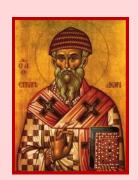


THE VOICE

DECEMBER 2024 - VOLUME No. 396 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



Monday, December 9th, 2024 Paraklesis to Saint Spyridon—6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 11th, 2024 Hierarchical Great Vespers — 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 12th, 2024
Orthros—8:00 a.m.
Divine Liturgy—9:30 a.m
Friday, December 13th, 2024
Holy Unction Service—4:30 p.m.





CHRISTMAS ADVENT RETREAT

ANNUAL ADVENT CHRISTMAS RETREAT

Family Night Ministry families gathered for our November meeting on November 1st. Father George gave a lesson on angels, reminding us of our call to become like angels on earth and reminding the children to use their guardian angel prayer. The night ended with some laughter, treats, and relay race fun.

We ended the month with our annual Advent Christmas retreat. Children enjoyed themselves learning about the symbolism of the Christmas star, making an angel ornament, writing and decorating Christmas cards for the residents at the Greek American Nursing Home, and singing some fun, upbeat Christmas songs! New this year was a session for the parents, led by Fr. Athanasios Papagiannis, called "Be a Walking Church". Thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers, and to our PTA for sponsoring this day of lessons, crafts, music, and outreach. Mark your calendar and join us on Friday, December 13th for a movie night and our last meeting of 2024!

May we all have a blessed Nativity season!





FATHER'S MESSAGE

LET PEACE BEGIN WITH ME

There's a beautiful song written by Jill Jackson Miller and Sy Miller that we used to sing at Fanari Camp in my days as a camper:

Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me. Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.

With God as our Father, brothers all are we. Let me walk with my brother, in perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment now. With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow. To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.

Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.

The common theme throughout this popular song is peace. To have peace is to be still. However, to have peace doesn't mean that we don't work or have stress. To be at peace is a heart that is still; meaning that it is filled with God and God's love so that the work and the stresses of life don't knock it off kilter.

To have peace is to desire unity with others. It doesn't mean complete agreement with others, but a desire to work together.

Peace means absence of conflict. However, to have peace does not mean there will never be conflict. To have peace means that there is a desire to work through conflict when it arises.

There are many places in the bible where peace is mentioned:

Peace is one of the nine "Fruits of the Spirit" listed in Galatians 5:22-23, Christian values that we seek to cultivate.

In Matthew 5:9, during the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus says "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God."

Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you" (John 14:27).

The message of the angels at the Nativity was "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased!" (Luke 2:14) This verse is often mistranslated as "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, goodwill towards men." This implies

that peace is a gift to everyone. However, this is not what the verse says. Peace isn't something we get merely by living. Peace is a gift that is given to people of goodwill, people with whom the Lord is pleased, people who make an effort to encourage peace, people who make an effort to live peacefully.

Acquiring peace is achieved through a deep relationship with Christ, actively cultivating virtues like love, humility, and forgiveness, and striving to live a life aligned with God's will, which manifests as inner peace that can then be extended to others through actions of compassion and reconciliation; essentially, finding peace comes from aligning oneself with the "Prince of Peace" (Jesus Christ) through prayer, sacraments, and living a righteous life.

The decision to cultivate peace comes from within one-self. One can be in a war-torn area and still find peace. Just as one can live in a safe society and not have peace. Peace is a gift from God. However, it is a gift we must choose to cultivate—it is not cultivated for us.

In Psalm 133:1, we read "Behold how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!"

Peace is a desire to work through conflict, to have a calm heart and to work for unity. Encouragement and peace work hand in hand. When someone encourages me, it lessens conflict, it calms my heart, it brings me closer to my encourager. When someone discourages me, it creates conflict, burdens my heart and builds walls between me and the discourager. The choice to be an encourager in fact helps one to become a peacemaker and a promoter of peace.

One last question for you to ponder today, and it is this: Are you a peacemaker, or a peace taker? Ask yourself this question as you come into conflicts today—is what you are doing in the conflict working towards peace or escalating the conflict? Peace in the world begins with peace in ourselves. It continues with us striving to make peace with those around us—to be peacemakers, not peace-takers.

Let peace begin with you today. In your home, church, workplace, or with your friends, do your part by encouraging someone today with peace!

7. Huge

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES





Sunday, December 1st Orthros & Divine Liturgy -8:00 a.m. -11:30 a.m.

Monday, December 2nd St. Porphyrios, 1st Hour & Divine Liturgy – 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Tuesday, December 3rd 1st Hour & Divine Liturgy —8:00 a.m. —9:30 a.m.

Wednesday, December 4th St. Barbara & St. John of Damascus, Orthros & Divine Liturgy −8:00 −10:15 a.m.

Thursday, December 5th 1st Hour & Divine Liturgy – 8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Great Vespers at St. Nicholas, Oak Lawn, IL—7:00 p.m.

Friday, December 6th Orthros & Divine Liturgy at St. Nicholas, Oak Lawn—8:15 a.m.

