

THE VOICE

OCTOBER 2024 - VOLUME No. 394 SAINT SPYRIDON HELLENIC ORTHODOX CHURCH

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







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BEARS GAME PLUTARCHOS ACADEMY FUNDRAISER

On Sunday, September 15th, our Annual Bears game fundraiser was held at X's and O's Sports Lounge.

The event was a tremendous success, bringing our community together for a great cause. Over 50 people came to watch the Bears vs the Texans and enjoy time together. Funds raised will directly benefit our Greek school.



FATHER'S MESSAGE

Caring for Souls, Not Numbers

Every parish is unique. Each parish has its own par-purity, love, joy, etc)...through Chrismation... ticular goals, dreams and problems. Each has experi-forgiveness of their sins through Confession...the Life enced its own successes and failures. But in every parish, there is one concern that appears to be constant and universal: Clergy and laity will admit that attracting new people to the faith is a challenge. The story is the same in most parishes: We need more stewards! The words "outreach" and "parish growth" are important terms often synonymous with this topic. Parishes have established committees to address stewardship. There are some ideas and projects that have been put together in order to increase the number of people within a parish. This is a great goal, but it can also be dangerous if we are embracing it for the wrong reasons.

What is our true purpose for bringing new stewards into the church? Why are we going to all this trouble? Some may offer the typical "the more the merrier" answer. Of course, there is more room for more worshippers in all our parishes on Sundays and weekdays. It would be great to see thirty or forty more people sitting in the pews. We could do more with more people, couldn't we? We could divide the duties and obligations amongst more people and spread it out so that people wouldn't get burnt out. New stewards would mean more opportunities, undertaking more projects and greater resources. Are these the reasons why we try to "attract" new

people?

These are perfectly fine secondary reasons for wanting to bring others into our church and into the Orthodox Faith. But the most IMPORTANT reason, not nearly as intriguing, for bringing others into the church is this: as Orthodox Christians, it is our duty... our calling...our obligation to be modern-day apostles and evangelists and bring others to Christ and His Church because we are to love others unconditionally. This is where we should all be! We are not to be concerned with what others can bring us, but rather what we can give to them.

What can a parish offer newcomers to the faith? We offer the ONE, HOLY, CATHOLIC AND OSTOLIC CHURCH - the most ancient of Faiths. We offer them the Word of God as God Himself in the Divine Person of Jesus Christ taught it, and not some human misinterpretation of it. We offer them the Sacraments: cleansing through Baptism...a new beginning...the gifts of the Holy Spirit (peace, love

-giving Body and Blood of Christ through Holy Communion...the healing of body and soul through Holy Unction.

Simply put, we the Church offer them the path to salvation. This is why we must reach out to our children...family members...our brothers and sisters...our friends we grew up with who have "fallen by the wayside" – not because we want them to nostalgically remember their roots, but rather because we are sincerely worried about where they are going. More specifically, we are to be concerned about where their soul is heading. If you read the Acts of the Apostles or in the letters of St. Paul, you repeatedly see that Christian communities were founded and converts were sought so that everyone would come to the knowledge of the truth about Christ. There were no other "strings" attached.

We must remember that a church is unlike any other organization to which we may belong. The same principles for "joining" or "belonging" cannot be applied.

So when we ask someone to come to our church (which I hope we do often!), remember why we really want them! We are looking to bring them into the net of the church motivated by our love for them and for their soul to be saved! We are looking for a commitment – not to be a new youth worker, a souvlaki skewer-er at our fest or treasurer of the parish council – but a commitment to follow Jesus Christ.

The only way we will lead others toward this path is if we are whole-heartedly following Him, His teachings, with selflessness, showing love to others while receiving confession and all the Sacraments regularly (which assumes we are worshipping regularly in the pews too!)

Brothers and sisters, let us reflect where we are on our journey toward the Kingdom, and on the way, let us seek to invite others to "draw the world into the net" of the church motivated by love for the soul of our friends, relatives, enemies, and neighbors. A warm smile, caring conversation, a genuine interest in others can go a long way! If we are the true church, then come and worship the Truth - the Holy Trinity regularly, and be strengthened to be the light of the world that leads others to Him.

The Voice Η φωνή Official Monthly Community **Publication of** St. Spyridon Hellenic Orthodox Church 12307 S. Ridgeland Avenue Palos Heights, IL 60463 Rev. Fr. George Lamberis PARISH PRIEST

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Parish Council Officers

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

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SUNDAY SCHOOL 2024-2025

Welcome back to Sunday School!

Our first class took place on September 8th. We were very happy to see our students return to the classroom. Many thanks to the Sunday School teachers who share their time and talents each week to teach our students about the Orthodox Faith. During the month of October, we will have class on October 6th, 20th and 27th.

October 13th is Family Worship day, so there is no Sunday School on those days. It gives an opportunity for our students to stay in church and sit with their families. It is not too late to register your student.

