THE VOICE

November / December 2026

Volume No. 411

Saint Spyridon Hellenic Orthodox Church

12307 South Ridgeland Avenue, Palos Heights, Illinois 60463

Find us on Facebook, Instagram & YouTube



Feast Day of our Patron Saint Spyridon

Friday, December 4th, 2026
Holy Unction Service, 4:30 p.m.

Monday, December 7th, 2026
Paraklesis to Saint Spyridon, 6:30 p.m.

Friday, December 11th, 2026
Great Vespers, 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 12th, 2026
Orthros, 8:00 a.m.
Divine Liturgy, 9:30 a.m.





Plutarchos "Chicago Bears Fundraiser"

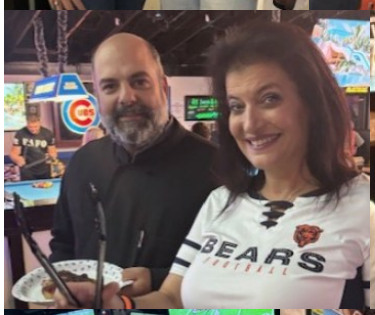





Many thanks to everyone who joined us for the Chicago Bears Game Fundraiser on Thursday, October 22nd. Your presence, generosity, and enthusiasm made the night a success. A special thank-you to our hosts at X's and O's .














Father's Message

Acquiring the Mind of Christ— Choosing Humility Over Our Own Will

"Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus." — Philippians 2:5

One of the greatest challenges in our spiritual lives is learning to distinguish between what we want and what God wants.

We all have opinions and preferences about how things should be done and how decisions should be made. Sometimes, we become so convinced that our perspective is correct that we fail to recognize how our words and actions affect those around us.

This happens in our homes, workplaces, friendships, and even within the life of the Church.

Yet, as Orthodox Christians, we are called to something greater than simply getting our way. We are called to acquire the mind of Christ.



What Does It Mean to Have the Mind of Christ?

The Apostle Paul writes, *"But we have the mind of Christ" (1 Corinthians 2:16).*

What does this mean?

It means learning to see others as Christ sees them. It means choosing humility over pride, understanding over judgment, and love over the desire to have things our own way.

Consider Christ Himself. Although He possessed all authority, He washed the feet of His disciples. Although He was Lord of all, He humbled Himself and became a servant. This is the example we are called to follow.

We often ask whether our decisions are right. But how often do we ask whether the spirit in which we make those decisions is Christ-like? Being Right Is Not Always the Same as Being Christ-like.

We may disagree with a decision or believe something could have been handled differently. We may even be correct in our assessment. But being right does not automatically mean that we are acting righteously.

The Apostle Paul reminds us: *"Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another." (Galatians 5:26)*

Sometimes, without realizing it, our words create unnecessary tension. A thoughtless comment can discourage someone who has worked tirelessly. A decision made without consideration for another person's feelings can leave someone feeling excluded or unappreciated.

Think about our family life. A husband and wife may disagree about how to spend their weekend. One wants to visit family, while the other wants to stay home and rest. Both have legitimate reasons. But instead of listening, one insists on getting their way. What begins as a simple disagreement becomes an argument. The problem is no longer how to spend the weekend, but that being right has become more important than understanding one another.

The Church, too, is a family—the family of God. Just as in our homes, we will not always agree or see things the same way. But we are called to treat one another with the same patience, understanding, and love that Christ asks of us in our families. Our words and decisions should strengthen our relationships, not weaken them.

What good is it to prove that we are right if, in the process, we hurt someone we love? This does not mean avoiding difficult conversations or remaining silent when something needs to be addressed. Rather, it means that truth must always be accompanied by love.

When Does Our Pride Get in the Way?

Pride is particularly dangerous because it often disguises itself as something good. We may believe we are defending what is right or protecting the interests of others. But how do we know when pride has entered our hearts?

One indication is how we respond when things do not go our way. Do we become angry when some-

one disagrees with us? Do we insist that others accept our perspective? Do we become resentful when decisions are made differently than we would have preferred?

St. Paul writes: *"Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself." (Philippians 2:3)*

Humility does not mean that we have no opinions or that we should never disagree. It means recognizing that our perspective is limited and that we must remain open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

A humble person can disagree without becoming disagreeable. A humble person can offer correction without humiliating another.

St. Paul reminds us that when correction is necessary, it should be offered *"in a spirit of gentleness" (Galatians 6:1).*

Sometimes, the most Christ-like thing we can do is not to offer another opinion, but to listen long enough to understand why someone sees things differently.

Are We Seeking God's Will or Trying to Control the Outcome?

Perhaps one of the most subtle spiritual temptations is our desire to control everything around us. We want situations to unfold according to our expectations. We want decisions to reflect our preferences. And when that does not happen, we become frustrated. But the Christian life is not about controlling others. It is about learning to surrender ourselves to God.

Every time we pray the Lord's Prayer, we say, *"Thy will be done."*

Yet how often do we live as though we are saying, *"Lord, let my will be done"*?

This is especially important when we serve the Church. Whether we serve in leadership, volunteer in a ministry, or simply offer our time and talents, our responsibility is to seek what is pleasing to God.

In the Orthodox Christian understanding, leadership is first and foremost diakonia—service. True Christian leadership is not about exercising control over others. It is about serving them with humility and love.

Before making decisions, do we sincerely pray for guidance? Do we ask the Holy Spirit to enlighten our hearts? Do we listen carefully to others? Or have we already decided what we want and are simply looking for ways to accomplish it? There is a profound difference between asking God to bless what we have already decided and asking God to guide us toward what is right.

Sometimes, following God's will means accepting an outcome different from the one we wanted. Sometimes, it means listening, apologizing, or allowing someone else to lead. This is not weakness. It is spiritual maturity.

A Question for Each of Us

Ultimately, acquiring the mind of Christ requires constant self-examination.

It is easy to recognize pride in someone else. It is much more difficult to recognize it within ourselves.

Perhaps we should regularly ask ourselves:

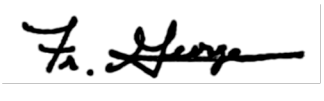
Am I trying to serve Christ, or am I trying to have things my way?

Do my words bring people closer together, or do they create unnecessary division?

Have I truly asked God to guide me, or have I already decided what I want Him to approve?

Our Lord Jesus Christ did not call us to win every argument, control every situation, or have the final word. He called us to love one another as He has loved us.

May our homes, relationships, and parish communities become places where humility is stronger than pride, kindness is greater than criticism, and the desire to do God's will is always greater than the desire to have our own way.



President's Message

Stewardship, Engagement, and Fellowship: Building Our Church Community Together

Dear Parish Family,

As we approach the winter months, we all look forward to the upcoming holidays, including St. Spyridon's Feast Day and Christmas. It is a joyous time of year, and it reminds us to cherish each and every moment with our families. I wish everyone good health and a safe winter ahead, and may St. Spyridon, along with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and Panagia, always guide and shelter all of us.

Our St. Spyridon Hellenic Orthodox Church is our spiritual home, a community of faith in which we worship God, grow in Christ, support one another, and pass our Orthodox Christian faith and traditions to future generations.

For our parish to remain strong and vibrant, each of us has an important role to play. Three elements are especially important to the life of our community: Engagement, Stewardship, and Fellowship.

Engagement: Being an Active Part of the Church

A healthy parish needs more than members. It needs active participants. Engagement means making our faith and our parish community a meaningful part of our lives. It begins with worship and participation in the sacramental life of the Church, but it extends into everything that happens within our parish.

We become engaged when we attend services, participate in ministries, support our youth, volunteer, attend educational programs, serve those in need, share ideas, and take responsibility for the future of our community.

No one should feel that there is not a place for them. Young or old, lifelong parishioner or newcomer, everyone has something valuable to contribute.

When more of us become engaged, the responsibility for our parish no longer rests on the shoulders of a small group. Instead, we become what the Church is meant to be: the Body of Christ, with each member contributing his or her unique gifts for the good of all.

Stewardship: Offering Our Gifts to God

Christian stewardship begins with gratitude. Everything we have, our time, talents, abilities, and material blessings, is ultimately a gift from God. Stewardship is our opportunity to prayerfully return a portion of those blessings by supporting the life and ministries of His Church.

Financial stewardship is certainly important. It allows our parish to maintain our church, support our clergy and ministries, educate our children, assist those in need, and plan responsibly for the future. But stewardship is about much more than financial support.