Saturday, December 7th St. Ambrosios of Milan, 1st Hour & Divine Liturgy, 8:00 a.m.—9:30 a.m.

* Great Vespers—5:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 8th Orthros & Divine Liturgy — 8:00 a.m. — 11:15 a.m.

Monday, December 9th 1st Hour & Div. Liturgy — 8:00 — 9:30 a.m. * Paraklesis to St. Spyridon — 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday, December 10th 1st Hour & Divine Liturgy—8:00 a.m.—9:30 a.m. Wednesday, December 11th 1st Hour & Divine Liturgy—8:00 a.m.—9:30 a.m.

Feast Day of Saint Spyridon, Hierarchical Great Vespers — 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 12th St. Spyridon the Wonderworker, Orthros & Divine Liturgy – 8:00 a.m.

Friday, December 13th

1st Hour & Divine Liturgy—8:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m. Holy Unction—4:30 p.m.

Saturday, December 14th

1st Hour & Divine Liturgy—8:00 a.m. Great Vespers—5:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 15th St. Eleftherios, Orthros & Divine Liturgy -8:00 a.m. -11:30 a.m.

Monday, December 16th

1st Hour & Divine Liturgy —8:00 a.m.—9:30 a.m. * Great Vespers—7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, December 17th

St. Dionysios of Zakynthos, Vespers, Orthros & D. Liturgy—8:00 a.m.—11:30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 18th 1st Hour & Divine Liturgy—8:00 a.m.—9:30 a.m. Thursday, December 19th 1st Hour & Divine Liturgy—8:00 a.m.—9:30 a.m.

Friday, December 20th 1st Hour & Divine Liturgy —8:00 a.m. —9:30 a.m.

Saturday, December 21st 1st Hour & Divine Liturgy – 8:00 a.m. + Great Vespers – 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 22nd Orthros & Divine Liturgy —8:00 a.m. — 11:15 a.m. Monday, December 23rd 1st Hour & Divine Liturgy —8:00 a.m. —9:30 a.m. Tuesday, December 24th Royal Hours Vesperal Liturgy —8:00a.m —11:00 a.m.

Wednesday, December 25th Nativity of our Lord, Orthros & D. Liturgy of St. Basil—8:00 a.m.—11:15 a.m.***

Friday, December 27th St. Stephen, Orthros & Divine Liturgy —8:00 a.m. —10:00 a.m.

Sunday, December 29th Orthros & Divine Liturgy — 8:00 a.m. —11:30 a.m. Wednesday, January 1st Orthros & Divine Liturgy — 8:00 a.m. —11:15 a.m.

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

ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑ ΙΕΡΩΝ ΑΚΟΛΟΥΘΙΩΝ

Κυριακή 1 Δεκεμβρίου Όρθρος και Θεία Λειτουργία – 8:00 π.μ. – 11:30 π.μ.

Δευτέρα 2 Δεκεμβρίου Αγ. Πορφυρίου, 1η Ω ρα και Θεία Λειτουργία-8:00 π.μ.-10:00 π.μ.

Τρίτη 3 Δεκεμβρίου 1η Ωρα και Θεία Λειτουργία - 8:00 π.μ. - 9:30 π.μ. Τετάρτη 4 Δεκεμβρίου Αγίας Βαρβάρας & Αγίου Ιωάννου Δαμασκηνού,

Όρθρος και Θεία Λειτουργία — 8:00 π.μ. — 10:15 π.μ.

Πέμπτη 5 Δεκεμβρίου 1η Ώρα & Θεία Λειτουργία-8:00 π.μ.-9:30 π.μ.

Μέγας Εσπερινός στον Ι. Ν. Αγ. Νικολάου -7:00 μ.μ.

Παρασκευή 6 Δεκεμβρίου Ορθρος και Θεία Λειτουργία — 8:15 π.μ. (Ι.Ν. Αγίου Νικολάου, Oak Lawn, IL)

Σάββατο 7 Δεκεμβρίου Αγίου Αμβροσίου, 1η Ώρα και Θεία Λειτουργία-8:00 π.μ.-9:30 π.μ.

* Μέγας Εσπερινός – 5:00 μ.μ.

Κυριακή 8 Δεκεμβρίου Όρθρος και Θεία Λειτουργία-8:00 π.μ.-11:30 π.μ. Δευτέρα 9 Δεκεμβρίου 1η Ώρα & Θεία Λειτουργία-8:00 π.μ.-9:30 π.μ.

* Παρακλησις του Αγ. Σπυρίδωνος — 6:00 μ.μ.

Τοίτη 10 Δεκεμβοίου 1η Ώρα & Θεία Λειτουργία-8:00 π.μ.-9:30 π.μ. Τετάρτη 11 Δεκεμβοίου 1η Ώρα & Θεία Λειτουργία-8:00 π.μ.-9:30 π.μ.

Αρχιερατικός Εσπερινός Αγίου Σπυρίδωνος -7:00 μ.μ.

