



# THE VOICE

**JANUARY 2025 - VOLUME No. 397**  
**SAINT SPYRIDON HELLENIC ORTHODOX CHURCH**

12307 SOUTH RIDGELAND AVENUE, PALOS HEIGHTS, ILLINOIS 60463

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## **SAINT SPYRIDON FEAST DAY**

With the blessings and prayers of His Eminence Metropolitan Theoktistos of Fokidas and His Grace Bishop Timothy of Hexamilion, along with Geron Nektarios Moulatsiotis and some of the Fathers of his Brotherhood, as well as the loving prayers of our area clergy and faithful, we celebrated the feast day of our parish with great solemnity and grace. Many thanks to all our donors and volunteers who made our feast day celebration truly beautiful and memorable.





## ST. SPYRIDON FEAST DAY





## ST. SPYRIDON FEAST DAY





The feast of Theophany is amongst us and it is celebrated for eight days (January 6 through January 14). We will bless the waters because Christ is baptized in the river Jordan by John the Forerunner, and it is taught by the Church that this baptism was not for the forgiveness of any sins by Jesus. We know that Jesus is sinless. Rather, He is baptized so that Christian baptism can be initiated to sanctify the whole world.

We think of baptism typically as a Christian practice, but there are other religions that also baptize, and the first-century Judaism was one of them. Before Jesus was baptized, His cousin, John the Baptist, was out in the wilderness baptizing people. Certainly, John was not baptizing anyone into the Church because the Church hadn't been established yet.

When John was baptizing before Christ, he was following the Jewish ritual associated with repentance and remission of sins. This was not an invention of John's but was already an established part of Jewish tradition. Ancient Judaism had a number of different kinds of ritual washings for different purposes. The Scriptures tell us in this case that John was baptizing people as part of repentance and forgiveness of sins, doing his job as "the voice crying in the wilderness" prophesied by the fortieth chapter of Isaiah, preparing people for the coming of the Lord. There is also a Jewish custom using full-immersion washing that is required in order to convert to Judaism.

So we see three elements of Jewish baptism that are familiar to us – repentance, forgiveness and conversion. All three of these elements are retained in Christian baptism. Some may not think too much about repentance and forgiveness or even conversion when a baby is baptized, but these things still happen. Even a newborn infant who has not committed any sins bears the inheritance of the infection of sin from Adam and Eve that needs baptism for cleansing. It is more clear when an adult is baptized, which is always preceded by confession, because adults have committed sins.

But when Jesus is baptizing, He is not merely continuing this Jewish ritual. He is adding something to it. When people are baptized into the Church, they are not only repenting, being forgiven and converting. They are also putting on Christ, as St. Paul says in Galatians 3:27. We sing this verse at baptisms and on days of which catechumens were brought into the church (Christmas, Holy Saturday/Pascha, Pentecost): "Those who have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ."

When someone is baptized, Christ truly comes to dwell in him and His identity begins to work on the newly-illuminated baptized person's identity. The image of God in that person can begin to grow that person into the likeness of God. This potential is activated, and we must cultivate it. The union of the divine and human that is Christ's by nature can become ours by grace. We can become human beings in union with God.

But baptism into Christ is not absolute and perfect for all time. As mentioned above, it needs to be cultivated for it to become truly effective. Baptisms are not "magic spells" that guarantee the recipient a place in the resurrection of the righteous at the end of time. Rather, it is a preparation for the synergistic work of man and God that is the spiritual life, which has potential to lead to life everlasting, but only if worked out "with fear and trembling."

So we can put on Christ, but we can also put off Christ. Baptism is only effective for the person who keeps it and nurtures it and helps it grow. And that is part of what Christian baptism retains from Jewish baptism – the characteristic of repentance and the forgiveness of sins. Baptism will only continue to work in us if we continually repent. Baptism is not a one-time event that seals our place in God's kingdom.

## FATHER'S LETTER (CONTINUED)

Baptism is the beginning of a journey with Christ to become more like Christ. As we journey, we will notice that sanctification works on what is around us as well. When others see the love of God genuinely in us and through us, then they are also attracted to God's love and may also become filled with that grace, which is His real presence within.



Many of the saints even saw the natural world begin to work differently around them, no longer by the curse laid when Adam and Eve sinned. Animals became tame. The earth and even water miraculously also provided fertility to it when obstacles were in the way. The harmony sometimes witnessed in creation sparingly can grow to influence much of the world.

And this makes sense because when Christ is baptized in the Jordan, He does so to begin reclaiming all creation again with mankind at the center of it. Christ's love, power, glory and healing flow into the water and from there into the world. It can also flow through us if we open ourselves up to it.

Life can be complicated, confusing, difficult and even tragic. What makes it possible for Orthodox Christians to endure all this and even thrive and progress is knowing that someday, this will all pass away. Someday, the disharmony will again become harmony. All tears will be wiped away. What began in the Jordan river 2,000 years ago will finally be complete and will reach into every place.

Until then, we keep going with hope and love. God has called us not only to endure the suffering of this world, but actually to participate in His sanctification and transformation of it. He calls us to His holiness by means of the purification and operation of holy water. And he calls us to bless those around us with that same holy water. We bless people, the whole world and all of creation. Holy water has the potential to change everything – good and bad.

And the greatest of all the blessings of holy water is that great mystery of holy baptism, which was given to us so many centuries ago but remains just as new today for all who come and receive its cleansing power.

May we cultivate a life of holiness, brothers and sisters, with our own repentance, forgiveness and conversion, so that the world may also be sprinkled with these waters, sanctifying ourselves and all of creation.

*F. George*

## DIVINE LITURGY SCHEDULE

Wednesday, January 1st	Orthros & Divine Liturgy—8:00 a.m.—11:15 a.m.
Sunday, January 5th	Orthros & Divine Liturgy with the Blessing of the Waters—8:00 a.m.—11:15 a.m.
Friday, January 3rd	The Royal Hours of Theophany — 8:00 a.m.—10:00 a.m.
Monday, January 6th	THEOPHANY—Orthros, Liturgy, Agiasmos—8:00 a.m.—11:15 a.m.
	Great Vespers at St. John's Church, Des Plaines, IL—7:00 p.m.—9:30 p.m.
Tuesday, January 7th	St. John the Baptist, Orthros & Divine Liturgy—8:00 a.m.—10:30 a.m.
Friday, January 10th	St. Gregory of Nyssa—1st Hour & Divine Liturgy—8:00 a.m.—9:30 a.m.
Saturday, January 11th	Vespers—5:00 p.m.— 6:00 p.m.
Sunday, January 12th	Orthros & Divine Liturgy—8:00 a.m.—11:15 a.m.
Friday, January 17th	St. Anthony the Great—1st Hour & Divine Liturgy— 8:00 a.m.—9:30 a.m.
	Great Vespers at St. Athanasios Church, Aurora—7:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m.
Saturday, January 18th	Ss. Athanasios & Cyril—Orthros & Divine Liturgy— 8:00 a.m.—10:00 a.m.
Sunday, January 19th	Orthros & Divine Liturgy—8:00 a.m.—11:15 a.m.
Sunday, January 26th	Orthros & Divine Liturgy—8:00 a.m.—11:15 a.m.
	Sanctity of Life Service at All Saints Antiochian Church, Chicago
	6:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m.
Thursday, January 30th	Synaxis of the Three Hierarchs—Orthros & Hierarchical Divine Liturgy
	—8:00 a.m.—11:00 am.

## ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑ ΙΕΡΩΝ ΑΚΟΛΟΥΘΙΩΝ

Τετάρτη 1 Ιανουαρίου	Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία—8:00 π.μ.—11:15 π.μ.
Παρασκευή 3 Ιανουαρίου	Βασιλικές Ώρες των Θεοφανείων —8:00π.μ.-10:00 π.μ.
Κυριακή 5 Ιανουαρίου	Όρθρος, Θεία Λειτουργία & Αγιασμός—8:00 π.μ.—11:15 π.μ.
Δευτέρα 6 Ιανουαρίου	ΘΕΟΦΑΝΕΙΑ—Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία, Αγιασμός—8:00 π.μ.—11:15 π.μ.
	Μέγας Εσπερινός στον Ι.Ν. Αγ. Ιωάννου, Des Plaines, IL—7:00 μ.μ.—9:30 μ.μ.
Τρίτη 7 Ιανουαρίου	Αγ. Ιωάννου του Προδρόμου
	Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία—8:00 π.μ.—10:30 π.μ.
Παρασκευή 10 Ιανουαρίου	Αγ. Γρηγορίου της Νύσσης, 1η Ώρα & Θεία Λειτουργία—8:00 π.μ.—9:30 π.μ.
Σάββατο 11 Ιανουαρίου	Εσπερινός—5:00 μ.μ.—6:00 μ.μ.
Κυριακή 12 Ιανουαρίου	Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία—8:00 π.μ.—11:15 π.μ.
Παρασκευή 17 Ιανουαρίου	Αγ. Αντωνίου—1η Ώρα & Θεία Λειτουργία—8:00 π.μ.—9:30 π.μ.
	Μέγας Εσπερινός στον Ι.Ν. Αγ. Αθανασίου, Aurora—7:00 μ.μ.—9:00 μ.μ.
Σάββατο 18 Ιανουαρίου	Αγίων Αθανασίου και Κυρίλλου, Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία—8:00 π.μ.—10:00 π.μ.
Κυριακή 19 Ιανουαρίου	Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία—8:00 π.μ.—11:15 π.μ.
	Εσπερινός—5:00 μ.μ.—6:00 μ.μ.
Κυριακή 26 Ιανουαρίου	Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία—8:00 π.μ.—11:15 π.μ.
	Πανορθόδοξη Λειτουργία για την Ιερότητα της Ζωής, All Saints Antiochian Church, Chicago, 6:00 μ.μ.—7:00 μ.μ.
Πέμπτη 30 Ιανουαρίου	Σύναξις των Τριών Ιεραρχών—Όρθρος & Αρχιερατική Θεία Λειτουργία
	—8:00 π.μ.—10:30 π.μ.

# January 2025 — Community Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 * Archangels Academy — 9:00 am * Iconography Class — 5:30 pm — 7:00 pm	2 * Food Distribution — 1:00 pm — 2:00 pm	3 * Archangels Academy — 9:00 am * Food Distribution — 1:00 pm — 2:00 pm * Philoptochos Meeting — 6:30 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.	4 * Dive for the Cross — 12:00p.m. — 3:00 p.m. * Byzantine Music Class (Level 1/Level 3) - 4:15 p.m. — 5:00 p.m.
5 * Family Worship (No Sunday School)	6 * Archangels Academy Resumes — 9:00 am * Greek School Resumes — 4:30 pm- 6:30 pm * Floga dance (beginners & Intermediate) — 6:45 pm — 7:30 pm	7 * Archangels Academy — 9:00 am * Parish Council — 7:00 p.m. — 9:00 p.m.	8 * Archangels Academy — 9:00 am * Iconography Class — 5:30 pm — 7:00 pm	9 * Archangels Academy — 9:00 am * Food Distribution — 1:00 pm — 2:00 pm * Philoptochos Meeting — 6:30 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.	10 * Archangels Academy — 9:00 a.m. * Greek School — 4:30 — 6:30 p.m. * Floga dance (advanced) — 6:40 pm — 7:40 pm * Adult Greek School — 6:45 p.m. — 8:15 p.m.	11 * Dive for the Cross — 12:00p.m. — 3:00 p.m. * Byzantine Music Class (Level 1/Level 3) - 4:15 p.m. — 5:00 p.m.
12 * Sunday School — 10:30 a.m. — 11:30 a.m. * Parish Vasilopita Cutting — 11:15 a.m. — 11:45 p.m. * PTA Meeting — 12:00 p.m. — 1:00 p.m. * Archangels Open House — 12:00 p.m. — 1:00 p.m. * Metropolis Vasilopita Celebration — St. Nicholas, Oak Lawn — 4:00 pm	13 * Archangels Academy — 9:00 a.m. * Greek School — 4:30 pm-6:30 pm * Floga dance (beginners & Intermediate) — 6:45 pm — 7:30 p.m.	14 * Archangels Academy — 9:00 a.m.	15 * Archangels Academy — 9:00 a.m. * Iconography Class — 5:30 pm — 7:00 pm * GOYA — 7:00 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.	16 * Archangels Academy — 9:00 am * Food Distribution — 1:00 pm — 2:00 pm	17 * Archangels Academy — 9:00 a.m. * Greek School — 4:30 pm-6:30 pm * Floga dance (advanced) — 6:40 pm — 7:40 pm * Adult Greek School — 6:45 p.m. — 8:15 p.m.	18 * Byzantine Music Class (Level 1/Level 3) - 4:15 p.m. — 5:00 p.m.
19 * Sunday School 10:30 am — 11:30 am	20 * Greek School — 4:30 pm-6:30 pm	21 * Archangels Academy — 9:00am	22 * Archangels Academy — 9:00 am * Iconography Class — 5:30 pm — 7:00 pm	23 * Archangels Academy — 9:00 am * Food Distribution — 1:00 pm — 2:00 pm * Philoptochos Membership Meze & Mingle at Elements by Odyssey, Orland Park — 6:30 p.m.	24 * Archangels Academy — 9:00 am * Greek School — 4:30 pm-6:30 pm * Floga dance (advanced) — 6:40pm — 7:40 pm * Adult Greek School — 6:45 p.m. — 8:15 p.m.	25 * Byzantine Music Class (Level 1/Level 3) - 4:15 p.m. — 5:00 p.m.
26 * Sunday school — 10:30 a.m. — 11:30 a.m. * Sanctity of Life Service at All Saints Antiochian Church, Chicago — 6:00 p.m. — 7:00 p.m.	27 * Archangels Academy — 9:00 am * Greek School — 4:30 pm — 6:30 pm * Floga dance (beginners & Intermediate) — 6:45 pm — 7:30 p.m.	28 * Archangels Academy — 9:00 am	29 * Archangels Academy — 9:00 am * Iconography Class — 5:30 pm — 7:00 pm * GOYA — 7:00 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.	30 * Archangels Academy — 9:00 am * Food Distribution — 1:00 pm — 2:00 pm	31 * Archangels Academy — 9:00 am * Greek School — 4:30 pm-6:30 pm * Family Night — 6:30 p.m. — 8:00 p.m. * Adult Greek School — 6:45 p.m. — 8:15 p.m.	



## PARISH REGISTRY

### Funerals

Renatka Kontaris fell asleep in the Lord on December 5th. Her funeral took place on December 11th and she was interred at Bethania Cemetery.

Kyratso "Koula" Kintonis fell asleep in the Lord on December 12th. Her funeral took place on December 21st and she was interred at Evergreen Cemetery.

Millie Kyriakoulis fell asleep in the Lord on December 27th. Her funeral took place on December 31st and she was interred at Bethania Cemetery.

**Sunday, December 8th:** +40 days Demitra (Toula) Stameson

**Sunday, December 15th:** +40 days Hristos Apostolopoulos, +1 yr Karen Keorpes, +3 yrs Konstantina Panagiotopoulos

**Sunday, December 22nd:** +3 yrs Stamoulis Vasilakis

**Sunday, December 29th:** +40 days Alexandra Manolitsis, +3 mo Apostolos Malfas, +3 mo Eleni Tsinoukas, +7 mo Eleni Maglara, +1 yr Panagiota Poziopoulos, +5 yrs Ekaterini Nicholas.

