

THE VOICE

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2026

VOLUME No. 406

SAINT SPYRIDON HELLENIC ORTHODOX CHURCH

12307 SOUTH RIDGELAND AVENUE, PALOS HEIGHTS, ILLINOIS 60463

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SAINT SPYRIDON FEAST DAY

With the blessings and prayers of His Eminence Metropolitan Nathanael as well as the loving prayers of our area clergy and faithful, we celebrated the feast day of our parish with great solemnity and grace. Many thanks to all our donors and volunteers who made our feast day celebration truly beautiful and memorable. We also thank the Philoptochos for providing a wonderful Lenten lunch for all on our feast day.



Our Philoptochos partnered with St. Spyridon's Floga Dancers to donate books for the Pediatrics Department of the University of Illinois Hospital, Chicago. The dancers collected and sorted books which were then loaded and delivered to the hospital with Philoptochos members.

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ST. SPYRIDON FEAST DAY



FATHER'S MESSAGE

“COME, FOR ALL THINGS ARE NOW READY”

In last Sunday's Gospel, our Lord tells the parable of a great banquet. The table is prepared, the feast is ready, and the invitation has been sent. Yet one by one, the invited guests begin to offer excuses. None of the excuses are evil in themselves—work, responsibilities, daily concerns—but together they reveal something troubling: **the banquet was not treated as a priority.**

This parable is not only about the Kingdom of God at the end of time. It is also about the Divine Liturgy here and now.

Every Sunday, God invites us to a sacred banquet. The table is set. The prayers are offered. Heaven and earth come together. And the Church announces, in effect: *“Come, for all things are now ready.”*

And yet, many of us arrive late.

This is not about blame or judgment. Life is real. Some must work. Some have genuine obligations. Parents struggle with young children. Emergencies happen. The Church understands this and responds with compassion.

But for most of us, lateness is not occasional—it has become **habitual**.

And habits reveal priorities.

Imagine receiving a personal invitation to a wedding, a formal dinner, or an important celebration. Imagine showing up late every time—after the host has already begun speaking, after the meal has started, after key moments have passed. At some point, we would have to ask ourselves honestly: *What does my lateness communicate about how I value this invitation?*

John Chrysostom speaks directly to this, saying: **“When you come late to the Divine Liturgy, you do not merely miss words—you miss grace.”**

When we arrive late to church, we miss more than announcements or hymns. We miss:

- The opening doxology that lifts our hearts to God
- The prayers that prepare our souls for worship
- The Epistle and Gospel that shape our faith

The sense of offering ourselves fully, from begin-

ning to end

Most importantly, we miss the opportunity to **enter gradually and reverently into the mystery of God's presence.**

It is worth asking ourselves a gentle but honest question:

Why is it that we are on time for work, appointments, school events, and social gatherings—but late for the Divine Liturgy?

This is not a question meant to accuse, but to awaken. The Gospel calls us not to guilt, but to awareness. The banquet is not diminished when we arrive late—but **we are**.

The Divine Liturgy is not something we “drop into.” It is a journey we take together. When we arrive on time, we say with our actions: *“Lord, You come first. Your invitation matters.”*

As we celebrate the Nativity of our Lord, we rejoice that God Himself did not arrive “late” to our salvation. He entered our world at the fullness of time, humbly and completely, offering Himself to us without reserve. Christmas reminds us that God always shows up fully—and invites us to do the same.

And as we approach the New Year, perhaps one small but meaningful spiritual resolution is this: to honor God's invitation with our presence. To begin the year by arriving on time—not out of obligation, but out of love. To make Sunday morning a clear priority, offering God the first moments of the day and the best of our attention. The invitation is always open.

The banquet is always prepared.

As we wish one another **a blessed Christmas and a grace-filled New Year**, let us also renew our commitment to be present—body and soul—from the beginning of the Divine Liturgy each Sunday at **9:30 a.m.**—ready to hear once again the words spoken to every willing heart:

“Come, for all things are now ready.”



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Χαίρετε,

Σας εύχομαι Καλά Χριστούγεννα και Καλή Πρωτοχρονιά!

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

Greetings, I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. This is a joyful time of year, let's ensure we rejoice in the Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Let us also remember our parishioners, friends, and family, that may be facing difficult challenges, are in need, or ill, and the elderly. Let's pray and show our love and support, especially during this time.

We recently celebrated the Feast Day of our Patron Saint and shepherd, St. Spyridon. We are reminded of his humility and his loving nature to all. His care for the poor and needy, and how he persevered in his life, despite many challenges, and yet he led by example. Let us all aspire to imitate his way of life.

Earlier in the month we had another successful Craft Show weekend hosted by Philoptochos. Many thanks to all of the volunteers and vendors that attended, and we even had a surprise visit by Santa Claus. Fortunately, everyone was on the GOOD LIST.

On December 14th we had our Parish Council Elections for the 2026 through 2027 term. The Parish Council will be sworn in in early January with officer elections in the first Parish Council meeting.

Over the last two years, we have accomplished a great deal. I want to thank Father George for his love, support, and leadership. Transitioning into the President role was not easy. It is a big responsibility, and effectively a second job. With the support of Fr. George, the entire Parish Council, and the community I was able to settle in, particularly in the second year. And together we moved the parish forward.

Our accomplishments included, numerous building capital and maintenance projects to support the future needs of the parish, securing key grants for Greek School, Archangels, and Iconography. We drove growth in Stewardship in both number of stewards and stewardship dollars the last two years. Our parish was blessed with new stewards including catechumens, seeking the TRUE faith. We have added new ministries (Men's, Prison, etc.) and existing ministries are thriving.

We have done all of the above in a fiscally responsible and compliant manner. All building projects were paid for via the Building Fund, which received significant donations over the last two years. People and ministries were moved to donate with the activity and progress, and we will, therefore, continue these effort for years to come. We grew our restricted Roof and HVAC fund by another \$50,000 to \$420,000. And our endowment continued to grow during the last two years via investment and interest income.

In 2024 and 2025 we delivered strong profits, with 2025 exceeding 2024 due to better performance from the festival. We continue to remain dependent of the festival, but if we could increase our stewardship by ~\$150 per steward, the festival profits could instead be directed to other, perhaps more philanthropic needs.

As we quickly approach the end of 2025, a gentle reminder that if you have not made your 2025 Stewardship pledge, please contact the Church office. The 2026 Stewardship drive has also just kicked off as well.

Lastly, I want to thank Fr. George, Presvetera Diana and their entire family, the Parish Council, Philoptochos, and the entire community for your love and support these last two years. I hope that I have the confidence and support of the Parish Council to continue as President.

Καλή συνέχεια με υγεία

Bill Kilias

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

This year's Christmas Pageant was beautifully organized by Zoe Kopanis, Vicky Argyropoulos, and Presvytera Diana Lamberis. For the first time, the pageant was held **inside our church**, creating a truly special and intimate setting for our parish family to celebrate the Nativity.

Our Sunday School children, together with the students of our Plutarchos Greek School, sang a variety of Christmas hymns and songs with joy and devotion, filling the church with the spirit of the season. Their performances reminded us all of the true meaning of Christmas and brought warmth and cheer to everyone in attendance.

We are grateful to our children for sharing their talents and helping to make this celebration so memorable, and we hope their joy and enthusiasm helped everyone feel the Christmas spirit in a deeper way.



DIVINE LITURGY SCHEDULE

JANUARY 2026

Thursday, January 1st	Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 8:00—11:00 a.m.
Sunday, January 4th	Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 8:00—11:15 a.m.
Monday, January 5th	Royal Hours of Theophany, Vesperal Divine Liturgy with the Blessing of the Waters, 7:00—11:00 a.m.
Tuesday, January 6th	THEOPHANY—Orthros, Liturgy, Agiasmos, 8:00 —11:00 a.m.
Wednesday, January 7th	Great Vespers at St. John's Church, Des Plaines, IL, 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, January 10th	St. John the Baptist, Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 8:00 —10:15 a.m.
Sunday, January 11th	St. Gregory of Nyssa—Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 8:00 —10:00 a.m.
Saturday, January 17th	Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 8:00—11:15 a.m.
Sunday, January 18th	Great Vespers at St. Athanasios Church, Aurora, 7:00 p.m.
Sunday, January 25th	Ss. Athanasios & Cyril—Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 8:00—11:15 a.m.
	Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 8:00—11:15 a.m.
Friday, January 30th	Pan- Orthodox Sanctity of Life Service, St. Luke, Palos Hills, IL, 6:00 —7:00 p.m.
	Synaxis of the Three Hierarchs—Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 8:00 —10:30 am.

FEBRUARY 2026

Sunday, February 1st	Beginning of Triodion, Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 8:00—11:15 a.m.
Monday, February 2nd	The Presentation of Our Lord , Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 8:00 —10:15 a.m.
Sunday, February 8th	Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 8:00—11:15 a.m.
Monday, February 9th	Great Vespers at St. Haralambos Church in Niles, 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, February 10th	St. Charalambos, Orthros & Divine Liturgy at St. Charalambos Church in Niles, 8:00 a.m.—11:30 a.m.
Saturday, February 14th	1st Saturday of the Souls, Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 8:00—10:30 a.m.
Sunday, February 15th	Meatfare Sunday , Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 8:00—11:15 a.m.
Saturday, February 21st	2nd Saturday of the Souls, Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 8:00—10:30 a.m.
Sunday, February 22nd	Cheesfare Sunday , Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 8:00—11:15 a.m. * Forgiveness Vespers 6:00 p.m.
Monday, February 23rd	Clean Monday * Great Compline, Part 1 of St. Andrew Canon, 5:00—6:15 p.m. * Koulouma Dinner
Tuesday, February 24th	Great Compline, Part 2 of St. Andrew Canon, 6:00—7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, February 25th	9th Hour and Pre-sanctified Liturgy—5:45 —7:15 p.m.
Thursday, February 26th	Great Compline, Part 3 of St. Andrew Canon, 6:00—7:30 p.m.
Friday, February 27th	1st Salutations to the Theotokos, 6:30—8:00 p.m.
Saturday, February 28th	3rd Saturday of the Souls, Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 8:00—10:30 a.m.
Sunday, March 1st	Sunday of Orthodoxy, Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 8:00—11:15 a.m.

