

THE VOICE

MARCH 2023 - VOLUME NO. 377 SAINT SPYRIDON HELLENIC ORTHODOX CHURCH

12307 South Ridgeland Avenue, Palos Heights, Illinois 60463 Find us on Facebook, Instagram & YouTube



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

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

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

Amen.

ENTEN PRAYER OF

LENTEN PRAYER OF ST. EPHRAIM THE SYRIAN



2goarchDRE

South Side Vicariate Presents <u>Great Compline Services for Great</u> <u>and Holy Lent</u>





<u>Tuesday, March 21st</u> Ss Constantine and Helen Palos Hills Fr. John Kalomas



<u>Tuesday. March 14th</u> St. Nicholas Oak Lawn Fr. George Lamberis

> <u>Tuesday, March 28th</u> St. Spyridon Palos Heights Fr. Chris Avromopoulos

<u>Tuesday, April 4th</u> Assumption Homer Glenn Fr. Nicholas Greanias



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear St. Spyridon Parish Family,

It is with hope and prayer that this message finds all of our families staying healthy and doing well. Thank you to our Father George as the Lenten Sarakosti is here and preparations for the holy services are underway. Thank you to the parish council members, parish employees and volunteers for assisting with this beautiful time of the year.

May we accept our beloved Saint Spyridon's invitation welcoming all of us including the parishioners, families and community to attend and experience the Lenten journey together.

Thank you to Father George for working with Father Tilemahos to coordinate the Saint Haralambos bus trip in February for the Saint Haralambos Great Vespers. It was warm-hearted and uplifting to be a part of the holy service and evening with our parish making a nice turnout.

Parish council approvals in the February parish council meeting included new Greek School tuition for the 2023-2024 school year (George Vythoulkas), Festival music (Dana Vasilakos), Festival raffle

prizes (Bill Kilias), Festival tent rentals (Dean Eliacostas), the Outdoor Parking Lot Lighting Renovation Project (John Farsatis), new storage dollies and racks for the gymnasium banquet and folding chairs as well as adding reserve funds to the Emergency Roof/HVAC Capital Project Fund (Gus Kolyvas). Spring cleaning to organize and maintain the various storage areas and rooms around the parish buildings took place in February.

The 2023 Stewardship drive is in progress (Caryn Chibucos). Please make a commitment to support the church and its ministries by offering our time and skills. Forms are available in the church office and can be mailed or emailed on request. There will be a Stewardship information table during coffee hour this Sunday, March 5th, The Sunday of Orthodoxy. Committee volunteers will be available to answer questions and provide us with assistance regarding the Stewardship applications.

The Golf Outing fundraiser is scheduled for June 8th (Nick Kournetas). The Festival fundraiser is taking place this summer on July 8th and 9th (Dean Eliacostas). The fundraisers and committees are in need of

more parishioner volunteers. Whether you are a parishioner or someone who is part of the surrounding community, please volunteer to be on a committee as help is needed. Please contact Father George, any of the parish council members 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 your continued efforts to support our parish.

Σας εύχομαι Καλή Σαǫακοστή. Best wishes on a Blessed Lenten Season to all. May Saint Spyridon continue to guide us and protect us.

Humbly submitted, Frank Kopanis







Father's Letter

BEGINNING OF GREAT LENT

Beloved Faithful,

The season of Great Lent has begun! As Orthodox Christians, the beginning of this beautiful season of the Church is a cause for us to rejoice!

While it is true that we are called to "give up" certain things during this season such as food and unnecessary activity, it is in reality a time where we receive much more than we give up, if we willingly embrace it.

When we fast, we lighten our bodies so that we can pray more attentively. When we participate in the "joyful sorrow" ($\chi \alpha \rho \mu o \lambda \dot{\upsilon} \pi \eta$) of the Lenten services –the sorrow and reflective spirit during the week, and the joy of the Resurrection's anticipation on weekends—our hearts are softened and we experience God's peace. When we secretly perform acts of charity and love "to the least of the brethren..." expecting NOTHING in return, we receive back in greater measure the rich blessings of God.

This season is designed to help restore our spiritual balance and improve our spiritual insight. Take time to slow down and embrace the lifestyle change as we can once again try to discover the "things most needful" in life. Our happiness is not found in the endless pursuit of worldly possessions, fame and fortune but in our ability to love others and experience the love of God!

Saint Anthony the Great said more than 1,300 years ago, "When the demons see Christians working joyfully and growing in the spirit, first they fight them with temptation, and by placing obstacles to hinder their growth, trying to inject evil thoughts in their minds; but there is no reason for fear from their temptations because their offenses fail instantly by prayer and fasting, especially if you have had armed yourself with faith and the sign of the cross."

Together, we communally fast, we communally pray, we communally forgive at Forgiveness Vespers so that we may, in the words of St. Peter, "take up the whole armor of God" an combat the evil one—communally. Fast to the best of our ability, pray more, both at home and by attending as many Lenten services as possible, and demonstrate our recommitment to pursuing the path of holiness. We are to show love to others, patience to others, and conduct ourselves peacefully with those who challenge us with their hate, impatience and turbulence.

As we begin Great Lent, please forgive me, the unworthy sinner.

By making the most of this Holy Season, by the grace of God, may we truly be spiritually transformed through our participation in the Saving Passion, Death and Third Day Resurrection of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ.