It is also the gift of our time and talents.

Whether we teach Sunday School, chant or sing in the choir, serve on a ministry, volunteer at a parish event, prepare a meal, welcome a new family, care for our church property, or simply lend a helping hand when one is needed, we are practicing stewardship.

The question is not simply, "How much should I give?" but rather, "How can I use the blessings God has given me to serve His Church and others?"

Fellowship: Growing Together as a Family in Christ

Fellowship brings stewardship and engagement together through relationships. Our Orthodox faith is lived in our community. We worship together, celebrate together, grieve together, serve together, and support one another through every season of life.

Coffee hour, parish dinners, festivals, youth activities, Bible studies, ministry gatherings, and social events may sometimes appear to be simply opportunities to socialize. In reality, they serve an important purpose. They give us opportunities to know one another, welcome newcomers, strengthen friendships, connect generations, and build a genuine sense of belonging.

True Christian fellowship also asks us to look beyond the people we already know. It means noticing the person sitting alone, introducing ourselves to a new family, encouraging a young person, checking on an elderly parishioner, welcoming someone who has returned after being away, and ensuring that everyone who enters our church feels that they have found a spiritual home.

President's Message



Our Shared Responsibility Stewardship, engagement, and fellowship are not three separate ideas. They strengthen one another. Stewardship provides the resources and talents. Engagement puts those gifts into action. Fellowship creates the relationships that bind us together. When all three are present, a parish does more than survive. It grows, serves, welcomes, and flourishes.

The future of our parish will not be determined only by the number of people on our membership list or the amount of money in our budget. It will be determined by how deeply we embrace our faith and how willingly we participate in the life of our Church.

Each of us can begin by asking three simple questions:

What can I give? How can I participate? Whom can I welcome? Imagine the strength of our parish if every family and every parishioner committed themselves to answering those questions.

Let us therefore approach the life of our Church not simply as members of an organization, but as stewards of a sacred inheritance. We have received the precious gift of the Orthodox Christian faith from those who came before us. It is now our responsibility to nurture it, live it, strengthen it, and pass it faithfully to those who will come after us. May we offer our gifts with gratitude, serve with joy, welcome one another with love, and continue building a parish community centered in Christ.

We are nearing the end of 2026. If you have not yet made your 2026 Stewardship Commitment please visit our Church website or contact the church office.

With love in Christ,

Bill Kilias, Parish Council President

New 2026 Stewards September 1st—October 26th

We wish to thank the 290 Stewards who have committed their stewardship for 2026. Stewardship materials are available at the church office, in the community hall and on our website.

Ευχαριστούμε τους 290 ενορίτες που προσφέρατε την συνδρομή σας για το 2026. Η υποστήριξη όλων είναι απαραίτητη για την σωστή και θεάρεστη λειτουργία της ενορίας μας. Παρακαλούμε όπως όλοι συμβάλουμε την συνδρομή μας. Συμπληρώστε την κάρτα συνδρομής με την προσφορά σας και βοηθήστε να συνεχίσουμε όλοι μαζί την διακονία της ιεράς κοινότητός μας.

Mr. & Mrs. John Argyropoulos
Mr. & Mrs. Demetrius Christou
Mr. & Mrs. Christ Georgiou
Ms. Margarita Glikis
Mr. & Mrs. Matthew Horn
Ms. Eleena Jouras
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Jouras
Mr. Ioannis Kalogris
Ms. Zoe Schultz
Mr. & Mrs. Alec Skiadopoulos
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Tuhaimer

Total # of Stewards: # 290

YOUNG ADULTS OF SAINT SPYRIDON







YAL (Young Adult League) has been involved in a lot recently, having successes with hosting our first coffee hour after church and joining Telos Project! With Telos Project, YAL will be able to gain insight on how other YAL groups foundationally build a group based on service, fellowship, and worship. Through this process, our leaders will be coached on how to grow our group to establish and engage the young adult community.

As a part of our YAL group, this past Thursday we had our Relationship Project Part 2. This discussion was focused on young adults that were in a relationship and discovering what a relationship entails. It went over some principles such as honoring the person you are with, staying true to yourself with your values, and being able to communicate effectively. Father George also shared twelve things to have in order before you pursue a relationship. Overall, it was a very informative and interactive session with some fun activities. Nick Xydakis, a dedicated and devout teacher, also significantly contributed to our session by preparing a power point and leading several of the interactive session activities.
Looking ahead, we have the YAL Friendsgiving Thursday November, 19th. This was a huge hit last year with over 20+ young adults joining the event. A flyer and social media post will be made soon to cover the event and a form sent out for nistisimo foods during Nativity fast.

In December, our group will be visiting Shady Oaks again to provide some companionship and bring joy into their lives around the holidays. We will be bringing gifts and/or having a Secret Santa to have some fun. As always the goal for YAL is to bring young adults together for generations to come.

-Submitted by William Karopulos

HANDMAIDENS



Greetings! Our handmaidens worked hard creating pony bean key chains that will soon be available for sale with other items. Please be on the lookout for the date. Proceeds will benefit «Το Χαμόγελο του Παιδιού». Please join us for our meeting on November 22 right after church.

ATHLETICS—JOY BASKETBALL PROGRAM

Hi everyone! We are happy to announce our JOY (Junior Orthodox Youth) basketball 8-week program for Pre-K through 7th grade. It will be on Monday nights at 6:40 starting on November 16th and will be led by coach Bobby Markatos with the support of additional coaches.

We're hoping this will lead to similar programs in the future for soccer, volleyball, etc. as well as a future path to G.O.A.L. teams. We're excited to offer this opportunity for the kids to build new skills, develop friendships and most importantly, have fun! Please see the flyer for registration and additional information.



Thank you!

Nick Tsinoukas and Bobby Markatos

November 2026—Community Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 *Sunday School *Philoptochos Sunday	**2** * Archangels Academy * Plutarchos Academy, 4:30 pm * Bible Study, 5 p.m. * Philoptochos Mtg, 6:30 p.m.	**3** * Archangels Academy * Christian Philoxenia at Assumption, Homer Glen, 10:30 a.m. * Parish Council, 7 pm	**4** * Archangels Academy * Cherubs, 10:30 am * Iconography, 5:30 pm * Jr GOYA & Sr. GOYA at Shady Oaks, 6:30 pm	**5** * Archangels Academy *Food Distribution, 1 pm	**6** * Archangels Academy * Plutarchos Academy, 4:30 pm * Floga, 6:30 pm * Adult Greek School 6:45 p.m.	**7** * Prison Ministry, 6:30 a.m. * Metropolis Greek School Teachers Seminar, 9 a.m.
8 * Family worship No Sunday School * Godparent Sunday Luncheon, 11:30 am	**9** * Archangels Academy * Plutarchos Academy, 4:30 pm * Bible Study, 5 p.m.	**10** * Archangels Academy * Philoptochos Feed the Hungry, 11 a.m. * Men's Ministry, 7 pm .	**11** * Archangels Academy * Iconography, 5:30 pm	**12** * Archangels Academy *Food Distribution, 1 pm	**13** * Pilgrimage to St. John Chrysostom, 6:30 a.m. * Archangels Academy * Plutarchos Academy, 4:30 pm * Floga, 6:30 pm * Adult Greek School 6:45 p.m.	**14**
15 * Stewardship Sunday * Sunday school * Family Night Bowling, 4:30 p.m. *Philoptochos Theater Outing, 6:00 p.m.	**16** * Archangels Academy * Plutarchos Academy, 4:30 pm * Bible Study, 5 p.m. * Philoptochos Board Mtg, 6:30 p.m. * * Baksetball, 6:40 pm	**17** * Archangels Academy	**18** * Archangels Academy * Cherubs, 10:30 am * Iconography, 5:30 pm * Jr GOYA, 6:30 pm * Sr GOYA at Xando Café, 7:30 pm	**19** * Archangels Academy *Food Distribution, 1 pm * YAL Friends Giving, 7 pm	**20** * Archangels Academy * Plutarchos Academy, 4:30 pm * Floga, 6:30 pm * Adult Greek School 6:45 p.m.	**21**
22 *Sunday School *PTA Bake Sale *Altar Boy Mtg, 12 pm *Handmaidens Mtg, 12 pm	**23** * Thanksgiving Food Pantry Distribution, 7:30 a.m.— 1:30 p.m. * Plutarchos Academy, 4:30 pm * JOY Basketball, 6:40 pm	**24** * No activities	**25** * No activities	**26** ***THANKSGIVING*** ***Church office will be closed***  	**27** ***Church office will be closed*** * Philoptochos Feed the Hungry, 11 a.m.	**28**
29 * Family worship No Sunday School	**30** * Archangels Academy * Plutarchos Academy, 4:30 pm * Bible Study, 5 p.m. * JOY Basketball, 6:40 pm					

