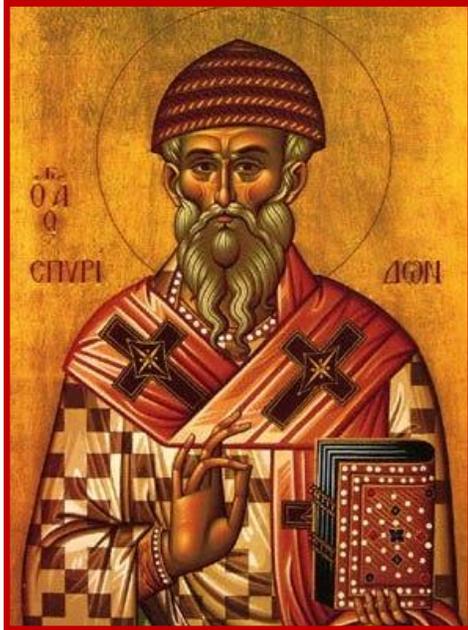




THE VOICE

DECEMBER 2022 - VOLUME No. 374
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 9th, 2022

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

Sunday, December 11th, 2022

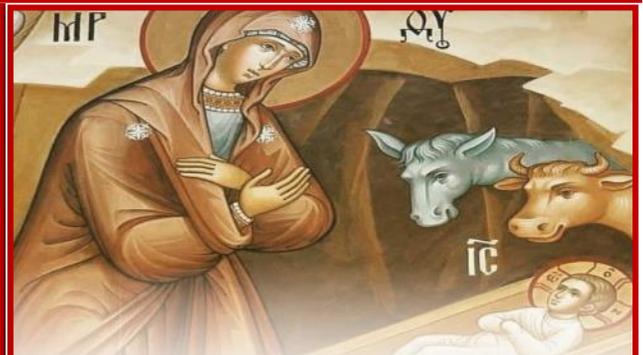
Hierarchical Vespers—7:00 pm.

Monday, December 12th, 2022

Orthros—8:00 a.m.

Hierarchical Divine Liturgy—9:30 a.m.

GODPARENTS BRUNCH



CHRISTMAS DIVINE SERVICES

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23RD, 2022

ROYAL HOURS—8:00 a.m.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24TH, 2022

ORTHROS AND DIVINE LITURGY—8:00 a.m.

GREAT VESPERS—5:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25TH, 2022

CHRISTMAS DAY

ORTHROS AND DIVINE LITURGY—8:00 a.m.

FATHER'S LETTER

FIGHT THE ENEMY: PREPARE FOR CHRIST'S BIRTH

How often do we blame others for our problems? Whether it involves an individual or group, we often think that if others would do "what we want them to do" then everything would work out well. We all know that things are much more complicated than that.

When I think of Saint Paul, he had many opportunities to try and blame others for his problems. Beatings, shipwreck, imprisonment, and criticism were just some of the struggles he experienced as he offered Himself to the Lord. Instead of blaming other people, he was spiritually mature enough to recognize that the corrupt spiritual powers tempted others to sin.

His message to the Ephesians, who encountered various struggles, was to prepare themselves so that they may resist temptation and spiritual assault by putting "on the whole armor of God." With the "shield of faith, the gospel of peace, you can quench all the fiery darts of the evil one." By putting on "the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God." In other words, he encouraged these new Christians to live in contrast to the standards of their culture. Instead of serving worldly things, they were encouraged to offer themselves fully to the Lord. They had to be strong spiritually so that they could respond faithfully to the challenges they would face for devoting their lives to Christ. The Romans would soon torture and kill Christians for not worshiping the pagan gods.

A "normal" human reaction would be to hate their persecutors. But we Christians are to look at our enemies as children of God created in His divine image. Our real enemies are the spiritual forces of darkness that encourage us to hate those who harm or hurt us and to refuse to forgive them.

Putting on the armor of God means opening up our lives as much as possible to the sacramental and ascetical life of the Church. If we fuel our bodies with prayer, learn self control through fasting, and participate in Holy Communion, we can be strengthened by the reception of Holy Communion. The more we live in communion with Christ and reject temptation, the better prepared we are to share in His life.

