

# THE VOICE

## MAY 2025 - VOLUME NO. 401 SAINT SPYRIDON HELLENIC ORTHODOX CHURCH

12307 SOUTH RIDGELAND AVENUE, PALOS HEIGHTS, ILLINOIS 60463 FIND US ON FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM & YOUTUBE





### SATURDAY, JUNE 14, 2025

ALL AGES WELCOMED!

10 AM · PARAKLESIS TO ST. NEKTARIOS for those currently fighting cancer 11 AM - ONE MILE WALK AGAINST CANCER

in memory fo those we're lost to cances.

We will walk the sidewalk from
St. Spyridon to St. Mary Orthodox Church
(127th & Ridgeland) for a
Memorial Service within their church and
walk back to St. Spyridon,

12:30 PM- FILOTIMO
LUNCHEON
St. Spyridon
Community Center
honoring the survivas of cance
Hosted by
St. Spyridon Philoptochos

To join and/or donate to this effort, submit the form on the reverse side or contact Ruth Faklis 708.530.9064 · rodothea52hotmail.com



REGISTER BY MAY 9th MUST BE PARISH STEWARD TO PARTICIPATE

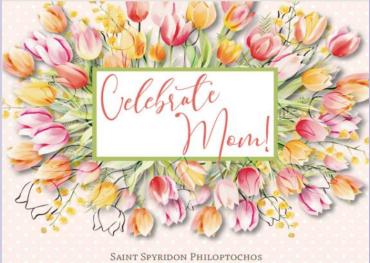
REGISTRATION FORMS IN THE OFFICE

\*\*MUST ALSO REGISTER ON METROPOLIS WEBSITE https://chicago.goarch.org/junior-olympics

Cost: \$35 per athlete
Fee includes registration and t-shirt.
Additional shirts are \$20 each

Questions? Contact Nick Tsinoukas at ntsinoukas@gmail.com or Demetri Marines at lade with PosterMyWall com jaimiemarines@aol.com





SAINT SPYRIDON PHILOPTOCHOS
INVITES YOU TO JOIN US FOR THE ANNUAL
MOTHER'S DAY LUNCHEON

Surday, Way 11, 2025

FILET MIGNON LUNCH WITH ASPARAGUS, POTATOES, SALAD & DESSERT \$45 ADULTS · \$20 CHILDREN (CHILDREN'S MEAL)

RESERVATIONS FOR THIS EVENT ARE ENCOURAGED

PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE, 708.385.2311

### **HOLY WEEK SERVICES**



### FATHER'S MESSAGE

### It's After Pascha... Now What?

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, one God. Amen.

#### Christ is risen!

As we continue in the joy of the Paschal season, I find myself reflecting deeply on the meaning of priesthood—not only for those of us ordained, but for all the faithful who share in Christ's royal priesthood.

Great Lent, Holy Week, and the Paschal services we have just celebrated are, for me, the very heart of the priesthood. To be ordained to stand at the center, to touch the holy things, to handle the Body and Blood of Christ, to announce the mystery of Christ's destruction of death—these are not just what "makes it all worth it," but they are what define my life itself.

While we priests are part of the ordained priest-hood, the truth is that all the faithful share in the royal priesthood of the people of God. In other words, the priesthood is offered to all mankind by Christ. The ordained priesthood is not "higher" than the royal priesthood. In fact, ordination depends first and foremost on baptism. There is no ordained priesthood without the royal priesthood. Christ has offered the priestly vocation to every person.

This doesn't mean that everyone can be ordained by the hands of our local hierarch. But it does mean that each of us is called to stand at the center of our lives and become servants of the mysteries of Jesus Christ. Every one of us is called to invite those around us into communion. Each of us is called to proclaim the mystery of His resurrection.

We have now beheld the resurrection of Christ. We therefore worship Him—and we also call others to worship. This is what it means to be a nation of priests.

All of this is brought to mind today as we celebrate the memory of an event that took place on the eighth day after the resurrection of Jesus—the encounter with Thomas.

Jesus appears twice in the Gospel reading for today. The first time, He appears to ten of the disciples — Thomas is not with them. We are told that Jesus

shows them His hands and His side, proving that the body standing before them is the same one that was nailed to the cross and pierced by the spear. The same body that had died is now risen from the dead.

This was not a ghost, not a vision, not an illusion. This was the same Jesus—truly risen.

Then we come to this very striking passage:

Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

Jesus breathes on them, echoing the moment in Genesis when God breathes the breath of life into Adam. Here, Jesus breathes the Holy Spirit into His disciples and gives them the task of forgiving and retaining sins.

This is a priestly action. And as we know from Church history and our liturgical life even now, this priestly ministry of forgiveness continues. One of the core responsibilities of the ordained priesthood is to pronounce forgiveness over a repentant sinner.

But priestly forgiveness isn't limited to the sacrament of confession. It is about bringing the healing of sin into every part of life. This is why it belongs to all of us. We exercise our royal priesthood when we bring forgiveness into our homes, our relationships,



### FATHER'S MESSAGE

and our communities.

What we should take away from this scene is not only that Jesus gives the Church the authority to forgive sins, but that the disciples—having seen the risen Christ—are given priestly authority. Their witness becomes their ministry.

Before returning to the second appearance of Jesus in the Gospel, I want to reflect briefly on something else we celebrated this past week—the feast of St. George.

St. George is often remembered through legendary stories involving a dragon and a princess, but if you listen closely to the hymns in his honor, they focus on something else: his martyrdom.

St. George is called a "great-martyr," meaning that he was not only killed for his faith in Christ, but was also tortured. Until he was discovered to be a Christian in the late third century, he had not publicly proclaimed his faith. But when the moment of truth came, he confessed boldly that he was a Christian.