December 2026—Community Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 * Archangels Academy * Parish Council, 7 pm	**2** * Archangels Academy * Cherubs, 10:30 am * Iconography, 5:30 pm * Jr GOYA, 6:30 pm * Men's Ministry, 7 pm * Sr GOYA, 7:30 pm	**3** * Archangels Academy *Food Distribution, 1 pm	**4** * Archangels Academy * Plutarchos Academy, 4:30 pm * Adult Greek School 6:45 p.m.	**5** * Christmas Market, 10:00 a.m.—6:00 p.m. *Altar Boy Mtg, 10 a.m.
6 *Sunday School *GOYA Caroling, 5 pm	**7** * Archangels Academy * Plutarchos Academy, 4:30 pm * Bible Study, 5 p.m.	**8** * Archangels Academy	**9** * Archangels Academy * Iconography, 5:30 pm	**10** * Archangels Academy *Food Distribution—1:00 pm	**11** * Archangels Academy * Plutarchos Academy, 4:30 pm ***ST. SPYRIDON FEASTDAY VESPERS , 7:00 p.m.***	**12** ***ST. SPYRIDON FEASTDAY*** 
13 *Sunday School	**14** * Archangels Academy * Plutarchos Academy, 4:30 pm * Bible Study, 5 p.m. * JOY Basketball, 6:40 pm	**15** * Archangels Academy	**16** * Archangels Academy * Cherubs, 10:30 am * Iconography, 5:30 pm	**17** * Archangels Academy * Food distribution—1:00 pm	**18** * Archangels Academy * Plutarchos Academy, 4:30 pm * Plutarchos Parent—teacher conferences, 5:00 p.m. * Family Night, 5:00 pm * Floga, 6:30 pm * Adult Greek School 6:45 p.m.	**19** * Christmas Pageant Practice—10:30 am
20 *Christmas Pageant *GOYA Christmas Party, 5 pm	**21** * Archangels Academy * Plutarchos Academy, 4:30 pm * JOY Basketball, 6:40 pm	**22** * Archangels Academy Christmas Program	**23** * Christmas Food Pantry Distribution, 7:30 a.m. — 1:30 p.m.	**24** Church office will be closed	**25** ***Christmas Day*** ***Church office will be*** 	**26**
27 * Family worship No Sunday School *Altar Boy & Handmaidens Social Event, 12 pm *Philoptochos Christmas Party, 12:30 p.m.	**28** * JOY Basketball, 6:40 pm	**29**	**30**	**31**		

Schedule of Divine Services

Sunday, November 1st	SS Cosmas & Damianos, Philoptochos Sunday, Orthros, Divine Liturgy & Artoclasia, 8:00 a.m.
Tuesday, November 3rd	Christianiki Filoxenia at Assumption Church in Homer Glen, Paraklesis, 10:30 a.m.
Saturday, November 7th	Great Vespers at St. Haralambos Church, 7:00 p.m.
Sunday, November 8th	Synaxis of the Archangels, Orthros, Divine Liturgy & Artoclasia, 8:00 a.m. Vespers at St. Nektarios Church, Palatine, IL, 7:00 p.m.
Monday, November 9th	St. Nektarios, Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 8:00 a.m.
Thursday, November 12th	Vespers at St. John Chrysostom Monastery, Kenosha, WI, 6:00 p.m.
Friday, November 13th	Orthros & Divine Liturgy at St. John Chrysostom Monastery, Kenosha, WI (Bus departs at 6:30 a.m.)
Saturday, November 14th	St. Philip the Apostle, 1st Hour & Divine Liturgy, 8:00 a.m.
Sunday, November 15th	Beginning of Christmas Lent, Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 8:00 a.m.
Monday, November 16th	Evangelist Matthew, Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 8:00 a.m.
Tuesday, November 17th	1st Hour & Divine Liturgy, 8:00 a.m.
Wednesday, November 18th	1st Hour & Divine Liturgy, 8:00 a.m.
Thursday, November 19th	1st Hour & Divine Liturgy, 8:00 a.m.
Friday, November 20th	1st Hour & Divine Liturgy, 8:00 a.m.
Saturday, November 21st	Entrance of the Theotokos, Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 8:00 a.m.
Sunday, November 22nd	Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 8:00 a.m.
Monday, November 23rd	1st Hour & Divine Liturgy, 8:00 a.m.
Tuesday, November 24th	1st Hour & Divine Liturgy, 8:00 a.m. * Great Vespers at Assumption Greek Orthodox Church, Chicago, IL 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, November 25th	St. Katherine, Orthros & Divine Liturgy at Ss. Constantine & Helen Church, 8:30 a.m.

Thursday, November 26th—Saturday, November 28th - No Divine Liturgy

Sunday, November 29th	Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 8:00 a.m. * Great Vespers at St. Andrew Greek Orthodox Church, Chicago, IL, 7:00 p.m.
Monday, November 30th	St. Andrew the First Called Apostle, Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 8:00 a.m.
Tuesday, December 1st	1st Hour & Divine Liturgy with Agiasmos, 7:45 a.m.
Wednesday, December 2nd	St. Porphyrios, 1st Hour & Divine Liturgy, 8:00 a.m..
Thursday, December 3rd	1st Hour & Divine Liturgy, 8:00 a.m.
Friday, December 4th	St. Barbara & St. John of Damascus, 1st Hour & Divine Liturgy, 8:00 a.m. * Holy Unction, 4:30 p.m.
Saturday, December 5th	1st Hour & Divine Liturgy, 8:00 a.m.
	Great Vespers at St. Nicholas, Oak Lawn, IL, 7:00 p.m.
Sunday, December 6th	St. Nicholas of Myra, Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 8:00 a.m.
Monday, December 7th	St. Ambrosios of Milan, Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 8:00 a.m.
	* Paraklesis to St. Spyridon, 6:30 p.m.

Schedule of Divine Services

Tuesday, December 8th	1st Hour & Divine Liturgy, 8:00 a.m.
Wednesday, December 9th	1st Hour & Divine Liturgy, 8:00 a.m.
Thursday, December 10th	1st Hour & Divine Liturgy, 8:00 a.m.
Friday, December 11th	1st Hour & Divine Liturgy, 8:00 a.m.
	Feast Day of Saint Spyridon, Great Vespers, 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, December 12th	**St. Spyridon the Wonderworker, Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 8:00 a.m.**
Sunday, December 13th	Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 8:00 a.m.
Monday, December 14th	1st Hour & Divine Liturgy, 8:00 a.m.
Tuesday, December 15th	St. Eleftherios, Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 8:00 a.m.
Wednesday, December 16th	1st Hour & Divine Liturgy, 8:00 a.m. * Great Vespers, 6:30 p.m.
Thursday, December 17th	St. Dionysios of Zakynthos, Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 8:00 a.m.
Friday, December 18th	1st Hour & Divine Liturgy, 8:00 a.m.
Saturday, December 19th	1st Hour & Divine Liturgy, 8:00 a.m.* Great Vespers, 4:00 p.m.
Sunday, December 20th	Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 8:00 a.m
Monday, December 21st	1st Hour & Divine Liturgy, 8:00 a.m.
Tuesday, December 22nd	1st Hour & Divine Liturgy, 8:00 a.m.
Wednesday, December 23rd	1st Hour & Divine Liturgy, 8:00 a.m.
Thursday, December 24th	Royal Hours & Vesperal Liturgy, 7:00 a.m.
Friday, December 25th	**Nativity of our Lord, Orthros & Divine Liturgy of St. Basil, 8:00 a.m.**
Sunday, December 27th	St. Stephen, Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 8:00 a.m.
Friday, January 1st	**St. Basil, Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 8:00 a.m.**