In His love,

7. Hunge

Father George

<u>The Voice -</u> Η φωνή

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:708-385-2311Fax:708-385-0166E-mail:office@Saint-Spyridon.netWeb:www.Saint-Spyridon.net

Parish Council Officers

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

Auxiliary Officers

Alexia Chibucos	Chanter
Georgia Xeros	Philoptochos
Dana Vasilakos	P.T.A.
Gus Rougas	Kentro
Jimmy Korbakes	Kentro
Marianna Haniotakis	Plutarchos
	Academy
Sofea Malamis	Archangels
	Academy
Ria Hronis	Cherubs
Zoe Kopanis	SundaySchoo
	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
Demetrius Marines	Athletics
Nick Tsinoukas	Athletics
Stella Parhas	Food Pantry
Litsa Tsarouhis	Church Office
Marianna Haniotakis	Church Office
Wallallia Hallotakis	Church Onice

Divine Liturgy Schedule

Wednesday, March 1st	Presanctified Liturgy—6:00 p.m.
Thursday, March 2nd	Great Compline with Canon of St. Andrew (Part 3) $-6:00$ p.m.
Friday, March 3rd	Confession—11:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.
	1st Salutations to the Theotokos—7:00 p.m.
Saturday, March 4th	3rd Saturday of the Souls— Orthros & Divine Liturgy—8:00 a.m.
, ,	Great Vespers—5:00 p.m.
Sunday, March 5th	Sunday of Orthodoxy, Orthros & Divine Liturgy – 8:15 a.m.
	Pan-Orthodox Vespers—Holy Resurrection Serbian Orthodox Cathedral—
	6:30 p.m.
Monday, March 6th	Great Compline—6:00 p.m.
Tuesday, March 7th	Confession— 11:00 a.m.— 1:00 p.m.
	Great Compline at Holy Cross, Justice, IL-6:00 p.m.
Wednesday, March 8th	Presanctified Liturgy—6:00 p.m.
Friday, March 10th	Confession-11:00-1:00 p.m. * 2nd Salutations to the Theotokos-7:00 p.m.
Saturday, March 11th	Confession—2:00—3:30 p.m. * Great Vespers—5:00 p.m.
Sunday, March 12th	2nd Sunday of Great Lent, St. Gregory Palamas,
	Orthros & Divine Liturgy—8:15 a.m.
	Solemn Vespers at Holy Apostles, Westchester, IL-6:30 p.m. (Book Week)
Monday, March 13th	Great Compline—6:00 p.m.
Tuesday, March 14th	Confession—11:00—1:00 p.m.
	Great Compline at St. Nicholas, Oak Lawn, IL—6:00 p.m.
Wednesday, March 15th	Presanctified Liturgy—6:00 p.m.
Friday, March 17th	Confession-11:00-1:00 p.m. * 3rd Salutations to the Theotokos-7:00 p.m.
Saturday, March 18th	Great Vespers at Holy Cross, Justice, IL $-$ 7:00 p.m.
Sunday, March 19th	Sunday of the Veneration of the Cross
	Orthros & Divine Liturgy—8:15 a.m—11:15 a.m.
Monday, March 20th	Great Compline—6:00 p.m.
Tuesday, March 21st	Confession-11:00-1:00 p.m.
	Great Compline at Ss. Constantine & Helen, Palos Hills, IL-6:00 p.m.
Wednesday, March 22nd	Presanctified Liturgy—6:00 p.m.
Friday, March 24th	Confession—11:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.
	Great Vespers with the 4th Salutations to the Theotokos-7:00 p.m.
Saturday, March 25th	Annunciation of the Theotokos—Orthros & Divine Liturgy—8:00 a.m.
	Confession—2:00 p.m.—3:30 p.m. * Great Vespers—5:00 p.m.
Sunday, March 26th	4th Sunday of Lent, St. John the Ladder,
	Orthros & Divine Liturgy—8:00 a.m.
Monday, March 27th	Great Compline—6:00 p.m.
Tuesday, March 28th	Holy Confession—11:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.
	Great Compline at St. Spyridon—6:00 p.m.
Wednesday, March 29th	Presanctified Liturgy—6:00 p.m.
Thursday, March 30th	Great Canon of St. Andrew—8:00 a.m.
Friday, March 31st	Confession—11:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. * Akathist Hymn—7:00 p.m.