ΙΑΝΟΥΑΡΙΟΣ 2026

Πέμπτη 1 Ιανουαρίου	Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία, 8:00 – 11:00 π.μ.
Κυριακή 4 Ιανουαρίου	Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία, 8:00 – 11:15 π.μ.
Δευτέρα 5 Ιανουαρίου	Βασιλικές Ωρες των Θεοφανείων και Εσπερινή Λειτουργία, Αγιασμός, 7:00 – 11:00 π.μ.
Τρίτη 6 Ιανουαρίου	ΘΕΟΦΑΝΕΙΑ – Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία, Αγιασμός, 8:00 – 11:00 π.μ.
Τετάρτη 7 Ιανουαρίου	Μέγας Εσπερινός στον I.N. Αγ. Ιωάννου, Des Plaines, IL, 7:00 μ.μ.
Σάββατο 10 Ιανουαρίου	Αγ. Ιωάννου του Προδόμου, Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία, 8:00 – 10:15 π.μ.
Κυριακή 11 Ιανουαρίου	Αγ. Γρηγορίου της Νύσσης, 1η Όρα & Θεία Λειτουργία, 8:00 – 10:15 π.μ.
Σάββατο 17 Ιανουαρίου	Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία, 8:00 – 11:15 π.μ.
Κυριακή 18 Ιανουαρίου	Μέγας Εσπερινός στον I.N. Αγ. Αθανασίου, Aurora, 7:00 μ.μ.
Κυριακή 25 Ιανουαρίου	Αγίων Αθανασίου και Κυρίλλου, Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία, 8:00 – 11:15 π.μ.
Παρασκευή 30 Ιανουαρίου	Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία, 8:00 – 11:15 π.μ. Πανορθόδοξη Ακολουθία για την Ιερότητα της Ζωής, Ενορία του Αγ. Λουκά, Palos Hills, IL 6:00 – 7:00 μ.μ. Σύναξις των Τριών Ιεραρχών – Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία, 8:00 – 10:30 π.μ.

ΦΕΒΡΟΥΑΡΙΟΣ 2026

Κυριακή 1 Φεβρουαρίου	Έναρξη Τριαδίου, Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία, 8:00 – 11:15 π.μ.
Δευτέρα 2 Φεβρουαρίου	Υπαπαντή του Κυρίου, Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία, 8:00 – 10:15 π.μ.
Κυριακή 8 Φεβρουαρίου	Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία, 8:00 – 11:15 π.μ.
Δευτέρα 9 Φεβρουαρίου	Μ. Εσπερινός στην ενορία του Αγ. Χαραλάμπους, 7:00 μ.μ.
Τρίτη 10 Φεβρουαρίου	Αγ. Χαραλάμπους, Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία στον Ιερό Ναό Αγίου Χαραλάμπους στο Niles, 8:00 – 11:30 π.μ.
Σάββατο 14 Φεβρουαρίου	1ο Ψυχοσάββατο, Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία, 8:00 – 10:30 π.μ.
Κυριακή 15 Φεβρουαρίου	Απόκριες, Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία, 8:00 – 11:15 π.μ.
Σάββατο 21 Φεβρουαρίου	2ο Ψυχοσάββατο, Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία, 8:00 – 10:30 π.μ.
Κυριακή 22 Φεβρουαρίου	Τυρινής, Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία, 8:00 – 11:15 π.μ. * Κατανυκτικός Εσπερινός της Συγχωρήσεως – 6:00 μ.μ.
Δευτέρα 23 Φεβρουαρίου	Καθαρά Δευτέρα, Μέγα Απόδειπνο με τον Κανόνα του Αγίου Ανδρέου (1ο μέρος), 5:00 – 6:15 μ.μ.* Κούλουμα
Τρίτη 24 Φεβρουαρίου	Μέγα Απόδειπνο με τον Κανόνα του Αγ Ανδρέου (2ο μέρος), 6:00 – 7:30 μ.μ.
Τετάρτη 25 Φεβρουαρίου	9η Ωρα & Προηγιασμένη Λειτουργία – 5:45 – 7:15 μ.μ.
Πέμπτη 26 Φεβρουαρίου	Μέγα Απόδειπνο με τον Κανόνα του Αγ Ανδρέου (3ο μέρος), 6:00 – 7:30 μ.μ.
Παρασκευή 27 Φεβρουαρίου	Παρασκευή Χαιρετισμοί, 6:30 – 8:00 μ.μ.
Σάββατο 28 Φεβρουαρίου	3ο Ψυχοσάββατο – Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία, 8:00 – 10:30 π.μ.
Κυριακή 1 Μαρτίου	Κυριακή της Ορθοδοξίας, Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία, 8:00 – 11:15 π.μ.

January 2026—Community Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
4 * Family Worship (No Sunday School)	5 * Plutarchos Academy, 4:30 pm-6:30 pm * Floga Intermediate, 6:45 pm	6 * Archangels Resumes	7 * Archangels Academy * Catechism, 6:00 pm	8 * Archangels Academy * Food distribution—1:00 pm * Young Adult Event at Xando's—7:00 p.m.	9 * Archangels Academy * Food distribution—1:00 pm * Plutarchos Academy, 4:30—6:30 pm * Floga Advanced, 6:40 pm * Adult Greek School 6:45—8:15 p.m.	10 * Philoptochos Meeting—10 a.m.
11 * Sunday school * Parish Vasilopita Cutting	12 * Archangels Academy * Plutarchos Academy, 4:30 pm-6:30 pm * Bible Study—5 pm * Floga Intermediate, 6:45 pm	13 * Archangels Academy * GOYA, 7:00 pm	14 * Archangels Academy * Iconography, 5:30 pm * GOYA, 7:00 pm	15 * Archangels Academy * Food distribution—1:00 pm	16 * Archangels Academy * Food distribution—1:00 pm * Family Night, 6:30 p.m. * Adult Greek School 6:45—8:15 p.m.	17 * WINTER FANARI CAMP
18 * Family Worship (No Sunday School) * WINTER FANARI CAMP	19 * Plutarchos Academy, 4:30 pm-6:30 pm * Floga Intermediate, 6:45 pm	20 * Archangels Academy * Catechism, 6:00 pm	21 * Archangels Academy * Iconography, 5:30 pm * Philoptochos Membership Night at Zachary's, 6:00—6:00 p.m.	22 * Archangels Academy * Food distribution—1:00 pm	23 * Archangels Academy * Food distribution—1:00 pm * Plutarchos Academy, 4:30—6:30 pm * Floga Advanced, 6:40 pm * Adult Greek School 6:45—8:15 p.m.	24 * Prison Ministry Liturgy at Indiana State Prison—7:00 am
25 * Sunday school * Three Hierarchs Plutarchos Celebration * Winter Warm-up Philoptochos Soup Fundraiser	26 * Archangels Academy * Plutarchos Academy, 4:30 pm-6:30 pm * Bible Study—5 pm * Floga Intermediate, 6:45 pm	27 * Archangels Academy * Cherubs, 10:30 am * Iconography, 5:30 pm * GOYA, 7:00 pm	28 * Archangels Academy * Food distribution—1:00 pm	29 * Archangels Academy * Cherubs, 10:30 am * Iconography, 5:30 pm * GOYA, 7:00 pm	30 * Archangels Academy * Food distribution—1:00 pm	31 * Archangels Academy * Plutarchos Academy, 4:30—6:30 pm * Floga Advanced, 6:40 pm * Adult Greek School 6:45—8:15 p.m.

February 2026—Community Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 * Sunday school * Handmaids, 11:30 a.m. * <i>Philoptochos</i> Meeting—11:30 a.m.	2 * Archangels Academy * <i>Plutarchos</i> Academy, 4:30 pm–6:30 pm * Bible Study, 5:00 p.m. * <i>Floga Intermediate</i> , 6:45 pm	3 * Archangels Academy * Parish Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m. 4 * Archangels Academy * <i>Iconography</i> , 5:30 pm * Catechism, 6:00 pm	5 * Archangels Academy * <i>Iconography</i> , 5:30 pm * Catechism, 6:00 pm	6 * Archangels Academy * Food distribution—1:00 pm 7 * Archangels Academy * <i>Plutarchos</i> Academy, 4:30—6:30 pm * <i>Floga Advanced</i> , 6:40 pm * <i>Adult Greek School</i> 6:45—8:15 p.m.		
8 * Sunday school * <i>PTA</i> Heart shaped Pizza Sale, 11:30 p.m.	9 * Archangels Academy * <i>Plutarchos</i> Academy, 4:30 pm–6:30 pm * <i>Floga Intermediate</i> , 6:45 pm	10 * Archangels Academy 11 * Archangels Academy * <i>Cherubs</i> , 10:30 am * <i>Iconography</i> , 5:30 pm * Catechism, 6:00 pm * <i>GOYA</i> , 7:00 pm * <i>Philoptochos Meeting</i> , 7 pm	12 * Archangels Academy * Food distribution—1:00 pm 13 * Archangels Academy * <i>Iconography</i> , 5:30 pm * Catechism, 6:00 pm * <i>GOYA</i> , 7:00 pm * <i>Philoptochos Meeting</i> , 7 pm	14 * Archangels Academy * <i>Iconography</i> , 5:30 pm * Catechism, 6:00 pm * <i>GOYA</i> , 7:00 pm * <i>Family Night</i> , 6:30 p.m.		
15 * Family Worship (No Sunday School) * Archangels Breakfast, 11:30 a.m.	16 17 * Archangels Academy 18 * Archangels Academy * <i>Iconography</i> , 5:30 pm	 19 * Archangels Academy * Food distribution—1:00 pm 20 * Archangels Academy * <i>Iconography</i> , 5:30 pm * Catechism, 6:00 pm * <i>GOYA</i> , 7:00 pm * <i>Adult Greek School</i> 6:45—8:15 p.m. 21 * Archangels Academy * <i>Iconography</i> , 5:30 pm * Catechism, 6:00 pm * <i>GOYA</i> , 7:00 pm * <i>Adult Greek School</i> 6:45—8:15 p.m.	 22 * Archangels Academy * <i>Plutarchos</i> Academy, 4:30 pm–6:30 pm * <i>Kouloura Dinner</i> , 6:30 pm * <i>Adult Greek School</i> 6:45—8:15 p.m.	 23 * Archangels Academy * <i>Plutarchos</i> Academy, 4:30 pm–6:30 pm * <i>Kouloura Dinner</i> , 6:30 pm * <i>Adult Greek School</i> 6:45—8:15 p.m.	 24 * Archangels Academy * Catechism, 6:00 pm 25 * Archangels Academy * <i>GOYA</i> , 7:00 pm * <i>Pre-sanctified Potluck</i> hosted by <i>Plutarchos</i> <i>Greek School</i> .	 26 * Archangels Academy * Food distribution—1:00 pm 27 * Archangels Academy * <i>Iconography</i> , 5:30 pm * <i>GOYA</i> , 7:00 pm * <i>Pre-sanctified Potluck</i> hosted by <i>Plutarchos</i> <i>Greek School</i> .
						 28 * <i>Adult Greek School</i> 2:30—4 p.m. * <i>Plutarchos</i> Academy, 4:30—6:30 pm

HIS GRACE BISHOP TIMOTHY OF HEXAMILION



On Thursday, November 20th, His Grace Bishop Timothy of Hexamilion fell asleep in the Lord. It is with deep sadness and hope in the resurrection that we announce his falling asleep in the Lord. A beloved hierarch, devoted shepherd, and tireless servant of the Church, Bishop Timothy leaves behind a legacy marked by pastoral compassion, deep humility, and unwavering dedication to Christ and His people.