Why didn't he just keep quiet and spare himself? Because he knew the risen Christ—not as an eyewitness like the Apostles, but through faith and his life in the Church. And because he had seen the resurrected Christ in this way, he exercised the priestly ministry of bearing witness. His witness, like our Lord's, was one of sacrifice—even unto death.

And through his witness, many others came to Christ.

We then return to the disciples, a week later. This time, Thomas is with them, and Jesus appears again. Thomas now sees what the others saw—the wounds in Jesus' hands and side.

And Thomas, too, takes up a priestly role. How? By proclaiming to all present just who is before him: "My Lord and my God!" Announcing the lordship and divinity of Jesus is a priestly act.

So in all three of these ways—forgiveness, sacrifice, and proclaiming the truth about Christ—we are called to live out our royal priesthood.

This year, I celebrate eleven years in the royal priest-hood of Christ. My own path has led to ordination

in the presbyterate. But even had that not been the case, these holy days would still hold the utmost importance for me. For here is the great secret of the universe: that God became man, that He entered into death, that He is the firstborn from the dead, and that He invites us into His priesthood—so that we too may stand at the center and bring life to the fallen. Each Pascha is a renewal of that mystery for me.

And so now the question comes to each of us, not as a burden but as a holy calling:

#### How will you fulfill your baptism in Christ?

Will you offer forgiveness where there is injury? Will you bear witness with courage and humility, even when it costs you?

Will you proclaim with joy, "My Lord and my God," not only in church but in the midst of your daily life?

Will you get involved—serving, helping, and lifting up those around you—knowing that this, too, is part of your priesthood in Christ?

This is how we bring the light of the resurrection into our homes, our parishes, and our communities.

Brothers and sisters, by faith—by our participation in Christ in His Church—we have also seen the resurrection. Let us now take up our royal priesthood and bring that resurrection to the world.

To the Risen High Priest Jesus Christ be all glory and honor and might, with His Father and the Holy Spirit, unto the ages of ages. Amen.





### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Χριστός Ανέστη!

Εύχομαι το ΦΩΣ της Αναστάσεως να φέρει υγεία, αγάπη, και ειρήνη σε όλο τον κόσμο!

#### Με αγάπη, Βασίλης Κίλιας

Christ Is Risen!

Easter has arrived, and so has Spring, a time of renewal, and starting over.

May the LIGHT of the Resurrection bring health, love, and peace to the world!

This Lenten season I took time to reflect on the meaning of the overall journey that we just experienced. Starting with Forgiveness vespers, all the way through the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This season reminded me of how often we may stumble spiritually, but how we always have the opportunity, through humility and repentance, to get back up and move forward. Our Lord and Savior is merciful as long as we are humble, and ultimately repent and ask for forgiveness. Let's remember what we recite in the Lord's prayer, "and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.". We must also forgive to be forgiven.

We are reminded of the importance of repentance with St. Mary of Egypt on the last Sunday, or Repentance Sunday, just before the beginning of Holy Week. It is not by accident that it is on the last Sunday. It symbolizes that we all have a chance to repent, even up until the last minute. But since we do not know when the last minute will arrive, we must stay on course and be spiritually aware.

The other enlightening outcome for me was learning to appreciate everyone that I meet for their respective talent(s). We are all different, and we all have been given different talents. Take time to look for the positive in everyone that you encounter. God did not give up on Mary of Egypt, who ultimately repented, and after many years of isolation, achieved salvation.

We were blessed to have His Eminence Metropolitan Nathanael visit us on Holy Monday, Fr. George Kostopoulos presiding with our Father George Lamberis during Holy Week, and His Grace Bishop Timothy Bakakos on Apostle Thomas Sunday.

We have a busy few months ahead. Mother's Day is in a couple of weeks. I look forward to seeing all of you at the Mother's Day luncheon, hosted by our wonderful Philoptochos. School graduations at the end of the month, followed by Junior Olympics, the Golf outing, and the Festival.

Let's all continue to offer the talents that we have been given to make everything we do as a community a huge success.

Have a blessed month of May.

With Love, Bill Kilias



### **DIVINE LITURGY SCHEDULE**

Sunday, May 4th Orthros & Divine Liturgy—8:00 a.m.

Monday, May 5th St. Irene—Orthros & Divine Liturgy—8:00 a.m.

Saturday, May 10th Great Vespers—5:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 11th Orthros & Divine Liturgy – 8:00 a.m.

Wednesday, May 14th Mid-Pentecost, Orthros & Divine Liturgy —8:00 a.m.

Saturday, May 17th Great Vespers – 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 18th Orthros & Divine Liturgy – 8:00 a.m.

Tuesday, May 20th Great Vespers at SS. Constantine & Helen, Palos Hills, IL – 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, May 21st Orthros & Divine Liturgy at SS. Constantine & Helen, Palos Hills, IL—8:30 a.m.

Sunday, May 25th Orthros & Divine Liturgy – 8:00 a.m.

Monday, May 26th \*\*Memorials at Evergreen Cemetery — 7:30 a.m. —11:00 a.m.

\*\*Memorials at Bethania Cemetery —11:30 a.m..—1:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 29th The Holy Ascension of our Lord—Orthros & Liturgy —8:00 a.m.

Saturday, May 31st Great Vespers – 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, June 1st Orthros & Divine Liturgy – 8:00 a.m.



### Προγραμμα Ιερών Ακολουθίων

Κυριακή 4 Μαΐου Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία-8:00 π.μ.