Προγραμμα Ιερων Ακολουθιών

Τετάρτη 1 Μαρτίου	Προηγιασμένη Λειτουργία –6:00 μ.μ.
Πέμπτη 2 Μαρτίου	Μέγα Απόδειπνο με τον Κανόνα του Αγ. Ανδρέου (3ο μέρος) -6:00 μ.μ.
Παρασκευή 3 Μαρτίου	Εξομολόγηση—11:00 π.μ.—1:00 μ.μ. * Α΄ Χαιφετισμοί—7:00 μ.μ.
Σάββατο 4 Μαρτίου	Γ' Ψυχοσάββατο, Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία -8:00 π.μ.
	Μέγας Εσπεφινός – 5:00 μ.μ.
Κυριακή 5 Μαρτίου	Κυριακή της Ορθοδοξίας, Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία—8:15 π.μ. *
	Πανορθόδοξος Εσπερινός – Holy Resurrection Serbian Cathedral,
	Chicago, IL—6:00 μ.μ.
Δευτέρα 6 Μαρτίου	Μέγα Απόδειπνο— 6:00 μ.μ.
Τρίτη 7 Μαρτίου	Εξομολόγηση—11:00 π.μ.—1:00 μ.μ.
	Μέγα Απόδειπνο στον Ι.Ν. Τιμίου Σταυgού—Justice, IL— 6:00 μ.μ.
Τετάρτη 8 Μαρτίου	Προηγιασμένη Λειτουργία—6:00 μ.μ.
Παρασκευή 10 Μαρτίου	Εξομολόγηση-11:00 π.μ1:00 μ.μ. * Β' Χαιρετισμοί-7:00 μ.μ.
Σάββατο 11 Μαρτίου	Εξομολόγηση—2:00 μ.μ.—3:300 μ.μ. * Μέγας Εσπερινός— 5:00 μ.μ.
Κυριακή 12 Μαρτίου	Β' Κυριακή της Σαρακοστής, Αγ. Γρηγορίου Παλαμά,
	Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία-8:15 π.μ.
	Κατανυκτικός Εσπερινός – Ι.Ν. Αγ. Αποστόλων, Westchester, IL – 6:30 μ.μ.
Δευτέρα 13 Μαρτίου	Μέγα Απόδειπνο –6:00 μ.μ.
Τρίτη 14 Μαρτίου	Εξομολόγηση—11:00 π.μ.—1:00 μ.μ.
	Μέγα Απόδειπνο στον Ι.Ν. Αγ. Νικολάου, Oak Lawn, IL— 6:00 μ.μ.
Τετάρτη 15 Μαρτίου	Προηγιασμένη Λειτουργία – 6:00 μ.μ.
Παρασκευή 17 Μαρτίου	Εξομολόγηση-11:00 π.μ1:00 μ.μ. * Γ'Χαιρετισμοί-7:00 μ.μ.
Σάββατο 18 Μαρτίου	Εξομολόγηση-2:00 μ.μ3:300 μ.μ.
	Μέγας Εσπεφινός στον Ι.Ν. Τιμίου Σταυφού —7:00 μ.μ.
Κυριακή 19 Μαρτίου	Σταυροπροσκυνήσεως, Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία-8:15 π.μ.
Δευτέρα 20 Μαρτίου	Μέγα Απόδειπνο-6:00 μ.μ.
Τρίτη 21 Μαρτίου	Εξομολόγηση—11:00 π.μ.—1:00 μ.μ.
- e	Μέγα Απόδειπνο στον Ι.Ν. Αγ. Κωνσταντίνου & Ελένης,
	Palos Hills, IL – 6:00 μ . μ .
Τετάρτη 22 Μαρτίου	Προηγιασμένη Λειτουργία—6:00 μ.μ.
Παρασκευή 24Μαρτίου	Εξομολόγηση-11:00 π.μ1:00 μ.μ.
1100000001/21110000000	Μέγας Εσπερινός του Ευαγγελισμού μετά Δ' Χαιρετισμών—7:00 μ.μ.
Σάββατο 25 Μαρτίου	Ευαγγελισμός της Θεοτόκοου-Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία-8:00 π.μ.
2010p0110 20 111010 1100	Eξομολόγηση - 2:00 μ.μ 3:300 μ.μ. * Μέγας Εσπερινός - 5:00 μ.μ.
Κυοιακή 26 Μαοτίου	Δ' Κυφιακή της Σαφακοστής, Αγ. Ιωάννη της Κλίμακος
κοθακή 20 Μαθτιος	Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία—8:00 π.μ.
Δευτέρα 27 Μαρτίου	Μέγα Απόδειπνο—6:00 μ.μ.
Τρίτη 28 Μαρτίου	Εξομολόγηση – 11:00 π.μ. – 1:00 μ.μ.
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Τετάοτη 29 Μαοτίου	Μέγα Απόδειπνο στον Ι.Ν. Αγ. Σπυφίδωνος—6:00 μ.μ. Πφοηγιασμένη Λειτουφγία—6:00 μ.μ.
Πέμπτη 30 Μαρτίου	Μέγας Κανών του Αγ. Ανδρέου—8:00 π.μ.
Παρασκεύή 31 Μαρτίου	Εξομολόγηση—11:00 π.μ.—1:00 μ.μ. * Ακάθιστος Ύμνος—7:00 μ.μ.

		March 2023-	2023 – Communi	Community Calendar		
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 * Archangels Academy – 9:00 am * Cherubs – 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	2 * Archangels Academy—9:00 am * Golf outing meeting—8:00 p.m.	3 *Archangels Academy – 9:00 am * Greek School – 4:30 pm-6:30 pm * Greek Dance (both groups) –6:30 pm – 7:00 pm	4 * Dance Troupe Performance at Orland Park Library – 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. * Byzantine Chant Class – 3:45 p.m.
5 * Sunday School — 10:30 am—11:30 am	6 * Teaher Insstiture day NO Archangels Academy * Greek School -4:30 p.m6:30 p.m. * Greek Dance-6:30 p.m7:00 p.m.	7 * Archangels Academy—9:00 am * Parish Council Meeting—7:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m.	8 * Archangels Academy –9:00 am * Philoptochos General Meeting – 5:30 p.m. *GOYA – 7:00 pm	9 * Archangels Academy — 9:00 am	10 *Archangels Academy- 9:00 am * Greek School-4:30 pm-6:30 pm *Greek Dance-6:30 pm-7:00 pm	11 * Byzantine Chant Class—3:45 p.m.
12 * Sunday School – 10:30 am – 11:30 am	13 * Archangels Academy- 9:00 am * Greek School - 4:30 pm -6:30 pm *Greek dance -6:30 pm - 7:00 pm	14 * Archangels Academy—9:00 a.m.	15 * Archangels Academy – 9:00 am * Cherubs – 10:30 a.m.– 12:00 p.m.	16 * Archangels Academy— 9:00 am	17 * Archangels Academy – 9:00 am * Greek School –4:30 pm- 6:30 pm * Greek Dance – 6:30 pm – 7:00 pm	18 * Handmaidens – 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. * Byzantine Chant Class – 3:45 p.m.
19 * Sunday School—10:30 p.m.—11:30 p.m.	20 *Archangels Academy – 9:30 am * Greek School Program celebrating March 25th Day –4:30 p.m. –6:30 p.m.	21 * Archangels Academy—9:30 am	22 * Archangels Academy— 9:00 am	23 * Archangels Academy– 9:00 am	24 * Archangels Academy - 9:00 am * Greek School -4:30 pm- 6:30 pm * Greek Dance -6:30 pm - 7:00 pm	25 * Byzantine Chant Class – 3:45 p.m.
26 * Family worship—No Sunday School	27 * NO Archangels Academy (Spring Break) * Greek School -4:30 pm -6:30 pm * Greek Dance -6:30 p.m7:00 p.m.	28 * NO Archangels Academy Spring Break)	29 * NO Archangels Academy Spring Break)	30 * NO Archangels Academy Spring Break)	 31 * NO Archangels Academy Spring Break) * Greek School – 4:30 pm-6:30 pm * Greek Dance – 6:30 pm – 7:00 pm 	