Πρόγραμμα Ιερών Ακολουθιών

Κυριακή 1 Νοεμβρίου	Αγ. Κοσμά & Δαμιανού, Όρθρος, Θ Λειτουργία & Αρτοκλασία, 8:00 π.μ.
Τρίτη 3 Νοεμβρίου	Παράκληση στον I.N. Κοιμήσεως της Θεοτόκου στο Homer Glen, IL, 10:30 π.μ. * Χριστιανική Φιλοξενία
Σάββατο 7 Νοεμβρίου	Μ. Εσπερινός στον Ι. Ν. Αγίου Χαραλάμπους, 7:00 μ.μ
Κυριακή 8 Νοεμβρίου	Σύναξις Αρχαγγέλων, Όρθρος, Θ Λειτουργία & Αρτοκλασία, 8:00 π.μ. Μέγας Εσπερινός στον I.N. Αγ. Νεκταρίου, 7:00 μ.μ.
Δευτέρα 9 Νοεμβρίου	Αγ. Νεκταρίου, Όρθρος και Θεία Λειτουργία, 8:00 π.μ.
Πέμπτη 12 Νοεμβρίου	Εσπερινός στο Μοναστήρι του Αγ. Ιωάννη του Χρυσόστομου, Kenosha, WI, 6:00 μ.μ.
Παρασκευή 13 Νοεμβρίου	Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία στο Μοναστήρι του Αγ. Ιωάννη του Χρυσόστομου, Kenosha, WI , (Το λεωφορείο αναχωρεί στις 6:30 π.μ.)
Σάββατο 14 Νοεμβρίου	Αγ. Φιλίππου, 1η Ώρα και Θεία Λειτουργία, 8:00 π.μ.
Κυριακή 15 Νοεμβρίου	**Αρχίζει το Σαρανταλείτουργο και η Νηστεία των Χριστουγέννων** Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία—8:00 π.μ.
Δευτέρα 16 Νοεμβρίου	Αποστόλου Ματθαίου, Όρθρος και Θεία Λειτουργία, 8:00 π.μ.
Τρίτη 17 Νοεμβρίου	1η Ώρα & Θεία Λειτουργία, 8:00 π.μ.
Τετάρτη 18 Νοεμβρίου	1η Ώρα & Θεία Λειτουργία, 8:00 π.μ.
Πέμπτη 19 Νοεμβρίου	1η Ώρα & Θεία Λειτουργία, 8:00 π.μ.

Πρόγραμμα Ιερών Ακολουθιών

Παρασκευή 20 Νοεμβρίου	1η Ώρα & Θεία Λειτουργία, 8:00 π.μ.
Σάββατο 21 Νοεμβρίου	Εισόδια της Θεοτόκου, Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία, 8:00 π.μ.
Κυριακή 22 Νοεμβρίου	Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία, 8:00 π.μ.
Δευτέρα 23 Νοεμβρίου	1η Ώρα & Θεία Λειτουργία, 8:00 π.μ.
Τρίτη 24 Νοεμβρίου	1η Ώρα & Θεία Λειτουργία, 8:00 π.μ.
	Μέγας Εσπερινός στον Ι. Ν. Κοιμήσεως της Θεοτόκου, Σικάγο, 7:00 μ.μ.
Τετάρτη 25 Νοεμβρίου	Αγίας Αικατερίνης, Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία, 8:30 π.μ. στον Ι.Ν Αγ. Κωνσταντίνου και Ελένης
Πέμπτη 26 Νοεμβρίου—Σάββατο 28 Νοεμβρίου Δεν θα τελεσθεί Λειτουργία	
Κυριακή 29 Νοεμβρίου	Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία, 8:00 π.μ.
	Μέγας Εσπερινός στον Ι.Ν. του Αγ. Ανδρέα στο Σικάγο, 7:00 μ.μ.
Δευτέρα 30 Νοεμβρίου	Αγίου Ανδρέα του Πρωτοκλήτου, Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία, 8:00 π.μ.
Τρίτη 1 Δεκεμβρίου	1η Ώρα και Θεία Λειτουργία, Αγιασμός, 7:45 π.μ.
Τετάρτη 2 Δεκεμβρίου	Αγ. Πορφυρίου, 1η Ώρα & Θεία Λειτουργία, 8:00 π.μ.
Πέμπτη 3 Δεκεμβρίου	1η Ώρα και Θεία Λειτουργία, 8:00 π.μ.
Παρασκευή 4 Δεκεμβρίου	Αγίας Βαρβάρας & Αγίου Ιωάννου Δαμασκηνού, 1η Ώρα & Θεία Λειτουργία, 8:00 π.μ. * Ευχέλαιον, 4:30 μ.μ.
Σάββατο 5 Δεκεμβρίου	1η Ώρα και Θεία Λειτουργία, 8:00 π.μ.
	Μέγας Εσπερινός στον Ι. Ν. Αγ. Νικολάου, 7:00 μ.μ.
Κυριακή 6 Δεκεμβρίου	Αγ. Νικολάου Μύρων, Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία, 8:00 π.μ.
Δευτέρα 7 Δεκεμβρίου	Αγίου Αμβροσίου, Όρθρος και Θεία Λειτουργία, 8:00 π.μ.
	Παράκλησις του Αγ. Σπυρίδωνος, 6:30 μ.μ.
Τρίτη 8 Δεκεμβρίου	1η Ώρα & Θεία Λειτουργία, 8:00 π.μ.
Τετάρτη 9 Δεκεμβρίου	1η Ώρα & Θεία Λειτουργία, 8:00 π.μ.
Πέμπτη 10 Δεκεμβρίου	1η Ώρα & Θεία Λειτουργία, 8:00 π.μ.
Παρασκευή 11 Δεκεμβρίου	1η Ώρα & Θεία Λειτουργία, 8:00 π.μ.
	Μέγας Εσπερινός Αγίου Σπυρίδωνος, 7:00 μ.μ.
Σάββατο 12 Δεκεμβρίου	**Αγίου Σπυρίδωνος, Όρθρος και Θεία Λειτουργία, 8:00 π.μ.**
Κυρικαή 13 Δεκεμβρίου	Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία, 8:00 π.μ.
Δευτέρα 14 Δεκεμβρίου	1η Ώρα & Θεία Λειτουργία, 8:00 π.μ.
Τρίτη 15 Δεκεμβρίου	Αγ. Ελευθερίου, Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία, 8:00 π.μ.
Τετάρτη 16 Δεκεμβρίου	1η Ώρα & Θεία Λειτουργία, 8:00 π.μ. * Μέγας Εσπερινός, 6:30 μ.μ.
Πέμπτη 17 Δεκεμβρίου	Αγίου Διονυσίου Ζακύνθου, Όρθρος και Θεία Λειτουργία, 8:00 π.μ.
Παρασκευή 18 Δεκεμβρίου	1η Ώρα & Θεία Λειτουργία, 8:00 π.μ.
Σάββατο 19 Δεκεμβρίου	1η Ώρα & Θεία Λειτουργία, 8:00 π.μ. * Μέγας Εσπερινός, 4:00 μ.μ.
Κυριακή 20 Δεκεμβρίου	Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία, 8:00 π.μ.
Δευτέρα 21 Δεκεμβρίου	1η Ώρα & Θεία Λειτουργία, 8:00 π.μ.
Τρίτη 22 Δεκεμβρίου	1η Ώρα & Θεία Λειτουργία, 8:00 π.μ.
Τετάρτη 23 Δεκεμβρίου	1η Ώρα & Θεία Λειτουργία, 8:00 π.μ.
Πέμπτη 24 Δεκεμβρίου	Ακολουθία τῶν Μεγάλων Ὡρῶν Θεία Λειτουργία, 7:00 π.μ.
Παρασκευή 25 Δεκεμβρίου	**ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥΓΕΝΝΑ, Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία του Αγίου Βασιλείου, 8:00 π.μ.**
Κυριακή 27 Δεκεμβρίου	Αγ. Στεφάνου, Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία, 8:00 π.μ.
Παρασκευή 1 Ιανουαρίου	**Μ. Βασιλείου, Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία, 8:00 π.μ.**

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 $35 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 Friday, December 11th, at 7:00 p.m. and Saturday, December 12th, at 8:00 a.m. We will be practicing for the feast day services on Saturday, December 5th 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 Social Event.

Prison Ministry Update

On Saturday, October 17th, members of St. Spyridon visited Indiana State Prison, continuing our parish's mission to share Christ's love and compassion with those who are often forgotten.

During the visit, Fr. George celebrated the Divine Liturgy with Orthodox Christian inmates, offering them the blessing of receiving Holy Communion. He also shared a sermon on the life of Saint Luke. Our ministry team spent meaningful time in fellowship with inmates, catechumens, and those exploring the Orthodox faith.