Δευτέρα 5 Μαΐου Αγ. Ειρήνης Μεγαλομάρτυρος, Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία – 8:00 π.μ

Σάββατο 10 Μαΐου Εσπερινός – 5:00 μ.μ.

Κυριακή 11 Μαΐου ΄΄Ορθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία – 8:00 π.μ.

Τετάρτη 14 Μαΐου Μεσοπεντηκοστή, Όρθρος Θεία Λειτουργία – 8:00 π.μ.

Σάββατο 17 Μαΐου Εσπερινός – 5:00 μ.μ.

Κυριακή 18 Μαΐου ΄΄ Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία – 8:00 π.μ.

Τρίτη 20 Μαΐου Μέγας Εσπερινός στον Ι.Ν. Αγ. Κωνσταντίνου & Ελένης,

Palos Hills, IL—7:00 μ.μ.

Τετάρτη 21 Μαΐου Αγίων Κωνσταντίνου και Ελένης, Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία στον Ι.Ν. Αγ.

Κωνσταντίνου & Ελένης, Palos Hills, IL -8:30 π.μ.

Κυριακή 25 Μαΐου ΄΄ Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία – 8:00 π.μ.

Δευτέρα 26 Μαΐου Μνημόσυνο στο Evergreen-7:30 π.μ. -11:00 π.μ.

Μνημόσυνο στο Bethani $\alpha$ —11:30 π.μ. –1:30 μ.μ.

Πέμπτη 29 Μαΐου **Η Ανάληψη του Κυρίου**, Όρθρος & Λειτουργία -8:00 π.μ.

Σάββατο 31 Μαΐου Εσπερινός – 5:00 μ.μ.

Κυριακή 1 Ιουνίου Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία – 8:100π.μ.

		May 2025-	5—Community Calendar	Calendar		
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				*Archangels Academy— 9:00 am * Food Distribution—1:00 p.m.—2:00 p.m.	* Archangels Academy— 9:00 am * Greek School—4:30 pm * Floga Dance Advanced— 6:40 p.m. * Adult Greek School—6:45 p.m.	3 * PTA Fashion Show at Elements—11:30 a.m.
4 * Sunday School – 10:30 am – 11:30 am	* Archangels Academy— 9:00 am * Greek School—4:30 pm- 6:30 pm * Greek Dance (Beginner & Intermediate)—6:45 p.m.	6 * Archangels Academy—9:00 am	* Archangels Academy— 9:00 am * Cherubs—10:30 a.m. * Iconography—5:30 pm * Philoptochos Meeting—6:30 p.m. * GOYA —7:00 p.m.	* Archangels Academy— 9:00 am * Food Distribution—1:00 p.m.—2:00 p.m. *IOCC Banquets at Empress Banquests, Addion, IL—6:00 p.m.	* Archangels Academy— 9:00 am * Greek School—4:30 pm * Floga Dance (Advanced) —6:40 p.m. * Adult Greek School—6:45 p.m.	*Byzantine Chant Class (Levels 1& 3) - 4:15 pm
* Family Worship * Mother's Day Luncheon— 11:30 p.m.	* Archangels Academy— 9:00 am * Greek School—4:30 pm- 6:30 pm * Greek Dance (Beginner & Intermediate)—6:45 p.m.	* Archangels Academy—9:00 a.m.	* Archangels Academy— 9:00 am * Iconography—5:30 pm	15  * Archangels Academy— 9:00 a.m.  * Food Distribution—1:00 p.m.—2:00 p.m.  * Grill & Gather Men's Ministry—6:30 p.m.	16  * Archangels Academy— 9:00 am  * Greek School—4:30 pm  * Floga (Advanced) Dance—6:40 p.m.  * Last Day of Adult Greek School—6:45 p.m.	*Byzantine Chant Class (Levels 1& 3) - 4:15 pm
* Last Day of Sunday \$chool—10:30 am— 11:30 am * Philoptochos Elections— 11:30 a.m.	** Archangels Academy— 9:00 am ** Greek School—4:30 pm- 6:30 pm ** Greek Dance (Beginner & Intermediate)—6:45 p.m.	20 * Archangels Academy—9:00 am	21  * Archangels Academy  * Iconography—5:30 pm  * GOYA —7:00 p.m.	* Archangels Academy— 9:00 am * Food Distribution—1:00 p.m.—2:00 p.m.	* Archangels Academy— 9:00 am * Greek School Graduation Program—4:30 pm-6:30 pm (Last Day)	24 * JR Olympics at SS Constantine & Helen, Palos Hills
* JR Olympics at SS Constantine & Helen, Palos Hills	Memorial Day No activities *Memorials at Evergreen (7:30 a.m -11:00 a.m.) *Memorials at Bethania- 11:30 a.m1:30 p.m.)	27 * Archangels Academy—9:00 am	** Archangels Academy  ** Last Day — 9:00 am  ** Iconography — 5:30 pm  ** Greek School Board  Meeting — 6:30 p.m.	* Food Distribution— 1:00 p.m.—2:00 p.m. * Archangels Academy Graduation Program— 5:30 p.m.	30 * Floga Dance (Advanced) —6:40 p.m.	31 Floga Year End Paniyiri — Time TBA

### **PARISH REGISTRY**

#### **MEMORIALS**

Sunday, April 6th †6 mo Georgia Kariofilas

#### **FUNERALS**

On April 23rd, Eleni Patsakas fell asleep in the Lord. Her funeral service took place on April 28th and she was interned at Chapel Hill Cemetery.

### May their memory be eternal!

#### WEDDING

John Chris Korbakes and Bailey Joy were joined in Holy Matrimony on Sunday, April 26th. Their sponsor was Peter Xeros.