Born in Chicago, Illinois in October of 1952, His Grace was the second of four sons of the late Demosthenes and Antonia.

His Grace was raised and spent his childhood and teen years at the Assumption (Panagia) Church of Chicago, where he attended the Sunday Church School and Greek School programs, as well as serving as an altar boy and participating in the youth programs of the parish. He was a product of the Chicago Public School System, where he attended Lane Technical High School for three years before moving with his family to Park Ridge, finally completing high school at Maine Township High School South.

In September of 1970, after being nurtured by his parish priests, the Rev. Theodore Thalassinos, the Very Rev. Kallistos Samaras (later Bishop Kallistos of Zelon), and the Rev. Demetrios Treantafeles, he began his seminary studies at Hellenic College/Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology in Brookline, Massachusetts. With the blessing of His Eminence Archbishop Iakovos of North and South America, His Grace commenced a year of international studies at the Pierce College in Greece. He received his Bachelor of Science Degree from Hellenic College in 1973 and his Master of Divinity from Holy Cross in 1978.

Upon completion of his studies, he accepted a position with the City of Chicago as Northwest Director for the Department of Social Human Services. Through this post, His Grace assisted Greek-Americans and other Orthodox Christians to secure employment, emergency food aid, dignified housing, financial assistance, and other social services from the City of Chicago. On September 14, 1980, he was ordained to the Holy Diaconate, and later, on October 5 of the same year, he was ordained to the Holy Priesthood by His Grace Bishop Iakovos of Apameia (later Metropolitan of Chicago). In 1984, he was bestowed with the rank of Archimandrite.

As a clergyman of the Metropolis of Chicago for forty-five years, His Grace served as the presiding priest of Saint Elias the Prophet Church in Dubuque, IA (1980-1985), Saint Sophia Church in Elgin, IL (1985-1997), Saint Nicholas Church in Oak Lawn, IL (1997- 2006), and Assumption Church in Chicago, IL (2006-2019). In addition to parish ministry, His Grace served as President of the Metropolis of Chicago Clergy Syndesmos (1999-2004) and represented the clergy brotherhood on the Archdiocesan Presbyters Council from 1997-2014. His Grace also served as a member of the Archdiocesan Benefits Committee (1997-2006).

In addition to his ecclesiastical responsibilities, His Grace also served as Staff Chaplain for the Illinois Department of Mental Health at the Elgin Mental Health Center (1987-1997).

On September 1, 2019, he assumed the responsibilities of Chancellor of the Holy Metropolis of Chicago.

At the petition of His Eminence Metropolitan Nathanael, and by the recommendation of the Holy Eparchial Synod of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate unanimously elected him Bishop of Hexamilion on October 6, 2020, and was ordained on December 5, 2020 at the Sts. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Merrillville, IN. As an Auxiliary Bishop of the Church, His Grace continued his service as Chancellor of the Metropolis through March of 2025.

His Grace will be remembered for his profound love for the Church, his wise counsel, and his selfless service.

May his memory be eternal, and may the Lord grant him rest among the righteous.

PARISH REGISTRY

Baptisms

The son of Mr. and Mrs. Leonidas Skiadopoulos was baptized on November 8th and was given the name Foitos by his godfather Yanni Dimoulis. The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Evan Katsenis was baptized on November 8th and was given the name Anna by her godfather Jacob Golich.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. Dimitri Golfis was baptized on November 9th and was given the name Matthew by his godparents Spiros & Vivian Tzanetakos.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. Ioannis Karahalios was baptized on November 22nd and was given the name Athanasios by his godparents William & Marci Vergados.

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Peter G Korbakes was baptized on December 6th and was given the name Evangelia Katherine by her godparents Jason & Cindy Genin.

Να σας ζήσουν!

Memorials

Sunday, November 9th: †6mo Ioannis (John) Kritikos, †48yrs Theodoros Kritikos, †1yr Hristos Apostolopoulos, †23yrs Nicholas Apostolopoulos, †26yrs Olga Apostolopoulos, †1yr Demitra Stameson, †14yrs Michaela Stameson, †22yrs Gust Stameson, †23yrs Ioannis Bisbikis & †26yrs Anastasia Bisbikis

Sunday, November 16th: †6mos Vasiliki Manikas, †10yrs Demetrios Manikas, †1yr Alexandra

Manolitsis, †7yrs Eleftheria Marinoglou-Marinos & †8yrs Evangelos Marinoglou-Marinos

Sunday, November 23rd: †1yr Panagiotis Efthathiou, †1yr Athanasia Efthathiou, †28yrs Evangelos Efthathiou, †4yrs Sotirios Charalambos, †30yrs Elizabeth Deligiannis, †34yrs Athanasios Deligiannis & †43yrs Tryfon Karuntzos

Sunday, November 30th: †1yr Renatka (Irini) Kontaris, †3yrs Haralambos Paleothodoros, †6yrs Andriana Pavlopoulos, †22yrs Elias Pavlopoulos, †28 yrs Erini (Irene) Pappas, †39yrs Dionysios (Dan) Pappas, †3 yrs Andreas (Andrew) Pappas & †7yrs Konstandinos (Constantine) Vlahos

Sunday, December 7th: †40 days Margarita Kremmydas & †26yrs Dimitrios Kremmidas

Sunday, December 14th: †2 yrs Kyriaki Keorpes, †25yrs Demetra Bursinos & †57 yrs Konstandinos Bursinos

Sunday, December 21st: †1 yr Kyratso (Koula) Kintonis

Saturday, December 27th: †1 yr Emilia Kyriakoulis

Sunday, December 28th: †40 day for His Grace Bishop Timothy of Hexamilion

May their memory be eternal!

STEWARDS NOVEMBER 1ST—DECEMBER 20TH

Mr. & Mrs. George Belesiotis

Mr. & Mrs. Christ Boubougouris

Ms. Anastasia Chibucos

Dr. & Mrs. George Danos

Mr. & Mrs. Adam DePass

Mrs. Martha Eliacostas

Mr & Mrs Chris Eliopoulos

Mr. & Mrs. Christ Georgiou

Ms. Irene Giardina

Mr. Ioannis Karahalios

Mr. & Mrs. John Korbakis

Mr. & Mrs. Ioannis Kremmidas

Mr. & Mrs. Bryan Lemer

Ms. Georgia Malamis

Mr. Peter Marcopoulos

Mr. & Mrs. Valentinos Maroudas

Ms. Badia Petrovic

Mr. & Mrs. Rob Righetti

Mr. & Mrs. Edmond Ryan

Mr. & Mrs. Nick Scarlatis

Mr. & Mrs. Donald Schmidt

Mrs. Metaxea Siomos

Mr. & Mrs. Omar Sweiss

Ms. Athena Tsinoukas

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Tuhaimer

Mr. Nicholas Voutiritsas

Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Young

Total # of Stewards: 343

WITH GRATITUDE TO ALL OUR STEWARDS FOR 2025

ALEMIS, Alex & Tina
ALEMIS, Chris & Georgia
ALEX, Nika & Irene
ALEXAKOS, Dimitrios & Katerina
ALEXOPOULOS, Katerina
ALEXOPOULOS, Kostas & Chris
ALIKAKOS, Gus
ANGELOS, Angelo
ANGELOS, Angelo & Christina
ARESTIS, John
ARGES, Penelope
ARGYROPOULOS, Antonis & Stella
ARGYROPOULOS, James
ARGYROPOULOS, Nick & Vicky
ARVANITIS, Christos
ARVANITIS, John & Sofia
BALTSAS, John & Maria
BAROUDOS, Olga
BASTAS, Chrisi
BASTAS, John & Maria
BELESIOTIS, Georgios & Vasilike
BERDUSIS, Anastasios & Hiacynta
BERDUSIS, Aristides & Fani
BERDUSIS, James & Georgia
BERTSOS, Andrew
BEZANIS, Dimitri & Iliana
BISBIKIS, Mary
BIZOUKAS, Eleni
BLACKSTONE, Dominic & Vasiliki
BOBIS, Nicholas
BORCHERS, Peter & Leighanne
BOUSIES, Zaharias & Maria
BOZONELOS, Yiorgos & Denise
BRISENO, Felix & Constance
CAJAS, Kevin & Maria Lentzou
CALABRESE, Conner
CATSOGIANNIS, Christos
CATSOGIANNIS, Dimitri
CHARALAMBOS, Anna
CHARALAMPOUS, George & Sofia
CHAVEZ, Alexandra
CHIBUCOS, Anastasia
CHIBUCOS, Caryn
CHIBUCOS, Zachary
CHRIMPOURAS, Christos & Androniq
CHRISTOFER, Chris & Sophia
CHRISTOPOULOS, Polychronis
CHRISTOS, Spero & Vasso
CHRISTOU, Zoe
CHRISTY, Nicholas & Faith
COLLOPY, Adam & Stephane
COLOMPOS, Thalia & Steve
DAGRES, Nikolaos & Natalie
DANOS, Dean
DANOS, George & Angie
DELIGIANNIS, Panagiotis & Anastasi
DELIS, Dimitrios
DEMAKIS, Konstantinos & Theony
DEMOPPOULOS, Bess
DEPASS, Adam & Katerina
DIMIS, Eleni
DOULAS, Nikolaos & Vasiliki
DRIKOS, George & Vasiliki
ELIACOSTAS, Dean & Jennifer
ELIACOSTAS, George
ELIACOSTAS, Martha
ELIOPULOS, Chris & Toni
ELIOPULOS, Martha
EVANGELOPOULOS, Georgia
FAKLIS, Ruth
FALCONE, Joshua & Bailey
FALCONE, Rena
FARSATIS, John & Irene
FELECOS, Sophia
FELECOS, Sylvia
FELTZ, Nicholas & Dionysia
FERODOUROS, Fay
FLASKOS, Dimitrios & Maria
FLASKOS, Kaliopi
FOTOPoulos, Spiros
GALLAGHER, Alexandra
GATSES, Peter
GATSINOS, Demetrios & Evmorfia
GATSIOS, George & Vasiliki
GATSIOS, Theofanis & Antonia
GEORGELOS, George & Georgia
GEORGIOPoulos, Bill & Toula
GEORGIOPoulos, Ted & Antonia
GEORGIOPoulos, Tim
GEORGIOU, Christ & Evanthia
GIANNOURIS, Stefanos & Eleni
GIARDINA, Irene
GLIKIS, Andreas & Eleftheria
GLIKIS, Peter & Maria
GOLFIS, Dimitri
GOUNTANIS, Kathy
GRAPSAS, Katherine
HALFMAN, John & Jenna Kiousis
HALIKAS, James
HALIKIAS, Aris & Yianna
HALIKIAS, Aris T & Christina
HANIOTAKIS, Michael & Marianna
HARDALOUPAS, Apostolis & Vicky
HATZIDIMITRIADIS, Aristidis & Maria
HEALY, Brendan & Jennifer Tzavaras
HIX, Thomas & Anna
HOHLASTOS, Michael & Kalioppe
HRISTAKOS, Peter & Evelyn
IOVINO, Tanya & Nicholas
KANELAKES, Effie
KAPSASKIS, Constantine & Joanne
KARAGIANNIS, Vaios
KARAHALIOS, Ioannis
KARAMAGIANIS, Nick
KARAMAGIANNIS, Dimitrios & Maria
KARAMPELAS, Constantine
KARAMPELAS, Roula
KARIORIS, Tony & Nicki
KAROPOULOS, John & Katherine
KARRAS, George & Maria
KARUNTZOS, Demetrios
KARUNTZOS, George
KARUNTZOS, Georgia
KATRIS, Helen
KATSENIS, Bill
KATSENIS, Evan & Christina
KATSOULAKIS, Tarsi
KATSOULIS, Dina
KATTOS, George & Tracy
KAVVADAS, Andreas & Andreana
KAVVADAS, Peter
KEKEMPANOS, Georgia
KEKEMPANOS, Larry & Yonna
KILIAS, Andriana
KILIAS, Bill & Christina Kyres
KILLEEN, Sousana & Sean
KIRKPATRICK, Richard & Eleni
KLADIS, Frank
KLADIS, George & Lula
KLADIS, Tasia
KLIORIS, Louis & Joanne
KLIORIS, Stavroula
KOLLINTZAS, Demtrios
KOLYVAS, Chris & Jann
KOLYVAS, Gus
KOLYVAS, Peter
KONTARIS, Anna
KONTARIS, Spiro & Renatka
KOPANIS, Frank & Zoe
KOPANIS, Nicolas
KOPANITSANOS, Sophia
KORBAKES, Chris & Sandy
KORBAKES, George & Kathy
KORBAKES, James
KORBAKES, Johnny & Bailey
KORBAKES, Peter & Sara
KORBAKES, Telemahos
KORBAKIS, John
KORBAKIS, Zoe
KOROLIS, Dean & Emily
KOROLIS, Nick & Petula
KOSTOPOULOS, Peter
KOTSIVIRAS, James & Karen
KOTTARAS, Demetrios
KOULOGIORGE, Chris
KOURNETAS, Nicholas & Vasiliki
KOUTSIS, Stavroula
KOUTSOUVAS, John & Nota
KOZIOCAS, John & Claudia
KREMMIDAS, Ioannis
KREMMIDAS, Margarita
KREMMYDAS, Athanasios & Dorothy
KRISTO, George & Irene
KRITIKOS, Monica
KURUKLIS, Denny
KURUKLIS, Koralia
KYRES, Tom & Pamy