Sunday School is always looking for new volunteers, if you are interested in teaching, please feel free to contact Zoe Kopanis or Father George for more details.



DIVINE LITURGY SCHEDULE

Tuesday, October 1st St. Romanos the Melodist, 1st Hour & Liturgy -8:00 a.m.

Sunday, October 6th Orthros & Divine Liturgy — 8:00 a.m. Sunday, October 13th Orthros & Divine Liturgy — 8:00 a.m.

Tuesday, October 15th Christianiki Philoxenia, Paraklesis to the Holy Cross

at Holy Cross Church, Justice — 9:30 a.m.

Saturday, October 19th Vespers—5:00 p.m.

Sunday, October 20th Orthros & Divine Liturgy—8:00 a.m.

Wednesday, October 23rd St. James (Iakovos) the Apostle

1st Hour & Divine Liturgy — 8:00 a.m.

Friday, October 25th Vespers at St. Demetrios Church, Elmhurst, IL—7:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 26th St. Demetrios, Orthros & Div. Liturgy — 8:00 a.m.

Sunday, October 27th Orthros & Divine Liturgy—8:00 a.m.

Monday, October 28th **Agia Skepi,** 1st Hour & Divine Liturgy— 8:00 a.m. Friday, November 1st **SS Cosmas & Damian the Holy Unmercenaries**,

1st & Divine Liturgy – 8:00 a.m.

ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑ ΙΕΡΩΝ ΑΚΟΛΟΥΘΙΩΝ

Τρίτη 1 Οκτωβρίου Αγ. Ρωμανού του Μελωδού, 1η 'Ωρα & Θ. Λειτουργία-8:00 π.μ.

Κυριακή 6 Οκτωβρίου Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία -8:00 π.μ. Κυριακή 13 Οκτωβρίου Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία -8:00 π.μ.

Τρίτη 15 Οκτωβρίου Χριστιανική Φιλοξενία στο Ι.Ν. Τιμίου Σταυρού

Παράκληση στον Τίμιο Σταυρό –9:30 π.μ.

Σάββατο 19 Οκτωβοίου Εσπεοινός – 5:00 μ.μ.

Κυριακή 20 Οκτωβρίου Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία-8:00 π.μ.

Τετάρτη 23 Οκτωβρίου Αγ. Ιακώβου, 1η ' Ω ρα & Θεία Λειτουργία -8:00 π.μ.

Παρασκευή 25 Οκτωβρίου Μέγας Εσπερινός στο Ι.Ν. Αγ. Δημητρίου, Elmhurst-7:00 μ.μ.

Σάββατο 26 Οκτωβρίου Αγ. Δημητρίου, Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία $-8:00~\pi.\mu$.

Κυριακή 27 Οκτωβρίου Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία-8:00 π.μ.

Παρασκευή 1 Νοεμβρίου Αγίων Κοσμά και Δαμιανού των Αναργύρων

Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία-8:00 π.μ.



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SATURDAY	* Floga Advanced – 11 an – 12 pm * Byzantine Music Level 2, 3:30 Level 3, 4:15 pm	* Byzantine Music Level 2, 3:30 Level 3, 4:15 pm	* Byzantine Music Level 2, 3:30 Level 1 & 3, 4:15 pm	* PTA Treats on the Trails Event—11 am * Byzantine Music Level 2, 3:30 Level 3, 4:15 pm	
FRIDAY	* Archangels Academy * Plutarchos Academy, 4:30 pm-6:30 pm * Family Night, 6:30 pm * Adult Greek School 6:45 p.m. —8:15 p.m.	** NO Archangels, Teacher Institute Day ** Plutarchos Academy, 4:30 pm-6:30 pm ** Floga Advanced – 6:40 pm – 7:40 pm ** Adult Greek School 6:45 p.m. – 8:15 p.m.	* Archangels Academy * Plutarchos Academy, * Catechism—9:30 am 4:30 pm-6:30 pm * Floga Advanced—6:40 pm —7:40 pm * Adult Greek School 6:45 p.m.—8:15 p.m.	* Archangels Academy * Plutarchos Academy, 4:30 pm-6:30 pm * Floga Advanced—6:40 pm —7:40 pm * Adult Greek School 6:45 p.m.—8:15 p.m.	
THURSDAY	3 * Archangels Academy * Food Distribution— 1:00 pm	* Archangels Academy * Food Distribution— 1:00 pm	17 * Archangels Academy * Food Distribution— 1:00 pm	24 * Archangels Academy * Food Distribution— 1:00 pm	31 * Archangels Academy * Food Distribution— 1:00 pm
WEDNESDAY	2 * Archangels Academy * Cherubs, 10 am * Iconography, 5:30 pm	9 * Archangels Academy * Iconography, 5:30 pm * GOYA, 7pm	16 * Archangels Academy * Cherubs, 10 am * Project HOPE outreach * Iconography, 5:30 pm	23 * Archangels Academy * Iconography, 5:30 pm * GOYA, 7pm	30 * Archangels Academy * Cherubs, 10 am * Iconography, 5:30 pm
TUESDAY	1 * Archangels Academy * Parish Council —7:00 pm	8 * 9:00 am—Archangels Academy	* 9:00 am—Archangels Academy * 9:30 a.m.—Christianiki Philoxenia at Holy Cross Justice following the Paraklesis	22 * 9:00 am — Archangels Academy	29 * 9:00 am—Archangels Academy
MONDAY		* Archangels Academy * Plutarchos Academy, 4:30 pm-6:30 pm *Floga Springs of Basil & Wonderworkers— 6:45 pm—7:30 p.m.	14 Columbus Day OFFICE CLOSED NO activities	* 9:00 amArchangels Academy * Plutarchos Academy, 4:30 pm-6:30 pm *Floga Springs of Basil & Wonderworkers— 6:45 pm-7:30 p.m.	28 * Archangels Academy * Plutarchos Academy, 4:30 pm-6:30 pm *Floga Springs of Basil & Wonderworkers— 6:45 pm-7:30 p.m.
SUNDAY		6 * Sunday School * PTA meeting—12 pm	13 * Family Worship * Philoptochos Meeting after Divine Liturgy	* Sunday School * ANNUAL DINNER DANCE @ Odyssey Country Club — 6:00 p.m.	27 * Sunday School * General Assembly— 11:30 a.m.