#### **BAPTISMS**

The daughter of Ophelia Rose & Alec Peter Skiadopoulos was baptized on April 6th and was given the name Despina Stavroula by her godparents Christina & Angelo Angelos

### Stewardship



Christian stewardship means that I own nothing. Everything I have belongs to God. He has loaned it to me. I am committed to use it responsibly, and one day, I will have to answer to Him for my use or misuse of His gifts.

I am the manager of God's gifts: my time, my talents, my possessions, my body, my soul – everything belongs to God. Saint Paul asks us, "What have you that you have not received?" Money, for example, becomes a sacrament when it is offered to God. It becomes a visible expression of our commitment, faith, and love for Jesus. Once given to God, our gifts are consecrated by the Holy Spirit, who then translates them into works of mercy that bring glory to God.

Ευχαριστούμε τις 211 οικογένειες που εκπλήρωσαν τις υποσχέσεις τους για το έτος 2025.

Υπενθυμίζουμε σε όλους ότι έχουν ταχυδοομηθεί οι Καταστάσεις Υπόσχεσης του Καλού Οικονόμου για το τρέχον έτος.

Σας παρακαλούμε να ανανεώσετε την συνδρομή σας το γρηγορώτερο δυνατόν. Οι δραστηριότες και τα έξοδα της ενορίας μας έχουν αυξηθεί κατά πολύ και χρειαζόμαστε την βοήθεια και την υποστήρηξη όλων σας.

### STEWARDS APRIL 1ST—APRIL 22ND

As of April 22nd, Stewardship donations have been received for 2025 from 211 individual/families. We are so thankful to these stewards.

Have you sent in your 2025 Stewardship Commitment Form?

Forms are available in the Narthex of the church and online. Thank you to our stewards who have already sent their 2025 pledge forms!!

Dr. & Mrs. Alex Alemis

Ms. Eleni Alexakos

Mr. & Mrs. Georgia Bedusis

Mr. & Mrs. Dimitris Bezanis

Mrs. Mary Bisbikis

Mr. & Mrs. Ch. Chrimpouras

Mr. & Mrs. Joshua Falcone

Ms. Rena Falcone

Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Feltz

Mr. Stefanos Giannouris

Mr. & Mrs. Andreas Glikis

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Hix

Mr. & Mrs. Nick Karamagianis

Mr. Vaios Karagiannis

Mr. & Mrs. Peter Kavvadas

Mr. & Mrs. Frank Kladis

Mr. Telemahos Korbakes

Mr. & Mrs. George Laris

Mrs. Joanna Les

Mrs. Betty Lillios

Mr. Eustratios Marinos

Ms. Kathy Michalarias

Mr. & Mrs. John Michalopoulos

*Mr.* & *Mrs.* George Papadopoulos

Mrs. Carol Lee Pappas

Ms. Catherine Pappas

Mrs. Mary Paras

Mr. & Mrs. Nick Petinatos

Ms. Andreana Petrakos

Mr. & Mrs. Kostas Retsinas

Mrs. Gkolfo Rodogiannis

Mr. &Mrs. Emmanuel Simeakis

Mr. & Mrs. Alec Sikiadopoulos

*Mr. Alex Sotiropoulos* 

Mr. & Mrs. Kostas Stergiopoulos

Mr. & Mrs. Ioannis Synadinos

*Mt.* & *Mrs. George Theoharis* 

Mr. Peter Xeros

Mr. & Mrs. George Vasilakos

Mr. & Mrs. Labros Vlachos

### **EASTER FLOWER DONATIONS** & PASCHA OFFERINGS

We wish to thank the following parishioners and friends for donating towards the church, the needy, the flowers and adornment of our St. Spyridon Church during the Great Lent and Pascha Season:

Anonymous

Mrs. Penelope Arger

Ms. Eleni Bizoukas

Mr. Nicholas Bobis

Mr. John Bonadeo

Mr. & Mrs. Zaharias Bousies

Mr. & Mrs. Theodoros Bouzios

Mr. Christos Catsogiannis

Mrs. Anna Charalambos

Mrs. Caryn Chibucos & Family

Mr. & Mrs. Adam Collopy

Mr. & Mrs. Steven Colompos

Ms. Eleni Dimis

Ms. Bess Demopoulos

Mr. Vasilis Eliadis

Mrs. Martha Eliopulos

Mrs. Georgia Evangelopoulos

Ms. Ruth Faklis

Ms. Sophia Felecos

Mr. & Mrs. Dimitrios Flaskos

Mr. & Mrs. George Gatsios

Dr. & Mrs. George Georgelos

Mr. & Mrs. Bill Georgiopoulos

Mr. & Mrs. Ted Georgiopoulos

Mr. & Mrs. Andreas Glikis

Mr. & Mrs. Aris Halikias

Ms. Angie Hatzitheodorou

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Hix

Dr. & Mrs. Michael Hohlastos

Mr. & Mrs. Dimitrios Karamagianis Mrs. Mary Limparis

Mr. & Mrs. Dean Karampelas

Mrs. Stavroula Karampelas

Dr. George Karuntzos

Mr. Demetrios Karuntzos



Ms. Georgia Katsis

Mr. & Mrs. William Kilias

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Kirkpatrick

Dr. & Mrs. Chris Kolyvas

Mr. Pete Kolyvas

Mrs. Sophia Kopanitsanos

Mr. & Mrs. Dean Korolis

Mr. & Mrs. James Kotsiviras

Mr. Demetrios Kottaras

Mr. & Mrs. Greg Kyriakopoulos

Mr. & Mrs. George Kyroudis

Mr. & Mrs. Gus Lamberis

Mrs. Ioanne Les

Mrs. Betty Lillios

Mrs. Yiannoula Malfas & Family

Mr. & Mrs. Theophanes Manikas

Mr. & Mrs. Bill Maramathas

Mr. Eustratios Marinos



Mr. & Mrs. Dino Mihas

Mr. & Mrs. Ted Pappas

Mr. & Mrs. Peter Paxinos

Mr. & Mrs. Nick Petinatos

Mr. & Mrs. Nick Scarlatis

Mr. & Mrs. Nickolas Shizas

Mrs. Mary Stafanatos

Mrs. Efthimia Thiakos

Ms. Vicki Thiakos

Mr. & Mrs. George Triantafyllou

Mr. & Mrs. Andreas Tsantilis

Mr. John Tsoukalas

Ms. Vicki Thiakos

Mr. Michael Valaris

Mr. & Mrs. George Vasilakos

Mr.& Mrs. George Vythoulkas

Ms. Goldie Xirafakis

Ms. Katherine Yrapsis

Mr. & Mrs. Anastasios Zervakis

Mrs. Effie Zorbas



#### PLUTARCHOS ACADEMY



Χριστός Ανέστη!

On Sunday, April 6th, dedicated students, parents and teachers marched, represented our school and celebrated in the Greek Independence Day Parade in Greektown. A very

big thank you to the Board members that participated.

We are happy to announce that our school was chosen again to participate in the Greektown 2025 public art project. With the main theme "Flowers" tentative title of the project is "The Flowering Grecian Urn".

It is truly hard to believe that this school year is coming to an end in a few weeks! Last day of Adult Greek School is Friday, May 16th. Graduation program is scheduled for Friday, May 23rd at 4:30 p.m.

This year's Summer Camp Kalokairaki "be a Hero of Greek Mythology" will be offered to K-6th grade students on **June 16th –20th** from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The cost is \$150 for the week and space is limited. Call the Church office for more information.

Please register for next school year as soon as possible! September will be here before we know it and there is plenty of planning and ordering that needs to be done. Registration forms have been mailed out to the families. Early bird tuition rate is available until May 30th.



### **METROPOLIS OF CHICAGO ORATORICAL FESTIVAL**

### St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival Highlights



On Bright Saturday, April 26, the 41st Annual Metropolis Oratorical Festival was held at Assumption Greek Orthodox Church in Chicago. Our parish was represented by three participants.

Dimitri Christopher received First Place in the Junior Vocal Chant division, chanting *Ti Ypermacho*, a

powerful hymn dedicated to the Theotokos. Dimitri's heartfelt chanting reminded us of the protection and intercession of the





Marianna Petropoul participated in the Junior Oratory division and

delivered a thoughtful and inspiring speech on the true meaning of beauty in our Orthodox faith, reflecting on Dostoevsky's reminder that beauty rooted in God, truth, and goodness has the power to uplift and transform the world.

**Epaminonta Stamus** submitted a moving poem, "As a Teenager," reminding us that Christ is the steady light guiding today's youth through uncertain times.

Congratulations to our participants for their outstanding efforts, for sharing their faith so eloquently, and for representing our parish. We are deeply proud of Dimitri, Marianna, and Epaminonta for their dedication, faith, and

eloquence. May God continue to bless their spiritual journeys.







### ST SPYRIDON'S GREEK FESTIVAL

We are excited to announce that this year's **Annual Greek Fest** will take place on Saturday, July 12, and Sunday, July 13! This beloved tradition is a highlight of our community calendar—and we need your help to make it a success.

While last year was a strong year overall, we faced challenges due to a shortage of volunteers. To ensure everything runs smoothly this year, we are asking all who are able to please set aside time in your sched**ules to assist** with the fest.

We are in need of volunteers to help with: \*\*Cooking and food prepa-\*\*Cleaning and serving \*\*Setup during the week leading up ration \*\*Many other responsibilities to the festival

If you can lend a hand, please reach out to Bill Kilias, our Parish Council President, or Dean Eliacostas.

Thank you for your continued love and support. Together, we can make this year's Greek Fest another joyful and successful celebration of faith, food, and fellowship!



**SUNDAY, JULY 13** NOON—10PM

#### CHERUBS

Xristos Anesti! Christ Is Risen!

What better way to get excited for Easter than with an Easter Egg Hunt?

The kids had a blast running around the gym looking for all the hidden eggs. The excitement even got the parents involved. Snacks, crafts and games are always enjoyed by our littles. We hope everyone had a very happy Easter celebration!

**Evelyn Hristakos** 









### GOYA NEWS

GOYA is officially in Rochester, Minnesota on its outreach trip to the Philoxenia House, May 1-4. The Philoxenia House is a place where people can stay for free while undergoing treatments at the MAYO clinic. The Philoxenia House is connected to Sts. Anargyroi, Kosmas and Damianos Greek Orthodox Church. The GOYA group's main focus will be painting the entire interior of the house. In addition to that, GOYA will also be having lots of fun at the Mall of America, bowling and rock climbing. Be sure to follow along on our adventure on the St. Spyridon Hellenic Orthodox Church Facebook feed.

Mark your calendars for the final GOYA Gatherings for the school year.

Wednesday, 5/7 @ 7-8:30 p.m. at the church

Wednesday, 5/21 – end of year bonfire – more details to follow

### FOOD PANTRY

Xristos Anesti! Christ Is Risen!

Thanks to the generous donations from our parish, we were able to distribute 45 food baskets to local families for Easter! Each basket included a ham, fresh fruit and vegetables, desserts, and extras for breakfast and lunch meals after Easter.

It takes the hard work of a community to accomplish this mission. We could not have done this without the help of our GOYA, members of our Parish Council and our devoted volunteers.