The Nativity fast has been given to us and calls us to prayer, fasting and almsgiving in order to prepare our hearts and souls to welcome the Savior born at Christmas. As we battle our temptations, we put on the armor of God, we battle against our thoughts and temptations to look for fulfillment in worldly things.

St. Paul and so many martyrs in our church's history found strength to love their persecutors following in the example of Christ on the Cross who said "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do." Their victory lies in the conquering of temptations to preserve their lives in this world by denying Christ.

Today, it is easy for us to be blinded by our own passions to the point where we feel we are justified in hating or refusing to forgive people for wronging us in much smaller ways. When this happens, we become blind to the identity of our real enemies: the demons who tempt us in order to divide us and not share in the life of Christ. We prefer the weakness of Adam and Eve, who stripped themselves of our divine glory instead of wearing the full armor of God.

It is when we feel like we have lost all hope that we are to be persistent in our daily prayers, our fasting and almsgiving, and our participation in the sacramental and ascetical life. This is how we start to recognize the true enemy and open ourselves up to God's healing.

If we want to put on the whole armor of God every day, let's stop pointing fingers and making excuses and look to Christ as our example. Put yourself in the place of the Saints and have the courage to do battle against the evil one. Identify the true enemy – the forces of darkness – so that we may not judge but love the person as Christ loves us.

May we prepare our hearts to welcome the Lord at His birth this Christmas. He did not come to deliver us from people; He is born to make us radiant with divine glory so that we may participate in His life. He is born to conquer our true enemies so that we may love all who bear His image and His likeness. Prepare your heart and truly receive Him.



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear St. Spyridon Parish Family,

Greetings and Happy December! It is with much hope and prayer that all of our families are staying healthy and doing well. The Christmas Sarantaleitourgo holy services are in full swing. We await in great anticipation for the many beautiful Feast Days to come including that of our beloved Patron Saint Spyridon and then reaching the height of the holidays with the birth of our Holy Savior Jesus Christ! Thank you to Fr. George for all of your efforts and guidance during this extra meaningful time of the year. Thank you to the chanters, Aggelis Angelos, Alexia Chibucos and all of the chanters from other parishes that have honored our parish by filling in during times of need. Thank you to Sotiria Simantirakis for helping keep St. Spyridon's Church looking extra beautiful, maintained and clean. Thank you to Nick Argyropoulos, the parish council and parish volunteers (with special mention to Mr. Gus Rougas), for helping assist the worshippers and visitors in a caring and orderly manner during the holy services.



The parish council monthly meeting took place on November 1st. Reports on parish activity through October 2022 included: Fr. George providing a Parish Ministries update, the Treasurer's Report (Gus Kolyvas) for parish financial operations, Archangels Academy Preschool (Bill Kiliyas), Greek School (George Vythoulkas), Sunday School (Dana Vasilakos), Youth Protection (Panagiotis Stamus), Athletics (Nick Tsinoukas), Dinner Dance/Brunch Fellowship (Caryn Chibucos), Stewardship (Labros Malfas), Building and Maintenance (John Farsatis), and Church Order (Nick Argyropoulos). Larry, our parish maintenance contractor, retired on November 28th. We thank Larry for his service to our parish and wish him a joyous and peaceful retirement. The parish council unanimously approved a new parish facilities maintenance contractor, Total Building Service (TBS), with service beginning on November 30th.

The new year is fast approaching and Parish Ministry/Committee meetings including planning for the Festival and Golf Outing fundraisers will be taking place in January/February. Volunteers are needed for the fundraisers. Please volunteer for the church ministries, committees, schools, events and fundraisers by contacting Fr. 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 Fr. George, the parish council members, the church organizations and committees, the parishioners, volunteers and donors for supporting our parish.

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 to everyone on a Happy and Healthy Christmas Lenten season.

Καλές Γιορτές και Καλά Χριστούγεννα!!!

May St. Spyridon continue to guide us and protect us.