AWARDING OF THE CHARLES C. CONDES MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

On August 18th our church held the 8 year memorial for Charles (Eftixios) C. Condes, a great benefactor of our parish, and in his memory also awarded three Scholarships to our Undergraduate College students.

This year we had six excellent applicants for the three available awards. The five independent and anonymous judges chose the three winners based on the criteria of grade point average, personal essay, recommendation letters and resume.



The Scholarship presentaion was made by Harriette Condes-Zervakis, Charles's niece, following the memorial service. The 2024 Charles C. Condes Memorial Scholarships were awarded to:

Andriana Kilias

Anthony Papadatos

Victoria Zdenovec-Malamis

We wish to congratulate the winners and it is the hope of our parish that the scholarships are not merely a monetary award but a transformative instrument that plays a pivotal role in shaping the future of the recipients.



Και εις ανώτερα!

CHERUBS

The first day with our little Cherubs was on Wednesday, September 18th.

We had so much fun learning about the cross and finding all the hidden crosses through out the church with Father George. The kids were able to decorate their very own cross and enjoyed playing and reuniting with each other!



P.T.A.

The children are back to their school routine and have been busy reviewing and learning in Archangels Academy, in Greek school and in Sunday school.

Our first PTA meeting was held on Sunday, September 8th. We had a great turn out and we discussed our plans for the year. Our next meeting will be on Sunday, October 6th.

If you would like to get involved or if you would like more info, please contact the office or email us at *spyridonpta@gmail.com*





PARISH NEWS

Memorials

Sunday, September 1st

†1 year Anargyros Karounos

Sunday, September 8th

†1year Fay Pavlopoulos †6 years Nikolas Panagiotaros

Sunday, September 15th

†3 months Perikles Tzavaras †20 years Alexandra Bairaktari † The Victims of the Great Fire of Smyrna In 1922

Sunday, September 22nd

† 40 days George Vallianatos † 1 year Maria Stavrakos

Funerals

Mr. Vasilios Lolis fell asleep in the Lord on September 19th. His funeral took place on September 23rd and he was interned at Bethania Cemetery.

Mr. Apostolos Malfas fell asleep in the Lord on September 25th. His funeral took place on October 1st and he was interned at Bethania Cemetery.

May their memory be eternal!

Baptism

The daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Steven Bedore was baptized on September 7th and given the name Haralambia Ioanna. Her Godparents were Anastasia and Panagiotis Deligiannis.

The son of Mr. & Mrs. Steven Bedore was baptized on September 7th and given the name Olaf. His Godparents were Eleni and Frank Manikas.

The son of Mr. & Mrs. Omar Ramirez was baptized on September 15th, and was given the name Benito Evlogios. His Godfather was Christos Koutsis.

Να σας ζήσουν!

GOYA

Our 1st Goya meeting was held on September 18th. The room was filled with friendships, smiles and laughter—even a homecoming proposal. Fr. George also led a discussion with the Goyans about St. Efstathios and carrying our cross.

Look for our Goya schedule, we have a fun year planned! Hope to see all the kids at our next meeting on October 9th. We will be assembling food for Project Hope.

Sign up Goya notifications through the remind app. Text @jrgoyag to 81010 You will receive a text to confirm you are signed up.



PLUTARCHOS ACADEMY



Μετά από το όμορφο και ξένοιαστο Καλοκαίρι μας, επιστρέψαμε όλοι, μαθητές, γονείς και δάσκαλοι ανανεωμένοι, με νέες δυνάμεις, ζήλο, προθυμία και υπομονή, στο Ελληνικό μας Σχολείο Πλούταρχος για ελληνικό να συνεχίσουμε το όμορφο και δύσκολο έργο μας.