\$1,000 in gift cards were also purchased for giving to the needy throughout the year.

Our next special distribution will be for Thanksgiving. If you know of anyone in need of food, we distribute every Thursday from 1pm - 2 pm inside the rear entrance of our Gym.

With gratitude,

The Food Pantry Team



The Voice H φωνή
Official Monthly Community
Publication of
St. Spyridon
Hellonic Outbodgy Church

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

#### Rev. Fr. George Lamberis PARISH PRIEST Church Office

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### **PHILOPTOCHOS**

Dear St. Spyridon Family,

Χοιστός Ανέστη!!!! Christ is Risen!!! Hope you all had a blessed Pascha!

It is hard to believe that we are already in the month of May!

We thank our beloved parish for all their support this past month from our fundraisers. As always, your continued love & support never ceases to amaze us!!

Don't forget to make your reservations for our upcoming annual Mother's Day Luncheon on Sunday, May 11th! Our committee along with Chef Dean have been busy planning for the beautiful event! We look forward to seeing you there!

Wishing you & your family a Blessed month!! Sisterly Agapi,

Dana Vasilakos – Philoptochos President

#### Save these Dates!

- \* Saturday, May 3rd PTA Fashion Show Luncheon
- \* Sunday, May 11th Mother's Day Luncheon
- \* Sunday, May 18th Philoptochos Elections
- \* Saturday, June 14th 4th Annual Walk Against Cancer

Our monthly meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 7th  $\,$  @ 6:30 p.m.



### CELEBRATING ST. GEORGE FEAST DAY



### FAMILY MINISTRY

Χριστός Ανέστη!

On Saturday, April 12th, the Family Night Ministry, sponsored by the PTA, hosted our Annual Saturday of Lazarus Retreat.

We had 44 children in attendance, and they had a wonderful time. We started the retreat with breakfast, which was provided to the entire community. Then the children went into their rotations, where they learned about Jesus' betrayal by Judas, learned the Lazarus Saturday hymn, did a nesting egg craft, where they painted each wooden egg with a different Holy Week theme, and made sensory jars filled with Holy Week and Easter trinkets.

The afternoon ended with an egg hunt of 1200 eggs! It was a beautiful day, and it was a great way for our children to kick off Holy Week. We look forward to next year's retreat!

Our next meeting will be on Friday, May 16th.



#### ARCHANGELS ACADEMY

#### Χοιστός Ανέστη!

What a beautiful and productive month April has been! We wrapped up our Community Helpers unit — one of our favorites — with a special visit from musician Stephane Collopy. Stephane, a member of our community, spoke to the children about playing music, learning notes, and understanding rhythm. She played beautiful pieces for the children to listen and dance to, and each child had the opportunity to try playing the violin!

As Easter approached, we taught the children about Pascha and its significance as the most important celebration for Orthodox Christians. We explored the many traditions and customs observed during this holy season. The children learned about the Saturday of Lazarus, Palm Sunday, the symbolism behind the red eggs, and the lambathes we light on Holy Saturday night. These lessons helped deepen their understanding of our faith and its rich traditions.

To close out the month, we enjoyed a wonderful field trip to the Oak Lawn Children's Museum. The children had so much fun, and the experience tied in perfectly with our Community Helpers theme.

As May approaches, we're preparing for the end of the school year and our much-anticipated graduation celebration. Practice for our end-of-year program will soon be in full swing, as we look forward to honoring the achievements and growth of our exceptional young learners.

Enrollment for the Fall 2025-2026 academic year is now open! Given the limited availability, we urge interested families to visit our website at www.archangelsacademy.org for tuition information and to download the application today.

Don't miss out on this year's summer camp! For the first time ever, we will be hosting a Cooking Camp for children ages 3-5! Your little ones will have the chance to explore their culinary skills, learn about nutrition, discover what a healthy plate looks like, and so much more!

Spots are limited, so don't miss out on this exciting opportunity. For more information visit our website.





### ARCHANGELS ACADEMY



### YOUNG ADULT GROUP

On Tuesday, April 29th, our Young Adult group turned back the clock for a funfilled evening of nostalgia with a 90s and 2000s-themed trivia night! From throwback tunes and movie releases to iconic pop culture moments, teams battled it out for the top spot—all while enjoying plenty of pizza, drinks, and snacks.

The event featured prizes not only for the winning trivia team but also for the best dressed. It was a fantastic night of laughter, friendly competition, and connection. Thanks to everyone who came out and made it such a memorable evening!





### **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Christ Is Risen! Truly He Is Risen!

It's hard to believe that we are coming to the close of another Sunday School year.

We have accomplished so much! The children of Sunday School learned about stewardship and how important it is to give of their time, talent and treasure. We believe that each one of us, no matter our age, has something to give.

In their classrooms, they find their Sunday School teachers, who share their time and talent every week, to plan, prepare and deliver the lesson. They are surrounded by positive examples and dedicated individuals who have one objective, and that is to help our church, St. Spyridon.

We are thankful to all the parents who bring their children to Sunday School. It is not one component, but the sum of all that makes our Sunday School special.

The Sunday School program is a volunteer program and always welcomes new members. Whether you can

dedicate one class, or several, please consider volunteering. We'd love your help.

For the month of May, we will have class on the 4th, 11th and our last class on the 18th. Junior Olympics on the weekend of May 24th & 25th with Graduation Sunday on June 1st. If you have a graduate of 8th grade, High School, College or Post-College, please let the office know and don't forget to submit your students photo and information to be included in the June 1st bulletin as well as the Voice.

Wishing you all a good summer "break" from Sunday School.