WITH GRATITUDE TO ALL OUR STEWARDS FOR 2025

KYROUDIS, George & Christina
 LABRAKIS, Eraklis
 LABRAKIS, Konstantinos & Pam
 LALEZAS, Georgia
 LAMBERIS, George & Diana
 LAMBERIS, Gus & Aspasia
 LAMBERIS, Nick
 LARIS, George & Fotini
 LARIS, James & Joanna
 LAZAREVIC, Aleksander
 LES, Joanne
 LILLIOS, Betty
 LIMPARIS, Mary
 LIMPERIS, George & Katina
 LIMPERIS, Makis & Rebecca
 MALAMIS, Georgia
 MALAMIS, Taso & Sofea
 MALFAS, Angela
 MALFAS, Labros
 MALFAS, Yiannoula
 MANASSES, Demetri & Anna
 MANASSES, Theodore
 MANASSES, Tina
 MANIKAS, Theophanes & Eleni
 MANOLIS, Valerie & Bryan Leme
 MARAMATHAS, Bill & Anthe
 MARCOPULOS, Peter
 MARINAKOS, Billy & Viki
 MARINES, Demetrius & Sue
 MARINES, Penelope
 MARINOS, Eustratios
 MARKATOS, Robert & Marigo
 MAROUDAS, Valentino & Evi
 MARS, Joan
 MARUDAS, Dennis & Irini
 MARUDAS, Pavlos & Angela
 MAZARAKOS, John
 MCNEILL, Rob & Niki
 MEINTANIS, Maria
 MELETIS, Panagiotis & Kathy
 MICHALARIAS, Kathy
 MICHALOPOULOS, John & Anastasia
 MIHAS, Deno & Bessie
 MILLER, Kiki & Henry
 MILOSHOV, Alexander & Demetra
 NAKOS, Catherine
 PALEOTHODOROS, Evelyn
 PALEOTHODOROS, Nicolas
 PANAGIOTAROS, Georgia
 PANAGIOTOPoulos, Tasos & Maria
 PAPADATOS, Bob & Connie
 PAPADOPoulos, Demetria
 PAPADOPoulos, George & Effie
 PAPAMAKARIOS, Philip
 PAPAMIHAIL, Konstantinos & Efstathia
 PAPANASTASATOS, Christos & Dimitra
 PAPPAS, Carol
 PAPPAS, Catherine

PAPPAS, Gus & Tasia
 PAPPAS, Sotirios & Melpomeni
 PAPPAS, Theodore & Helen
 PARAS, Mary
 PARASKEVOPOULOS, Paul & Popie
 PARASKIS, Peter & Mary
 PARHAS, Stella
 PATSAKIAS, Eleni
 PAVLOPOULOS, John
 PAVLOPOULOS, Thomas & Maria
 PAXINOS, Peter & Olga
 PERAKIS, Bill & Kelly
 PERAKIS, Timothy & Kathy
 PERIVOLIOTIS, Koula
 PERKINS, Brian & Katina
 PERROS, Athanasios
 PETINATOS, Nick & Dina
 PETRAKOS, Andreana
 PETRAKOS, James & Dimitra
 PETROPOUL, James & Penelope
 PETROVIC, Nadia
 PONINSKI, Penny
 PRASSAS, Panayotis & Maria
 PREVETT, Dan & Georgiana
 PRIMBAS, Thomas & Nancy
 RETSINAS, Kostas & Zoe Alikakos
 RIGHETTI, Robert & Becky
 RILEY, Thomas & Janine
 RODOGIANNIS, Golfo
 ROUGAS, Gus &
 ROUMELIOTIS, Charles & Athena
 RYAN, Edmond & Athena
 SCARLATIS, George & Simona
 SCARLATIS, Nick & Chrysoula
 SCHMIDT, Donald
 SEARL, Glyn & Susanna
 SHAMMA, Tony & Penny
 SHIZAS, Nickolas
 SIMEAKIS, Emmanuel
 SIOMOS, Metaxia
 SKIADOPoulos, Alec
 SKIADOPoulos, Leonidas & Denise
 SKIADOPoulos, Spiro
 SOTIROPOULOS, Alex
 SOTIROPOULOS, Peter & Helen
 SPERLAKIS, Rita
 STAMATOGLOU, John & Olibia
 STAMESON, Andrew
 STAMUS, Panagiotis & Artemicia
 STERGIOPoulos, Kostas & Demetra
 STOGSDILL, Michael
 STOLIS, Alexandra
 SUSNIS, Matthew & Vasilike
 SWEIS, Khalil & Eleni
 SWEISS, Omar & Christine
 SYNADINOS, Ioannis
 THANASOURAS, Michael
 THEOHARIS, George & Georgia

THIAKOS, Fay
 TOPALIDIS, Tommy
 TOULIOS, William & Melissa
 TOULOUPAKIS, Michael
 TOURLOUKIS, Dimitri & Kristine
 TRAHANAS, Konstantinos & Vasiliki
 TREANTAFELES, Leah
 TRIANTAFYLLOU, Fotini
 TSAGALIS, Angelo
 TSAKIRIS, Christos & Maria
 TSANTILLIS, Andreas & Lela
 TSAROUHIS, Gabriella
 TSAROUHIS, Odysseus & Litsa
 TSIGOLIS, George & Georgia
 TSINOUKAS, Athena
 TSINOUKAS, Nicholas & Maria
 TSONIS, Anestis & Vasiliki
 TSOUKALAS, Bill & Jill
 TSOUKALAS, John
 TUHAIMER, Michael & Alexia
 TZAFERIS-KOLIOS, Joanna
 TZANETAKOS, Spiro & Vivian
 TZOUANOPoulos, Harry & Ti
 VALARIS, Michael
 VALAVERIS, Elias & Adriana
 VARDALOS, Patricia & Nicholas
 VASDEKIS, Dimitrios & Sarah
 VASILAKOS, Dana
 VASILAKOS, George & Diane
 VASILIADES, Sofokli & Ioanna
 VASILIADOU-PIERRAKEAS, Magdalini
 VASILOPOULOS, Konstantinos & Isidor
 VASILOPOULOS, Vasilios & Kathi
 VELLOS, Polytyme
 VLACHOS, Lambros & Jane
 VLAHOS, Spyros & Athanassia
 VLAMIS, Helen
 VOUTIRITSAS, James & Julie
 VOUTIRITSAS, Nicholas
 VYTHOULKAS, George & Patricia
 WAGNER, Rocky & Kristin
 WATNE, Andy
 XENOS, Dion
 XEROS, Helena
 XEROS, James & Georgia
 XEROS, Peter
 XIRAFAKIS, Goldie
 XYDAKIS, Karen & Anthony
 YOUNG, Nicoletta & Daniel
 ZIOGAS, Alexander & Pamela
 ZORBAS, Effie & Vasilis Eliadis
 ZOUGRAS, Andrianna

Total number of stewards 343

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

The Voice—H φωνή

Official Bi—Monthly
Community Publication of
St. Spyridon

Hellenic Orthodox Church
12307 S. Ridgeland Avenue
Palos Heights, IL 60463

Rev. Fr. George Lamberis
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Kalli Theodoropoulos	Church Office
Litsa Tsarouhis	Church Office
Soteria Simantirakis	Custodian

Auxiliary Officers

Alexia Tuhaimer	Chanter
Kathy Korbakes	Philoptochos
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	G.O.Y.A.
Stephane Collopy	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 Vasilakos	Prison Ministry
Pete Mihalopoulos	Iconography
Sophia Christofer	Floga Dance
Evi Marouda	Floga Dance
Anastasia Deligiannis	Floga Dance
Patty Pappas	Floga Dance
Olga Baroudos	Floga Dance
Tim Georgioupolous	Men's Ministry
Bill Katsenis	Men's Ministry
Vaios Karagiannis	Men's Ministry

FLOGA DANCE TROUPE

The St. Spyridon Floga Hellenic Dance Troupe has enjoyed a truly wonderful few months. Our practices are in full swing—Wonderworkers meet on Mondays, and the Advanced Floga group gathers on Fridays—each filled with enthusiasm, dedication, and a shared love of Hellenic dance. We continue learning new dances while preparing for our upcoming winter performances.