STEWARDSHIP 2023



The Stewardship Committee thanks our 158 Stewards who have fulfilled their pledge for the 2023 year. We wish to express our gratitude for your commitment to the Lord's work through our Church of Saint Spyridon. And to you who have not yet pledged, we ask of you to commit yourself and your family so that the Word of God may continue in His glorious name.

Ευχαριστούμε τις 158 οικογένεις που εκπλήρωσαν τις υποσχέσεις τους για το έτος 2023. Υπενθυμίζουμε σε όλους ότι έχουν ταχυδρομηθεί οι Καταστάσεις Υπόσχεσης του Καλού Οικονόμου για το τρέχον έτος. Σας παρακαλούμε να ανανεώσετε την συνδρομή σας το γρηγορώτερο δυνατόν. Οι δραστηριότες και τα έξοδα της ενορίας μας έχουν αυξηθεί κατά πολύ και χρειαζόμαστε την βοήθεια και την υποστήρηξη όλων σας.

Stewards February 1st—February 28th

Mr. & Mrs. Gus Alikakos Fr. Tilemahos & Pres. Georgia Alikakos Ms. Eleni Bizoukas Mrs. Morfo Bountinas Mr. & Dr. Kevin Cajas Mr. Zachary Chibucos Mr. & Mrs. Chris Christofer Mr. & Mrs. Speros Christos Mr. & Mrs. Steven Colompos Mr.& Mrs. John Farsatis Mr. & Mr. Demetrios Gatsinos Mr. & Mrs. Kostas Georgiopoulos Mr.& Mrs. Andreas Glikis Mr.& Mrs. Peter Glikis Mr. & Mrs. Nick Harris Mr. & Mrs. Bill Karambenis Mr.&Mrs. Constantine Karampelas Mrs. Roula Karampelas Mrs. Tarsi Katsoulakis Mr.& Mrs. Andreas Kavvadas Mrs. Georgia Kekempanos Mr. & Mrs. Larry Kekempanos Mr.& Mrs. Bill Kilias Mr.& Mrs. Spero Kinnas Mr. & Mrs. George Kladis Mr. & Mrs. Louis Klioris Ms. Violeta Komotos Mrs. Anna Kontaris Mrs. & Mrs. Spero Kontaris Mrs. Sophia Kopanitsanis Mr.& Mrs. Peter G. Korbakes

Mr.& Mrs. George Kyroudis Mr. & Mrs. Demetrius Marines Mr. & Mrs. Deno Mihas Mrs. Georgia Panagiotaros Mr. & Mrs. Anastasios Panagiotopoulos Mr.& Mrs. George Papadatos Mr. & Mrs. George Papadopoulos Mr. George A. Pappas Mr.& Mrs. Gus Pappas Mr. & Mrs. Paul Paraskevopoulos Ms. Stella Parhas Mr.& Mrs. Peter Paxinos Ms. Andreana Petrakos Mrs. Despina Petropoulos Mr. Marino Petropoulos Mr. & Mrs. Antonios N. Roditis Mr. & Mrs. Donald G. Schmidt Mr.& Mrs. Charlie Sweis Mr.& Mrs. Omar Sweiss Mrs. Leah Trantafeles Mr.& Mrs. Odysseus Tsarouhis Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Tsinoukas Mr.& Mrs. George Tsigolis Mr. Michael Valaris Mr. & Mrs. George Vasilakos Mr. & Mrs. George Vythoulkas Mr.& Mrs. Rockie Wagner Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Young

Total number of Stewards 158



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



GREAT LENT

Preparation for Holy Confession

prayer, corporate worship, the disciplines of prayer and imperfections of others. God is aware of our circumfasting, penitential services and above all through the stances. There is no need to justify or lighten our sins in sacrament of Holy Confession. The value of Holy Con- the sight of God. He already knows and He will forgive fession is twofold. First, through this sacramental act of us according to the measure that we have forgiven oththe ordained priest and the Christian believer we have ers. Our Confession is the seal of His forgiveness which the assurance of divine forgiveness, according to the is promised to those who repent through the commiswords of Christ (Jn 20:23). Secondly, Holy Confession sion given to the Church by Christ Himself. provides the opportunity to talk about one's deep concerns, to receive counsel and to be encouraged toward spiritual growth, all of which are universally recognized as extremely beneficial to personal life.