Humbly submitted, Frank Kopanis

The Voice -

Η ΦΩΝΗ

Official Monthly Community
Publication of St. Spyridon
Hellenic Orthodox Church
12307 S. Ridgeland Avenue
Palos Heights, IL 60463

REV. FR. GEORGE LAMBERIS
PARISH PRIEST

Church Office

Hours: Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
Phone: 708-385-2311
Fax: 708-385-0166
E-mail: office@Saint-Spyridon.net
Web: www.Saint-Spyridon.net

Parish Council Officers

Frank Kopanis	President
George Papadopoulos	Vice-President
James Xeros	Vice-President
Panagiotis Stamus	Secretary
Spiros Tzanetakos	Assistant Secretary
Gus Kolyvas	Treasurer
Jim Korbakes	Assistant Treasurer

Auxiliary Officers

Angelo Angelos	Chanter
Georgia Xeros	Philoptochos
Dana Vasilakos	P.T.A.
Gus Rougas	Kentro
Jimmy Korbakes	Kentro
Marianna Haniotakis	Plutarchos Academy
Sofea Malamis	Archangels Academy
Vasiliki Georgiou	Cherubs
Ria Hronis	Cherubs
Zoe Kopanis	Sunday School Director
Nancy Primbas	G.O.Y.A.
Pres. Diana Lamberis	Family Night
Vivian Tzanetakos	Family Night
Ria Hronis	Family Night
Labros Malfas	Altar Boys
Vicky Argyropoulos	Handmaidens
Cindy Polyzos	Floga Dance
Demetrius Marines	Athletics
Nick Tsinoukas	Athletics
Stella Parhas	Food Pantry
Litsa Tsarouhis	Church Office
Marianna Haniotakis	Church Office
Soteria Simantirakis	Custodian

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES



Celebrate The Nativity of Jesus Christ

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

ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑ ΙΕΡΩΝ ΑΚΟΛΟΥΘΙΩΝ

Πέμπτη 1 Δεκεμβρίου	Αγιασμός & Θεία Λειτουργία, Αγιασμός — 7:45 π.μ.—9:00 π.μ.
Παρασκευή, 2 Δεκεμβρίου	Αγ. Πορφύριος, 1η Ώρα & Θεία Λειτουργία—7:45 π.μ.—9:15 π.μ.
Σάββατο 3 Δεκεμβρίου	1η Ώρα & Θεία Λειτουργία—7:45 π.μ.—9:15 π.μ. * Εσπερινός—5:00 μ.μ.
Κυριακή 4 Δεκεμβρίου	Αγ. Βαρθολομαίου & Αγ. Ιωάννη του Δαμασκηνού, Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία—8:15 π.μ.—11:15 π.μ.
Δευτέρα 5 Δεκεμβρίου	1η Ώρα & Θεία Λειτουργία—7:45 π.μ.—9:15 π.μ.
Τρίτη 6 Δεκεμβρίου	Αγ. Νικολάου, Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία στον Ι.Ν. Αγ. Νικολάου, Oak Lawn—8:15 π.μ.
Τετάρτη 7 Δεκεμβρίου	Αγ. Αμβροσίου, Όρθρος και Θεία Λειτουργία—8:00 π.μ.—10:00 π.μ.
Πέμπτη 8 Δεκεμβρίου	1η Ώρα & Θεία Λειτουργία—7:45 π.μ.—9:15 π.μ.
Παρασκευή 9 Δεκεμβρίου	1η Ώρα & Θεία Λειτουργία—7:45 π.μ.—9:15 π.μ. Παράκλησις του Αγ. Σπυρίδωνος—5:00 μ.μ.
Σάββατο 10 Δεκεμβρίου	1η Ώρα & Θεία Λειτουργία—7:45 π.μ.—9:15 π.μ.
Κυριακή 11 Δεκεμβρίου	Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία—8:15 π.μ.—11:15 π.μ. Αρχιερατικός Εσπερινός Αγ. Σπυρίδωνος—7:00 μ.μ.
Δευτέρα 12 Δεκεμβρίου	Αγ. Σπυρίδωνος, Όρθρος & Αρχιερατική Θεία Λειτουργία—8:00 π.μ.
Τρίτη 13 Δεκεμβρίου	1η Ώρα & Θεία Λειτουργία—7:45 π.μ.—9:15 π.μ.
Τετάρτη 14 Δεκεμβρίου	1η Ώρα & Θεία Λειτουργία—7:45 π.μ.—9:15 π.μ. Ιερόν Ευχέλαιον—5:00 μ.μ.
Πέμπτη 15 Δεκεμβρίου	Αγ. Ελευθερίου, 1η Ώρα & Θεία Λειτουργία—7:45 π.μ.—9:15 π.μ.
Παρασκευή 16 Δεκεμβρίου	1η Ώρα & Θεία Λειτουργία—7:45 π.μ.—9:15 π.μ. Μέγας Εσπερινός στον Ι.Ν. Αγ. Κωνσταντίνου & Ελένης—7:00 μ.μ.
Σάββατο 17 Δεκεμβρίου	Αγ. Διονυσίου Ζακύνθου, Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία στον Ι.Ν. Αγ. Κωνσταντίνου & Ελένης—8:00π.μ Μεγας Εσπερινός στον Ι.Ν. Αγ. Σπυρίδωνα—5:00 μ.μ.
Κυριακή 18 Δεκεμβρίου	Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία—7:45 π.μ.—9:15 π.μ.
Δευτέρα 19 Δεκεμβρίου	1η Ώρα & Θεία Λειτουργία—7:45 π.μ.—9:15 π.μ.
Τρίτη 20 Δεκεμβρίου	1η Ώρα & Θεία Λειτουργία—7:45 π.μ.—9:15 π.μ.
Τετάρτη 21 Δεκεμβρίου	1η Ώρα & Θεία Λειτουργία—7:45 π.μ.—9:15 π.μ.
Πέμπτη 22 Δεκεμβρίου	1η Ώρα & Θεία Λειτουργία—7:45 π.μ.—9:15 π.μ.
Παρασκευή 23 Δεκεμβρίου	Ακολουθία των μεγάλων Ωρών—8:00 π.μ.—10:00 π.μ.
Σάββατο 24 Δεκεμβρίου	Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία—8:00π.μ.—11:00 π.μ. Μέγας Εσπερινός—5:00 μ.μ.
Κυριακή 25 Δεκεμβρίου	ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥΓΕΝΝΑ, Όρθρος και Θεία Λειτουργία του Αγ. Βασιλείου—8:15 π.μ.—11:15 π.μ.
Τρίτη 27 Δεκεμβρίου	Αγ. Στεφάνου, Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία, 8:00 π.μ.—10:00 π.μ.