A value of our Floga family is outreach and giving back to our community. In that spirit, we were honored to partner with Philoptochos for a book drive benefiting children at our local hospital. This collaboration was a tremendous success, and our dancers did an amazing job donating new and gently used books. These gifts were thoughtfully collected and will be delivered to the local hospital, where they will be enjoyed by children during a time when comfort and joy mean so much.

We look forward to continuing our partnership with Philoptochos on this and many other charitable initiatives as we serve our community together.

Wishing everyone a blessed New Year 2026!



CHERUBS

Our little Cherubs are having a great year!

We've been practicing our coloring, honing fine motor skills with various crafts and building blocks, and getting energy out with lots of play in the gym. We're so grateful to our Archangels friends for letting us borrow their bikes, balls, & other big toys. Our little ones got a special lesson from Father George about the thimiato he uses in church and its meaning. We love lighting candles and venerating the icons. December 17th was our last session of 2025; Please see our 2026 schedule and join us in the New Year!



Our mission is to provide wholesome and fun activities in which the child and caregiver will work together and create a venue where Orthodox parents (Yiayia, Pappou, etc.) and children can interact with others, form bonds of friendship and develop spiritually.

Each meetup varies to include storytime, songs, playtime, crafts and a spiritual lesson in a developmentally appropriate manner for their age.

**JOIN US! WE WELCOME CHILDREN
FROM 40 DAYS OLD TO 3 YEARS OLD**

**WINTER/SPRING 2026 CALENDAR
10:30AM - 12:00PM**

1/28/26	4/1/26
2/11/26	4/15/26
2/25/26	4/29/26
3/11/26	5/13/26

SEND AN EMAIL TO DENISE.ALEXOPOULOS@GMAIL.COM
TO SIGN UP!

HELLENIC FOUNDATION GRANTS

Each year, the Hellenic Foundation awards grants to organizations making a meaningful impact on the Greek and Orthodox community throughout the Chicagoland area. On December 10, 2025, the Hellenic Foundation proudly hosted its 2025 Annual Grant Awards Event, awarding grants to 43 organizations supporting 61 programs—the largest number of grant recipients in the Foundation's history.

This year, the Hellenic Foundation generously supported our parish programs, providing grants to **Plutarchos Greek School, Archangels Academy Pre-school, and our Iconography class**. They also highlighted our GOYA Outreach Trip in a special video, helping make this meaningful experience more affordable for families. We are deeply grateful for their support in nurturing the faith, education, and growth of our youth.



2025 GRANT RECIPIENT
St. Spyridon Greek Orthodox Church

2025 GRANT RECIPIENT
St. Spyridon Greek Orthodox Church

2025 GRANT RECIPIENT
St. Spyridon Greek Orthodox Church



Archangels Academy

The Archangels Academy Preschool of St. Spyridon Greek Orthodox Church seeks to strengthen its Social Emotional Learning (SEL) program, a core part of its curriculum since 2019. Serving pre-school aged children, the SEL initiative teaches empathy, emotional regulation, and problem-solving, essential skills for early childhood development.

The Hellenic Foundation's support will fund the purchase of key classroom tools and materials, including sensory items, whiteboard desks, and a SMART Board. These resources will help reduce behavioral challenges and improve engagement. This Hellenic Foundation Grant insures support of a nurturing, emotionally supportive learning environment for all students.



Iconography School

The Iconography School at St. Spyridon Greek Orthodox Church is the only Orthodox iconography program of its kind in the Chicagoland area, offering specialized instruction in the theology and sacred art of iconography for the past 17 years. The school currently operates with limited resources, meeting only once weekly and enrolling twelve participants. To preserve and strengthen this vital tradition, the program seeks to expand its instruction to youth ages 8-18, increase class offerings, and develop structured curriculum that deepen both artistic skill and spiritual information.

The Hellenic Foundation Grant Award will fund the purchase of program equipment and supplies that are required to expand the program such as new easels, professional iconography supplies, instructional materials, and a projector. This support will allow the school to broaden enrollment, add a second weekly class, and grow participation.



Plutarchos Academy

The Plutarchos Academy of St. Spyridon Greek Orthodox Church is expanding its mission through the "Lifelong Hellenism Program" which will offer adult Greek language classes in both in-person and remote formats. This program is designed to promote intergenerational learning and preserve Hellenic heritage through accessible adult education. The program will offer beginner and intermediate classes both in person at St. Spyridon and remotely over Zoom, making Greek language learning accessible to adults within the parish and in the community.

The curriculum will focus on conversational Greek, foundational vocabulary and grammar, and cultural elements. The Hellenic Foundation Grant Award will help fund the program's technology needs and online learning tools which will enhance the learning experience.

FOOD PANTRY

Once again our St. Spyridon Parish was able to feed 61 families for both Thanksgiving and Christmas! Each food basket contained approximately 9 meals, including turkey, ham, sides and dessert for their holiday dinners.

This could not have been possible without our donors, who gave generously. Volunteers of all ages came to help. We thank the Goyans and their families, our Young Adults, members of our Parish Council, and our longtime and new volunteers for their help. Our parish youth and young adults have been a huge help! It really takes a community to sort, organize, pack, and distribute food to the families.

Every holiday, we are grateful for the ongoing support of our donors and for the tireless efforts of our volunteers. Together we can make a difference in the lives of those in need.

Wishing our community a Merry Christmas and a Happy & Healthy New Year!

- The Food Pantry Team



ARCHANGELS ACADEMY

The past two months here at Archangels Academy Preschool have been very busy and incredibly special.

November was all about being thankful—and we certainly have so much to be thankful for. We celebrated Thanksgiving with a small performance for our families, creating a warm and joyful atmosphere. It was an afternoon filled with laughter, gratitude, and togetherness as we gathered to celebrate like one big family.

December brought with it a sense of wonder and magic. Our little ones stayed busy decorating, crafting, and singing the sweetest songs of the season. Throughout the month, the children learned about the birth of Jesus and the Nativity, while also exploring holidays celebrated around the world and learning how others share in this joyful season.

Congratulations to our children for putting on an OUTSTANDING Christmas performance! Our amazing students sang beautifully, celebrated joyfully, and portrayed the Nativity with such love and innocence. They make us proud each and every day. What a wonderful afternoon spent together as we celebrated before heading into our winter break.

Looking ahead, enrollment for the 2026–2027 school year and new students begins January 7th. We offer both full-day and half-day options for the upcoming school year. Please note that applications are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis, with priority given to current students, siblings, and St. Spyridon Stewards.

Save the Date!

Join us on Sunday, February 15th, following the Divine Liturgy, for our annual Breakfast Fundraiser—guaranteed family fun! This year's theme is "Shake, Rattle, and Roll" 1950s diner style, and it's sure to be a wonderful event for all.

The students and staff of Archangels Academy Preschool would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Sofea Malamis, Archangels Director



PRISON MINISTRY

At the Clergy-Laity Conference in November in Rolling Meadows, Fr. George spoke to the Philoptochos delegates about his work with the **Prison Ministry**, sharing personal experiences with inmates and encouraging others to get involved.

Each month, Fr. George and Dana Coronado travel to **Indiana State Prison** to offer the Divine Liturgy to about 10 inmates. In the coming months, Fr. George is preparing to **baptize an inmate**, a profound sign of new life in Christ.

Last month, our GOYA ministry wrote letters to Orthodox inmates and inquirers, and one of the responses is included below. Fr. George and Dana will visit Indiana State Prison again on Saturday, January 24, continuing this ministry of hope and compassion.



12-14-25
Young Brothers and Sisters,
What a blessing and uplifting comfort it was to receive your letter. I Thank you so very much
To have someone remember that though I may be locked up, I am not lost completely to the world
The words of Inspiration spoken through your words, only reminds me that not only am I loved by God, but remembered by his servants of the Lord
I once belonged to the church as a youth but strayed deeply as an adult. I never felt the need for Christ. Up until NINE months ago I was lost, but someone asked me to attend a baptism. I went there for the first time in decades of entering a church. I met Father Andrew and found him to be humble enough to return the following week. It was then I met Father George and Dana. I knew then that I needed in me what they had. I needed God. Now I'm on the verge of being baptized.
If you do not know already, allow me to profess to you that Father George is the greatest person around. A humble man who teaches well, what God desires of us. I am grateful that you allow him to come and minister to me and others like me. We love him as well as Dana and I pray you will continue to share them with us.
Back to your letter. I have placed in the place I put the things I cherish the most. I will carry it in my heart forever.
may you all enjoy the holidays, especially Christmas. Just keep in mind that its not about the presents your parents get you, but the present that God gave us all.
Respectfully,
Brian [redacted]



SUNDAY SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT: MIDDLE SCHOOL

Maria Baltsas, Irena Karopoulos

Winter 2025

ELEMENTARY DIVISION TOPICS

Grades 3-6

1. Tell us about your favorite story from the Bible. What happens in the story and why do you like it? What does it teach us about God or how we should live?
2. Describe something you love about your Orthodox church. It could be an icon, a special service, the way it looks, or how it makes you feel. Why is this special to you?
3. Choose a saint you've learned about and tell us why you think they were special. What did they do that showed their love for God? How can we be like them?
4. Share an Orthodox tradition that your family celebrates, such as a special holiday, blessing, or custom. How does your family celebrate it and why is it important to you?
5. Choose an icon from your church and describe what you see in it. Who is shown in the icon and what story does it tell? What do you learn from looking at this icon?

SENIOR DIVISION (GRADES 10-12)

Select one of the five following topics:

TOPIC 1

Pick a common icon type that is found in Orthodox churches (for example Christ Pantocrator, Virgin Hodegetria, the Resurrection icon) and explain its meaning and theological significance.

TOPIC 2

Why is the feast of Pentecost important and what does the story of Pentecost teach us about the Holy Spirit?

TOPIC 3

Saint John frequently contrasts light and darkness in his Gospel and letters. Choose one of his teachings about light (such as "God is light" or Christ as "the light of the world") and discuss how this imagery helps us understand our Christian calling and witness.