Holy Confession is appropriate at least twice a year and more often if an Orthodox Christian feels the need for it. It is also a part of our total spiritual preparation during the fast periods leading up to the great feasts of Pascha, Christmas, the Falling Asleep of the Theotokos and the During Great Lent, our Orthodox Church calls us to re-Feast of Twelve Apostles. However, Holy Confession is new our discipline of prayer, fasting, and charity. Priespecially necessary: when a serious sin has been com- vate prayer must accompany all the church services. mitted; when a habitual sin has overwhelmed a Chris- The fasting rules during Lent are as follows: On weektian, or when a Christian has stopped growing spiritual- days and Holy Saturday, meat, fish, dairy products, ly and needs a reexamination of priorities. We confess wine and oil are not allowed, with the exception of our sins to God and the power of forgiveness is God's. March 25th when fish, wine, and oil are allowed. On However, the gift of God's forgiveness, although as- Saturday and Sunday, oil and wine are allowed, with sured, is not magical. It does not automatically spare us the exception of Palm Sunday when fish is also allowed. from spiritual struggle - the continual vigilance against Finally, in order for prayer and fasting to be meaningful evil and the unceasing warfare against sin. Holy Confes- and spiritually beneficial, they need to be accompanied sion will bear fruits in the Spirit only when the believer by vigilance, abstinence, forgiveness, charity, and acts of hates evil, utterly rejects sin and patiently cultivates pos- compassion. itive habits of the life in Christ.

How can one prepare for Holy Confession? Preparation for Holy Confession is a prayerful examination of thoughts, words, acts, attitudes, habits, values, priorities, goals, direction and way of life. This prayerful self- The Great Lent and Pascha Season is upon us, and once examination includes not only the personal religious life, again we are asking for your contributions and donabut also family relationships, social activities, job con- tions towards the adornment of our St. Spyridon duct, business dealings, political commitments and even Church. Please call the Church office if you are interestrecreational pursuits, because our entire existence ed in donating flowers for the Epitaphios or for individshould be lived in under the light of the Holy Spirit is ual icons. Donations can be sent in the enclosed Paschal not to condemn ourselves, but to affirm our true selves Donation Envelope. in Christ who has given us access to God's mercy and Flowers for Panagia \$100 (Five Fridays) forgiveness and who has taught us to live for God's glo- *Flowers for Sunday of the Cross*-\$150 ry.

Please remember that Holy Confession is not a counsel- *Icon of the Last Supper*-\$150 ing session. If you wish to speak about general concerns and challenges please schedule an appointment to see the priest at his office outside of the times for confession. Holy Confession is a sacrament in which we are ready and prepared to express our sins. We should prayerfully prepare to receive the sacrament by thinking of what we will say before we come. It is often helpful to write down our confession so that we do not forget our list at the time of Confession. Finally, Holy Confession in-

volves our sins. There is no need to speak of the sins of The gift of God's forgiveness is received through private others or to contextualize our sins within the sins and

"So Jesus said to them again,

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

Prayer, Fasting & Charity

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

Flowers for Lent & Holy Week

Palms for Palm Sunday-\$250 Icon of the Crucifixion-\$150 Icon of the Apokathelosis - \$150 *Carnations for the Epitaphios*-\$300 Decorative flowers for the Epitaphios-\$250 Four (4) Bouquets for the Epitaphios - \$150/each Icon Sts. Raphael, Nicholas & Irene-\$150

Εορτολογιο

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

Η Ἐπανάσταση ἡ δική μας δέν ὁμοίαζε μέ καμιά ἀπ' ὃσες γίνονται σήμερα στήν Εὐρώπη. Τῆς Εὐρώπης οἱ ἐπαναστάσεις ἐναντίον τῶν διοικήσεών τους εἶναι ἐμφύλιος πόλεμος. Ὁ δικός μας πόλεμος ἦταν πιό δίκαιος, ἦταν ἒθνος μέ ἂλλο ἒθνος. Ὁ σουλτάνος ποτέ δέν



θέλησε νά θεωρήσει τόν έλληνικό λαό ώς λαό, ἀλλά τούς Ἐβλεπε ώς σκλάβους.

Μιά φορά, ὃταν πήραμε τό Ναύπλιο, ἦρθε ὁ Χάμιλτον νά μέ ἰδεῖ. « -Πρέπει, μοῦ εἶπε, οἱ Ἐλληνες νά ζητήσετε συμβιβασμό καί ἡ Ἀγγλία θά μεσιτεύσει.

Έγώ τοῦ ἀποκρίθηκα:

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

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

 Η φρουρά τοῦ βασιλιᾶ μας εἶναι οἱ κλέφτες, τοῦ εἶπα, καί τά φρούρια, ἡ Μάνη, τό Σούλι καί τά βουνά.

«Ἀπομνημονεύματα» Θ. Κολοκοτοώνη



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

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

Ό Θεός ὁ ἀληθινός τούς ἀνάστησε – ξυπόλυτους, γυμνούς, νηστικούς, δεμένα

τά ντουφέκια τους μέ σχοινιά. Οἱ περισσότεροι πολεμοῦσαν μέ ξύλα καί χωρίς τ' ἀναγκαῖα. Οἱ Τούρκοι ἦταν πλῆθος καί γυμνασμένοι. Οἱ δυστυχεῖς Ἐλληνες, ὀλίγοι καί ἀγύμναστοι, νίκησαν!