PARISH REGISTRY

Weddings

Peter Angelos and Ana Boulas were joined in Holy Matrimony on Sunday, November 20th. Their sponsors were Mr. & Mrs. Sotirios Hovardas.

Να ζήσουν!

Funeral

On October 30th Mr. Alexandros Georgiou fell asleep in the Lord. His funeral took place on November 3rd and he was interred at Evergreen Cemetery.

On November 8th Mrs. Angeliki Visvardis fell asleep in the Lord. Her funeral took place on November 11th and she was interred at Evergreen Cemetery.

Memorials

†40 days Arhon Letsou, †40 days Harry Pappas, †6 mo Pat Katsenis, †1 yr Sotirios Charalambos, †1 yr Charalambos Paleothodoros, †1 yr Panagiota Paraskis, †4 yrs Eleftheria Marinoglou, †5yrs Evangelos Marinoglou, †20 yrs John Bisbikis, †23 yrs Anastasia Bisbikis, †25 yrs Erini Pappas, †36 yrs Dionysius Pappas, †66 yrs George Paraskis

May their memory be eternal!



STEWARDSHIP 2022

As Orthodox Christians, we are stewards of our Church family – those with whom we worship, fellowship 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 2022. Stewardship materials are available at the church office, in the community hall and on our website.

Ευχαριστούμε τους 305 ενορίτες που προσφέρατε την συνδρομή σας για το 2022. 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 2022 STEWARDS NOVEMBER 1ST—NOVEMBER 30

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Hix
Me. & Mrs. Christ Georgiou

Mr. & Mrs. Spyros Vlahos
Ms. Maria Taltsidis

Total # of Stewards: # 305



*In gratitude for God's blessings, I commit to Christ and
His Church as a Steward of
Saint Spyridon with my 2022 Stewardship.*