Αρχίσαμε τα μαθήματά μας, στις 6 Σεπτεμβρίου, με Αγιασμό κι ευχές για μια ευλογημένη σχολική χρονιά, γεμάτη υγεία αγάπη και ΠΡΟΟΔΟ.

Καλωσορίζουμε όλους τους δασκάλους μας, όλους τους μαθητές μας και όλους εσάς τους γονείς και σας ευχαριστούμε πάρα πολύ, που και για μια ακόμη χρονιά μας εμπιστεύεστε τα παιδιά σας. Σας υποσχόμαστε ότι θα κάνουμε το καλύτερο που μπορούμε για τη μόρφωσή τους.



Το σχολείο μας λειτουργεί δύο φορές την εβδομάδα: Δευτέρα και Παρασκευή 4:30 - 6:30 μ.μ. με τάξεις, από Προνηπιαγωγείο μέχρι και την Ελληνομάθεια Β΄ και με τάξεις για ενήλικες Παρασκευές 6:45 -8:15 μ.μ. Εχουμε πλούσιο Αναλυτικό Πρόγραμμα Μαθημάτων για όλες τις τάξεις, πολιτιστική μόρφωση και πολλούς και διαφορετικούς παραδοσιακούς χορούς. Βασικός Σκοπός του Σχολείου μας είναι: Να κρατήσουμε την Ελληνική μας ταυτότητα. Να αγαπήσουν οι μαθητές μας την πανέμορφη Ελλάδα μας. Να μαθαίνουν φυσικά και αβίαστα να μιλούν, να διαβάζουν, να γράφουν, να σκέφτονται και να ενεργούν ελληνικά. Να γνωρίσουν τις ρίζες μας, την Ορθόδοξη Θρησκεία μας, την μακραίωνη κι ένδοξη Ιστορία μας και το μεγαλείο του Πολιτισμού μας. Με άλλα λόγια να μάθουν τα Ελληνοχριστιανικά γράμματα και να γίνουν καλοί και αγαθοί πολίτες.

Ευχόμαστε να έχουμε μια Καλή Σχολική Χρονιά. Καλή Πρόοδο!!!



PLUTARCHOS ACADEMY

With the intercessions of St. Spyridon, we have been blessed to begin a new Greek School year. We are pleased to welcome to our program many new and continuing students, including 18 adult students. It is a joy to see our students attend class as they learn about their Orthodox faith and Hellenic Heritage. Our students range from Preschool to Ellinomatheia B level. Classes are held every Monday and Friday from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Adult classes are held Fridays 6:45—8:15 p.m. Please make every effort to be on time.

Mark your calendars:

- Friday, October 11th—No Adult Classes
- Monday, October 15th—No school, Columbus Day

Our 2024-25 staff is as follows:

Preschool: Mrs. Nicky Glikis

Kindergarten: Mrs. Sofia Charalambous

1st Level: Mrs. Patricia Vythoulkas

2nd **Level:** Mrs. Fotini Feradouros & Mrs. Georgia Georgelos

Upper Levels Mrs. Evi Marouda, Mrs. Natasha Vossos

Ellinomatheia: Mrs. Marianna Haniotakis

Adult Classes: Mrs. Patricia Vythoulkas & Mrs. Evi Marouda



ICONOGRAPHY CLASS

Our Iconography class meets every Wednesday from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. We are thankful to Mr. Panagiotis Mihalopoulos for offering his time and talent to continue this beautiful tradition, prayer and liturgical art.



FAMILY NIGHT

Family Night Ministry has officially started! On Friday, September 20th. First, we thank Kefi Restaurant for donating the meal for our children. We also thank the Family Night Committee for organizing games and a beautiful bon-fire with smores for the children. Lastly, Father George taught our children about the life of St Efstathios.

Join us for our next Family Night on Friday, October 6th. The children will be learning how to make Artoklasia!





ARCHANGELS ACADEMY



What an incredible and eventful month it has been! We are thrilled to have successfully completed our first month of the school year. The children have been settling in and growing more comfortable with our everyday classroom routine. We have been dedicated to instilling the

importance of following rules and helping the children understand the reasons behind them.

As we step into October, we are delighted to announce the start of our much-anticipated Farm Animal Unit. We are so excited to organize our "Annual" first field trip of the school year to the Children's Farm. Our eager little learners are buzzing with excitement as they look forward to the hands-on experience of touching, holding, and learning about the diverse animals that call the farm home.

Additionally, we would like to extend a huge THANK YOU to everyone who has generously contributed through our Amazon Wish List. Your support has been absolutely invaluable, and our gratitude extends beyond what words can express. We are truly appreciative of your kindness and generosity.



PHILOPTOCHOS

Dear St. Spyridon Family,

Kalo Mina!!