TOPIC 4

Throughout history, Orthodox Christians have faced persecution for their faith, from ancient martyrs to modern confessors. How does the witness of martyrs, both ancient and contemporary, strengthen and guide the Church today?

TOPIC 5

Orthodox funeral services speak of death as "falling asleep" and emphasize the hope of resurrection. How does Orthodox teaching about death and eternal life influence how we live and how we care for the dying and grieving?

Maria Baltsas, Oratorical Chairperson
(773) 615-1719 or englishteacher30@yahoo.com

JUNIOR DIVISION (GRADES 7-9)

Select one of the five following topics:

TOPIC 1

Select a hymn that is chanted in the Divine Liturgy and explain its meaning and theological significance.

TOPIC 2

Choose a Saint who was a child or young person. How did their faith influence their life, and what can we learn from them?

TOPIC 3

Who is the Ecumenical Patriarch, and why is he significant in the Orthodox Church today?

TOPIC 4

Choose an Old Testament story (such as David and Goliath, Daniel in the lion's den, or Joseph and his brothers) and explain how it teaches us important lessons that apply to young people today.

TOPIC 5

Select a major Orthodox feast day and explain why we celebrate it and how participating in this celebration deepens our understanding of Christ and our faith.



Scan the QR Code for Topics,
Tips, and Resources



Maria Baltsas, Irena Karopoulos

Winter 2025

LEARNING HIGHLIGHTS

In Sunday School, our **Middle School students** have been discussing leadership, faith, and the power of parables in the Orthodox Church. A few highlights include:

Design a Patriarch Badge: Students used symbols such as the cross, olive branch, globe, ship, and leaf to represent the Ecumenical Patriarch's role as a spiritual guide for Orthodox Christians worldwide.

4-Square Parable Activity: Groups choose a parable like The Good Samaritan, The Lost Sheep, or The Prodigal Son.

Students read the scripture aloud, summarized its meaning, connected the lesson to their own lives, and reflected on how these teachings apply to our world today. Their insights were thoughtful, personal, and as always, inspiring.



Kicking off the Oratorical Festival

Students have been discussing and learning more about this year's Oratorical topics. A few weeks ago, Dimitri Christofer inspired his peers by sharing his experience and participation in vocal chant. Dimitri won 1st place last year! A few of Dimitri's pro-tips included:

Tip #1: Read all the rubrics and guidelines carefully.

Tip #2: Practice about 200 times.

Tip #3: Don't second-guess yourself!

Dimitri's thoughtful reflections encouraged his classmates to explore their own gifts and consider how participating in church traditions can strengthen their faith.

2026 ORATORICAL FESTIVAL

All families of students in **grades 3-12** are encouraged to begin preparing for the Oratorical Festival. The Oratorical Festival will be held on **Friday, March 6**, following the bridegroom services.

Participating in the Oratorical Festival will be a rewarding experience for your children, offering them a platform to share their voice, learn from their peers, and deepen their connection to our faith. We encourage you to support and guide your child through this journey, fostering a family environment of learning and spiritual growth. Parents, over Christmas break, please support your child by guiding them, setting small goals, and encouraging them to unlock their spiritual inner voice; this way, they can feel confident and ready.

STEWARSHIP

Stewardship: "Rise Up and Build"

By the grace of God, the intercessions of our beloved Patron Saint, Saint Spyridon, and through the faithful love and generosity of our parish family, we have much to be thankful for as we reflect on the life of our community over the past year. Truly, none of these blessings would have been possible without the prayers and protection of Saint Spyridon, who continues to watch over and guide our parish.

In the Old Testament, when Nehemiah saw the broken walls of Jerusalem, he called the people to action, saying, *"Let us rise up and build"* (Nehemiah 2:18). His call was not only about restoring stone and mortar, but about renewing faith, commitment, and unity among God's people. That same call speaks to us today as we continue to build up both the **physical home** of our parish and the **spiritual life** of our community.

We are grateful to share that we have grown in the number of stewards and have also seen encouraging growth in **financial stewardship**. This growth is a powerful witness to the love and commitment of our parishioners to the life and mission of the Church. Stewardship is not simply about asking, "How much is needed?" but about recognizing that **everything we have is a gift from God**, and responding with gratitude, faith, and generosity.

Alongside this growth, God has blessed us with the ability to **organize and strengthen new ministries**, including our **Prison Ministry**, **Bible Study**, **Young Adult Ministry**, and **Men's Ministry**. These ministries reflect the rebuilding of the Church's living walls—hearts formed in prayer, fellowship, service, and love for Christ and one another.

We are also thankful for the many improvements made to our church facilities, all aimed at better serving our parish family and those who visit our community. New **hand railings** were installed in the church to assist parishioners as they come forward to receive Holy Communion. The **pews were refurnished and refinished**, restoring their beauty and extending their life. Through a generous grant from the Hellenic Foundation, a **hearing loop system** was installed, making worship more accessible for those with hearing difficulties. We also installed **new carpeting** in the church. Additionally, through the generosity of an anonymous donor, the exterior **brick of**

the church was repaired and properly sealed to protect the building from moisture damage.

Spiritually, we are especially blessed to have **a dozen catechumens** who are exploring and learning about our beautiful Orthodox faith. Their presence among us reminds us that just as walls can weaken through neglect, faith too must be renewed and strengthened through prayer, teaching, and active participation in the life of the Church.

Our **GOYA ministry** continues to inspire us as well. In May, our youth traveled to Rochester, Minnesota, where they offered loving service through a project at **Philoxenia House**. This meaningful trip was made possible through the generous support of the **Hellenic Foundation**, along with another generous donor. The dedication and commitment of our GOYA were also recognized when they were featured at the Hellenic Foundation Awards Ceremony, a wonderful testimony to the faith, compassion, and service of our young people.

We are also deeply grateful for the leadership and dedication of our Parish Council President, Bill Kilias, whose tireless efforts and steady guidance were instrumental in bringing many of these projects to fruition. His service, along with the cooperation of the Parish Council and the Building Committee, has been a true blessing to our community.

Finally, we give thanks to God for a **recent anonymous gift of a little more than \$95,000**, given as a restricted donation to be used either for building new bathrooms in the gymnasium or for replacing the gym floors. This generous offering will help us continue to plan carefully and responsibly for the future needs of our parish.

As Nehemiah reminds us, rebuilding requires **compassion, prayer, planning, and action**. Before any work begins, we turn to God in prayer, trusting that true rebuilding—whether physical or spiritual—begins and ends with Him. Stewardship is practical and intentional, but above all, it is spiritual: a grateful response to God's blessings and an offering of our time, talents, and treasures for His glory.

As stewards of Saint Spyridon Parish, and with gratitude to God, we invite each of you to prayerfully consider how you might grow in each area of stewardship in the coming year.

STEWARSHIP

- **Time:** Consider increasing your time in prayer, worship, and service by even 10%—whether through more consistent attendance at the Divine Liturgy, daily prayer, Scripture reading, or involvement in parish life.
- **Talent:** Reflect on the gifts God has given you and consider offering **one new gift or ministry**—whether visible or behind the scenes—to help strengthen our Saint Spyridon family.

Treasure: Prayerfully discern whether you are able to increase your financial giving by **1-2% of your income** this year, trusting that God blesses generosity offered with a willing heart.

We are called today to **rise up and build**:

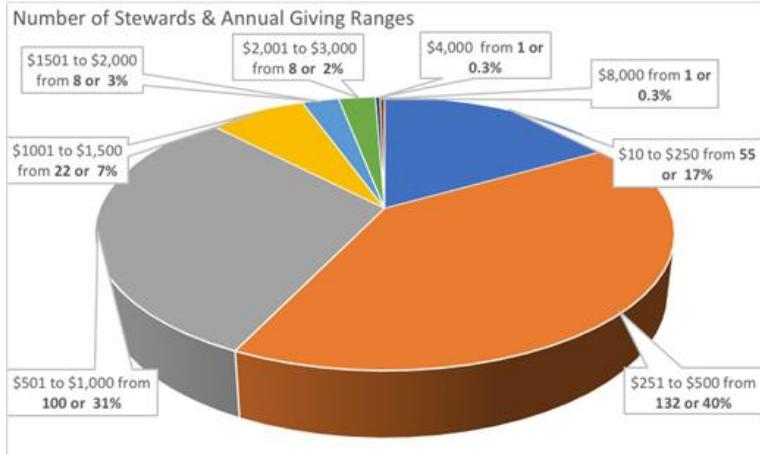
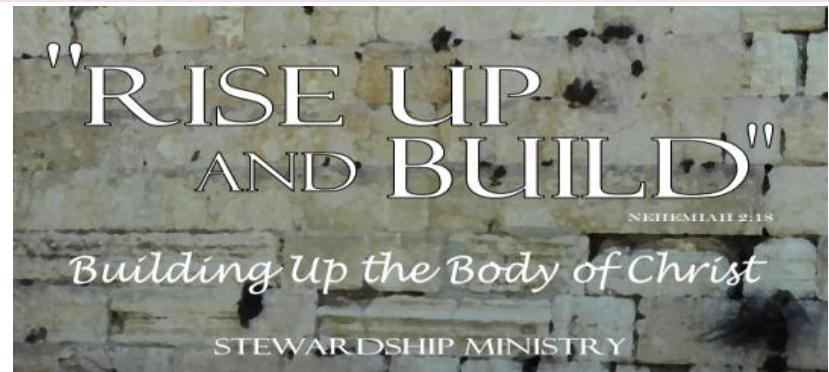
- To build the **walls of prayer**, through daily prayer, Scripture reading, and participation in the liturgical life of the Church.
- To build the **walls of worship**, by being present at the Divine Liturgy and offering our whole selves to God.
- To build the **walls of generosity**, by serving with our time, using our talents, and giving sacrificially from what God has entrusted to us.

To build the **walls of Christian love**, by seeing Christ in one another and serving those in need.

All of these blessings are possible only because of **you—the faithful stewards of our church**. Your love, prayers, and support make it possible for our parish to grow, serve, and glorify God.

We kindly ask that you prayerfully consider what you might be able to offer so that we may continue, together, to *rise up and build*—strengthening not only the walls of our parish buildings, but the living walls of faith within our hearts, our community, and the world.

With much love and appreciation,
Fr. George Lamberis Economos
Panagiotis Stamus, Stewardship Chair



We are projecting to end the year with 343 stewards, and an average stewardship of ~\$650.

The pie chart above shows the percentage of stewards at various contribution levels.