December 2022 — Community Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 * Archangels Academy— 9:00 am * Paradosis Dance Troupe—7:00 p.m.	2 * Archangels Academy— 9:00 am * Greek School—4:30 pm- 6:30 pm * Folk dance (intermediate) —6:30 pm—7:00 pm	3 * Christmas Craft Show— 9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. * Byzantine Chant Class— 3:45 p.m.
4 * Sunday School— 10:30 am—11:30 am * Craft Show— 11:00—3:00 p.m. * Metropolis Open House—4:00 p.m.— 8:00 pm.	5 * Archangels Academy— 9:00 am * Greek School—4:30 pm- 6:30 pm * Folk dance (beginners)— 6:30 pm—7:00 pm	6 * Archangels Academy —9:00 am * Parish Council Meeting—7:00 p.m.— 9:00 p.m.	7 * Archangels Academy—9:00 am *Cherubs—10:30 a.m.— 12:00 p.m. *GOYA—7:00 pm— 8:30 pm	8 * Archangels Academy— 9:00 am	9 * Archangels Academy— 9:00 a.m. * Greek School Parent/ Teacher Conferences—5:00 pm—6:30 pm *Folk dance (intermediate) —6:30 pm—7:00 pm	10 * Handmaidens—10:30 a.m. *Altar Boys Meeting—10:30 p.m. * Byzantine Chant Class— 3:45 p.m.
11 * Sunday School— 10:30 am—11:30 am	12 ST. SPYRIDON FEAST DAY * Office closed * Archangels Academy— 9:00 am * Greek School—4:30 pm- 6:30 pm *Folk dance (beginners)— 6:30 pm—7:00 pm	13 * Archangels Academy—9:00 a.m.	14 * Archangels Academy—9:00 a.m. *GOYA—7:00 pm— 8:30 pm	15 * Archangels Academy— 9:00 am * Paradosis Dance Troupe—7:00 pm	16 * Archangels Academy— 9:00 a.m. * Greek School—4:30 pm- 6:30 pm * Family Night—Pajama Party & Movie Night— 6:30 pm *Folk dance (intermediate) —6:30 pm—7:00 pm	17 * Christmas Pageant Practice— 11:00 am * Byzantine Chant Class— 3:45 p.m.
18 * Family Worship— No Sunday School *Christmas Pageant—11:00 am	19 * Archangels Academy— 9:00 am * Greek School—4:30 pm- 6:30 pm *Folk dance (beginners)— 6:30 pm—7:00 pm	20 * Archangels Academy—9:30 am	21 * Archangels Academy—9:00 am	22 * Archangels Academy— 9:00 am * Archangels Christmas Program & Reception— 10:30 am	23	24
25 CHRISTMAS * Family Worship—No Sunday school	26 * Office Closed * Archangels Academy— 9:00 am * Greek School—4:30 pm- 6:30 pm *Folk dance (beginners)— 6:30 pm—7:00 pm	27 * Altar Boy Meeting— 11:00 m	28	29	30	31

PHILOPTOCHOS

Dear Friends of Philoptochos

Merry Christmas, may our Lord bring blessings to you and your loved ones in the New Year. There has been a flurry of baking and activity as the ladies of Philoptochos prepare for our Annual Christmas Craft Show on December 3rd and 4th. We hope you will support us by attending the Craft Show; stop by have lunch, enjoy our home baked pastries and peruse the crafters- you may just find the perfect gift. This year we will be selling combination platters of sweets and packaged boxes of Greek cookies which will make wonderful gifts for friends, neighbors or clients.



Soon after the Craft Show, our community will celebrate the feast day of our St. Spyridon with Great Vespers on Dec 11th and Divine Liturgy, Dec 12th. We anticipate many will attend our parish so please consider baking Lenten pastries for our two days of receptions. Andreana Kavvadas is coordinating the receptions so contact her or any of our board members to offer assistance.

As is our tradition we will be preparing to deliver Philoptochos greetings by visiting our shut-ins for Christmas. This year Mrs. Malfas and Angela have created beautiful cross wreaths that will be given to our shut ins with our delicious baked sweets as Christmas greetings. Please let me or Andreana Kavvadas know if someone is homebound or in need of some kindness so we can include them on our visit for the Holidays.

Along with hard work in December comes the beauty and joy of sharing Christmas together. We invite all to join us for our Annual Philoptochos Christmas Party. Our celebration brunch will be held on Sunday, January 8th at Elements by Odyssey immediately after the Divine Liturgy. Further information will be forthcoming as details are finalized, meanwhile please add the date to your calendar.