We are also pleased to welcome Pete Kavvadas as the newest member of our prison ministry team!

Our next prison visit is scheduled for Saturday, November 7th. Additionally, we look forward to welcoming a representative from the Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry (OCPM) on Sunday, January 24th, to share insights about the organization's mission and the impact of its work.

As Christ reminds us, "I was in prison and you visited Me" (Matthew 25:36). Through this ministry, we are reminded that God's love and mercy reach every soul, regardless of circumstance.

In Christ's love always, Dana



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12307 S. Ridgeland Avenue
Palos Heights, IL 60463

Rev. Fr. George Lamberis
PARISH PRIEST

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Kalli Theodoropoulos	Church Office
Litsa Tsarouhis	Church Office
Soteria Simantirakis	Custodian

Parish Council Officers

Bill Kilias	President
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Caryn Chibucos	Treasurer
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Gus Rougas	*Kentro*
James Korbakes	*Kentro*
Marianna Haniotakis	*Plutarchos*
Sofea Malamis	*Archangels*
Denise Skiadopoulos	*Cherubs*
Zoe Kopanis	*Sunday School*
Vicky Argyropoulos	*Sunday School*
Stacy Vallianatos	*Jr. G.O.Y.A.*
Stephane Collopy	*Jr. G.O.Y.A.*
Dana Coronado	*Sr. G.O.Y.A.*
Eraklis Labrakis	*YAL*
Pres. Diana Lamberis	*Family Night*
Ria Hronis	*Family Night*
Labros Malfas	*Altar Boys*
Zachary Chibucos	*Altar Boys*
Vicky Argyropoulos	*Handmaidens*
Demetrius Marines	*Athletics*
Nick Tsinoukas	*Athletics*
Stella Parhas	*Food Pantry*
Dana Coronado	*Prison Ministry*
Iconography	*Litsa Tsarouhis*
Sophia Christofer	*Floga Dance*
Anastasia Deligiannis	*Floga Dance*
Patty Pappas	*Floga Dance*
Olga Baroudos	*Floga Dance*
Tim Georgiopoulos	*Men's Ministry*
Bill Katsenis	*Men's Ministry*
Vaios Karagiannis	*Men's Ministry*

Philoptochos News

Philoptochos has been busy preparing for our upcoming 44th Annual Christmas Market for Saturday, December 5th. Please join us for this one-day only holiday event from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

New this year – pre-order frozen tiropites, spanakopites, pastichio and all your favorite pastries! We recommend you pre-order so you are guaranteed to have your favorites for the holidays and for gift-giving.

As always, our dedicated crafters plus many new ones, will feature their handmade crafts and gifts. Come support them and shop for Christmas gifts, for home and for yourself. We will have a variety of crafters and something for everyone.

Philoptochos members Panagiota Pappas and Stella Parhas assembled 30 box lunches for the Almost Home organization in Oak Lawn. These meals were then distributed to the needy in the area by the Almost Home staff.
Our Philoptochos has a long standing history of providing meals for Almost Home. We will continue again in January with a served meal for those in need.





Our Philoptochos will once again host our St. Spyridon Vespers on Friday, December 11th and Feast Day Luncheon on Saturday, December 12th. We will be proud to host our many guests and show them our philoxenia!

Save the date! Our Christmas Party will be Sunday, December 27th at Kefi Restaurant – 12:30 p.m. Please bring a new toy to be donated to The Toy Box of Orland Park for needy children. We also take a group Philoptochos picture – more details to come.

Other News . . .

- Feed the Hungry – our members will prepare and serve 150 meals to the homeless at Annunciation Cathedral on Tuesday, November 10th.
- Donations were made for Aid To Greece & Cyprus Fund; to our Food Pantry for Thanksgiving; to our Metropolis of Chicago Seminarians at Hellenic College/Holy Cross Seminary: to parishioners in need at Christmastime.
- Our national commitments: Donations to Retired Clergy/Widowed Presbyteres; National Philoptochos Emergency Fund; Ecumenical Patriarchate; General Medical Fund; United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
- 2027 Membership Drive begins in January! Each month, our St. Spyridon Philoptochos chapter donates toward our national obligations.

With Sisterly Agape,
Kathy Korbakes, President

Our next Philoptochos Meetings

General Meeting
- Open to all members –
Monday, November 2nd at 6:30 p.m.

Board Meeting—
Monday, November 16th at 6:30 p.m.

COLLEGE OUTREACH

Philoptochos hands were busy preparing our College Outreach packages for our students. A little Greek- homemade koulouria; a little bit of personal needs - snacks, skincare; a little Orthodox spirituality - prayer book and a special letter of encouragement from Fr. George! It's our way to keep our students close to our church and faith





LOUKOUMADES SALE

On September 13th we had a successful Loukoumades Sale. Many thanks to our parishioners for once again supporting our Philoptochos so we may continue our philanthropic missions.




Philoxenia Charities Donation

With the success of our recent tiropita and spanakopita sale, our St. Spyridon Philoptochos designated a portion of our proceeds to be given to Philoxenia Charities- Philoxenia House.

Located adjacent to Mayo Clinic, the three Philoxenia Houses provide free housing and comfort for patients and their families while attending to their medical needs. The neighboring Holy Anargyroi, SS. Kosmas & Damianos Church and parishioners also provide much needed support to Philoxenia Houses.

A $2,000 donation was presented for Philoxenia Charities to board members Dr. Janelle Mallios and Jim Mallios. The brother and sister joined the board after experiencing first hand Philoxenia House while their mother was a patient at Mayo. They shared their heartfelt story and appreciation for the donation which will go towards replacing appliances in the homes.




Philoptochos News

Our St. Spyridon Philoptochos was well represented at the Metropolis September luncheon! Our Philoptochos was also honored as one of the nine Chicago Metropolis chapters that applied for the Agape Chapter Award.

Annual Metropolis Luncheon

Our St. Spyridon Philoptochos members were proud to represent our chapter at the Annual Metropolis September Luncheon on Saturday, September 20th.













Welcoming Pan Arcadian Federation & Consul General Michael Stamatis







CHRISTIANIKI PHILOXENIA

Many of our senior members and parishioners gathered for Liturgy, Lunch and Fellowship in September at Sts. Constantine & Helen and then again in October at Holy Cross.

A Feel-Good Story from Our Food Pantry

Every Thursday from 1:00–2:00 p.m., the St. Spyridon Food Pantry distributes food to those in our community who are in need. Through this ministry, we are reminded that sometimes God gives us an opportunity to help someone in a way we never expected.

This past Thursday, one of our regular recipients arrived at the pantry on foot. We were accustomed to seeing him come on his e-bike, so we immediately noticed the change. He took only a small amount of food and explained that he couldn't carry very much because his e-bike had been stolen.

This was more than the loss of a bicycle. His e-bike was also his transportation to and from work. As he spoke with us, he shared some of the difficulties he has been facing in his life.

Later that evening, one of our Food Pantry volunteers began looking for a way to help him. Although she was unable to find an e-bike, her efforts led to a generous person who offered to donate a regular bicycle. Then another donor stepped forward and donated a lock for the bicycle.

When our recipient learned what had been done for him, he was incredibly excited and grateful. He once again had transportation to get to work.

It is moments like these that remind us what Christian love and service are all about. We may not always be able to solve every problem someone is facing, but we can offer a helping hand, show compassion, and let someone know that they are not alone.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this possible and to all who continue to support the St. Spyridon Food Pantry. Whether you donate food, give your time, or simply respond when someone is in need, every act of kindness matters.

Sometimes God's blessings come in unexpected ways—even in the form of a bicycle and a helping hand.





Food Pantry Donations for Thanksgiving

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

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

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

Donation deadline is Friday, November 21st.

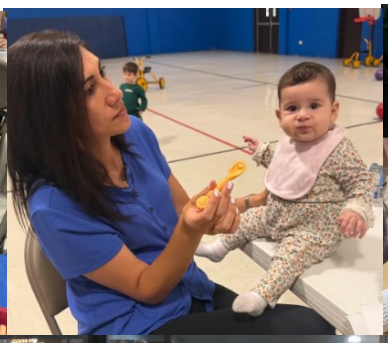
Thank You!

