

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON FASTING SCAN HERE

GOA GUIDE ON FASTING





# GODPARENT SUNDAY





# TREATS ON A TRAIL

We thank the PTA of Saint Spyridon for organizing "Treats on a Trail." Our youth and families walked the path on Lake Katherine as our GOYAnS and parents shared the lives of eight different saints. They also received special treats at each of the eight stations.



## SINGING CHRISTMAS CAROLS AT OUR VESPERS OF ST. SPYRIDON



**WHEN:** Monday, December 11, 2023  
- immediately following the Vesper Service (which begins at 7 p.m.)

**WHERE:** St. Spyridon Community Center  
12307 S. Ridgeland Avenue, Palos Heights, IL

**WHO:** All Church members are invited to participate—Save the Date!!

Volunteers are asked to join us in singing Christmas Carols (including, but not limited to: Silent Night, The First Noel, Joy to the World, the Kalanda, etc.) immediately following our St. Spyridon Vespers in the Church Community Center/stage - Music sheets will be provided

**Director/Organist:** Nicky Glikis

After the performance, please enjoy yourself at the Feast Day Celebration - appetizers and refreshments will be served.

We highly encourage your youth/young adult members to join us in participating in this unique event.

**Any questions/concerns** - contact Ruth E. Faklis  
1.708.430.9064

## HANDMAIDENS

The Handmaidens worked hard at our last meeting, where they made decorated mini Christmas trees for a local care center! Join us on December 9th at

PLEASE JOIN THE HANDMAIDENS IN THIS BEAUTIFUL ENDEAVOR....

### Diagnosis Bags

New families that are diagnosed with pediatric cancer at our partnered hospitals will receive a Warriors Bag

The bag includes:

- Child size blanket
- Cancer Warrior T-shirt
- Pediatric Cancer Pins
- When a Child Like Me Fights Cancer children's book
- Affirmation Cards
- Press-n-Seal
- First two warrior badges



Each bag cost \$50 to put together

Donations Needed



IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO DONATE WITH CASH OR CHECK PLEASE SEE VICKY ARGYROPOULOS

Paypal Donation



Amazon Donation List





# FOOD PANTRY – THANKSGIVING 2023

Thanks to the generous donations of our donors, the Food Pantry was able to distribute food baskets to 65 local needy families – a 48% increase over last year!

All families received a turkey and all of the fixings for a complete Thanksgiving meal, (including fresh fruits & vegetables), plus a variety of other items to make additional meals for their families.

Beyond the baskets, the monetary donations received enabled us to purchase \$1,200 in gift cards, which will be distributed to the needy throughout the year.

THANK YOU to all who donated and to all those that graciously offered their time to organize, assemble, and distribute the food baskets. Our annual, dedicated volunteers were helped by some of our GOYA members this year.

Our next holiday distribution will be for Christmas. If you know of a family in need, please let them know that reservations for the Christmas Food Baskets may be made by calling the Church office at 708.385.2311. We also distribute food every Thursday from 1pm to 2pm in the back entrance of our church Gym – open to all, no reservation needed.

Wishing everyone a blessed Advent Season!



## Food Pantry Donations for Christmas

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 – valued at \$65 each.

Cash/Checks accepted in the church office weekdays from 9am – 2pm

Donations accepted online at [saint-spyridon.net](http://saint-spyridon.net)  
(Select FOOD PANTRY)

Donation deadline is Monday, December 18th.

*Thank You!*



# PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

JOIN US FOR A  
**PTA BAKE SALE**  
**17**  
**DECEMBER**

AFTER LITURGY IN THE COMMUNITY HALL HOSTESS GIFTS AND FAMILY TREATS AVAILABLE: HOT CHOCOLATE ORNAMENTS, COOKIES FOR SANTA JARS, TREATS, AND MUCH MORE!

SAINT SPYRIDON FAMILY NIGHT MINISTRY PRESENTS

## MOVIE NIGHT

Fri, Dec 8th  
 6:30 pm

Food! Refreshments!

pop corn

Feature Film "The Star"  
 Saint Spyridon Gymnasium

Bring your favorite blanket!

## Saint Spyridon's Christmas Craft Show

Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>  
 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>  
 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

I love the delicious homemade Greek food & pastries ...  
 Greek Chicken ... Gyros ... Pastichio  
 Spanakopita ... Tiropita  
 Galaktobouriko ... Diples ... Baklava  
 And much, much more!  
**YUMMY!**

With over 60 vendors there is something for everyone!

Christmas Crafts  
 Christmas Décor  
 Jewelry  
 Clothing  
 Home Décor  
 Gourmet Treats  
 Candles  
 Crafts Galore!

St. Spyridon Church  
 12307 S. Ridgeland Avenue  
 Palos Heights, IL 60463  
 (708)385-2311

Compassion  
 In Jesus' name

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Be challenged, inspired and moved as you hear their remarkable story. And celebrate the incredible ways that God is at work.

Bring friends and family for an interactive experience like no other.

Register for **FREE** today!

December 8, 2023 | 6:00-8:00pm  
 December 9, 2023 | 12:00-2:00pm  
 December 10, 2023 | 12:00-2:00pm

Scan the QR code to register today.





# Huck FINN

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Oak Lawn, IL 60453  
3414 S. Archer 773-247-5515  
Chicago, IL 60608  
6650 S. Pulaski 773-581-4285  
Chicago, IL 60629

# Eggman's



## Restaurant

12701 S. Pulaski  
Alsip, IL 60803

708-239-8740



## Nick's Barbecue

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<b>Alsip</b> 5500 Cal Sag Rd. (708) 923-RIBS (7427)	<b>Homer Glen</b> 15800 S. Bell Rd. (708) 645-RIBS (7427)	

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