Πέμπτη 12 Δεκεμβοίου Αγίου Σπυοίδωνος, Όρθος και Θεία Λειτουργία-8:00 π.μ.

Παρασκευή 13 Δεκεμβρίου 1η Ώρα & Θεία Λειτουργία-8:00 π.μ. -9:30 π.μ. * Ευχέλαιο-4:30 μ.μ. Σάββατο 14 Δεκεμβρίου 1η Ώρα & Θεία Λειτουργία, 8:00-9:30 π.μ. *Μέγας Εσπερινός-5:00 μ.μ. Κυριακή 15 Δεκεμβρίου Αγ. Ελευθερίου, Όρθρος και Θεία Λειτουργία-8:00 π.μ. -11:30 π.μ.

Δευτέρα 16 Δεκεμβρίου 1η Ω ρα & Θεία Λειτουργία-8:00 π.μ.-9:30 π.μ.

*Μέγας Εσπερινός του Αγ. Διονυσίου του Zακύνθου-7:00 μ.μ.

Τρίτη 17 Δεκεμβρίου Αγίου Διονυσίου Ζακύνθου, Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία – 8:00 – 11:30 π.μ.

Τετάρτη 18 Δεκεμβρίου 1η Ώρα & Θεία Λειτουργία-8:00 π.μ.-9:30 π.μ. Πέμπτη 19 Δεκεμβρίου 1η Ώρα & Θεία Λειτουργία-8:00 π.μ.-9:30 π.μ. Παρασκευή 20 Δεκεμβρίου 1η Ώρα & Θεία Λειτουργία-8:00 π.μ.-9:30 π.μ.

Σάββατο 21 Δεκεμβοίου 1η Ω οα & Θεία Λειτουργία-8:00-9:30 π.μ. *Μέγας Εσπερινός-5:00 μ.μ.

Κυριακή 22 Δεκεμβρίου Όρθρος και Θεία Λειτουργία-8:00 π.μ.-11:15 π.μ. Δευτέρα 23 Δεκεμβρίου 1η Ώρα & Θεία Λειτουργία-8:00 π.μ.-9:30 π.μ.

Τρίτη 24 Δεκεμβρίου Ακολουθία τῶν Μεγάλων Ώρῶν και Θεία Λειτουργία – 8:00 π.μ. – 11:00 π.μ.

Τετάρτη 25 Δεκεμβρίου ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥΓΕΝΝΑ, Όρθρος και Θεία Λειτουργία του Αγ. Βασιλείου

 $-8:00 \pi.\mu.-11:15 \pi.\mu.***$

Παρασκευή 27 Δεκεμβρίου Αγ. Στεφάνου, Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία, 8:00 π.μ. – 10:00 π.μ.

Κυριακή 29 Δεκεμβρίου Όρθρος και Θεία Λειτουργία-8:00 π.μ.-11:30 π.μ. Τετάρτη 1 Ιανουαρίου Όρθρος και Θεία Λειτουργία-8:00 -11:15 π.μ.

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



		Decembe	December 2024—Community Calendar	nity Calendar		
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
* Sunday School—10:30— 11:30 am	* Archangels Academy * Plutarchos Academy * 4:30 pm-6:30 pm **Floga Springs of Basil & Wonderworkers — 6:45 pm-7:30 p.m.	** Archangels Academy **Floga Committee Meeting—6:00 pm *Parish Council Meeting—7:00 p.m.	*Archangels Academy *Cherubs—10:00 a.m.— 12:00 p.m. * Iconography, 5:30 pm * GOYA, 7:00 pm	5 *Archangels Academy *Food Distribution, 1:00 pm	* Archangels Academy * Plutarchos Academy, 4:30 pm-6:30 pm * Floga Practice, 6:40 pm * Adult Greek School 6:45 p.m. —8:15 p.m.	* Christmas Craft Show – 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. * Altar Boy Meeting, 10 a.m. * Byzantine Music Level 1 & 3, 4:15 pm
* Sunday School, 10:30 am — 11:30 am * Christmas Craft Show, 11:00—3:00 p.m. * PTA meeting, 12 p.m. * Metropolis Open House, 4:00 p.m.	* Archangels Academy— 9:00 am * Greek School—4:30 pm- 6:30 pm *Floga Springs of Basil & Wonderworkers—6:45 pm—7:30 p.m.	10 * Archangels Academy	* Archangels Academy—9:00 am VESPERS FOR ST SPYRIDON 7 pm	12 ST. SPYRIDON FEAST DAY * Archangels Academy	** Archangels Academy ** Plutarchos Academy, 4:30 pm-6:30 pm ** Plutarchos Parent— teacher conferences, 5:00 p.m. ** Family Night, 6:30 pm ** Adult Greek School 6:45 p.m.—8:15 p.m.	* Byzantine Music Level 1 & 3, 4:15 pm
* Sunday School—10:30 am—11:30 am	* Office closed * Archangels Academy— 9:00 am * Greek School—4:30 pm- 6:30 pm *Floga Springs of Basil & Wonderworkers—6:45 pm—7:30 p.m.	17 * Archangels Academy	* Archangels Academy * Cherubs—10:00 a.m.— 12:00 p.m. * Iconography, 5:30 pm * GOYA Christmas Party, 7:00 pm	* Archangels Christmas Play—10:30 a.m. * Paradosis Dance Troupe— 7:00 pm	* Christmas Food Basket Distribution—10 a.m. * Plutarchos Academy, 4:30 pm-6:30 pm * Floga Practice, 6:40 pm * Adult Greek School 6:45 p.m.—8:15 p.m.	* Christmas Pageant Practice—10:30 am * Byzantine Music Level 1 & 3, 4:15 pm
22 *Christmas Pageant— 11 :30 am	23	24	25 CHRISTMAS Church office will be closed	26 Church office will be closed	* Altar Boy Social Event, 10:30 a.m.	28
* Family Worship—No Sunday school * Philoptochos Christmas Party	30	31				