Another date to add to your calendar is Sunday, January 15th for the Metropolis Vasilopita Celebration. This year we are honored St Spyridon will be hosting the Vasilopita Celebration. His Eminence Metropolitan Nathanael will begin with a doxology and blessing of the Vasilopitas in church and then proceed to the hall for the celebration and the cutting of the vasilopitas. This joyous event is well attended by the entire Chicago Metropolis and all the parishes have been invited. We will need help in preparing and serving that evening; please contact Helen Sotiropoulos if you are able to volunteer to help.

Thank you to all our parishioners who supported our "Fall Take and Bake" fundraiser. As we have in the past, we will be donating \$1,500 to the Pediatric Oncology Treasure Chest, supporting children and teens fighting cancer.

On November 8th we participated in "Feed the Hungry" at the Annunciation Cathedral serving 100 hot meals to those in need. An additional 60 meals were distributed to the homeless under the bridge at Canal and 18th street and Wilson/Lawrence bridges. Thank you Olga Paxinos, Tasia Pappas, Andreana Kavvadas and Sophia Kopanitsanos for preparing the lunches and delivering the meals. For the Thanksgiving Holiday, Philoptochos contributed to our St Spyridon Food Pantry for



PHILOPTOCHOS

distribution of food for the needy at St. Spyridon Church. Thank you, Stella Parhas and the members of the Food Pantry, for all you do for those who are hungry and have food insecurity. Your compassion and service are inspiring.

On November 6 th we celebrated Philoptochos Sunday with a memorial service for our departed members and an artoclasia for the health of our current members. We also recognized Demetri Sianis and presented him a special gift of merit to help him with his educational pursuit of becoming a chef. Demetri serves as an inspiration to us as he overcomes many challenges and continues to persevere with a smile and eagerness to help.

As always, I thank each of you for your support and love of Philoptochos as we continue to help those in need or those alone. Remember together we can do so much! Καλά Χριστούγεννα, με υγεία και ευτυχία ο Καινούριος Χρόνος. We wish you and your families a Blessed Merry Christmas and a Healthy New Year: may Joy be your gift at Christmas and may Faith, Hope, Peace and Love be your treasures in the New Year.

Sisterly Agape,
Georgia Xeros



FOOD PANTRY

On Monday, November 21, our St. Spyridon Food Pantry distributed Thanksgiving meals to 45 families from our local community. Each meal included the following items:

1 turkey, 2 boxes of gravy, 2 packages of stuffing, 2 cans of cranberry sauce, 1 box of brown and serve rolls, 1 can of diced tomatoes, 1 pint of vegetable oil, 1 can of yams, 1lb of butter, 1 box of salt, 1 can of pepper, 1 bottle of salad dressing, 1 box of chicken broth, 1 box of brownie mix, 1 box of pasta, 1 bag of rice, 2 cans of corn, 2 cans of peas, 2 cans of green beans, 1 box of pancake mix, 1 bottle of pancake syrup, 1 stalk of celery, 1 bag of carrots, one 10lb bag of potatoes, one 5lb bag of frozen vegetables, 1 pumpkin pie, a big bag of assorted fresh fruit (apples, oranges, pears, bananas), 1 dozen eggs.

The value of each basket was roughly \$65.00. We also provided 10 meals to Kingdom Church (the old St. Spyridon) consisting of turkey, stuffing, gravy, canned corn, peas and green beans, soup, mac & cheese, and mashed potatoes.

Beyond the baskets, \$1200 in gift cards will be distributed to St. Spyridon families in need.

The total value of items that were distributed this Thanksgiving was \$4,665.

Thank you to all who donated and those who took their time assemble and distribute the baskets. We are also grateful to Mrs. Vicky Kournetas' Sunday School class for creating beautiful cards to the families. This is the most baskets we have distributed in years, and without your support, this event would not have been possible.



FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS for Christmas Food Baskets

Your generous donations will enable us to assemble food baskets for local needy families.

We are asking for monetary donations in any amount OR if you wish to sponsor a basket, each is valued at \$65.