Cherubs

Our Cherubs ministry has had a beautiful start to the year. Father George takes us into church, sings us songs, and teaches us about venerating icons, doing our cross, and lighting candles. Our little ones have loved practicing their fine and gross motor skills together, and working on crafts! We're so grateful to our Cherubs families for contributing so many items and making 2 beautiful raffle baskets for the church Dinner Dance. We will be hosting Coffee Social on Sunday 11/29/26, so please plan to bring a food item and/or help with set-up/serving if you are able! Remaining 2026 dates for Cherubs are: 10/21, 11/4, 11/18, 12/2, 12/16 (10:30am-12pm).



















Sunday School

What a great full month of Sunday school we have had. The students have been learning about their faith through historical events, Old Testament stories, Liturgical practices and the life of the saints. If you haven't had a chance to register please do so. We will be sending home registration forms for those who haven't had a chance to register yet. We are looking forward to the holiday months full of learning that await us!

The PTA is hosting our Annual Godparent Sunday breakfast on November 8th. Our students will not have class as an opportunity to be in church with their Godparents and families. For the month of November, we will have class on the 1st, 15th & 22nd Classes in December will be on the 7th and 14th. The Christmas Pageant will be on the 20th, with a practice on Saturday the 19th.

All the best,

Vicky Argyropoulos and Zoe Kopanis





Floga Dance Troupe

Year Five begins

Year Five is officially underway, and both of our St. Spyridon dance troupes are off to an exciting start! Our dancers are learning new dances, revisiting favorites, building their skills, and getting ready for another wonderful year of performances, friendship, and Greek dancing.

Wonderworkers — Grades 1–5

Our Wonderworkers are jumping into Year Five with a whole new suite of dances! They are especially excited to learn new moves featuring kicks, turns, and plenty of energy.

The Wonderworkers meet every Friday from 6:30–7:15 p.m., where they are learning, practicing, and having fun together. We can't wait to see this enthusiastic group bring their new dances to the stage!

Floga — Grades 6–College

Floga started the year with the excitement of welcoming both returning and new dancers to the troupe. They meet every Friday from 7:30-8:30 p.m. One of the highlights of the beginning of the season was performing at the St. Spyridon Dinner Dance, where our dancers had the chance to share their love of Greek dance with our church community.

For many of our newest dancers, it was their first time performing with Floga—and their first time putting on their Floga costumes! The excitement was contagious as they got dressed, got ready, and prepared to take the dance floor. Once the music started, they were ready to go—and danced the night away! It was a wonderful first experience and a memory they will carry with them throughout their time in Floga.

This year, Floga is learning a combination of new dances, returning favorites, and competition dances. Our next focus is preparing for competition in Orlando over MLK weekend, while continuing to build our repertoire and strengthen the troupe.

After competition, we'll continue working on both new and familiar dances as we prepare for our Mid-year Performance, tentatively planned for the end of January 2027.

We are so excited to see what this year brings and to watch our dancers grow—not only as dancers, but as a team and a Floga family. Our teachers for both groups are Sophia Christofer, Olga Baroudos, and Anastasia Deligiannis.

Stay Connected!

Want to follow along with everything happening in Floga and the Wonderworkers? Follow us on Instagram and Facebook for photos, performances, announcements, and updates!

Interested in joining us? Registration information and GroupMe details are available on the St. Spyridon Church Ministry website. https://saintspyridon.net/floga-greek-dance-troup

Here's to another year of Greek tradition, friendship, music, and dancing!

Sophia Christofer



Plutarchos Academy

Our school year began on Friday, September 11th, with Agiasmos Service and a meet & greet event. Adult Greek School classes started on Friday, September 18th.

On Thursday, October 22nd, we held our annual Bears Game Fundraiser. A warm thank-you to all the families who supported this event and to X's & O's for hosting the event. It was a joyful day of fellowship—made even more enjoyable by the Bears' victory!

On Saturday, November 7th our teachers will attend a Metropolis of Chicago specialized Professional Development Seminar at St. George Church in Chicago. This seminar aims to provide our teachers with innovative strategies, tools and insights into modern educational methodologies tailored to the unique needs of our Greek classrooms.

As we approach the Thanksgiving Holiday, we want to express our gratitude for your continued support and involvement in our school community. November is at time of reflection and giving thanks, and we have much to be thankful for the at Plutarchos Academy.

































Plutarchos Students Make Us Proud!









At Plutarchos Academy of Hellenic Language and Heritage, our pride extends far beyond the classroom. We are incredibly proud of both our current students and alumni who continue to make a positive impact in our community while representing our school, Saint Spyridon Church, and our Hellenic heritage with distinction.

Whether through academic competitions, community service, leadership, or personal achievements, our students demonstrate the values we strive to instill in them: faith, respect, kindness, dedication, and a strong sense of community.

Recently, we celebrated our students' achievements at two separate events:

* Andonis Haniotakis, Nikos Korolis and Vasilios Vythoulkas competed at the Hellenic History Tournament sponsored by AHEPA Chicago Lakeshore Chapter 205, under the name " Saint Spyridon Fire", and earned fifth place.
* Ioanna Marouda and Stephanos Maroudas were recognized for their outstanding work in the Palos Heights Fire Protection District's Fire Prevention Essay and Art Competition.

These accomplishments remind us that Plutarchos Academy is more than a place to learn the Greek language. It is a community where young people develop friendships, build character, embrace their heritage, and learn the importance of giving back.

We are equally proud of our former students who continue to carry these values with them as they grow, pursue new opportunities, and remain involved in our church and the broader community.

To all our current students and alumni: You are wonderful ambassadors of Plutarchos Academy and Saint Spyridon Church. Your achievements, character, and commitment to our community make us proud! May you continue to grow, inspire others, and carry our faith, language, and traditions into the future. Congratulations!

Iconography Ministry

On Wednesday, October 28th, we had our first Iconography class at St. Spyridon.

It was a wonderful turnout, and there are many new students who are interested in learning the art and prayer of iconography!

We thank the Hellenic Foundation for supporting this ministry! We also thank our instructor, Litsa Tsarouhis, for offering her time and talent for this unique ministry!



Archangels Academy

What an amazing start to our school year at Archangels Academy Preschool! We were so excited to welcome both new and returning students and their families. With 25 little learners filling our classroom, the school year is already off to a wonderful start! Our classroom has been buzzing with excitement as the children settle into their daily routines, make new friendships, and discover all the wonderful things that learning has to offer!

October was especially exciting as we explored our **Farm Animals and Life on the Farm** theme! Our little ones discovered so many interesting things about farm animals, what they provide for us, and the many foods and products that come from a farm. We even rolled up our sleeves and became little farmers and bakers ourselves!

The children learned all about wheat, how it grows on a farm, and how wheat grains are ground into flour. We then used flour to make our very own homemade bread! We also learned about cows and how their milk can be used to make delicious dairy products, including butter. The children discovered that long ago, before electricity and modern appliances, people had to churn their butter by hand. Of course, we had to give it a try! Our little ones churned their very own butter and then watched how quickly we could make it today using an electric mixer. What a fun and delicious learning experience!

One of the most exciting additions to our classroom this year was our very own **egg incubator!** We began with 12 eggs, and each day the children eagerly counted down the days until hatching time. During the last week of October, we were blessed to welcome three adorable baby chicks! Some of our little ones even had the incredible opportunity to watch the chicks hatch right before their eyes. The excitement, amazement, and pure joy on their little faces were absolutely priceless! It was truly a special experience.



Our first field trip of the year took us to the **Children's Farm in Palos Park**, which tied in perfectly with everything we had been learning in the classroom. The children had a wonderful time seeing, touching, and even holding some of the farm animals. What better way to bring our classroom lessons to life than experiencing them firsthand!

We also had a very special visit from the **Palos Heights Fire Department!** Our little ones had the opportunity to meet some of our local firefighters and learn all about fire safety. The children practiced a fire drill and did an amazing job following directions and safely exiting our school! Our firefighter friends taught us the importance of calling **911** in an emergency and what to do if our clothes ever catch fire: **Stop, Drop, and Roll!** Of course, the highlight of the visit was getting to climb inside a real fire truck! The excitement on their little faces said it all!



Archangels Academy

We also took time to celebrate **OXI Day**, a very special day in Greek history! Our little ones discovered the meaning behind the word "OXI" (NO!) and learned how the brave people of Greece stood strong and said "NO" to those who wanted to take away their freedom. We talked about courage, bravery, and the importance of standing up for what is right. The children also learned a special OXI Day song, which they proudly sang as we celebrated our Greek heritage together.