This past month has been a very busy month for our Philoptochos! Our ladies hosted & invited our southside Sister Chapters (including Indiana), shared a meal & ideas! It was great to see & network with our sister chapters – Together we can do so much more!

Our college outreach committee has been busy getting ready to send out our care packages for our college students as well. The care packages will be sent out to over 40 of our own college students within the community!

We also attended the annual Metropolis Philoptochos Luncheon at the Concorde in Kildeer, IL as well. This was a great event to see all of our Philoptochos sisters from all over the Metropolis of Chicago.

We have many events planned for the upcoming New Year!

Wishing you & your family a Blessed month!!

Sisterly Agapi, Dana Vasilakos – Philoptochos President

SAVE THESE DATES!!

*Saturday, October 5th – IOCC Walk @ St. Andrew, Chicago

*Saturday, October 5th – Metropolis Dress A Girl Event @ St. Basil, Chicago

*Saturday, October 12th – Philoptochos President's Meeting @ Holy Cross, Justice, IL



*Sunday, October 20th – St. Spyridon Annual Community Dinner Dance @ Odyssey Country Club Next scheduled Philoptochos meeting will be held on Saturday, November 9th @ 10:30am (at church)



PHILOPTOCHOS MIX & MINGLE GATHERING

President Dana Vasilakos and members of the St. Spyridon Philoptochos welcomed Board members from neighboring sister chapters to 'mix and mingle' on Thursday, September 19th . It was an evening which allowed Board members to meet each other and share upcoming events in a relaxed atmosphere. A dinner of shish-ka-bobs, salad and potatoes was served with a special treat of homemade pineapple upside-down cake and other sweets.

Representatives from sister Philoptochos chapters included members of Assumption/Homer Glen, SS Constantine and Helen/Palos Hills, St. George/Schererville, St. Nicholas/Oak Lawn and the host chapter of St. Spyridon/Palos Heights.

In attendance were two National Philoptochos Board representatives: Demetrea Bakras (St. George) and Georgia Sarlas (St. Nicholas), a Metropolis Philoptochos Board representative: Kathy Korbakes and a St. Spyridon member who has served on the National Philoptochos Board and continues to serve on the Metropolis Philoptochos' Philanthropy Committee, Toula Georgiopoulos.





PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

On Sunday, September 22nd a check for \$5,000 was presented by our St. Spyridon Philoptochos Chapter to the American Liver Foundation. The money was raised during our Annual Cancer Walk in June and will support transplant efforts, medicine advancements and cancer education. We thank everyone who contributed and participated in our Annual Cancer Walk.

In 2025 the Walk will take place on Saturday, June 14th. More information will be forthcoming in the new year.



President Dana Vasilakos, Cancer Walk Chairman Ruth Faklis, American Liver Foundation Representative Corrine Rossi & Fr. George Lamberis

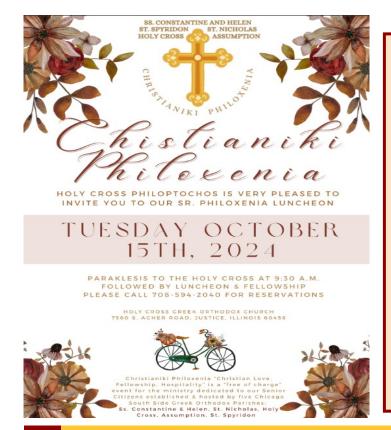
PAPADEAS YOUTH LEADERSHIP

We are pleased to announce that **Andriana Kilias** has been awarded the **Papadeas Youth Leadership Scholarship**.

This \$2,000 award was made possible by the generous contributions of the Dr. Gregory Papadeas and Family Charitable Fund and the Philoptochos.

The scholarship recognizes Andriana's outstanding dedication to her faith and community. Andriana is currently studying Biology and Pre-Medicine at Saint Xavier University and exemplifies leadership through her involvement in various outreach efforts. We congratulate Andriana on this well-deserved honor and pray for her continued success in all her endeavors.





ΧΡΙΣΤΙΑΝΙΚΗ ΦΙΛΟΞΕΝΙΑ

Οι κυρίες της Φιλοπτώχου από τις πέντε Ορθόδοξες Κοινότητες των νοτίων προαστίων του Σικάγου, προσκαλούν όλους τους πιστούς της χρυσής ηλικίας των εωοριών μας στο φετινό γεύμα που θα προσφερθεί από την κοινότητα του Ι.Ν. του Τιμίου Σταυρού στις 15 Οκτωβρίου, 2024.

Η Παράκληση στον Τίμιο Σταυρό θα αρχίσει στις 9:30π π.μ. και θα ακολουθήσει δωρεάν γεύμα στην κοινοτική αίθουσα της ενορίας.

Για κρατήσεις θέσεων θα πρέπει να τηλεφωνήσετε στο κοινοτικό γραφείο του Τιμίου Σταυρού 708-594-2040.

STEWARD SPOTLIGHT...