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Χαίφετε,

Σας εύχομαι καλό σαφάνταλείτουογο, και πρώτα ο θεός, Καλά Χριστούγεννα .

Αυτές τις ημέρες εύχομαι να σκεφτόμαστε όλους όσους περνάνε δυσκολίες, και χρειάζονται τις προσευχές μας. Σας εύχομαι καθε ευτυχία, υγεία, αγάπη, και να σας έχει ο Θεός πάντα καλά.

Greetings,

I wish you all a wonderful Sarantaleitourgo, as we prepare for the Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

This is a joyful time of year, where we are all pulled in many directions, but let us also take time to remember our parishioners, friends, and family, that may be facing difficult challenges, are in need, are ill, and the elderly, all who need our prayers, love, and support throughout the year, but especially during this time.

We are nearing the end of the year, and there have been so many wonderful events at our church.

Earlier in November, Floga had their fundraiser at 115 Bourbon Street. It was a smashing success, well organized and attended, and it was wonderful to see the future of our parish put on such a beautiful dance showcase. Thank you Sophia Christopher, Evi Marouda, Anastasia Deligiannis, Patty Pappas and Olga Baroudos, for you dedication in teaching Greek Dance to our youth. On November 16th, I was honored to attend, along with several members of our community, the Chicago Greek Town Educational Foundation

Benefit Concert. Three of our Greek School students, Platon Belesiotis, Ioanna Marouda, and Vasileios Vythoulkas received scholarships that will help cover the costs of an academic year of Greek School. Congratulations to the scholarship recipients, and all of the Greek School teachers who work so hard to educate our youth.

The concert included Dimitris Mpasis (Basis), who happens to be my favorite Greek singer, and Nefeli Fasouli, a rising star in Greek Music. They sang for 2.5 hours and we were fortunate to take some pictures with our group, and even one with Dimitiri Basis as well.

Next weekend, I am looking forward to seeing all of you at our Craft Show hosted by Philoptochos on December 7th and December 8th. Whether its browsing the tables for the perfect craft or gift, or partaking in the wonderful food and desserts, Philoptochos has something for everyone.

The Feast Day of our beloved St. Spyridon is also quickly approaching. We will have two opportunities to partake in services, one on 11 December Vespers and the second on 12 December, the Feast Day. Please join us on the Feast Day for a Luncheon after services.

Finally, we are quickly approaching the end of 2024. We are starting to kick off our 2025 Stewardship Drive. If you have not yet made your 2024 Stewardship Commitment, please reach out or visit the Church office.

Καλή συνέχεια με υγεία Bill Kilias Parish Council President





STEWARD SPOTLIGHT...

"Stewardship is an act of faith. There is no better way of sharing the faith that lies within us than to see Christ in others and to love and care for them."

We are blessed to share the Orthodox faith with all of you, our stewards. We know that it takes everyone of us to help as we are able. For this reason, we continue to thank you and highlight three more stewards who give of themselves for the greater good.

Sophia Christofer

Sophia and her family's connection to Saint Spyridon runs deep. It was the church her father first attended when he arrived from Greece. This made



returning to Saint Spyridon and becoming stewards three years ago like returning home. Sophia states that she has felt the "protective presence of Saint Spyridon over her family guiding them through life's challenges." A deep sense of belonging and gratitude inspired her to give back to the church in a meaningful way.

Sophia began by teaching Greek dance, which initially started as a bonding experience with her son. However, it grew to more than that with multiple age groups. Sophia shared her hope that "the children will look back on their youth with fond memories of community, culture, and faith." Sophia's time and talent doesn't stop there. " as she shared another way she plans to give back. "More recently I felt a calling to reach out to the junior high, high school, and college students helping to nurture the same sense of fellowship that was so important to me in my youth. The friendships, relationships, and Christian fellowship I have seen blossom in this group are beyond words, and I thank God daily for allowing me to play even a small role in their lives. I am deeply humbled by the privilege of serving, and I pray that our efforts will continue to build a strong, faithful community for years to come." Our most sincere gratitude to Sophia and her family.