### Memorials

**Sunday, December 1st:** +12 yrs Georgia Tsarouhis, +22 yrs Konstantinos Tsarouhis, +25 yrs Maria and Chris Tsarouhis.

*May their memory be eternal!*



## STEWARDS DECEMBER 1ST—DECEMBER 31

Mr & Mrs Chris Eliopoulos  
Mrs Koula Kintonis  
Ms Stephanie Korbakes

Mr Telly Korbakes  
Mr George Pappas  
Mr & Mrs John Korbakis

**Total # of Stewards: 328**



*In gratitude for God's blessings, I commit to Christ and  
His Church as a Steward of  
Saint Spyridon with my 2024 Stewardship.*



As we begin a New Year together, we ask that you prayerfully consider how you might be able to support the ministries of St. Spyridon. Please take the time to consider the following information: Some day we will stand before God and show Him what we did with all that He entrusted to us. If we have been faithful stewards of our time, talent and treasure, He will say to us, "Well done, good and faithful servant. Enter into the joy of your Lord."





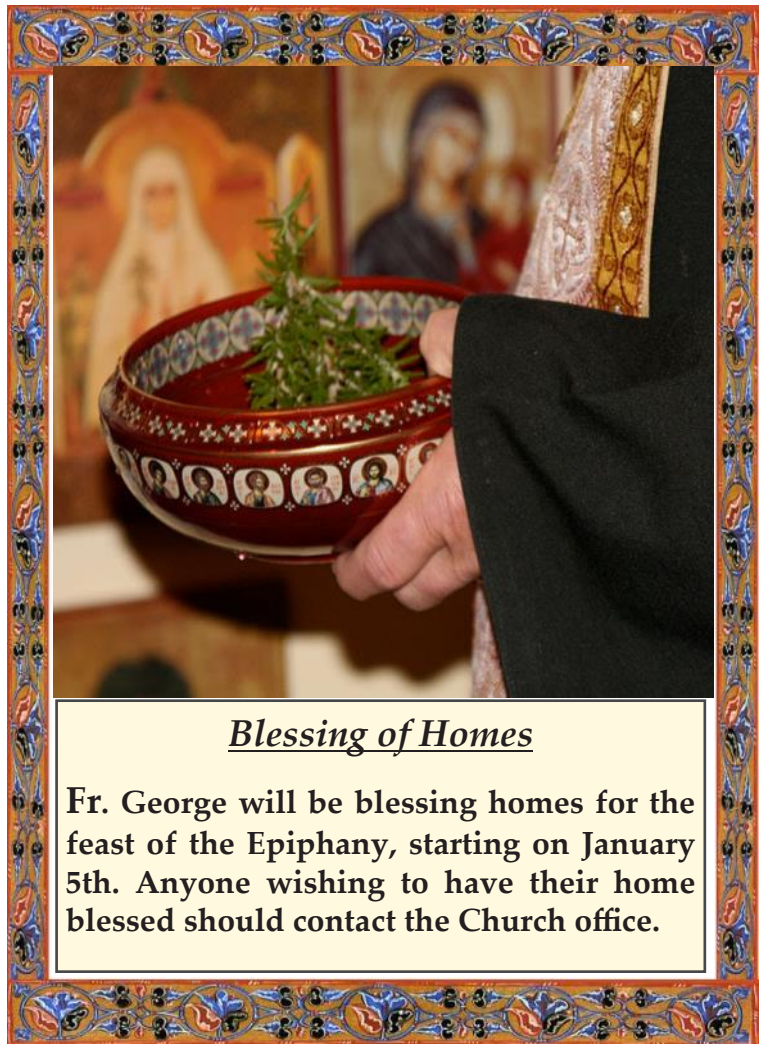
### STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY

*"...but make me worthy, Your sinful and unworthy servant, to offer these Gifts unto You. For You are the Offerer and the Offered, Who accepts and is distributed, O Christ our God...."*

**"Priestly prayers before Holy Communion**

So it is with our church, we often imagine only what is humanly possible. If we do our part in faith, God will lovingly return to us much more than we could ever imagine. This is the true meaning of "Your own from Your own." We will see our church, not as it is, but as it could be, with our humble gifts multiplied by God's generosity and love. With our faithful offering, we will see in our church as they did in the early Church, "...the Lord added to their number daily, those who were being saved" (Acts 2:47). "This Ekklesia exists when the dispersed, divided, self-preoccupied people unite and become a family, where people see one another as brothers and sisters with God as their common father, and try to share whatever they have and whatever they are, and be united in heart and soul"

**-P. Faros**



### **Blessing of Homes**

**Fr. George will be blessing homes for the feast of the Epiphany, starting on January 5th. Anyone wishing to have their home blessed should contact the Church office.**

# WITH GRATITUDE TO ALL OUR STEWARDS FOR 2024

ALEMIS, Alex & Tina  
 ALEMIS, Chris & Georgia  
 ALEX, Nika & Irene  
 ALEXAKOS, Dimitrios & Katerina  
 ALEXOPOULOS, Katerina  
 ALEXOPOULOS, Kostas & Chris  
 ALIKAKOS, Gus  
 ANASTASOPOULOS, Kyriakos & Chrissy  
 ANGELOS, John & Anastasia  
 ANGELOS, Peter & Ana  
 ARESTIS, John  
 ARGES, Penelope  
 ARGYROPOULOS, Antonis & Stella  
 ARGYROPOULOS, James  
 ARGYROPOULOS, Nick & Vicky  
 ARVANITIS, Christos  
 ARVANITIS, John & Sofia  
 AURIEMMA, Frank & Aretina  
 BALTSAS, John & Maria  
 BAROUDOS, Olga  
 BASTAS, Chrisi  
 BASTAS, Efsthios & Athina  
 BASTAS, John & Maria  
 BEDORE, Steven  
 BERDUSIS, Aspasia  
 BERDUSIS, James & Georgia  
 BERTSOS, Andrew  
 BEZANIS, Dimitri & Iliana  
 BISBIKIS, Mary  
 BIZIAS, Elias  
 BIZOUKAS, Eleni  
 BOBIS, Nicholas  
 BORCHERS, Herbert  
 BOUNTINAS, Morfo  
 BOUSIES, Zaharias & Maria  
 BOUTSIKAKIS, Peter & Briana  
 BOZONELOS, Yiorgos & Denise  
 BRISENO, Felix & Constance  
 BUZO, David & Vasiliki Georgiou  
 CAJAS, Kevin & Maria Lentzou  
 CATSOGIANNIS, Christos  
 CHARALAMBOS, Anna  
 CHARALAMPOUS, George & Sofia  
 CHIBUCOS, Caryn  
 CHIBUCOS, Zachary  
 CHRIMPOURAS, Christos & Androniqi  
 CHRISTOFER, Chris & Sophia  
 CHRISTOPOULOS, Polychronis & Aggeliki  
 CHRISTOS, Spero & Vasso  
 CHRISTY, Nicholas & Faith  
 COLLOPY, Adam & Stephane  
 COLOMPOS, Thalia & Steve  
 DAGRES, Nikolaos & Natalie  
 DANOS, George & Angie  
 DANOS, Georgia  
 DELIGIANNIS, Panagiotis & Anastasia  
 DEMAKIS, Konstantinos & Theony