«Ἀπομνημονεύματα» Μακουγιάννη

Ο ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΣΜΟΣ ΤΗΣ ΘΕΟΤΟΚΟΥ



Ο καιφός ὁ κατάλληλος ἐφτασε. Ἡ ἀνθφωπότητα δέν ἀντεχε πεφισσότεφο στήν πφοσμονή. Ἡ ἀνάγκη γιά λύτφωση εἶχε γίνει ἐπιτακτική. Καί ὁ Θεός, πιστός στίς ὑποσχέσεις Του, θέτει πλέον σέ ἐφαφμογή τό πφοαιώνιο σχέδιό Του, μέ τφόπο θαυμαστό καί μεγαλόπφεπο:

«Ό μέγας στρατηγός τῶν ἀΰλων ταγμάτων", **Άοχάγγελος** ó Γαβοιήλ, κατέρχεται ἀπό τούς οὐοάνιους θόλους, σχίζει τούς αἰθέρες καί σπεύδει νά ἐκπληρώσει τοῦ Θεοῦ τή μυστική ἐντολή. Νά, σταματᾶ στό ταπεινό σπιτάκι τῆς Ναζαρέτ. Ἐκεῖ μέσα ἀνθεῖ «κρίνον τῆς ἀγνότητος», Παρθένος Κόρη, ἡ Μαριάμ. «Χαῖρε, Κεχαριτωμένη, ό Κύοιος μετά σοῦ...». Ὁ Ἀρχάγγελος τῆς φέρνει τό πιό χαρούμενο ἂγγελμα, ὃτι ὁ Θεός ὡς ἂνθρωπος ἀπό αὐτήν θά γίνει βρέφος, γιά νά ἀναδημιουργήσει δλο τó άνθοώπινο γένος. Ή Παρθένος ἀκούει, θαυμάζει, συγκλονίζεται, βουλή δέχεται τή θεία καί ἀποκρίνεται ταπεινά «ἰδού ἡ δούλη Κυρίου...».

Τό σκοτάδι ὑποχωφεῖ. Τό φῶς σέ λίγο θά λάμψει. Ἔφχεται ὁ ℉λιος τῆς Δικαιοσύνης. Τό σχέδιο τοῦ Θεοῦ ἐνεφγοποιεῖται, ἡ εὐλογημένη ὡφα τῆς συναντήσεως τοῦ Οὐφανοῦ μέ τή γῆ!

PARISH RESGISTRY

KENTRO BOOKSTORE

Memorials

Sunday, February 5th

†40 days Andrew Pappas, †40 days Helen Valaris, †34 yrs Peter Valaris, †6 mo Ioannis Catsogiannis, †6 mo Maria Giannopoulos, †3 yrs Chris Katsoulis.

Sunday, February 12th †1 year Nikolaos Kotsopoulos

May their memory be eternal!



An acclaimed expert in Christian mysticism travels to a monastery high in the Mountains of Cyprus and offers a fascinating look at the Greek Orthodox approach to spirit-uality. In an engaging combination of dialogues, reflec-tions, conversations, history, and travel information, the author follows Father Maximos, a Mount Athos monk, to the troubled island of Cyprus. As Father Maximos estab-lishes churches, convents, and monasteries in this deeply divided

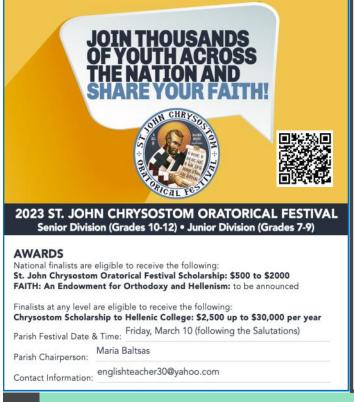
land, Markides is awakened anew to the magnificent spirituality of the Greek Orthodox Church. The result is a remarkable work-a moving, profoundly human examination of the role and the power of spirituality in a complex and confusing world.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School has started, but it is not too late to join us! Sunday School classes will continue to be offered during the month of March, April and May for grades PreK – High School. During the month of March, classes will be held each Sunday, with the exception of March 26th. This month, our students will be focusing on The St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival. Each teacher will be reviewing the projects that class will be working on. On Friday March 10th, the Junior and Senior Division speakers will present their topics after the Salutations to the Theotokos service at 7pm.



Saint John Chrysostom Oratorical and Fine Arts Festival



With the blessings of His Eminence Metropolitan Nathanael, we are pleased to announce that the 39th Annual Saint John Chrysostom Oratorical and Fine Arts Festival will be held at St. Spyridon on Friday, March 10 immediately following the Salutations of the Theotokos. This event is open to all youth in grades 7-12.

The Oratorical Festival will offer 6 categories (Speech, Essay, Poetry, Iconography, Vocal Solo, and Vocal Chant), each with 2 divisions Senior: Grades 10-12 and Junior: Grades 7-9.

Topics, Resources, and guidelines for all categories are contained by scanning the QR code or going to all entries for Speech, Essay, Poetry, Vocal Solo, and Vocal Chant. Both Junior and Senior Divisions must be submitted no later than Sunday, March 5, 2023. Please contact Maria Baltsas for more details englishteacher30@yahoo.com)

PLUTARCHOS ACADEMY



The Greek School Program in honor of 25th of March, 1821 will be held on **Monday, March 20th**, at 4:30 p.m.. All girls and boys are required to wear the Ethnic Greek Costume (Tsolia and Amalia) or the blue and white school uniform. Parents are

asked to help their kids learn their poems and songs.

Sunday, March 26th, the Annual Greek Parade will be held at Greektown, Halsted Street in Chicago, begins at 2:30 p.m. Students are required to wear the Ethnic Greek Costume (Tsolia and Amalia) or the blue and white school uniform.



GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE SUNDAY, MARCH 26th, 2:30 p.m. GREEKTOWN ON HALSTED



ELLINOMATHEIA 2023 EXAMS INFORMATION

Applications for the Ellinomatheia Exams are now been accepted until March 22nd. The exams are organized by the Center for the Greek Language (CGL) in Thessaloniki, Greece. The CGL is a non-profit organization supervised by the Greek Ministry of Education to support, promote and organize the teaching of Greek as a foreign and second language in Greece and abroad.

Certificates are issued for candidates who successfully pass the exams at the following six levels of attainment in Greek: A1 (A1 for children 8-12 and A1 for adolescents and adults), A2, B1, B2, C1, and C2. The Ellinomatheia levels are linked to the corresponding levels of the Common European Framework (CEFR). All language skills (comprehension of oral and written communication) are examined at each level.

The Ellinomatheia certificates Level B1 and above are officially approved by the Illinois State Board of Education for the prestigious Seal of Biliteracy Program. For further details regarding the Biliteracy Program, please follow the link

 $\underline{https://www.isbe.net/seal of biliteracy \#:\sim:text=A\% 20 public\% 20 school\% 20 district\% 20 or, for eign\% 2C\% 20 or\% 20 world\% 2C\% 20 languages.$

The authorized examination center for the Ellinomatheia Exams in Illinois is the **Hellenic American Academy**, 445 Pine Street, Deerfield, IL 60015.

The Exams will take place on May 23rd for levels A1, A2, May 24th for levels B2 and C1, and May 25th for levels B1 and C2. Candidates can apply online at http://www.greek-language.gr/certification/application/index.html.

Alternatively, candidates can fill out the application form attached below and mail it to: Hellenic American Academy (attn. Ellinomatheia), 445 Pine Street, Deerfield, IL 60015, or scan and email the application at ellinomatheia@haamail.net

YOUNG ADULTS



We had a great TELOS Young Adult event at Xando Café. Father George also offered a spiritual reflection on the life of St. Haralambos. Join us for our next event in March! Details to come soon!



FAMILY NIGHT

Family Night Ministry had its second annual Bowling Night on February 17th at Palos Lanes. Children had a fun time bowling with their friends! We wish everyone a blessed Lenten season, $K\alpha\lambda\eta \Sigma\alpha\alpha\kappa\sigma\sigma\tau\eta$!



ARCHANGELS

This past month, our children were learning that practicing the three R's is not only important in caring for our planet @ but for our health as well. Reduce, Reuse & Recycle! This unit offered the children an opportunity to learn more about trash & garbage, where it comes from, why it can be a problem and what we can do to help.

We set out recycling bins for paper, plastic, metal & glass and discussed how we can reuse items we have, reduce the amount of waste we produce and recycle items that we've used.

The children even found ways to reuse items to create amazing art!!

Archangels Academy Preschool is now offering FULL & HALF day options for the upcoming 2023-2024 school year! Enrollment is open & applications are now being accepted. Please be aware that applications are on a first come, first serve basis with priority given to our current students, St. Spyridon Stewards & alumni.

Philoptochos

Kαλή Σαρακοστή. As we begin to prepare for our Lenten Journey may we gain strength in our faith, forgive each other and continue to do works of mercy and charity for those in need.

The month of February was busy for Philoptochos. On Saturday, February 18th we served 65 meals at the Almost Home Soup Kitchen in Oak Lawn, a bi-weekly soup kitchen and an organization that helps the homeless of the south suburbs. Special thank you to Terry Roupas, from Ki's Restaurant in Glen Ellyn, for the delicious chicken shiskobob, rice and vegetables. Also, thank you to Demetria Papadopoulos for the wonderful chocolate cakes for dessert, and Sandy Koryaks for the salad. This year with the Apokreatiko luncheon the next day and with preparations underway on Saturday, we had to divide and conquer. So, our cooks were in church preparing for the Apokreatiko and we had some help to set up, serve and clean up at the soup kitchen. Special thank you to our Philoptochos families, Chris and Peter Korbakes, James Xeros and Joakim Vasilakos for all your help.

On February 19th we welcomed the Lenten Season with the Apokreatiko Luncheon. It was wonderful to once again be together in fellowship to celebrate our Hellenic traditions and begin our Lenten Journey as a community. Thank you to Dina Katsoulis who, with the help of Kosta Pappas and Kosta Lamberis, prepared the delicious meal. Also thank you to all of our ladies for all the preparations and our bakers for the galopita. As always, a special thank you to Bill Perakis who just smiles and manages to keep all our cooks calm, hap-

py and everything moving in the kitchen. Thank you to Janine Riley and Debbie Petrakos who just keep providing us with beautiful events, creating an atmosphere that transforms our room for the festivities. Everything from the beautiful decorations, festive centerpieces and table settings, the music, and the crafts for the kids, created a wonderful time for all. This year we were happy to welcome the St. Spyridon Greek Folk Dance Troupe, who performed several traditional Greek dances. The performers were dressed in traditional Greek costumes and had an amazing performance. Thank you and Bravo to all the performers and to Sophia Christopher, their director, for a job well done. Also, thank you to our younger children directed by Evie Maroudas who also danced several dances. It truly was a celebration for all of our families and highlighted our traditions.

We ended the month of February with the Lenten Grab and Go, starting our clean week with homemade taramosalata and laganas. Thank you to Dina Katsoulis and Sophia Kopanitsanos for all the preparations and baking and thank you to Stella Parhas for organizing this fundraiser.