# Stewards	Full Year					2026 Goal	
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025 Est.	Annual	Annual
Annual Avg	\$ 523	\$ 570	\$ 615	\$ 648	\$ 649	\$ 800	
\$s	\$ 183,050	\$ 180,120	\$ 210,945	\$ 213,840	\$ 222,500	\$ 280,000	
Increase						\$ 151	
Additional \$s						\$ 57,500	

In 2025, the festival will contribute ~\$90,000 to our financial results. Of this amount, at least \$50,000 is needed for the parish to break-even. Said differently, we will end the year with approximately a \$40,000 profit thanks to the festival.

If we can grow stewardship in 2026 by a handful of new stewards, and increase financial stewardship by ~\$150 per steward (or \$12.50 a month), we could potentially break-even and not rely on the festival. In this scenario, the festival profits could potentially be directed to other, more philanthropic efforts.

FAMILY NIGHT

On Friday, November 21st, we enjoyed a fun and festive Family Advent Night. We kicked off the evening with dinner, followed by a short lesson about the meaning and spirit of Advent.

After that, families gathered to decorate gingerbread houses while listening to Christmas music, sipping hot chocolate, and enjoying lots of sweet treats. It was a great time filled with laughter and holiday cheer!

A huge thank-you to Krissy Tourloukis and Maria Lazarevic for hosting a wonderful dinner, and again to Maria for generously donating some of the gingerbread houses, and to the PTA for providing extra treats and hot chocolate!

It was such a fun night, and we're so glad so many families could join us!

On Friday, December 19th, the Family Night Ministry hosted a fun and cozy family movie night. Families gathered to watch *The Flight Before Christmas*, a sweet story about a young reindeer learning to overcome his fear of flying.

We would like to thank Kelly Hohlastos, Evelyn Hristakos, Menia Poulios, and Kathy Vasilopoulos for generously providing dinner and snacks for everyone that evening. There were definitely enough snacks for the kids to enjoy while settling in for the movie!

It was a relaxed and joyful evening, and a perfect way to get into the Christmas spirit!

Submitted by: Presvytera Diana Lamberis



PLUTARCHOS ACADEMY



Happy New Year!

On Sunday, November 23rd we went on a fun and educational Field Trip to Chicago's Greek Town. We started with a visit to the Hellenic Museum where our students enjoyed a hands-on experience. Afterwards we participated in Greektown's 10th Christmas Celebration which included meeting Santa and friends, caroling with live musicians, hot chocolate and loukouades! A big thank you to the Hellenic Foundation for providing the bus transportation.

On Sunday, December 21st, we joined the Sunday School students and sang Christmas Carols.

We hope that everyone is enjoying their Christmas break. Classes will resume Monday, January 5th. On Monday, January 12th we will have our Greek School Vasilopita cutting. Thank you to the wonderful moms that are baking the Vasilopites and to the PTA for providing the St. Basil coins. *Καλή και ευλογημένη χρονιά!*



ICONOGRAPHY

Our Iconography School continues to grow, now welcoming 15 registered students. We are deeply grateful to the Hellenic Foundation for their generous grant, which will enable us to invest in new easels and essential iconography supplies. Classes will resume on Wednesday, January 14, marking the start of our new semester.



CATECHISM CLASSES

We are blessed to welcome a growing number of catechumens who are exploring the Orthodox Christian faith and taking steps toward the fullness of life in Christ. Our catechumens' class meets approximately twice per month and is currently reading *Introduction to the Orthodox Church* by Fr. Anthony Coniaris, along with *The Orthodox Faith, Worship, and Life* by Hieromonk Gregorios. Through study, discussion, and fellowship, these classes provide a foundation in Orthodox belief, worship, and way of life.



We give thanks to God for all who have expressed interest in the Orthodox Church, and we pray that He continues to guide them on their journey. Please join us in warmly welcoming our catechumens, offering encouragement, kindness, and friendship, and helping them feel truly at home within our beloved parish community.

Anyone interested in attending the catechumen class is warmly invited to join us—even lifelong Orthodox Christians who would like to learn more about their faith. For more information or to express interest, please speak with **Fr. George**.

YAL

Our Young Adults honored our Veterans with a small gift and a cake in their honor that was served in the fellowship hall on Sunday, November 9th. We thank our veterans for their service!

On Thursday, November 6th, we watched "Man Of God". Afterward, Fr. George led a discussion about the life of Saint Nectarios.

Some of our Young Adults went shopping for our DCFS Toy Drive a few days ago! They sponsored two children to make sure they would have toys this Christmas.

We also want to thank everyone who supported our Christmas ornament fundraiser.

Our next event will take place on January 8th at 7 p.m.



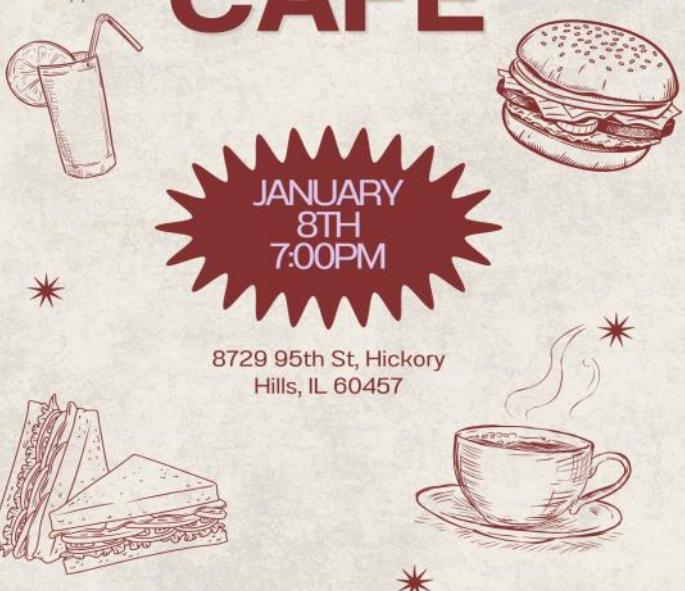
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ORTHODOX YAL
SOUTHSIDE



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TO STAY UP TO DATE ON
EVENTS AND GATHERINGS ON
THE SOUTHSIDE

JOIN YAL at
XANDOS ***CAFE**



JANUARY
8TH
7:00PM

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Hills, IL 60457

GOYA

The DCFS annual Toy Drive was a tremendous success this year. Our Church, together with Orthodox churches across the Chicagoland area, provided toys to children and families in need. This incredible effort reflects the generosity and commitment of our Orthodox community to serve purposefully. Our contribution in this year's drive was the largest made by any participating organization.

Hands at Work, Hearts in Service: Goyans packed food, assembled, and distributed Christmas food baskets for families in need; through this act of service, we helped ensure families felt loved and supported during the Christmas season. Each basket reflected the spirit of generosity; this is a reminder that service is a meaningful way to share love and faith.



Scripture at the Heart of Our Service: During each gathering, Goyans have been reflecting on the meaning and message of Bible verses that call us to compassion and generosity. Verses such as *"Whatever you did for one of the least of these... you did for me"* (Matthew 25:40) reinforce the importance of serving others with humility and love.

Celebrating Christmas Together: Goyans participated in a Christmas party and gift exchange to celebrate the season through fellowship and gratitude; this was a joyful reminder to everyone that the greatest gift of the season is time spent together in faith and community.



Upcoming Events Goya Gatherings will continue in January (14 & 28) and February (2/11 & 2/25). Our annual **lock-in** is tentatively planned for **2/27 and 2/28**. Thank you for living your faith through service.



Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities Sign up here:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F054BAEAA29AAFC1-59273250-goya#/>

Want to be in
"the know" for
GOYA??
SCAN QR Code!



PHILOPTOCHOS CHRISTMAS PARTY

St. Spyridon Philoptochos celebrated the Christmas season with members and friends at Kefi Restaurant on Sunday, December 28th. With 87 in attendance, it was a lively afternoon filled with great food, fellowship and singing the traditional carols and Kalanda. Our big Bears fan, Fr. George Lamberis, received a special gift from Philoptochos.



ELLINOMATHEIA AWARDS

We proudly congratulate our Plutarchos Academy students who received their Certificate of Ellinomatheia; an internationally recognized, standardized certification of Greek language proficiency. Ellinomatheia is awarded through rigorous examinations and is recognized worldwide by educational institutions and organizations as official proof of Greek language competence. The official award ceremony took place at the Hellenic Academy in Deerfield on Friday, November 11th. This special event celebrated our students' dedication, hard work, and outstanding performance in the Greek language examinations.

We are incredibly proud of their excellent grade achievements and commend them for their commitment to learning and preserving the Greek language and culture. Bravo to all our students for this meaningful accomplishment! Καὶ εἰς ανώτερα!



PHILOPTOCHOS

As we celebrate the birth of our Lord, let us remember Philoptochos stands together with agape and faith to help those less fortunate. This joyous season, and always, we are reminded that when we come together in love, the light of Christ shines even brighter!

And with the New Year, we are once again given an opportunity for new beginnings for Philoptochos. With God's hand guiding us, we will continue to do good works for others. We are so fortunate to have Fr. George, a constant pillar of support. Through his presence and words, he embraces our Philoptochos and parish with love.

With heartfelt appreciation to our entire parish and friends of St. Spyridon for supporting our 2025 Christmas Craft Show & Food Festival! And thanks to all our dedicated Philoptochos members and parishioners who worked tirelessly around the clock to ensure a successful event. We can't do it alone, our St. Spyridon parish is always there for us and we thank you.

Metropolis Vasilopita coming Thursday, January 8th at St. Andrew, Chicago. For bus reservations, please call Sophia Kopanitsanos at 708-361-2894 or 708-518-9383.

January is **Membership Month**! Please renew or join our Army of Agape! Come to our Membership Mix & Mingle evening Thursday, January 22nd at Zachary's Restaurant, Palos Heights.

Winter Warm Up Soup Fundraiser is back! Pre-order avgolemono soup, lagana bread & dessert. Pick up orders on Sunday, January 25th. More details to come.

Each month, our St. Spyridon Philoptochos chapter donates toward our national obligations.

St. Basil Academy & All Youth & Young Adult Programs – our Vasilopita celebration and monetary commitment helps us support St. Basil's in New York, but also has expanded to assist all Youth and Young Adult Programs throughout the country.

St. Photios National Shrine – to commemorate the arrival of the first Greeks to the United States in 1768, Philoptochos purchased the Avero House in historic St Augustine, FL. We support the preservation of this shrine.

Social Services & Cancer & Major Illnesses Fund – our national Department of Social Services is there to assist those in need with dignity. In addition, any uncovered medical costs is also given consideration for those that don't have the financial means.