DEMOPOULOS, Bess  
 DEPASS, Adam  
 DIMIS, Eleni  
 DONTAS, Vasilios & Tammy  
 DOULAS, Nikolaos & Vasiliki  
 DRIKOS, George & Vasiliki  
 ELIACOSTAS, Dean & Jennifer  
 ELIACOSTAS, George  
 ELIOPULOS, Chris & Toni  
 ELIOPULOS, Dan  
 ELIOPULOS, Martha  
 EVANGELOPOULOS, Georgia  
 FAKLIS, Ruth  
 FALCONE, Joshua & Bailey  
 FALCONE, Rena  
 FARSATIS, John & Irene  
 FELECOS, Sophia  
 FELECOS, Sylvia  
 FERODOUROS, Fay  
 FLASKOS, Dimitrios & Maria  
 FLASKOS, Kaliopi  
 GATSES, George & Kiki  
 GATSINOS, Demetrios & Evmorfia  
 GATSIOS, George & Vasiliki  
 GATSIOS, Theofanis & Antonia  
 GEORGELOS, George & Georgia  
 GEORGIPOULOS, Bill & Toulia  
 GEORGIPOULOS, Tim  
 GEORGIIOU, Christ & Evanthia  
 GEORGIIOU, Yanni  
 GIANNAKOPOULOS, Angelo & Alexandra  
 GIARDINA, Irene  
 GLIKIS, Andreas & Eleftheria  
 GLIKIS, Peter & Maria  
 GIANNOS, Georgia & Michael  
 GOLFIS, Dimitri  
 GRAPSAS, Katherine  
 GRIFFITH, Austin & Janell Karpen  
 HALIKAS, James  
 HALIKIAS, Aris T & Christina  
 HALIKIAS, Nick & Helen  
 HANIOTAKIS, Michael & Marianna  
 HARDALOUPAS, Apostolis & Vicky  
 HATZIDIMITRIADIS, Aristidis & Maria  
 HIX, Thomas & Anna  
 HOHLASTOS, Michael & Kalioppe  
 HRISTAKOS, Peter & Evelyn  
 IOVINO, Tanya & Nicholas  
 JAMES, Curtis & Effie  
 JANINAH, Amjad & Manar  
 KANELLAKES, Effie  
 KAPSASKIS, Constantine & Joanne  
 KARAGIANNIS, Vaivos  
 KARAMAGIANNIS, Dimitrios & Maria  
 KARAMPELAS, Constantine  
 KARAMPELAS, Roula

KARBO, Dimitri & Aphrodite  
 KARIORIS, Christina  
 KAROPULOS, John & Katherine  
 KARRAS, George & Maria  
 KARUNTZOS, Demetrios  
 KARUNTZOS, Georgia  
 KATRIS, Helen  
 KATSENIS, Bill  
 KATSOULAKIS, Tarsi  
 KATSOULIS, Dina  
 KATTOS, George & Tracy  
 KAVVADAS, Andreas & Andreana  
 KAVVADAS, Peter  
 KEKEMPANOS, Georgia  
 KEKEMPANOS, Larry & Yonna  
 KEORPES, Jim  
 KEORPES, Peter  
 KETSIOS, Stanley  
 KILIAS, Bill & Christina Kyres  
 KINTONIS, Koula  
 KIRKPATRICK, Richard  
 KLADIS, George & Lula  
 KLADIS, Pete  
 KLADIS, Tasia  
 KLORIS, Louis & Joanne  
 KLORIS, Stavroula  
 KOLLINTZAS, Demtrios  
 KOLYVAS, Chris & Jann  
 KOLYVAS, Gus  
 KOLYVAS, Peter  
 KOLYVAS, Peter  
 KONTARIS, Anna  
 KONTARIS, Spiro & Renatka  
 KOPANIS, Frank & Zoe  
 KOPANITSANOS, Sophia  
 KORBAKES, Chris & Sandy  
 KORBAKES, George & Kathy  
 KORBAKES, James  
 KORBAKES, Peter  
 KORBAKES, Peter  
 KORBAKES, Stephanie  
 KORBAKES, Telemahos  
 KORBAKIS, John  
 KORBAKIS, Zoe  
 KOROLIS, Dean & Emily  
 KOSTOPOULOS, Maria  
 KOSTOPOULOS, Peter  
 KOTSIVIRAS, James & Karen  
 KOTTARAS, Demetrios  
 KOULOGEORGE, Chris  
 KOURNETAS, Nicholas & Vasiliki  
 KOUTSIS, Nicoletta  
 KOUTSIS, Stavroula  
 KOUTSOUBAS, John & Nota  
 KOZIOCAS, John & Claudia  
 KRISTO, George & Irene  
 KURUKLIS, Nikolas



# WITH GRATITUDE TO ALL OUR STEWARDS FOR 2024

KYRES, Tom & Pamy  
 KYROUDIS, George & Christina  
 LABRAKIS, Konstantinos & Pam  
 LALEZAS, Georgia  
 LALEZAS, Koula  
 LAMBERIS, Fr. George & Pres. Diana  
 LAMBERIS, Gus & Aspasia  
 LAMBERIS, Nick  
 LARIS, George & Fotini  
 LARIS, James & Joanna  
 LASKARIS, Nickolaos & Eva  
 LES, Dimitrios & Toula  
 LEVENTIS, Sotirakis  
 LILLIOS, Betty  
 LIMPARIS, Mary  
 LIMPERIS, George & Katina  
 LIMPERIS, Makis & Rebecca  
 LOLIS, Basil  
 MALAMIS, Georgia  
 MALFAS, Angela  
 MALFAS, Labros  
 MALFAS, Yiannoula  
 MANASSES, Demetri & Anna  
 MANASSES, Tina  
 MANIKAS, Theophanes & Eleni  
 MANOLIS, Katherine  
 MARAMATHAS, Bill & Anthe  
 MARAS, Ted  
 MARINES, Demetrius & Sue  
 MARINOPOULOS, Fotis  
 MARINOS, Eustratios  
 MARKATOS, Robert & Marigo  
 MARS, Joan  
 MAZARAKOS, John  
 MCNEILL, Rob & Niki  
 MEINTANIS, Maria  
 MICHALARIAS, Kathy  
 MICHALOPOULOS, John & Anastasia  
 MIHAS, Deno & Bessie  
 MILLER, Kiki  
 NAKOS, Catherine  
 NASIF, Melanie  
 NATSIKOU, Andreas  
 NATZIKOU, Alexander  
 PALEOTHODOROS, Evelyn  
 PANAGIOTOPOULOS, Tasos & Maria  
 PAPADATOS, Bob & Connie  
 PAPADOPOULOS, Demetria  
 PAPADOPOULOS, George & Effie  
 PAPAMAKARIOS, Philip  
 PAPAMIHAIL, Konstantinos & Efstathia  
 PAPANASTASATOS, Sam & Urania  
 PAPPAS, Carol  
 PAPPAS, Catherine  
 PAPPAS, George  
 PAPPAS, Gus & Tasia  
 PAPPAS, Kathryn