During the Great and Holy Lenten period, Philoptochos will once again host events to enrich our Lenten experience. On Clean Monday, February 26th Philoptochos hosted the "Koulouma" dinner immediately after the service. On March 19th, the Sunday of the Holy Cross, immediately after divine liturgy, Philoptochos will host a Loukoumades Sale. During this event we will also be fundraising to help the victims of the earthquake in Syria and Turkey. We will be sending our donation to the National Philoptochos who is working with the IOCC (International Orthodox Christian Charities) to ensure all funds are used directly to help those in need. The National Philoptochos immediately donated \$50,000 and is now collecting from all the chapters. If you will not be in church on Sunday you can also donate by sending your donation to St. Spyridon Philoptochos in the Church office. I know we were all devastated at the loss of human life and the suffering.

On March 21st we will once again be Feeding the Hungry at the Cathedral and then delivering packaged lunches for the homeless under the bridges in the city. The Cathedral has opened its hall and we will be serving a hot meal inside. If anyone is interested in helping, please contact me.

On Saturday, April 1st, the Metropolis of Chicago Philoptochos will host their annual Lenten retreat at St. Athanasios

Church in Aurora. The topic this year is "Seeking Peace and Love in an Anxious and Confusing World". Everyone is invited to join the retreat. There will be both a Greek and an English presentation. For further information or if you wish to attend, please contact Kathy Korbakes.

Moving a little ahead, Philoptochos will be continuing the tradition of our Palm Sunday Easter Pastries Sale. In addition to our pastry sale in the hall on Palm Sunday we are also offering an opportunity for preorders. The preorders can be picked up either on Saturday, April 9th or Sunday, April 10th for tsoureki & koulourakia. Also, please mark your calendar as we will be hosting our Mother's Day Luncheon.



Home



Рниортосноя

Please let high school graduates, college students and graduate students know that Philoptochos will be offering our annual scholarship. Once again with the generous donation from Tina Manasses and her family, Philoptochos will be offering 5 scholarships: (1) one to a graduating senior who will be attending college, (2) to undergraduate students in college and (2) to graduate or doctorate students. We thank the Manases family for their donation and generosity to assist the youth of our parish. Please check the church web site for applications and further information.

Again, I thank each of you for your support, encouragement, and participation in Philoptochos events and projects. It is only with your support that we can accomplish our philanthropic mission. Consider joining us and sharing your gifts and talents as we put our faith to action.

With Sisterly Agape Georgia Xeros



HANDMAIDENS

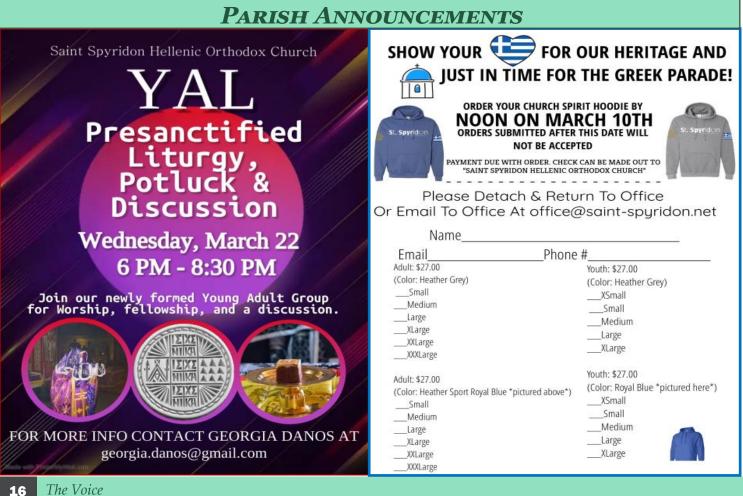
The handmaidens were spreading the love in February! The girls fulfilled the 25 backpacks and school supplies pledged to Saint Basils Academy in New York. The girls made 150 Valentines and passed them out to all the parishioners after liturgy on Sunday.

Our young ladies didn't just show love but received loved. The backpacks were graciously donated by one of our moms and we received an anonymous monetary donation towards our ministry! We are over the moon thankful for these donations and incredibly thankful to all who support our ministry!

Pascha is right around the corner and we are preparing the schedule for myrofores. Please join us at our March 18th meeting! We will find the time to practice for Holy Week and take a glimpse at Holy Week and discover what each day means. Thank you!







PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS



PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS



(WEDNESDAY NIGHTS)

MARCH 1ST:HOSTED BY ARCHANGELS | GREEK SCHOOL | SUNDAY SCHOOL

MARCH 8TH: HOSTED BY GOYA

MARCH 15TH: HOSTED BY FAMILY MINISTRY

MARCH 22ND: HOSTED BY HANDMAIDENS | ALTAR BOYS

MARCH 29TH: TBD

APRIL 7TH (FRIDAY) : PHILOPTOCHOS

DINNER WILL BE OFFERED AFTER PRESANTIFIED LITURGY AT 6:30 PM IN SAINT SPYRIDON 'S COMMUNITY HALL

ALL PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT ORTHODOX MISSION WORK



SATURDAY OF TAZARUS RETREAT

Join us for the Divine Liturgy, a lenten breakfast, crafts, an outreach project, spiritual lesson, egg hunt and palm cross making!

APRIL 08 2023

10:30-2:00 Festivities will begin immediately following the Divine Liturgy in the community hall.

Please help us prepare, you can scan the QR code on this flyer to reserve your spot! Parents are required to stay for this event.



BY THE PTA

EASTER FOOD BASKETS



Our parish Food Pantry will be distributing Food Baskets to needy families on Wednesday, April 5th.

We are asking for monetary donations in any amount. Each basket is valued at \$65.

Checks & Cash accepted in the church office: Monday - Friday from 9am - 2pm.

Online donations can be made at: https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithely/give-onetime/1390651 (Choose Food Pantry).

Donation Deadline is Sunday, April 2nd.

THANK YOU!