Zoe Kopanis, Sunday School Director



# 2025 High School & College Graduates

Please send to the office via e-mail a photo (head shot) along with your full name, school that you are graduating from, and a brief summary of your ac-

complishments and future aspirations.

In addition, if you are a 2025 Middle School graduate, please submit your name to the office.

Graduate Sunday will take place on Sunday, June 1st . On this day, we will also honor our Sunday School teachers and Junior Olympic Athlets.

### PHILOPTOCHOS VOCATIONAL & TRADE SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP 2025

The Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society of St. Spyridon of Palos Heights is pleased to announce the **2025 Philoptochos Trade/Vocational Scholarship**. This scholarship will be awarded to **one deserving applicant** who demonstrates both **financial need and academic merit**. The recipient will be selected based on the recommendation of the Scholarship Committee.

### **Eligibility Requirements:**

- •Applicants must be a current steward of our parish.
- •Applicants must be accepted into or currently enrolled in a **vocational or trade school program**. Previous recipients from the past **two years** are **not eligible** to apply.

#### Deadline:

All applications and **required materials** can be found on <a href="https://saint-spyridon.net/philoptochos">https://saint-spyridon.net/philoptochos</a> and must be submitted via email by **midnight on May 30, 2025** 

to: englishteacher30@yahoo.com

We encourage all eligible students to apply and look forward to supporting the educational journeys of our youth.

### 2025 Peter Manasses Memorial Scholarship

The St. Spyridon Ladies Philoptochos Society is honored to invite High School Seniors, Current Undergraduate Students, Current Graduate Students to apply for the 2025 Peter Manasses Memorial Scholarship.

### This year's scholarships include:

- •(1) \$3,000 scholarship for a graduating high school senior
- •(1) \$3,000 scholarship for a currently enrolled undergraduate student
- (1) \$3,000 scholarship for a currently enrolled graduate student

These scholarships are made possible through the generosity of Mrs. Manasses and her family, in loving memory of her husband, Mr. Peter Manasses.

All applications and required materials can be found on <a href="https://saint-spyridon.net/philoptochos">https://saint-spyridon.net/philoptochos</a> and must be submitted via email by <a href="midnight">midnight</a> on <a href="may">May</a> 30, 2025 to: englishteacher30@yahoo.com

#### Deadline:

All completed applications and supporting materials must be submitted by May 30, 2025.

Please email all documents to: englishteacher30@yahoo.com. We encourage all eligible students to apply and celebrate the lasting legacy of Mr. Manasses through their pursuit of academic excellence.



The following Scholarships will be offered:

(1) \$3,000 scholarship to graduating High School Seniors

\$3,000 scholarships to currently enrolled Undergraduate students
 \$3,000 scholarships to currently enrolled Graduate students.

The 2025 scholarships are made available through the generosity of Mrs. Manasses and her family, in memory of her beloved husband, Mr. Peter

Application and information are available on St. Spyridon's website: <a href="https://saint-spyridon.net/philoptochos">https://saint-spyridon.net/philoptochos</a>

The deadline for the completed application and supporting

documents are due by **May 30, 2025.** Please email application materials to

englishteacher30@yahoo.com

### **PRISON MINISTRY**

On Saturday, April 5th, Fr. George and Dana Vasilakos made a meaningful journey to Indiana State Prison to share the love of Christ with those often forgotten. As part of their ongoing outreach, Fr. George celebrated the Divine Liturgy with several Orthodox Christian inmates, offering them the opportunity to worship and receive the Holy Gifts.

Following the service, he preached a sermon on the life of Saint Mary of Egypt—a powerful example of repentance and transformation that deeply resonates in the prison setting. Dana and Fr. George then spent time speaking personally with the Orthodox inmates, as well as catechumens and inquirers who are exploring the faith.

Their visit reflects the words of our Lord in Matthew 25:36—"I was in prison and you visited me." This outreach reminds us that Christ is present in all places and among all people, and that no soul is beyond His reach. If you would like to learn more about this prison ministry, please reach out to Fr. George or Dana Vasilakos.

### GOLDEN CIRCLE TRAVELS TO ST IAKOVOS RETREAT CENTER



We are thankful to the Hellenic Foundation and its Golden Circle initiative for making a special pilgrimage possible this month. Members from four south side parishes traveled to the Saint Iakovos Retreat Center to celebrate the Feast of the Life-Giving Spring.

The day was filled with prayer, reflection, and fellowship in the peaceful setting of the retreat center. We are grateful for the opportunity to come together in faith and for the support that made this meaningful experience possible.

### **BRIGHT FRIDAY BBQ**

A big thank you to our PTA for sponsoring this year's Bright Friday BBQ! We are especially grateful to the fathers and mothers who cooked, cleaned, and made the day so special for our community.

We also thank Nick Tsinoukas for being present to help our youth register for the Junior Olympics. If your child would still like to sign up, please contact Nick Tsinoukas or Demetri Marines (see Jr Olympics flyer on cover page).



### St. John the Russian

Saint John was born in a village in Little Russia, around 1690. During the Russian-Turkish war (1711 – 1718) he was a soldier in the imperial army of Peter the Great of Russia. At that time the then Turkish military forces were advancing from victory to victory, spreading fear to all nations. As a soldier, Saint John fought to defend his country, but having being nurtured by the springs of Orthodoxy through his Christian parents, he was appalled by the horror of war, the thousands of young men, women and children,

and the elderly, left dead by the passing of the tempest of hostilities and the bellicosity of the enemy.