Dina Katsoulis

Kyria Dina has been a steward of Saint Spyridon since 1964. As a young girl, her family instilled in her the importance of faith and family. Her families' legacy is the foundation for everything Dina has done and continues to do for our parish.



As Dina says, "Saint Spyridon means everything to me, it is a community". It is this sense of family and community that the next generation is taxed to carry on.

Dina works tirelessly to ensure that our Greek traditions and customs are upheld. From her famous rice recipe to her spanakopita, which was featured on WGN Dean Cooks where Dina took center stage and showed the Chicagoland area the love she puts into her work. Her volunteer efforts go beyond the festival and other Greek traditions and extend into her philanthropic work. For Dina, helping others is part of what Orthodox Christians do. Thank you Dina for all your good works and may God continue to bless you.

Gus Rougas

Kyrie Gus is a staple of our parish. He has been a steward of Saint Spyridon for over 35 years. Saint Spyridon is home to him and he



STEWARD SPOTLIGHT...

thanks Saint Spyridon everyday for the blessings afforded to him, his family, and our parish. You can find him in the narthex helping with services during the week and Saturdays and on Sundays in the bookstore. He is always looking out for our fellow parishioners' wellbeing and the church itself. The love he has for God, the Orthodox faith, and our church parish is palpable. The countless hours he has given to the bookstore and to our parish cannot be measured. We appreciate everything you do for us

3 ways to become a steward:

- Online: Visit our website at https://saint-spyridon.net/
 then click "Donate"
- In-person: Visit our church office Monday-Friday
- Sundays: Complete the stewardship form in the narthex and place in the collection tray

Vital to our growth is your participation in Holy services and the offering of your time and talent to the parish.

When you complete your form, it is of the utmost importance to communicate how you might be able to offer your time and talent to serve Christ.

New 2024 Stewards November 1st—November 26th

Ms. Irene Giardina Mr. & Mrs. Dimitri Golfis Ms. Efrosine Kanellakes Mr. & Mrs. George Karras Ms. Georgia Lalezas Ms. Catherine Pappas Ms. Kathryn Pappas Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Perakis Mr. & Mrs. Brian Perkins Mr. & Mrs. Robert Righetti Mr. & Mrs. Glynn Searl Mrs. Demitra Stameson

Total # of Stewards: # 325

STEWARDSHIP 2024

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 Schmemann 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 2024. Stewardship materials are available at the church office, in the community hall and on our website.

Ευχαριστούμε τους 325 ενορίτες που προσφέρατε την συνδρομή σας για το 2024. 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 μέ τήν προσφορά σας και βοηθήστε να συνεχίσουμε όλοι μαζί την διακονία της ιεράς κοινότητός μας.

GODPARENT SUNDAY

On November 3, our parish gathered together to celebrate our annual Godparent Sunday. It was a wonderful occasion that brought our community closer as we honored the special role of godparents in the lives of our children. The PTA would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed to making this event so beautiful and successful. Your time, effort, and support were truly appreciated and helped create a memorable experience for all.

Thank you again to everyone for your continued support of this event and for being a vital part of our parish community!



GODPARENT SUNDAY



PHILOPTOCHOS

Dear St. Spyridon Family,

Kalo Mina! November was a busy month for our ladies! On Tuesday, November 12th we participated in the Feed the Hungry program for our Metropolis. With your support we were able to feed over 150 people on that day. It truly was a blessing to partake & be part of this great ministry in our Metropolis!

We hope that you will support us this month by attending our Annual Craft Show December 7th & 8th. Our ladies have been busy preparing our traditional delicious sweets & food for this event. Look forward to seeing you there!

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

Sisterly Agapi,

Dana Vasilakos – Philoptochos President



PHILOPTOCHOS

Save these Dates!

- *Saturday, December 7th Sunday, December 8th St. Spyridon Craft Show &; Food Festival
- *Sunday, December 8th Metropolis Open House @ Carlisle Banquets from 4:00pm-8:00pm
- *Wednesday, December 11th St. Spyridon Vespers
- *Thursday, December 12th St. Spyridon Feast Day
- Sunday, December 29th Philoptochos Christmas
 Party @ Blueberry Field Pancake House & Restaurant

Our monthly meeting will be held on Thursday, January 9th at 6:30 p.m. at church.



FOOD PANTRY

FOOD PANTRY – THANKSGIVING 2024

Once again, we are incredibly grateful for the generous donations of our donors. The Food Pantry was able to distribute food baskets to 56 local needy families!

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

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

THANK YOU to all who donated, and to our dedicated annual volunteers and GOYA members, who offered their time to organize, assemble, and distribute the food baskets.

Our next holiday distribution will be for Christmas. If you know of a family in need, please let them know that reservations for the Christmas Food Baskets may be made by calling the Church office at 708.385.2311.