PAPPAS, Sotirios & Melpomeni  
 PAPPAS, Theodore & Helen  
 PARAS, Mary  
 PARASKEVOPOULOS, Paul & Popie  
 PARASKIS, Peter & Mary  
 PARHAS, Stella  
 PARR, Odesseus & Diane  
 PAVLOPOULOS, John  
 PAXINOS, Peter & Olga  
 PEDERSEN, Justin & Diana  
 PERAKIS, Bill & Kelly  
 PERAKIS, Nicholas  
 PERAKIS, Timothy & Kathy  
 PERKINS, Brian & Katina  
 PEROULOS, Angelina  
 PERROS, Athanasios  
 PETERS, Mary  
 PETINATOS, Nick & Dina  
 PETRAKOS, Andreana  
 PETRAKOS, James & Dimitra  
 PETROPOUL, James & Penelope  
 PETROPOULOS, Despina  
 PETROPOULOS, Marino  
 PONINSKI, Penny  
 POULOS, Andrew  
 PRASSAS, Panayotis & Maria  
 PREVETT, Dan & Georgiana  
 PRIMBAS, Thomas & Nancy  
 RAMIREZ, Omar & Alexandria  
 REINHART, Richard & Spyridoula  
 RETSINAS, Kostas & Zoe  
 REVELIOTIS, Koula  
 RIGHETTI, Robert & Becky  
 RILEY, Thomas & Janine  
 RODOGIANNIS, Golfo  
 ROUGAS, Gus &  
 ROUSONELOS, Anastasia & Stanley  
 SCARLATIS, George & Simona  
 SCARLATIS, Nick & Chrysoula  
 SCHMIDT, Donald & Helen  
 SEARL, Glyn & Susanna  
 SHAMMA, Tony & Penny  
 SHIZAS, Nickolas  
 SIMEAKIS, Emmanuel  
 SIOMOS, Metaxia  
 SKIADOPOULOS, Denise  
 SKIADOPOULOS, Leonidas & Denise  
 SOTIROPOULOS, Peter & Helen  
 SPERLAKIS, Rita  
 STAMESON, Andrew  
 STAMESON, Demitra  
 STAMUS, Panagiotis & Artemicia  
 STERGIOPOULOS, Kostas & Demetra  
 STOLIS, Alexandra  
 SWEIS, Khalil & Eleni  
 SWEISS, Omar & Christine  
 SYNADINOS, Ioannis

THEODOROU, Andrew & Stephanie  
 THIAKOS, Fay  
 TOULIOS, William & Melissa  
 TOURLOUKIS, Dimitri & Kristine  
 TRAHANAS, Konstantinos & Vasiliki  
 TREANTAFELES, Leah  
 TSAGALIS, Angelo  
 TSAKIRIS, Christos & Maria  
 TSANTILLIS, Andreas & Lela  
 TSAROUHIS, Odysseus & Litsa  
 TSIGOLIS, George & Georgia  
 TSIKOURIS, George  
 TSIKOURIS, John  
 TSINOUKAS, Athena  
 TSINOUKAS, Nicholas & Maria  
 TSOUKALAS, Bill & Jill  
 TSOUKALAS, John  
 TSOUKALAS, Kyriakos & Elizabeth  
 TUHAIMER, Alexia & Michael  
 TZANETAKOS, Spiro & Vivian  
 UROBUSHKIN, Gleb & Anna  
 VALARIS, Michael  
 VALAVERIS, Elias & Adriana  
 VARDALOS, Patricia  
 VASDEKIS, Dimitrios & Sarah  
 VASILAKOS, Dana  
 VASILAKOS, George & Diane  
 VASILOPOULOS, Konstantinos & Isidora  
 VASILOPOULOS, Vasilios & Kathy  
 VELISSARIS, Angelo & Kristy  
 VOUTIRITSAS, James & Julie  
 VOUTIRITSAS, Nicholas  
 VYTHOULKAS, George & Patricia  
 WAGNER, Rocky & Kristin  
 WATNE, Andy  
 WISE, Devin  
 XENOS, Dion  
 XEROS, James & Georgia  
 XIRAFAKIS, Goldie  
 XYDAKIS, Karen  
 YOUNG, Nicoletta & Daniel  
 YRAPIS, Katherine  
 ZIOGAS, Alexander & Pamela  
 ZORBAS, Effie

Total number of stewards 328

Please bring to our attention if your name had been accidentally omitted or misspelled please.





Η εορτή των Θεοφανείων αποτελεί μια από τις κυριότερες εορτές της Ορθόδοξης παράδοσής μας. Δεν πρόκειται μόνον για την ανάμνηση ενός σημαντικού γεγονότος της επίγειας ζωής του Χριστού. Η ουσία της εορτής που πλησιάζει αποκαλύπτεται στην ίδια την ονομασία τους: Θεοφάνεια, δηλ. αποκάλυψη, εμφάνιση Θεού.

Βεβαίως, κάθε σελίδα της Παλαιάς και της Καινής Διαθήκης αποκαλύπτει την ύπαρξη του Θεού. Ειδικά, όμως, στην εορτή του Βαπτίσματος του Χριστού στον Ιορδάνη, η Εκκλησία μας έδωσε αποκλειστικά αυτόν τον χαρακτηρισμό, καθώς έχουμε εμφάνιση και των τριών προσώπων της Αγίας Τριάδος: Του Πατρός, που επιβεβαιώνει με τη φωνή Του τη σχέση Του με τον Χριστό, του Υιού, που βαπτίζεται, και του Αγίου Πνεύματος, που ίπταται “εν είδει περιστεράς”.

Ο Θεός της πίστης μας είναι Θεός αγάπης και ενότητας. Το μυστήριο της Αγίας Τριάδος παραμένει παντελώς απρόσιτο στον ανθρώπινο νου, αξιωνόμαστε όμως την ημέρα αυτή, έστω και αμυδρά, να γίνουμε μάρτυρες αποκάλυψης της σχέσης των τριών προσώπων της Αγίας Τριάδος. Η σχέση αυτή δεν μπορεί να περιγραφεί με λόγια, γι’ αυτό και η Εκκλησία μας επιστρατεύει την λατρευτική της τέχνη, με αποκορύφωμα τον υπέροχο εικόνα της Αγίας Τριάδος, ιστορημένη από τον Αντρέι Ρουμπλιώφ. Εκεί, με τρόπο λιτό και μεγαλειώδη, αναδεικνύεται η απόλυτη ταύτιση, η απόλυτη διάκριση και η απόλυτη ισοτιμία ανάμεσα στα τρία Πρόσωπα της Τριάδος.

Στα Θεοφάνεια της ημέρας εκείνης, η ανθρώπινη φύση δεν βρέθηκε μόνον παρατηρητής. Ο Χριστός μας, ενδεδυμένος την ανθρώπινη φύση, την κάνει συμμετόχο αυτού του μυστηρίου και την φέρνει ξανά σε άμεση επαφή, όχι μόνον με τον Αίτιο αλλά και με τον φυσικό τρόπο της ύπαρξής της. Με άλλα λόγια, η αποκάλυψη του Τριαδικού Θεού της αγάπης αποκαλύπτει το κεντρικό νόημα και σκοπό της ζωής μας, που δεν είναι άλλο από την αγάπη και την ενότητα.

Οι δύο αυτές λέξεις, αποτελούν, χωρίς αμφιβολία, όραμα και διακαή πόθο όλων των ανθρώπων, όλων των εποχών. Η ανθρώπινη ιστορία όμως έδειξε πως, όσο η ανθρώπινη φύση παραμένει αποξενωμένη από τον Θεό της Αγάπης και μοιραία εγκλωβισμένη στην φθορά, το όραμα αυτό αποτελεί μια τραγική ουτοπία. Αντίθετα, η Εκκλησία του Χριστού, με περισσότερο ρεαλισμό από κάθε κοσμική ιδεολογία, αναγνωρίζει την αδυναμία της ανθρώπινης φύσης να ανακαλύψει την αγάπη μέσα σ’ αυτόν τον κόσμο. Καλεί, λοιπόν, τον άνθρωπο να στραφεί προς την Πηγή της και να την δεχτεί ως Θείο μυστήριο και Θεία δωρεά.