This year, our classroom theme is centered around one very special word: **FAMILY!** At Archangels Academy Preschool, we want every child to feel that our classroom is more than just a place to learn. It is a place where we belong, care for one another, grow together, and become one big school family.

We wanted our parents to experience that same sense of belonging, which inspired us to host our very first **Parent Meet & Mingle Night Out!** What an amazing evening it was! Our parents had the opportunity to relax, get to know one another and begin building friendships outside of our everyday school activities. It was truly a beautiful evening.

A heartfelt thank you to **Jimmy and Vicki Kollintzas** for so generously hosting us at North & Maple Kitchen + Bar. Your kindness and love for our school family are deeply appreciated!

As we look ahead to November and December, we are excited to continue celebrating the importance of family, friendship, gratitude, and the many blessings God has given us. Through our Thanksgiving and Christmas activities, we will focus on kindness, giving thanks, and, most importantly, the love of Jesus Christ and the true meaning of Christmas.

We are so grateful for our wonderful students, supportive families, and the many blessings that make our school such a special place. We look forward to all the beautiful memories still to come!

Important Dates to Remember

- **Friday, November 20:** Thanksgiving Program & Reception
- **November 23–27:** Thanksgiving/Fall Break – No School
- **Tuesday, December 22:** Christmas Program & Reception
- **December 23–January 5:** Christmas/Winter Break – No School

Wednesday, January 6: Classes Resume

With love and blessings,
Sofea Malamis
Director, Archangels Academy Preschool







Parish Registry

Baptisms

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Koutsis was baptized on September 5th and was given the name Sofia by her godfather Peter Kosta Ayaleanos.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. Steven Balderas was baptized on September 13th and was given the name Josheph by his godfather John Kalogris.

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Angel Chavez was baptized on October 11th and was given the name Haralambia by her godfather Demetrius Christou.

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alec Skiadopoulos was baptized on October 25th and was given the name Penelope Joanna by her godparents Charles and Ioanna Perdikaris.

Weddings

Martin Sargoon Yousif and Eleena John Jouras were joined in Holy Matrimony on Saturday, October 10th. Their sponsors were Peter & Caylin Doukas.

Kenneth John Schultz and Marylou Morin were joined in Holy Matrimony on Saturday, October 24th Their sponsor was Zoe Schultz.

Memorials

Sunday, September 6th: †3 yr Theophano (Fay) Pavlopoulos & †3 yr Anagyros Karounos

Sunday, September 13th: †6 mo Augustina Xydakis

Sunday, September 20th: †40 days Nicholas Carabetsos

Sunday, September 27th: for the repose of the souls of those who fell during the Fall of Tripolitsa (Sept 23, 1821)

Sunday, October 18th: †3 yr Stavroula Theohari, †2 yr Georgia Kariofilas, †11 yr Demetrios Manikas, †15 yrs Maria Lalios & †44 yr Eleni Xasapis

Sunday, October 25th: †1 yr Margarita Kremmydas & †27 yr Dimitrios Kremmidas

May their memory be eternal!

MEN'S MINISTRY

We are excited to kick off another year of our **St. Spyridon Men's Ministry** with our first gathering on Tuesday, November 10 at **North & Maple in Tinley Park at 7:00 p.m.**

Our Men's Ministry offers an opportunity for the men of our parish to come together in fellowship, strengthen their faith, and build meaningful relationships. Throughout the year, we will offer spiritual discussions, community outreach, service opportunities, and social gatherings.

Our goal is to **cultivate a brotherhood rooted in Christ**, where men can encourage one another, grow spiritually, and support each other through life's joys and challenges. All men of our parish are welcome to join us!.



GOYA

What a wonderful start to the new year for our Junior (grades 6–8) and Senior (grades 9–12) GOYA groups! It has been a true blessing watching our youth reconnect and grow closer to one another and to their Orthodox faith.

Our Goyans started the year with a night of pool noodle hockey and soccer. Father George led a thoughtful discussion on what it means to carry our cross in daily life, and encouraged our youth to lean on their faith during tough times. Recently, Goyans also gathered for a bonfire and s'mores night. Father George led an insightful session in the church titled *"Being on Fire for Christ."* During the session, Goyans reflected on the story of the Three Holy Youths in the Book of Daniel. Father provided insights on how God is always with us and that we keep our spiritual fire burning through prayer, Scripture, the Sacraments, and, of course, fellowship.

Our Goyans have always been eager to serve. They recently hosted the parish coffee social after service. It's inspiring to see them take an active, hands-on role in our church family!

November Gatherings

- **Wednesday, Nov 4:** Outing at Shady Oaks
- **Wednesday, Nov 18:** Regular GOYA Gathering + Senior GOYA outing to Xando Cafe

Nov 22 & 23: Thanksgiving Food Drive (serving local families in need)

December Gatherings

- **Wednesday, Dec 2:** GOYA Gathering
- **Sunday, Dec 6:** Christmas Caroling
- **Sunday, Dec 20:** GOYA Christmas Party
- **Dec 20 & 21: Christmas Food Drive**

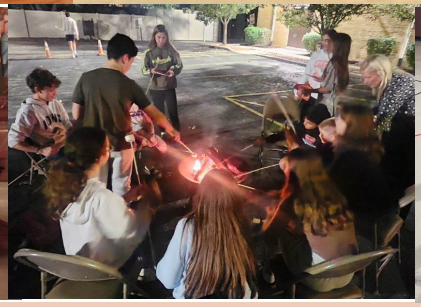
Regular Meeting Times at Saint Spyridon:

- Junior GOYA (Grades 6–8): 6:30 – 8:00 pm
- Senior GOYA (Grades 9–12): 7:30 – 9:00 pm










Family Night Ministry & PTA

The Family Night Ministry together with the PTA were delighted to host two wonderful events this fall! At our Backpack Blessing, Father George offered a special blessing to all the children for a happy and successful school year, followed by dinner and a fun basil-planting activity for the children to take home.

Our Fall Fest brought families together for an evening of games, pumpkin decorating, a delicious dinner, and special treats from the donut truck!

Both events were filled with fun, fellowship, and wonderful memories for our church community. If you would like to join us or volunteer at future events, please reach out to Presvytera Diana!











OCTOBER STEWARD OF THE MONTH: VICKY ARGYROPOULOS

1. How long have you been a steward of St. Spyridon?

We, as a family, have been stewards of Saint Spyridon since 2011. It's hard to believe that 15 years have passed. I was a parishioner of the church before getting married. I attended a few years of Sunday school at St. Spyridon, so in total I have been at our incredible parish for at least 35 years.

2. What brings you to St. Spyridon, and what ministries or activities are you involved in?

What draws me to Saint Spyridon is our Saint, the mystical & sacramental services, the beautiful iconography and of course the people. I love seeing the generational gaps and the love shown from the wise older parishioners to the young ones. Whether it be the offering of a cookie or advice. I think this is a parish where you will always find someone who cares.

I think this is why I love being a part of Handmaidens and Sunday School. These ministries allow for us teach the younger generations about our ancient faith and the importance of charity and spreading love to those less fortunate.

3. Tell us a little about yourself and what you do outside of church.

I am a 4th grade teacher at Saint John Fisher School in Beverly. I feel so lucky to be in a place where I get to see students grow each day and also be in the school that my own children attend. When we aren't at school, we are running to activities like soccer, flag football, basketball, theater and volleyball. My all-time favorite thing to do is being with my family, hanging out on the couch, eating snacks, and watching good movies.



NOVEMBER STEWARD OF THE MONTH: PAMELA LABRAKIS



1. How long have you been a steward of St. Spyridon?

I have been a faithful steward and active member of the Saint Spyridon parish community since 2003.

2. What brings you to St. Spyridon, and what ministries or activities are you involved in?

It all started 23 years ago when I was looking for a Saturday activity for my four-year-old daughter, Politimi. Someone mentioned that Presbytera Christina taught Greek dance on Saturdays and would be happy to have her. I decided to bring Politimi, and she instantly fell in love with both the dancing and Presbytera.

As she grew, it came time to figure out Greek school. I carefully reviewed the schedules of nearby parishes, but as a full-time working parent, the Monday and Friday night schedule at Saint Spyridon was the perfect fit for my kids and me. Since Politimi was already thriving and making wonderful friends, I decided to sign her up for Sunday School.