We also distribute food every Thursday from 1 pm to 2 pm in the back entrance of our church Gym – open to all, no reservation needed.

Wishing everyone a blessed Advent Season!

-The Food Pantry team





Food Pantry Donations for Christmas

Our parish will be distributing food baskets to local needy families. Your generous donations will enable us to purchase all items needed for the baskets - valued at \$65 each.

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

Donations accepted online at saint-spyridon.net (Select FOOD PANTRY)

Donation deadline is Monday, December 16th.







ARCHANGELS ACADEMY

CELEBRATING THANKS AND NEW BEGINNINGS

Last month was all about being thankful, and we certainly have a lot to be grateful for!

Our class celebrated the feast day of our school by attending church and participating in the beautiful offering of Artoklasia. We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to Mrs. Sofia Kopanis for making the loaves for the Artoklasia. Her continued love and support for our school has truly made a difference, and her kindness has touched the hearts of many.

This year, our children also celebrated Thanksgiving with a small performance for everyone, creating a warm and joyful atmosphere. It was an amazing afternoon filled with laughter and gratitude as we celebrated together as a family. We are truly blessed in so many ways!

In more exciting news, we have welcomed 7 adorable chicks that have hatched! Our full-day students had the incredible opportunity to witness the thrilling moment a chick hatched, adding to the excitement of our classroom experience.

Mark your calendars for our Annual Christmas Program on Thursday, December 19th. We can't wait to celebrate the holiday season together!



PLUTARCHOS ACADEMY

EXCITING ACHIEVEMENTS AND HOLIDAY WISHES FROM OUR SCHOOL

As we approach the holiday season, our school community has several reasons to celebrate! From professional growth opportunities for our teachers to outstanding achievements by our students, we're proud of the strides we've made this year.

Teachers Attend Seminar to Enhance Classroom Experience

Our dedicated teachers recently attended a professional development seminar focused on innovative teaching strategies and student engagement. This event was organized by the H. Metropolis of Chicago and provided our teachers with valuable tools to bring fresh ideas to the classroom and enhance the learning experience for all students.

tion honors their academic achievements and dedication to their education. The award ceremony took place during the Dimitris Mpasis concert on Sunday, November 17th. We are incredibly proud of them and grateful to the foundation for supporting our students.



School Receives a Generous Grant

In addition to these individual successes, our school has received a grant from the Greek Town Education Foundation. This funding will go a long way toward improving resources and programs that benefit our entire student body. We are deeply thankful for their continued investment in education.

Special Visit from a University Professor of Linguistics



On November 15th we welcomed Dr. Zoe Gavriilidou to our school. She is the coordinator of the initiative "Playing with Books" that aims to develop a love of reading among students attending Greek schools in the USA.

Dr. Gavriilidou lectured our older students about the Greek gods and captivated them with stories from the Greek mythology and fascinating details about the Acropolis of Athens. We are so grateful to



Congratulations to our students Despina Karanastasis and Efthemia Manasses for

passing the B1 Ellinomatheia (Greek language proficiency) exam with flying colors! Their hard work and commitment to learning our rich language are truly inspiring. Και εις ανώτερα!



Scholarship Winners Shine

Congratulations to Platon Belesiotis, Ioanna Marouda and Vasili Vythoulkas! These three exceptional students have been awarded scholarships by the Greek Town Education Foundation. This prestigious recogni-

PLUTARCHOS ACADEMY

have had the chance to host such an esteemed guest and look forward to her next visit.

Greek School Students kicking off the Christmas Season with Festive Spirit

On Sunday, November 24th our Greek School students helped usher in the holiday season by attending a joyful Christmas tree lighting ceremony in Chicago. Their presence added warmth and excitement to this event, which marks the beginning of the festive season at Greek Town.

We are proud of our students for representing our school and embracing the holiday spirit with enthusiasm. Events like these remind us of the importance of community, tradition, and togetherness during this special time of year.

Parent-Teacher conferences

Our parent-teacher conferences are scheduled for Friday, December 13th. These conferences provide a valuable opportunity to meet with the child's teacher, gain insights into their academic achievements, and address any questions or concerns they may have. To ensure we can dedicate time to each family, please sign up during drop off and pick up on school days. You can also schedule your conference by emailing the office at office@saint-spyridon.net or calling at 708-385-2311.

Christmas Pageant

Our students are busy preparing for our Community Christmas Pageant. This event will take place on Sunday, December 22nd after the Divine Liturgy. Everyone is invited to come together and celebrate the true spirit of Christmas. From angelic carols to heartfelt storytelling this year's pageant promises to be a memorable showcase of holiday cheer and tradition.

Warm Holiday Wishes

As we reflect on these accomplishments, we also want to wish our entire school community a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May this holiday season be filled with joy, peace, and the warmth of family and friends. Here's to a bright and successful year ahead for everyone!



PARISH REGISTRY

BAPTISMS

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David Buzo was baptized on November 3rd and was given the name Aliki by her godfather Mr. Yannis J. Georgiou.