During the battles for the recapture of Azof on the northern coast of the Black Sea, Saint John, together with many thousands of his compatriots, was taken prisoner. He was first sent to Constantinople (Istanbul), and from there to Prokopi near Caesarea of Cappadocia in Asia Minor, where he was delivered to an Aga who main-

tained a camp of janissaries there. He was tortured to deny Christ. At Prokopi he was subjected to the scorn and hatred of the Turks for being an unbeliever of Islam, for which he was tortured. He was beaten with sticks, kicked and spat on, and a red hot metal bowl was put on his head, burning his hair and scalp. He was then thrown into the mire of a stable and made to live with the animals.

#### His Response to the Tortures

Saint John endured all his tortures with perseverance and remarkable bravery. His indomitable Christian character, his wonderful inner world, which since his childhood had been devoted to Christ, shone like the sun. To the beatings, insults and kicks of the Turks he responded with the

words of Saint Paul: "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?" (Rom. 8:35). We can imagine him saying: "I have confidence, faith and love in my Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten son of the Father, and none of these sufferings will separate me from His love. As a prisoner I will obey your orders, and carry out my duties as a slave, but with regard to my faith in Christ the Saviour, you are not my masters – we ought to obey God ra-

ther than men' (Acts 5:29). I remember the crown of thorns, the spittings, the buffeting on the face, and that death on the cross, and I am ready to suffer greater and more terrible torments and even that death rather than deny my Christ."

Thus Saint John accepted the hardships of his life – the tortures, living with the animals in the stable, which, he said, reminded him of the stable in Bethlehem, his spiritual selfdiscipline: fasts, vigils and prayerand this acceptance and his way of

life so impressed his tormentors that they ceased their brutality, and instead they gave him the epithet of "veli", which means saint.

One day, at a banquet of the Aga's officers at Prokopi, Saint John miraculously sent with an angel of the Lord a copper plate of food to the Aga in Mecca where he had gone on a pilgrimage to the tomb of Mohammed. The food was hot when the plate appeared before the Aga, and he ate it. On the Aga's return to Prokopi three months later, at a similar banquet held in honour of his safe return, the Aga showed the officers the very same plate engraved with his family emblem. This miracle, accomplished by the grace of God, completely quenched the hatred of Saint John's Turkish masters: their brutality was overcome by spir-

### St. John the Russian

itual radiance.

#### The End of his Life

Throughout his harsh and difficult life Saint John had the support and consolation of prayer, vigils, prostrations, and of the Holy Mysteries which he partook of unbeknownst to the Turks. Receiving Holy Communion every Saturday was his greatest refreshment and sustenance. On the last day of his life, the 27th of May 1730, he sent for the priest who brought him Holy Communion concealed in a hollowed-out apple which he received for the last time there in the stable. His temporary captivity and sufferings had come to an end: as soon as he had partaken of the Holy Gifts, the wondrous Saint John passed on to the life of eternal exultation and blessedness.

#### **His Burial**

The priests and Christian notables from Prokopi were given permission by the Turks to take his body for burial. Surrounded by censers and candles, they carried it on their shoulders, accompanied by Turks and Armenians as well as Christians, to a grave in the Christian cemetery. There, with deep devotion, their eyes streaming with tears as if he were their lord and master the body of the former slave and servant was consigned to the mother earth

#### A Vision

One night in November of 1733, the old priest who every Saturday had listened to Saint John tell of his sufferings and tortures and who had given him Holy Communion, saw him in a dream. Saint John told the priest that, with God's grace, his body had remained entire and uncorrupted as it had been when laid in the grave three and a half years before, and that it should be exhumed so that it would remain with them as a blessing of God for evermore. The priest hesitated and then, by the grace of God, a heavenly light, like a pillar of fire, was seen illuminat-

ing the Saint's grave.

The Christians opened up the grave, and what great wonder the body of the Saint was found entire, uncorrupted and redolent with a divine fragrance that it still has today. With spiritual gladness and devotion they took this divine gift of the holy relic in their arms and transferred it to the church where Saint John himself had spent so many nights in prayerful vigil. On that day, over two hundred and fifty years ago, his holy body entered the liturgical life of the Church of Christ.

#### The Holy Body is burned by Osman Pasha

In one of the domestic conflicts and quarrels between the Sultan of Turkey and Ibrahim of Egypt, the Sultan's delegate, Osman Pasha, set fire to the holy relic of Saint John's body as an act of revenge against the Christians. Amid the flames the Turks saw the body begin to move and, terrified, they abandoned their unholy act and fled. The next day the Christians dug amongst the charcoal and ashes and found the body still entire and although blackened by the smoke and fire it was pliant and fragrant.

His relics were brought from the village of Prokopion to Euboea by refugees from Ürgüp in Cappadocia, after the Asia Minor Disaster of 1922-24. For several decades the relics were in the church of Ss. Constantine and Helen at New Prokopion, Euboia, and in 1951 they were transferred to a new church dedicated to St John the Russian. Thousands of pilgrims flock here from all the corners of Greece, particularly on his feast day (May 27).

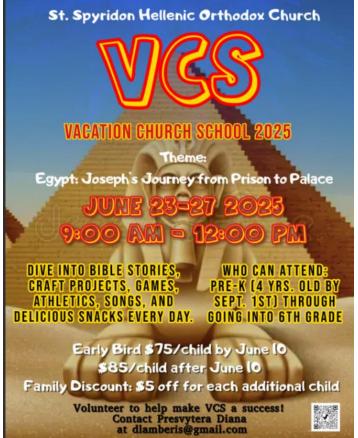


### PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

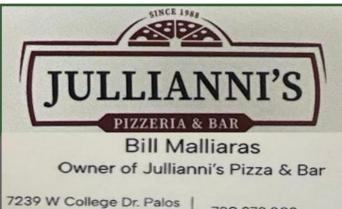












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