Μπορεί η αγάπη να αποτελεί αόρατο μυστήριο, τα έργα της όμως είναι ορατά, ιδίως σε εποχές σαν τη δική μας. Δεν είναι διόλου τυχαίο πως, μέσα σε ένα γενικευμένο κλίμα αποσύνθεσης, ατομικισμού και απαξίωσης συλλογικών οραματισμών, η Εκκλησία διατηρεί την συνοχή της πίστης της, αλλά και τις πνευματικές προϋποθέσεις να προσφέρει με αμείωτη ένταση το πολύτιμο ανθρωπιστικό της έργο. Όσο οι κοινωνικές δομές καταρρέουν, τόσο η προσφορά εκ μέρους των μελών της, όχι μόνον σε είδη πρώτης ανάγκης, αλλά κυρίως σε δυνάμεις σωματικές και ψυχικές, αυξάνει. Είναι όμως σημαντικό, η δράση της να αναδειχθεί σε όλες της τις διαστάσεις: Η Εκκλησία δεν δρα απλώς ως ένας φιλανθρωπικός οργανισμός. Πολύ ευρύτερα, οραματίζεται μια ανθρώπινη κοινωνία, στην οποία τα οράματα για αλληλεγγύη και δικαιοσύνη θα παραμένουν ζωντανά. Συγχρόνως, δίνει μαρτυρία έμπρακτη πως η πίστη στον Θεό της αγάπης και η υποδοχή της Χάρης Του οδηγεί σε έργα χειροπιαστά, που δίνουν λύσεις σε προβλήματα και αδιέξοδα, που πληγώνουν την σημερινή ανθρωπότητα.

Στις εορταστικές ημέρες, που προηγήθηκαν, γίναμε μάρτυρες μαζικής συμμετοχής συνανθρώπων μας, τόσο στη λατρεία, όσο και στις δράσεις της Εκκλησίας. Και μάλιστα, η συμμετοχή αυτή χαρακτηρίστηκε από βαθιά πνευματική διάθεση και πρωτόγνωρο ζήλο. Το γεγονός αυτό, αλλά και οι ευρύτερες περιστάσεις, μπορούν να αποβούν καθοριστικές για το μέλλον μας, αρκεί να αποτελέσει συνείδηση για τον καθένα μας ξεχωριστά πως η έξοδος από την κρίση και τις συνέπειές της θα βασιστεί τελικά στην πνευματική μας ανακαίνιση, την ψυχική μας εξισορρόπηση και στην νοηματοδότηση των έργων μας.

Τώρα, που τα ερωτήματα ανακύπτουν επιτακτικά για το «πού πάμε», ως άνθρωποι και ως κοινωνία, αποτελεί χρέος απέναντι στους εαυτούς μας και τους συνανθρώπους μας να ανακαλύψουμε όλες τις διαστάσεις της Ορθόδοξης Εκκλησιαστικής μας συνείδησης και να δώσουμε στον κόσμο την ευκαιρία να τις γευτεί, μέσα από το προσωπικό μας παράδειγμα σε πνευματικότητα και έργα.

Ύψιστο όμως χρέος μας, επιτακτικό για τους καιρούς μας και λυτρωτικό για όλους, αποτελεί η διατήρηση της ενότητας και της αγάπης και η αποκάλυψη του μυστηρίου των Θεοφανείων στην προσωπική, αλλά και στην Εκκλησιαστική μας ζωή.

*Μητροπολίτης Δημητριάδος Ιγνάτιος*



Στις **18 Ιανουαρίου** η Εκκλησία εορτάζει και τιμά την ιερή μνήμη δυο μεγάλων ιεραρχών και οικουμενικών διδασκάλων, του αγίου Αθανασίου και του αγίου Κυρίλλου. Και οι δύο υπήρξαν αρχιεπίσκοποι Αλεξανδρείας.

Κι οι δυο, πρώτα ο άγιος Αθανάσιος κι ύστερα ο άγιος Κύριλλος, υπήρξαν από τους μεγάλους αγωνιστές κατά των αιρέσεων και πρόμαχοι της Ορθοδοξίας. Η Εκκλησία τους εορτάζει χωριστά. Τον Άγιο Αθανάσιο στις 2 Μαΐου και τον άγιο Κύριλλο στις 9 Ιουνίου. Αλλά τους εορτάζει και τους δύο μαζί σήμερα.

Απέχουν 80 χρόνια επιγείου ζωής ο ένας από τον άλλο. Ο Άγιος Κύριλλος γεννήθηκε δυο χρόνια μετά το θάνατο του αγίου Αθανασίου.

Και οι δυο με το πέρασμά τους από το θρόνο της Αλεξάνδρειας σφράγιζαν την ιστορία και τη ζωή της Εκκλησίας.

Ο άγιος Αθανάσιος γεννήθηκε στην Αλεξάνδρεια το έτος 295. Οι γονείς τους ήσαν Χριστιανοί. Μετά τις σπουδές του, έφυγε στην έρημος κι εκεί ασκήθηκε στην αρετή. Τότε γνώρισε και τον άγιο Αντώνιο, του οποίου αργότερα έγραψε το βίο.

Όταν γύρισε από την έρημο, ο αρχιεπίσκοπος της Αλεξάνδρειας Αλέξανδρος τον χειροτόνησε διάκονο και τον πήρε μαζί του. Τότε φάνηκε η μεγάλη αίρεση του Αρείου. Ο Άγιος Αθανάσιος στάθηκε άξιος και ικανός βοηθός του αρχιεπισκόπου. Όταν το έτος 325 έγινε η πρώτη οικουμενική Σύνοδος στην Κωνσταντινούπολη, ο άγιος ήταν μαζί με τον αρχιεπίσκοπο Αλέξανδρο, αν και ήταν ακόμα διάκονος, εν τούτοις υπήρξε ο στύλος της Συνόδου. Η νίκη της Εκκλησίας εναντίον του Αρείου ήταν κυρίως νίκη του Αγίου Αθανασίου.

Το έτος 326 ο άγιος διαδέχθηκε τον Αλέξανδρο στο θρόνο της Αλεξάνδρειας, αλλά οι αρειανοί, που ήσαν πολλοί και επηρέαζαν ακόμα και τον αυτοκράτορα, δυσκόλεψαν πολύ το έργο του.

Κατόρθωσαν και συγκάλεσαν τοπικές Συνόδους και καθαίρεσαν δύο φορές τον άγιο Αθανάσιο. Σχεδόν σαράντα χρόνια τα πέρασε στην εξορία. Και το 366 γύρισε οριστικά στο ποίμνιό του και κοιμήθηκε το 373 σε ηλικία 78 ετών. Παρόλο που έζησε τόσα χρόνια εξόριστος από τόπο σε τόπο, έγραψε και μας άφησε σπουδαία θεολογικά συγγράμματα του, που είναι η βάση της ορθόδοξης θεολογίας.

Ο Άγιος Γρηγόριος ο θεολόγος, αρχίζοντας το λόγο του στον άγιο Αθανάσιο, λέγει® «Αθανάσιον επαιμών, την

αρετήν επαινέσομεν». Ταυτίζει δηλαδή τον άγιο με την αρετή.

Το έτος 375, δηλ. δυο χρόνια μετά το θάνατο του αγίου Αθανασίου, γεννήθηκε ο άγιος Κύριλλος. Ήταν ανηψιός του αρχιεπισκόπου Αλεξανδρείας Θεοφίλου. Στην αρχή υπηρέτησε ως διάκονος κοντά στο θείο του. Και μετά το θάνατο του θείου του ο άγιος Κύριλλος έγινε αρχιεπίσκοπος Αλεξανδρείας. Είναι και αυτός από τους μεγάλους Πατέρες της Εκκλησίας και οικουμενικός διδάσκαλος. Στα 32 χρόνια της αρχιερατείας του, μέχρι το 444 που πέθανε, εργάστηκε πολύ για να ξεκαθαρίσει την Εκκλησία της Αλεξάνδρειας από τις αιρέσεις. Υπήρξε ο αρχηγός στην Τρίτη οικουμενική Σύνοδο που έγινε το 431 στην Έφεσο, που κατέδικασε το Νεστόριο.