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Adam DePass was baptized on November 17th and was given the name Dionysia Anna by her godparents Mr. Nick Perakis and Ms. Penelope Perakis. .

FUNERALS

On October 31st Demitra Stameson fell asleep in the Lord. Her funeral took place on November 5th and he was interned at Bethania Cemetery.

On November 10th Hristos Apostolopoulos fell asleep in the Lord. His funeral took place on Friday, November 15th and he was interned at Bethania Cemetery.

On November 19th Alexandra Manolitsis fell asleep in the Lord. Her funeral took place on Saturday, November 23rd and she was interned at Bethania Cemetery.

MEMORIALS

<u>Sunday, November</u> <u>10th:</u> †All departed Philoptochos Members, † 3 yr Sotirios Charalambos, † 3 yr Michael Katsoulakis, † 22 yr Iwannis Bisbikis and † 25 yr Anastasia Bisbikis

<u>Sunday, November 17th:</u> †6 yrs for Eleftheria Marinoglou and † 7 yrs for Evangelos Marinoglou

May their memory be eternal!



SUNDAY SCHOOL

This has been a busy year for our Sunday School and it's hard to believe 2024 is soon coming to a close. Many thanks to all of the families who participate in Sunday School and all the teachers who dedicate their time and talent each week to ensure that our Program is successful.

Our teachers for <u>PreK</u>: Vicky Argyropoulos, Maria Tsinoukas, Toni Eliopoulos and Kathy Karopulos. <u>Kindergarten & 1st grade</u>: Tricia Pappas and Annie Mihalopoulos. <u>2nd & 3rd grade</u>: Vicky Kournetas, Connie Georgiou and Helen Halikias. <u>4th & 5th grade</u>: Litsa Tsarouhis and George Scarlatis. <u>6th, 7th & 8th grade</u>: Maria Baltsas and Irena Karopulos and Helen and Ted Pappas for <u>High School</u>. 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 1st, 8th and 15th.

Our annual Christmas Pageant will take place on Sunday December 22nd, with our practice on Saturday December 21st at 10am-11:30am. At Pageant practice, the students will be assigned their costumes (if applicable) and will rehearse a couple times. Greek School will also be practicing with us. We could use help during practice and day of the event to get the little ones ready, so please help if you are able. During class on December 15th, we will ask the students if they would like to volunteer for specific parts, so please encourage your children to participate.

Looking forward to a blessed 2025 with all of our Sunday School family.

Zoe Kopanis Sunday School Director

GOYA



As we enter the Christmas season, the Goya group has been engaged in both spiritual enrichment as well as expressing gratitude for their many blessings.

The Goyans made prayer bracelets and packed 150 care kits to distribute to those in need. November 24th and 25th Goyan's assisted in the food drive and came together to decorate the Christmas tree.

Come join us! Sign up Goya notification through the remind app. Text @ jrgoyag to 81010 you will receive a text to confirm you are signed up.



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 Web: 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 Philoptochos Dana Vasilakos Vicky Argyropoulos P.T.A. **Gus Rougas** Kentro Jimmy Korbakes Kentro Marianna Haniotakis **Plutarchos** Sofea Malamis **Archangels Evelyn Christakos** Cherubs **Zoe Kopanis** Sunday School **Stacy Vallianatos** G.O.Y.A. G.O.Y.A. Stephane Collopy 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 **Church Office** Marianna Haniotakis Litsa Tsarouhis Church Office Soteria Simantirakis Custodian **Pete Mihalopoulos** Iconography Sophia Christofer Floga Dance Evi Marouda Floga Dance Anastasia Deligiannis Floga Dance **Patty Pappas** Floga Dance Olga Baroudos Floga Dance

FLOGA

What an exciting and vibrant month of November for the St. Spyridon Floga Hellenic Dance Troupe! The inaugural Floga Fundraiser held at Bourbon Street on Sunday November 10th was a tremendous success. Having over 50 children perform across all three groups was a delightful display of Hellenic dance traditions. The combination of lively dancing, engaging performances by the dance troupes, and generous raffle prizes clearly brought our community together in a meaningful way.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone for your unwavering support and encouragement. Your presence & enthusiasm made the fundraiser a memorable occasion. The community support continues to inspires us to celebrate the beauty of our Hellenic culture through dance and ensures its legacy for generations to come. Thank you for being part of this journey with us!

Next Performance will be mid-year showcase. More information to come in January.





ANNOUNCEMENTS

St. Spyridon Feast & Christmas **FLOWERS**

Once again we call upon your kindness and generosity in donating towards the purchase of flowers for the adornment of our Church and the Icons for the feast day of St. Spyridon and the Christmas season. Please send your Feast Day and Christmas Donations to the Church office.

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CARD

Wish all our parishioners and friends a Merry Christmas by signing up for the Community Christmas Card. Please complete the Christmas Card form along with the \$25 donation and return to the Church office by December 10th.