"God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work."2 Corinthians 9:8

The mission of Stewardship is to promote spiritual growth and strengthen faith. "Becoming a Steward begins when we believe in God, to whom we give our love, loyalty and trust and act on those beliefs. As Stewards, we affirm that every aspect of our lives comes as a gift from Him. Stewardship calls on the faithful to cheerfully offer back to God a portion of the gifts with which they have been blessed."

We have been blessed as a parish community with so many who go above and beyond to give of themselves for the greater good. As we continue our initiative to show appreciation to all our stewards, we are delighted to highlight the following stewards.

Vicky Argyropoulos:

"What a blessing it is to be apart of a community that allows us to live with Christ at the center of our lives. I have been attending St. Spyridon with my family since I was a young girl and continue to do so with my husband and children. As a



family, we've been stewards of St. Spyridon for about 14 years. Being stewards is such a big part of our lives, our community has the blessing and opportuni- **Zoe Kopanis:** ty to humbly give back to St. Spyridon on a weekly basis.

We try to help the church in ways that we are able to or to help with the needs of the church to the best of our ability. I have been involved with youth based organizations over the years. This includes working with our PTA. I am currently in my 8th year on the board. We spend our time organizing events and fundraisers that will benefit our youth and assist our schools with any needs. I am also a Sunday School teacher and the director of the Handmaiden's ministry of our beloved St. Spyridon. Being involved has helped me see how important stewards and stewardship is for our church. We need to be able to come together as one and make beautiful things happen together for our church. Whether that is

working hard to make our festival come together, helping a school with it's needs or just coming together and being present for ourselves, family, friends and parish." A sincere thank you to Vicky and her family for all the love and support they give to our community. Their time and talents do not go unnoticed and are appreciated.

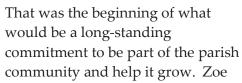
Bobby Papadatos:

Bobby and his family have been stewards of Saint Spyridon for over 30 years. His support has extended beyond Saint Spyridon to other local orthodox churches as well, as he knows the value of helping others and giving back. His love for the community of



Saint Spyridon can be seen in all his philanthropic works. The support he and his family have given to our parish community over the years from our youth athletics to our annual festival cannot be measured. Bobby is a significant contributor in so many ways from his time and donations to his guidance and knowledge. Thank you Bobby and family for all your good works to our beloved community.

Zoe and her family first came to St. Spyridon in 2007. At that time they enrolled Nick and Sofia in Greek School.





started teaching Sunday School and shortly after, became Director. Zoe shared that she has "enjoyed volunteering for various events at church, like the golf outing, dinner dance and the festival. I am also involved in our Philoptochos and serve on the Executive Board. The people at St Spyridon are my extended family. I am especially fortunate to have been around the children of St Spyridon and watch them

STEWARD SPOTLIGHT...

grow up. To be surrounded with volunteers who dedicate their time and talent to our parish has been a great blessing to me." We feel the same way as well Zoe and are blessed to have you as such an integral part not only in Sunday School, but in the many other events and ministries you are part of. The time and talents you and your family have shared with us are inspiring. Thank you for all you do.

3 WAYS TO BECOME A STEWARD:

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

Vital to our growth is your participation in Holy services and the offering of your time and talent to the parish. When you complete your form, it is of the utmost importance to communicate how you might be able to offer your time and talent to serve Christ.

Sincerely; Stewardship Committee

YOU ARE THE VOICE OF CHRIST IN A CHANGING WORLD

The base from which we serve as the Voice of Christ in a Changing World is the parish. A strong parish provides opportunities for sharing the Good News of Christ, for welcoming those that are searching for a spiritual home, and a base from which we are sent out into the world. The parish also provides a place for worship, community and education in the faith. To be stewards of the Gospel, we need to be stewards of our parish. This requires the vision and inspiration to see the parish, not as it is, but as it could be. We are called to offer ourselves and our treasure to make our local church all that is can be.

We thank the **299** Saint Spyridon Stewards for your generous support. Please continue to serve our community and support our beloved Saint Spyridon parish. Your stewardship offering may be submitted by mail to the church office or on our church website (www.Saint-Spyridon.net) for one-time and periodic giving.

Ευχαριστούμε τις 299 οικογένειες που εκπλήρωσαν τις υποσχέσεις τους για το έτος 2024. Υπενθυμίζουμε σε όλους ότι έχουν ταχυδρομηθεί οι Καταστάσεις Υπόσχεσης του Καλού Οικονόμου για το τρέχον έτος. Σας παρακαλούμε να ανανεώσετε την συνδρομή σας το γρηγορότερο δυνατόν. Χρειαζόμαστε την βοήθεια και την υποστήριξη όλων σας.