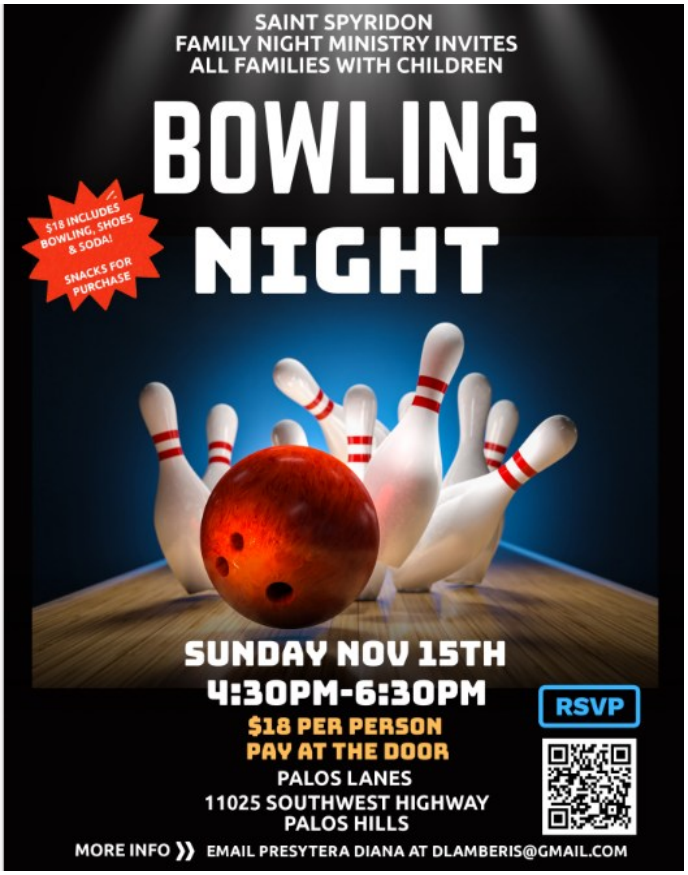
Fast forward 23 years, and our family is still so happy to call Saint Spyridon our spiritual home. Both of my children grew up fully immersed in the life of this parish—journeying through Greek School, Sunday School, serving in the altar, dancing, and participating in GOYA. Looking back, a simple Saturday dance class truly blossomed into a lifetime of faith, community, and beautiful memories.

I was PTA Treasurer while my kids were in Greek School. I am a Philoptochos member for 10+ years. I am a Greek Fest veteran of 20+ years working the festival and keeping the energy alive at Café OPA.

3.Tell us a little about yourself and what you do outside of church.

With over 30 years of dedicated experience in wealth management operations, I am proud to serve as a vital part of the team at FNBC Bank & Trust in La Grange, IL. Beyond my professional life, my most cherished and important roles are those of wife and mother. I am deeply passionate about giving back to my community through volunteering and lending a helping hand whenever possible. In my free time, you can find me working outdoors tending to my vegetable and flower gardens and enjoying great food and drinks with my family and friends.


SAINT SPYRIDON
JOY SPORTS
MONDAY NIGHT BASKETBALL
8-Week Program
LEARN • PLAY • BELONG
Build skills, friendships, and a future path to G.O.A.L. teams.
8 MONDAYS
2 Skills & Evaluation Nights
6 Game Nights
Celebrate after the final games!
3 DIVISIONS • ONE GYM
Pre K–1st Grade
2nd–4th Grade
5th–7th Grade
Starts Monday, November 16th
Smaller hoops • Two games at once • Equal playing time
PLEASE SIGN UP BY
NOVEMBER 9TH
Scan to Register!
$70 PER PLAYER
Includes a JOY Sports shirt and an end-of-season trophy!
COACHES:
GET HALF OFF
YOUR CHILD'S PROGRAM FEES!
For more information contact
Nick Tsinoukas
ntsinoukas@gmail.com
You can also contact
Bobby Markatos
robertmarkatos@aol.com


SAINT SPYRIDON
FAMILY NIGHT MINISTRY INVITES
ALL FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN
BOWLING NIGHT
$18 INCLUDES BOWLING, SHOES & SODA!
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4:30PM-6:30PM
$18 PER PERSON
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PALOS HILLS
RSVP
MORE INFO EMAIL PRESYTERA DIANA AT DLAMBERIS@GMAIL.COM


PILGRIMAGE
TO
SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM MONASTERY
PLEASANT PRAIRIE, WISCONSIN
IN CELEBRATION OF THE MONASTERY'S FEAST DAY
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13TH, 2026
DEPARTURE: 6:30 A.M.
FROM ST. SPYRIDON CHURCH
APPROXIMATE RETURN: 2:00 P.M.
RESERVATIONS REQUIRED BY WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11TH
PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE
(708) 385-2311
ΠΑΡΑΣΚΕΥΗ, 13 ΝΟΕΜΒΡΙΟΥ 2026
ΑΝΑΧΩΡΗΣΗ: 6:30 Π.Μ.
ΑΠΟ ΤΟΝ Ι. ΝΑΟ ΑΓΙΟΥ ΣΠΥΡΙΔΩΝΟΣ
ΠΕΡΙΠΟΥ ΕΠΙΣΤΡΟΦΗ: 2:00 Μ.Μ.
ΑΠΑΙΤΕΙΤΑΙ ΚΡΑΤΗΣΗ ΘΕΣΗΣ ΕΩΣ ΤΕΤΑΡΤΗ, 11 ΝΟΕΜΒΡΙΟΥ
ΠΑΡΑΚΑΛΩ ΚΑΛΕΣΤΕ ΤΟ ΓΡΑΦΕΙΟ ΤΗΣ ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑΣ
(708) 385-2311
FOR THE PARISHES OF
ST. SPYRIDON, PALOS HEIGHTS AND
SS. CONSTANTINE AND HELEN, PALOS HILLS
AND THE PARISHES OF THE SOUTH SIDE VICARIATE
TRANSPORTATION GENEROUSLY PROVIDED BY THE HELLENIC FOUNDATION'S GOLDEN CIRCLE INITIATIVE


SAINT SPYRIDON
HELLENIC ORTHODOX CHURCH
MEN'S MINISTRY
Food, Drink, and Fellowship
Join us at
NORTH & MAPLE
KITCHEN + BAR
A SPIRITUAL DISCUSSION
WITH
FR. GEORGE LAMBERIS
DATE
Tuesday, November 10th
TIME
7:00 PM
LOCATION
NORTH & MAPLE
KITCHEN + BAR
18401 N Creek Dr,
Tinley Park, IL 60477
REGISTER HERE
The mission of Men's Ministry is to strengthen men in their relationship with Jesus Christ and His Church by cultivating a brotherhood rooted in faith, prayer, fellowship, and service.



Saint Spyridon 2026 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 online ($35)
or visit the link:

https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/1390651

You can also send a check payable to:
St. Spyridon Hellenic Orthodox Church
12307 S. Ridgeland Avenue
Palos Heights, IL 60463

Payment ($35) must be received by December 10.
You can also call the Church office at 708.385.2311
with your request to pay over the phone.





Dinner Dance

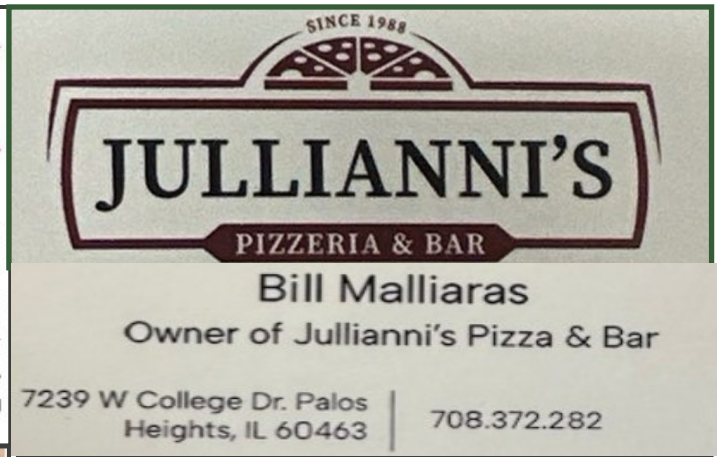
We extend our heartfelt thanks to Tim Georgiopoulos, Maria Baltsas, and Anastasia Deligiannis for their hard work and dedication in making our Annual Dinner Dance such a wonderful success! We are also grateful to FLOGA for their dance performance and the Grecian Formula for providing a fantastic evening of music and entertainment, and to Georgios Banquets for their hospitality and support. Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make this a memorable celebration of our St. Spyridon community!



Dinner Dance




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