ALTAR BOYS

All our altar boys are called to serve on the feast of St. Spyridon on Wednesday, December 11th, at 7:00 p.m. and Thursday, December 12th, at 8:00 a.m. We will be practicing for the feast day services on Saturday, December 7th at 10:00 a.m.

ALTAR BOY DAY—DECEMBER 27

In honor of St. Stephen's Day, we will be celebrating Altar Boy Day on December 27th, with the Divine Liturgy, our group photo, and a pizza luncheon in the gym. Please plan to attend.

COMMUNITY VASILOPITA

The Community Vasilopita will be on Wednesday, January 1st, after the Divine Liturgy. We ask that all parishioners and friends join us for this very special beginning for the New Year.

CHRISTMAS FAST & 40-DAY LITURGY

The forty day fast for the feast of the Nativity began Friday, November 15th. According to the Church canons, fish, wine and oil are allowed until December 17th, except for Wednesdays and Friday. Strict fast is observed from December 18th to the 24th. This year, we will once again celebrate the 'Sarantaleitourgo', forty liturgies during the Christmas Fast. The schedule for the services is included in this bulletin



SAINT SPYRIDON **2024 CHRISTMAS CARD**



Family and Friends of St. Spyridon,

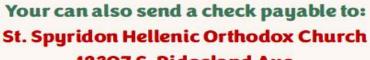
Please consider joining the St. Spyridon Family to wish all your friends and family a Merry Christmas!

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/give_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/1390651



12307 S. Ridgeland Ave Palos Heights, IL. 60463

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



Announcements









The Metropolis of Chicago St. John of Damascus League of Chanters invites you to celebrate the:

FEAST DAY OF OUR PATRON SAINT, ST. JOHN OF DAMASCUS ΕΟΡΤΗ ΤΟΥ ΑΓΙΟΥ ΜΑΣ, ΙΩΑΝΝΗΣ ΔΑΜΑΣΚΗΝΟΣ

Tuesday, December 3, 2024 / Τρίτη, 3 Δεκεμβρίου Great Vespers / Μέγας Εσπερινός - 6:30p.m.

Followed by a reception & presentation by our host parish Chanter, Mr. Nicholas Harisiadis

The Role of the Psalti: My Personal Perspective

Θα επακολουθήσει δεξίωση και ομιλία από τον πρωτοψάλτη του ναού, Κ. Νικόλαον Χαρισιάδη

Το Έργο του Ψάλτη: Η Προσωπική μου Εμπειρία

HOLY TAXIARCHAI & ST. HARALAMBOS CHURCH ΕΝΟΡΙΑ ΤΩΝ ΤΑΞΙΑΡΧΩΝ & ΑΓΙΟΥ ΧΑΡΑΛΑΜΠΟΥΣ 7373 N. Caldwell Ave., Niles, IL

Mr. Nicholas Harisiadis was born and raised in Constantinople. After grammar school and middle school, he graduated high school from the Theological School of Halki. He migrated to Greece for further studies and in 1977 to the United States. He then married his wonderful wife Anna, also from Constantinople, and is a father of two married sons, one of them also a Protopsalti in Chicago, and has been blessed with four grandchildren.

He first came up to the charting stand (Aναλόγιο) at the age of four. He was blessed with low grandchildert, the first came up to the charting stand (Αναλόγιο) at the age of four. He was blessed to learn under the tutelage of great teachers, including the late Vasilios Nikolaidis, the head chanter (Αρχών Πρωτοφόλης) of the Patriarchate, who he had as a teacher for six consecutive years. Mr. Hariaindish has served several parishes over the years in own Metropolis while working full-time. Now semi-releted from the work world, he is fully devoted to serving at St. Hariainhos as the Protopastil. He currently serves as the secretary of our League and as the director of our choir. Our choir participates in the various Feast Day Vespers of our Churches along with various other events of the Metropolis and the Chicago area.





St. John of Damascus League of Chanters - Metropolis of Chicago sjdsyllogo.com - sjdsyllogo@gmail.com - 708.247.5880



PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS





SAVE he DATE

St. Spyridon Philoptochos Membership Night

Mez & 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



OUTOWOO MOTAE

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:

# of Tickets:	@ \$22		75 \$		
# of Hot Dog and Soda	Vouchers:	@ \$6.75	\$		
PERSONAL					
Name:					
Address:					
City, State, Zip:	95				
Cell Phone:	Alterna	ite Phone:			

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

SCHOLARSHIP AND INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES!





\$250,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS

Applications are due January 31, 2025 The application, criteria, requirements, and guidelines are available at www.panhellenicsf.org



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Make a Lasting Impact; Help shape the next generation of professionals in the Hellenic community by providing mentorship and real-world experience.





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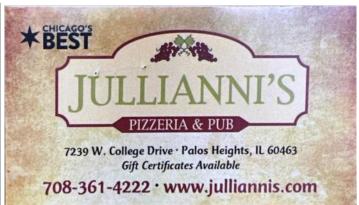
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