Η Τρίτη Οικουμενική Σύνοδος εδογμάτισε και ομολόγησε, ότι η αγία Παρθένος είναι Θεοτόκος.

Άφησε ο άγιος Κύριλλος σπουδαία θεολογικά συγγράμματα, ερμηνευτικά, και θεολογικά, που είναι πολύτιμη πηγή για τη σπουδή της ορθόδοξης Θεολογίας.

Το «Θεοτόκος» είναι η λέξη κλειδί της Ορθοδοξίας. Από όλα τα ονόματα, με τα οποία η Εκκλησία εκόσμησε την Παναγία, το Θεοτόκος εκφράζει τέλεια το μυστήριο της σάρκωσης του Θείου Λόγου. Η Παρθένος Μαρία γέννησε το Θεό, που έγινε άνθρωπος. Ο Άγιος Κύριλλος διδάσκει «Ει γαρ εστί Θεός ο Κύριος ημών Ιησούς Χριστός, πώς ου Θεοτόκος η αγία Παρθένος»; Αφού ο Κύριος ημών Ιησούς Χριστός είναι Θεός, πώς η αγία Παρθένος που τον γέννησε δεν είναι Θεοτόκος; Ο Άγιος Αθανάσιος και ο Άγιος Κύριλλος, όπως είπαμε είναι και οι δύο Αλεξανδρινοί και μεγάλοι πρόμαχοι της Ορθοδοξίας. Αυτός είναι και ο λόγος που η Εκκλησία μας τους εορτάζει μαζί. Ο ένας στην πρώτη κι ο άλλος στην τρίτη Οικουμενική Σύνοδο πρωτοστάτησαν. Ο ένας εναντίον του Αρείου και ο άλλος εναντίον του Νεστορίου, που και οι δυο αρνιούνται τη θεότητα του Ιησού Χριστού. Ο Άρειος έλεγε ότι ο Υιός δεν είναι γέννημα, αλλά κτίσμα του Θεού και ο Νεστόριος έλεγε ότι η Παρθένος Μαρία δεν είναι Θεοτόκος, αλλά Χριστοτόκος.

Οι άγιοι όμως κατετρώπωσαν τους υπεναντίους. Πολύ σωστά το τροπάριο των δυο μεγάλων πατέρων και οικουμενικών διδασκάλων λέγει® «έργοις λάμπαντες ορθοδοξίας, πάσαν σβέσαντες κακοδοξίαν, νικηταί τροπαιοφόροι γεγόνανε... ταις των πρεσβειαίς ο Θεός ελέησον και σώσον ημάς.





## ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW





# PHILOPTOCHOS CHRISTMAS PARTY



**The Voice 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: 708-385-2311  
 Fax: 708-385-0166  
 E-mail: [office@Saint-Spyridon.net](mailto:office@Saint-Spyridon.net)  
 Web: [www.Saint-Spyridon.net](http://www.Saint-Spyridon.net)

## Parish Council Officers

Bill Kilias	President
Nick Kournetas	Vice-President
James Korbakes	2nd Vice-President
Spiros Tzanetakos	Secretary
Panagiotis Stamus	Assistant Secretary
Caryn Chibucos	Treasurer
Gus Kolyvas	Assistant Treasurer

## Auxiliary Officers

Alexia Chibucos	Chanter
Dana Vasilakos	Philoptochos
Vicky Argyropoulos	P.T.A.
Gus Rougas	Kentro
James Korbakes	Kentro
Marianna Haniotakis	Plutarchos
Sofea Malamis	Archangels
Evelyn Christakos	Cherubs
Zoe Kopanis	Sunday School
Stacy Vallianatos	G.O.Y.A.
Stephane Collopy	G.O.Y.A.
Pres. Diana Lamberis	Family Night
Ria Hronis	Family Night
Viaian Tzanetakos	Family Night
Labros Malfas	Altar Boys
Zachary Chibucos	Altar Boys
Vicky Argyropoulos	Handmaidens
Demetrius Marines	Athletics
Nick Tsinoukas	Athletics
Stella Parhas	Food Pantry
Kalli Theodoropoulos	Church Office
Marianna Haniotakis	Church Office
Litsa Tsarouhis	Church Office
Soteria Simantirakis	Custodian
Pete Mihalopoulos	Iconography
Sophia Christofer	Flaga Dance
Evi Marouda	Flaga Dance
Anastasia Deligiannis	Flaga Dance
Patty Pappas	Flaga Dance
Olga Baroudos	Flaga Dance



## ARCHANGELS

What a busy month December was! Our children practiced hard and put on a beautiful Christmas Pageant that truly showcased their talents and spirit. We are so very proud of them! A heartfelt thank you goes out to all the parents who helped with decorations and preparations to make this a wonderful event for everyone!

This month, we will also be opening applications for the 2025-2026 school year. Please remember that applications will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis, with priority given to our currently enrolled students, St. Spyridon Stewards, and alumni.

We are excited to invite you to an Open House on January 12th! Come discover what Archangels Academy Pre-school is all about—meet the teachers, explore our classroom, and learn about our program! We would love to see you there, so please **SHARE** this invitation with family and friends!

Enrollment for the 2025-2026 school year opens Mid-January, and we encourage you to apply early to secure your spot!

The students and staff of Archangels Academy would like to wish everyone a very Happy and Healthy New Year!





## ARCHANGELS





## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Χαίρετε,

Καλά Χριστούγεννα και ευτυχισμένο το νέο έτος 2025, με υγεία, αγάπη, ειρήνη και Φως!!

Greetings, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2025. May the New Year bring health, love, peace, and the Light of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ into our lives and our homes.

December was a beautiful month for our parish. Early in December, Philoptochos hosted the annual Craft Show. It was once again an extremely successful event. Thank you to Dana Vasilakos for her leadership, and for all of the volunteers that participated on both days.

We also had a Holiday Food Drive that was equally successful. Thanks to Stella Parhas for her passion for this ministry, for organizing this event, and thank you to all of the volunteers who contributed their time and talents to help the communities in need.

We celebrated the Feast Day of our beloved St. Spyridon on 12 December and we were blessed to have Metropolitan Theoktistos of Fokida, and Geron Nektarios Moulatsiotis (Iera Moni Agiou Augustinou) presiding the evening of 11 December for vespers.

Geron Nektarios also visited our community on the evening of 16 December for the vespers of St Dionysios, and gave a beautiful omilia to ~60 parishioners. Hopefully we can invite more clergy and theologians to speak at our church. We have had several requests for speakers since it challenges us to embrace and live our faith, but also to expand our knowledge.

I want to thank Father George for his love and dedication, and for providing multiple opportunities for us to worship during Sarrantaleiturgo. Thank you also to Nick Argyropoulos for organizing the Parish Council Pagari coverage for these Liturgies, and for always humbly leading by example. And similarly thank you to Alexia Chibucos Tuhaimer, Alex Magdalinos, and to all of the chanters that helped with these liturgies.

I am excited about 2025 and what the new year will bring for our community. Theophany and the feast day of St. John the Baptist is just around the corner, with many more feast days in January.

We are starting to kick off our 2025 Stewardship Drive. If you have not yet made your 2025 Stewardship Commitment, please reach out or visit the Church office.

Καλή συνέχεια με υγεία

Bill Kiliass

### Plutarchos Student winning the University of Illinois High School Translation Competition

Congratulations to our Plutarchos Academy Ellinomatheia student Efthemia Manasses for receiving first place in the 2024-25 University of Illinois at Urbana—Champaign High School Translation competition.

Efthemia is the daughter of Demetri & Anna Manasses, a Koraes graduate and a sophomore at the Chicago Christian High school.

Her exceptional linguistic skills and her cultural understanding stood out. Efthemia's mastery of both the English and Greek language showcased true talent.