STEWARDS 2024 September 1st—27th

Mr. & Mrs. Steve Bedore

Mr. & Dr. Yiorgos Bozonelos

Mr. & Mrs. Christos Chrimpouras

Mr. & Mrs. Niko Dagres

Mrs. Zoe Korbakes

Mrs. Mary Limparis

Mr. Basil Lolis

Mr. John Mazarakos

Mrs. Kathy Perakis

Mr. & Mrs. Athanasios Perros

Mr. & Mrs. Omar Ramirez

Mr. & Mrs. Stan Rousonelos

Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Theodorou

Mr. & Mrs. Dimitrios Vasdekis



ΑΓΙΟΣ ΔΗΜΗΤΡΙΟΣ Ο ΜΥΡΟΒΛΥΤΗΣ



26 Οκτωβρίου

Δημήτριον νύττουσι λόγχαι Χριστέ μου, Ζηλοῦντα πλευρᾶς λογχονύκτου σῆς πάθος. Εἰκοστῆ μελίαι Δημήτριον ἕκτη ἀνεῖλον.

Ο Άγιος Δημήτοιος γεννήθηκε περί το 280 - 284 μ.Χ. και μαρτύρησε επί των αυτοκρατόρων Διοκλητιανού και Μαξιμιανού το 303 μ.Χ. ή το 305 μ.Χ. ή (το πιο πιθανό) το 306 μ.Χ.

Ο Δημήτριος ήταν γόνος αριστοκρατικής οικογένειας στη Θεσσαλονίκη. Σύντομα ανελίχθηκε στις βαθμίδες του Ρωμαϊκού στρατού με αποτέλεσμα σε ηλικία 22 ετών να φέρει το βαθμό του χιλιάρχου. Ως αξιωματικός του ρωμαϊκού στρατού κάτω από τη διοίκηση του Τετράρχη (και έπειτα αυτοκράτορα) Γαλερίου

Μαξιμιανού, όταν αυτοκράτορας ήταν ο Διοκλητιανός, έγινε χριστιανός και φυλακίστηκε στην Θεσσαλονίκη το 303 μ.Χ., διότι αγνόησε το διάταγμα του αυτοκράτορα Διοκλητιανού «περί αρνήσεως του χριστιανισμού». Μάλιστα λίγο νωρίτερα είχε ιδρύσει κύκλο νέων προς μελέτη της Αγίας Γραφής.

Στη φυλακή ήταν και ένας νεαφός χριστιανός ο Νέστοφας (εοφτάζεται στις 27 Οκτωβρίου), ο οποίος θα αντιμετώπιζε σε μονομαχία τον φοβεφό μονομάχο της εποχής Λυαίο. Ο νεαφός χριστιανός πριν τη μονομαχία επισκέφθηκε τον Δημήτριο και ζήτησε τη βοήθειά του. Ο Άγιος Δημήτριος του έδωσε την ευχή του και το αποτέλεσμα ήταν ο Νέστοφας να νικήσει το Λυαίο και να προκαλέσει την οργή του αυτοκράτοφα. Διατάχθηκε τότε να θανατωθούν και οι δύο, Νέστοφας και Δημήτριος.

Οι συγγραφείς εγκωμίων του Αγίου Δημητρίου, Ευστάθιος Θεσσαλονίκης, Γρηγόριος ο Παλαμάς και Δημήτριος Χρυσολωράς, αναφέρουν ότι το σώμα του Αγίου ετάφη στον τόπο του μαρτυρίου, ο δε τάφος μετεβλήθη σε βαθύ φρέαρ που ανέβλυζε μύρο, εξ ου και η προσωνυμία του Μυροβλήτου.

Στις βυζαντινές εικόνες αλλά και στη σύγχοονη αγιογοαφία ο Άγιος Δημήτοιος παρουσιάζεται αρκετές φορές ως καβαλάρης με κόκκινο άλογο (σε αντιδιαστολή του λευκού αλόγου του Αγίου Γεωργίου) να πατά τον άπιστο Λυαίο.

Σήμερα ο Άγιος Δημήτοιος τιμάται ως πολιούχος Άγιος της Θεσσαλονίκης.

Ένα από τα πολλά θαύματα του Αγίου είναι και το εξής. Το 1823 μ.Χ. οι Τούρκοι που ήταν αμπαρωμένοι στην Ακρόπολη της Αθήνας ετοίμαζαν τα πυρομαχικά τους για να χτυπήσουν με τα κανόνια τους, τους Έλληνες που βρισκόντουσαν στον ναό του Αγίου Δημητρίου, μα ο Άγιος Δημήτριος έκανε το θαύμα του για να σωθούν οι Χριστιανοί και η πυρίτιδα έσκασε στα χέρια των Τούρκων καταστρέφοντας και τμήμα του μνημείου του Παρθενώνα. Για να θυμούνται αυτό το θαύμα, ο ναός λέγεται από τότε Άγιος Δημήτριος Λουμπαρδιάρης, από την λουμπάρδα δηλαδή το κανόνι των Τούρκων που καταστράφηκε.