Donations by cash/check can be dropped off in the church office:
Monday – Friday from 9am to 2pm

Checks payable to "St. Spyridon" & "Food Pantry" in the MEMO OR donate online: https://tithely.com/give_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/1390651

(Please select "Food Pantry" from the dropdown menu)

Donation Deadline is Sunday, December 18th.

THANK YOU!

HANDMAIDENS

Καλό Μήνα!!

The Handmaidens would like to thank everyone for their contributions to our hospital care package drive! We know that with your help, we will be able to deliver wonderful things to the University of Illinois Children's Hospital this Nativity season!

We will be selling Saint Spyridon Akathist sets after church and all proceeds will benefit the missions of Bishop Athenagoras. The girls handmade the candles and icons that will be accompanied with a book of the life and miracles of Saint Spyridon. This set will be sold for \$25.

We would like to invite all our maidens Preschool and up to join us for a Christmas party on December 10th at 10:30 a.m. This will be a great opportunity for our mini-maidens to begin learning about Almsgiving this Holiday Season.

Please text @handmaide to 81010 to stay connected.

Have a blessed Christmas!

+Vicky Argyropoulos



FAMILY NIGHT

We had a great November! We started off the beginning of the month with some Pictionary fun and a beautiful lesson/craft on Guardian Angels. On November 19th, Family Night Ministry helped host the Nativity Retreat. Children were engaged in music, outreach, lessons, and crafts. The day ended with the kids joining their families for some fun gingerbread house decorating. Thank you to the families that joined us and to all the volunteers who helped organize the day!



SUNDAY SCHOOL

This has been a busy year for our Sunday School and it's hard to believe 2022 is soon coming to 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 and Presbyteria Diana Lamberis. 4th & 5th grade teachers, Litsa Tsarouhis and George Scarlatis. 6th, 7th & 8th grade Maria Baltas and Irena Karopulos, and High School, Helen Pappas. 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 4th and 11th. Our annual Christmas Pageant will take place on Sunday December 18th, with our practice on Saturday December 17th at 10am-11:30am. At Pageant practice, the students will be assigned their costumes (if applicable) and we will run through things a couple times. During class on December 4th, we will ask the students if they would like to volunteer for specific parts, so please encourage your children to participate.

CHERUBS



Cherubs had a wonderful month of visiting the Archangels Preschool classroom, singing songs, playing and celebrating the Fall season with age appropriate coloring and crafts!

We wish all of you a blessed Thanksgiving!

Join us! We welcome children from 40 days old to 3 years old, together with their caregiver.

Email cherubs12307@gmail.com to sign up for this wonderful free ministry!



PLUTARCHOS ACADEMY



On October 28th we celebrated OXI day with a play, poems, songs and Greek dancing. Thank you to all the teachers and students for a beautiful program.

On November 6th our Plutarchos Academy teachers attended the Greek Language Teachers Conference. Our retired teachers Mrs. Labrini Stavrou and Mrs. Maria Poulos were honored for their 50 years of service and dedication to teaching Greek language and heritage to countless south side students. It was also a great opportunity to learn about new material and digital platforms that will be used in our classrooms.

Our school is fundraising selling Christmas See's Candies to raise money for all it's needs.

Our parent-teacher conferences are coming up Friday, December 9th . Sign up sheets are 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 or calling at 708-385-2311.

Everybody is invited on December 11 at 2:30 pm to a Festive Holiday celebration and Christmas Tree Lighting in the Greek town.

Our students will participate at the Community Christmas Pageant on Sunday, December 18th after the Divine Liturgy.

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



ARCHANGELS

Last month was all about being thankful, and we definitely have a lot to be thankful for. We celebrated our 4th Annual Thanksgiving dinner together as a family. Thank you to all the families that donated items for our delicious feast!!



PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS



SAINT SPYRIDON 2022 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://tithe.ly/event-registration/#/6415091>

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.**



FAMILY NIGHT MINISTRY
PLEASE JOIN US FOR A
Christmas
PAJAMA
MOVIE NIGHT

Saint Spyridon
Hellenic Orthodox Church
Friday, December 16th
6:45PM - 8:30PM

BRING YOUR FAVORITE CHAIR OR BLANKET
AND WEAR YOUR FAVORITE CHRISTMAS
PAJAMAS!

PLUTARCHOS GREEK SCHOOL
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