SAVE THE DATES:

- Sunday, December 28th – Philoptochos Christmas Party, Kefi Restaurant – 12:30 p.m.
- Every Sunday of January – Membership Drive – during Coffee Social
- Thursday, January 8th – Metropolis Vasilopita Celebration, St. Andrew, Chicago 6:30 p.m.
- Sunday, January 11th – St. Spyridon Community Vasilopita after Liturgy
- Thursday, January 22nd – Mix & Mingle Membership Evening, Zachary's Restaurant – 6:30 p.m.
- Sunday, January 25th – Winter Warm Up Soup Fundraiser – pick up soup orders during Coffee Social

With sisterly agape,

Kathy Korbakes, St. Spyridon President

Our next
Philoptochos
Meetings

*Saturday, January 10th –
General Meeting
after Divine Liturgy – 10 a.m.*

*Sunday, February 1st –
General Meeting
after Divine Liturgy*

PHILOPTOCHOS

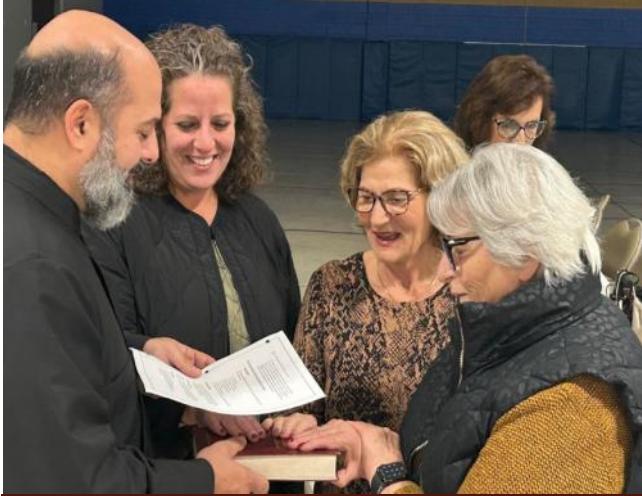


Every Philoptochos chapter commits to supporting schools in need of school supplies and when needed even winter coats, hats, mittens.

Many thanks to our entire Operation Classroom Team and to all who help support this program!

Our December Operation Classroom Team had a Giving Tree at the Christmas Craft Show. Parishioners & friends donated \$5 -\$20 for school supply gift cards to be given to needy teens.

In November, our Operation Classroom Team presented the Palos School District 128 new children's coats, mittens, gloves and hats along with snacks, hand sanitizers, and disinfectant wipes.



Oath of Office was given to three board members.



Many thanks to our Philoptochos members and to all our parishioners for donating to our Winter Coat Drive.

Hundreds of coats, hats, scarves, gloves & mittens were donated to "Together We Cope" in Tinley Park. Special thanks to Philoptochos member, Chris Yoshimura, for collecting additional coats and hats at her Lincoln Park hair salon for our Winter Coat Drive. We appreciate your help!

PHILOPTOCHOS



Our Philoptochos was well represented at the Christianiki Philoxenia hosted by Assumption Homer Glen in November.



Our Philoptochos members at Annunciation Cathedral, Chicago take part in the Feed The Hungry program. Every Tuesday a Chicagoland Philoptochos chapter commits to feeding 140 meals to the homeless.



Philoptochos goes out for lunch to Southfork Restaurant, Orland Park to celebrate the feast day of our patron saints, Sts. Cosmas & Damianos. We also celebrated the birthdays of two special members, Olga Paxinos and Dina Bogas.

LITURGICAL CORNER

ΨΥΧΟΓΙΑ SATURDAY OF THE SOULS



8:00 am Orthros and Divine Liturgy

Saturday, February 14

Saturday, February 21

Saturday, February 28



Saint Spyridon Hellenic Orthodox Church
12307 S Ridgeland Ave, Palos Heights, IL

FORGIVENESS VESPERS

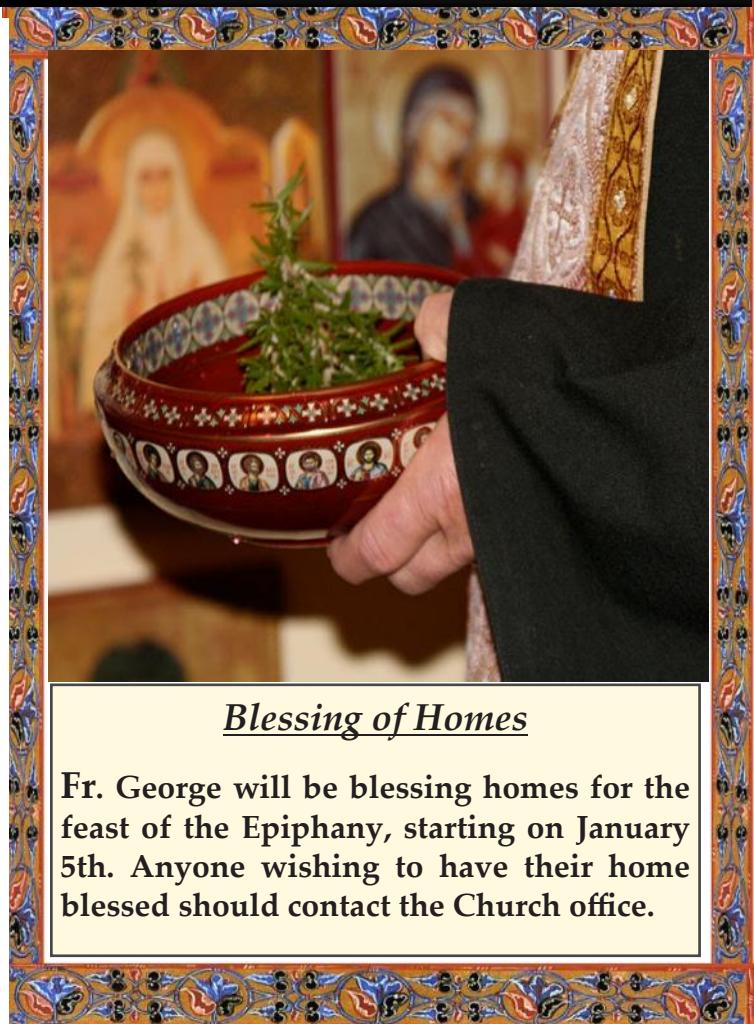


SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2026

6:00 PM FORGIVENESS VESPERS

Begin Great Lent by participating and praying the
FORGIVENESS VESPERS SERVICE.

Saint Spyridon
Hellenic Orthodox Church
12307 S. Ridgeland Avenue, Palos Height, IL 60463



Blessing of Homes

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Triumph Of Orthodoxy Pan Orthodox Vespers

Sponsored by the Orthodox Christian Clergy Association of Greater Chicago



**Sunday, March 1, 2025
at 6:30 p.m.**

**Holy Resurrection Serbian Orthodox Cathedral
5701 N Redwood Drive
Chicago, IL**

Homilist:

His Grace Bishop Serafim

Diocese of New Gracanica-Midwestern America
Serbian Orthodox Church



**Responses chanted by
The Pan Orthodox Choir of Greater Chicago
Gordana Trbuovich, Director**

As part of our ongoing commitment to the spiritual growth and development of our youth, we are excited to announce the upcoming Oratorical and Fine Arts Festival of our parish. This enriching event will take place after the Divine Liturgy on March 4th, immediately following the Salutations to the Theotokos.



The Oratorical Festival is a tradition within our parish, designed to offer our young people a platform to express their faith and explore their creative talents in a supportive and nurturing environment. Categories include: Speech, Poetry, Iconography, Vocal Chant, and Vocal Solo for students in grades 7-12.

Students in grades 3-6 are highly encouraged to participate. Projects should be rooted in Orthodox teachings.

All projects are due by Sunday, March 1, 2026 to ensure that we have enough time to prepare them for display during the Oratorical and Fine Arts Festival. Examples of projects: posters, dioramas, icons, drawings, prayer journal, storybook, shadow box.

Overview of Topics

Elementary (Grades 3-6)	Junior (Grades 7-9)	Senior (Grades 10-12)
1. What is your favorite Bible story and what does it teach?		
2. What do you love most about your Orthodox church?	1. Pick a hymn from Liturgy and explain its meaning.	
3. Which saint inspires you and how can we be like them?	2. Choose a young Saint and share what we learn.	
4. What Orthodox tradition does your family celebrate and why?	3. Who is the Ecumenical Patriarch and why is he important?	
5. Describe an icon you like: what story or lesson does it show?	4. Choose an Old Testament story and its lesson today.	
	5. Pick an Orthodox feast day and explain its importance.	1. Explain an Orthodox icon (Pantocrator, Hodegetria, Resurrection) and its meaning and theological significance.
		2. Explain Pentecost's importance and what it teaches us about the Holy Spirit's work.
		3. Choose a "light" teaching from Saint John and explain how it shapes Christian life.
		4. Explain how ancient and modern martyrs strengthen, guide, and inspire the Church today.
		5. Explain Orthodox teaching on death as "sleep" and our hope in the resurrection.



Scan the QR code for the official [Metropolis Information Packet](#) and [Topics, Tips, and Resources](#)

Contact Maria Ballice for additional details.
metropolisinfo@orthodoxchicago.org



THE 2026 ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM ORATORICAL AND FINE ARTS FESTIVAL

DATE: FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2026

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE SALUTATIONS TO THE THEOTOKOS

The Oratorical Festival provides a valuable educational opportunity for youth to express their faith, gain important skills in public speaking, and to deepen their knowledge about theology and its application to the world today.

The 2026 finalists are eligible to receive a Chrysostom Scholarship to Hellenic College. This scholarship provides awards ranging from \$2,500 up to \$30,000 per year.

All eligible students are encouraged to participate in our Parish's annual Oratorical and Fine Arts Festival.

Winners in the Junior and Senior categories will advance to the Metropolis Festival, which is held on Bright Saturday, April 18, 2026 Host Parish: St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church, 3450 Irving Avenue South, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 55408.

Access the official [Metropolis Information Packet](#) and [Topics, Tips, and Resources](#)

THROUGH THE GENEROSITY OF THE HELLENIC FOUNDATION - GOLDEN CIRCLE PROGRAM

Bus transportation will be provided for the southside parishes of Assumption Homer Glen, Sts. Constantine & Helen, St. Nicholas and St. Spyridon for the

Metropolis Vasilopita Celebration

Thursday, January 8, 2026

St. Andrew, Chicago - 6:30 p.m.



• BUS WILL DEPART FROM ST SPYRIDON

12307 RIDGELAND AVE. PALOS HEIGHTS
AT 5 P.M. (AND RETURN BY 10 -10:30 P.M.)

Bus Reservations are needed!

To reserve, please call Mrs. Sophia Kopanitsanos at 708-361-2894 by January 4th.



CHRISTMAS CRAFT SHOW



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