The award ceremony took place on December 6th at the Dank Haus German American Cultural Center. Kudos on this well-deserved victory.



## SUNDAY SCHOOL

Happy New Year from all of our Sunday School teachers! We are looking forward to resuming our classes on Sunday, January 12th with our annual Vasilopita cutting. Each classroom will have their own Vasilopita. If you would like to provide one for your child's class, please let the teacher know. Class dates in January will be on the 12th, 19th and 26th. Oratorical Festival topics are out and we are hoping for participation in every grade level. Our teachers will be working with the students during class in the coming weeks.



# PLUTARCHOS ACADEMY



Happy New Year!

During the month of December, our students learned about our Patron Saint, St. Spyridon, and different Christmas Customs and traditions for this special season.

On Friday, December 13th, we had the opportunity to attend a beautiful Holy Unction Service and receive the sacrament of Holy Unction.

On Sunday, December 22nd, we joined the Sunday School students and sang Christmas Carols.

We hope that everyone is enjoying their Christmas break. Classes will resume Monday, January 6th with our Greek School Vasilopita cutting. Thank you to the wonderful moms that are baking the Vasilopites and to the PTA for providing the St. Basil coins. *Καλή και ευλογημένη χρονιά!*

January is the month that we dedicate to the Greek Letters and our school will be focusing on this topic. This year's Metropolis Panscholiki celebration will take place on Saturday, February 22nd with the theme «Οι Ολυμπιακοί Αγώνες». More details to follow soon.





We thank all the GOYAns that came to our GOYA Christmas party! Father played football with the GOYAns, a delicious dinner was served, we had a white elephant exchange, and our GOYAns played several fun games!





## FAMILY NIGHT

Happy New Year! In December, we held our annual Christmas Movie Night. We enjoyed dinner and fellowship and children watched "Arthur Christmas."

We hope all families and children join us on January 11th at Shepard High School for St. Spyridon's Epiphany Dive for the Cross at 12 pm! After the Dive, we will have free swim until 3 pm.



## METROPOLIS ANNOUNCEMENTS

YAL CHICAGO CONFERENCE

YOUNG ADULT LEAGUE CHICAGO CONFERENCE FEB 14-17, 2025

**SAVE THE DATE**

# 2025

## TEAM Belong Vasilopita Cutting

Saturday, January 18th, 2025  
Saint Demetrios  
893 Church Road  
Elmhurst, IL  
1:30-3:30

Presbytera Mary Greanias will also be joining us and speaking about the Center for Enriched Living, a wonderful organization that provides programs for teens, adults and seniors with developmental and intellectual disabilities.

RSVP today



## PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

### SAINT SPYRIDON HELLENIC ORTHODOX CHURCH Epiphany Dive For The Cross



SAT | 11 | JAN

12PM-3PM

ALAN B. SHEPARD HIGH SCHOOL  
13049 S. RIDGELAND AVENUE  
PALOS HEIGHTS, IL 60463

● ALL AGES WELCOME ● \$10 PER FAMILY ● LUNCH PROVIDED

REGISTER HERE →



email Presvytera Diana with questions at  
dlamberis@gmail.com



## CHICAGO WOLVES

### GREEK HERITAGE NIGHT WITH THE CHICAGO WOLVES

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18 AT 7PM  
VS. BAKERSFIELD CONDORS

FREE WOLVES KNIT HAT FOR ALL ATTENDEES  
FREE WOLVES GREEK SCARF FOR ALL ATTENDEES  
GREEK HERITAGE NIGHT

#### ORDER FORM:

##### NUMBER OF TICKETS

# of Tickets: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$22

# of Hot Dog and Soda Vouchers: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$6.75 \$

##### PERSONAL

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Alternate Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Join St. Spyridon families and friends for a night of fun at a Chicago Wolves hockey game at the Allstate Arena in Rosemont. Everyone will receive a free Chicago Wolves hat, Greek scarf, and be seated together in the same section. Our church name will also be on the LED boards during the game.

#### HOW TO ORDER:

Fill out order form and submit with payment to **Saint Spyridon Hellenic Orthodox Church** by January 8th.

If submitting form via email, please send to both email addresses below:  
office@saint-spyridon.net  
ntsinoukas@gmail.com

For more information contact: Nick Tsinoukas - ntsinoukas@gmail.com

His Eminence Metropolitan Nathanael of Chicago  
and the Metropolis of Chicago Philoptochos  
Cordially invite you to  
the 64th Annual



### Vasilopita Celebration

To Benefit St. Basil's Academy &  
Youth and Young Adult Ministries

JANUARY 12 Start 4 PM

Hosted by St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church  
10301 S. Kolmar Ave, Oak Lawn, IL, 60453

*Resrv by January 6*

Parish Reservations can be made  
by calling or emailing:  
708-636-5460

[saintnicholasoffice@gmail.com](mailto:saintnicholasoffice@gmail.com)

### Archangels Academy Preschool OPEN HOUSE for NEW families

Join us for an exciting Open House event! Discover our nurturing environment and small class sizes. Meet our dedicated teachers who create the perfect space for growth and learning.

- Explore enriching programs in:
  - Language & Literature
  - Mathematics
  - Science
  - Social-Emotional Learning
  - Greek Language
  - Faith Formation & Lessons
- Choose from full and half-day options to meet your family's needs.
- Foster life-long friendships and a love for learning.
- Come explore our classroom and see what makes our school special!

WHERE: Saint Spyridon Hellenic Orthodox Church  
12307 S. Ridgeland Avenue, Palos Heights, IL

WHEN: Sunday, January 12th, 2025

TIME: Immediately following Divine Liturgy

[www.archangelsacademy.org](http://www.archangelsacademy.org)



## PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

### SAVE *the* DATE

St. Spyridon Philoptochos Membership Night

2025

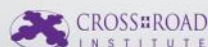
*Meze & Mingle*

Thursday, January 23, 2025 · 6:30 p.m.  
Elements by The Odyssey  
16235 South LaGrange Road · Orland Park

Philoptochos would like to treat **YOU!**  
Come renew your membership or join us  
as we continue our philanthropic works!  
Appetizers will be served. Cash Bar.

Reservations required- call or email:  
Zoe Kopanis - 708-878-0528 · fzkopanis@comcast.net  
Adults Only, Please.

We promise you a fun evening!  
Co-Chairs: Zoe Kopanis & Helen Sotiropoulos



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Session 3 | New York July 5-15  
Session 4 | SoCal July 20-30

Application Deadlines

Priority: January 21, 2025

Regular: February 18, 2025

Explore further at  
[crossroadinstitute.org](http://crossroadinstitute.org)  
to discover more!



### — PTA — HEART SHAPED PIZZA Sale



#### Pizza

HEART SHAPED CHEESE PIZZA	\$15
HEART SHAPED PEPPERONI PIZZA	\$17
HEART SHAPED SAUSAGE PIZZA	\$17

All pizzas are frozen.

#### ORDER TODAY!

EMAIL (BY FEBRUARY 2)  
SPYRIDONPTA@GMAIL.COM  
PICK UP AVAILABLE ON  
FEBRUARY 6 AT TRIVIA NIGHT,  
FEBRUARY 7 AT GREEK SCHOOL,  
FEBRUARY 9 AFTER CHURCH



### ★ ★ PTA FAMILY TRIVIA NIGHT

(All ages welcome)

Save The Date

Thursday,  
February 6th: 6-8pm

Official Flyer  
coming soon





# Huck FinN

## Restaurant & Donuts

10501 S. Cicero 708-499-1112  
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3414 S. Archer 773-247-5515  
Chicago, IL 60608  
6650 S. Pulaski 773-581-4285  
Chicago, IL 60629

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Alsip, IL 60803  
708-239-8740




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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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