Σκεψείς, θυμήσες και επίσημανσείς για το «ΟΧΙ» του 1940

Το όχι είναι άφνηση, αλλά συνεπάγεται θέση. Οχι χωφίς ναι, δεν μποφεί να σταθεί. Αυτό είναι φυσικός νόμος. 28 Οκτωβφίου 1940. Στο ιταμό τηλεγφάφημα της Ιταλίας η Ελλάδα απάντησε όχι. Όχι Ιταλέ. Δε θα πατήσεις τα άγια χώματα της πατφίδας. Δε θα κάμεις τον πεφίπατό σου στην Αθήνα.

Είπε αυτό το όχι ο ελληνικός λαός, αλλά για να έχει το όχι νόημα έπφεπε να πει το «ναι» σε κάτι άλλο. Ναι στη στράτευση. Ναι στο να τρέξει στα σύνορα και να υποστηρίξει με το αίμα του την ακεραιότητα της πατρίδας. Την τιμή της οικογένειας. Την Ορθόδοξη πίστη.

Αν έλεγε όχι και κοιμόταν στο σπίτι του, το όχι θα ήταν χωρίς αντίκρισμα. Η αντίσταση στα βουνά της Ηπείρου δεν θα υπήρχε. Δεν θα υπήρχε η πολύτιμη καθυστέρηση που τόσο βοήθησε τις συμμαχικές δυνάμεις. Δεν θα υπήρχε το θρυλικό Επος του '40.

Σαν ο άνθοωπος λέει όχι υπερασπίζοντας την ελευθερία και να πεθάνει πολεμώντας, πεθαίνει ελεύθερος. Και φονευμένος είναι νικητής. Ο σκοπός του πετυχαίνει πλήρως. Τα ιδανικά του θα ζουν και όταν αυτός είναι πεθαμένος. Θα κηρύττουν στους αιώνες το κήρυγμα του ελεύθερου πνεύματός του. Θα διαλαλούν τη νίκη του.

Δεν υπάρχει συζήτηση. Στη βία του Αξονα η Ελλάδα δεν υπέκυψε. Εκανε το καθήκον της προς την ελευθερία. Τα παιδιά της έγραψαν χρυσές σελίδες στην ιστορία της. Γι' αυτά ειπώθηκε «οι ήρωες πολεμούν σαν Ελληνες». Ο ηρωισμός της γενιάς του '40 είναι κληρονομιά πολύτιμη της Ελλάδας. Γι' αυτή την κληρονομιά δίκαια υπερηφανεύεται κάθε Ελληνας, αλλά και κάθε ελεύθερο πνεύμα.

Οι κληφονόμοι τέτοιων κληφονομιών δεν έχουν δικαίωμα να επαναπαύονται στις δάφνες των προγόνων. Πρέπει να συνεχίζουν επάξια την κληφονομιά τους. Να κοιμούνται και να ξυπνούν με τη σκέψη. «Άμμες δε γ' εσόμεθα πολλώ κάρρονες». «Εμείς όμως θα γίνουμε πολύ καλύτεροι». Και να μη τους ξεγελά το μελλοντικό «θα». Μην πεφιμένουν να παφουσιασθεί δήθεν ίδια ευκαιρία. Οι ευκαιρίες είναι πολλές. Η καθημερινή ζωή είναι γεμάτη απ' αυτές. Οποιος δε

διακρίνει αυτές τις ευκαιρίες, ήρωας ποτέ δεν μπορεί να γίνει. Δεν είναι ανάγκη ν' ανεβείς ψηλά για να συνεχίσεις την ηρωική κληρονομιά. Ο καθένας αναδεικνύεται ήρωας στο πόστο του. Στ' αλήθεια, μεγαλύτεροι ήρωες αποδεικνύονται αυτοί που 'ναι στα μικρά πόστα. Σε κάθε ιστορία υπάρχουν πιο πολλοί ήρωες στρατιώτες από αξιωματικούς και μάλιστα πολλές φορές και πιο μεγάλοι.

Σήμερα το ελληνικό έθνος συνεχίζει την ιστορική πορεία του όχι στα σύνορα της γεωγραφικά μικρής Ελλάδας. Συνεχίζει την ιστορική του πορεία ανά τα πέρατα της οικουμένης. Συ που ζεις σε διάφορα μέρη του κόσμου είσαι μια προέκταση του ελληνικού έθνους και συνεχίζεις την ιστορική του πορεία. Και συ είσαι κληρονόμος των βαρειών κληρονομιών. Και συ φέρεις την ίδια ευθύνη. Και συ θα δώσεις λόγο των πράξεών σου έναντι του Ελληνικού έθνους, της ιστορίας και του Θεού.

Καθημερινά αγωνίζου να μένεις Ελληνας. Πες ναι στη συνεργασία και την ένωση του Ελληνισμού. Και εργάζου γι' αυτήν. Η συνεργασία, η ένωση και η πρόοδος του Ελληνισμού είναι για πάντα.

Αυτά ζητεί από σένα σήμερα να κάμεις η ελληνορθόδοξη κληρονομιά σου. Μπορεί να σου φαίνονται μικρά, αλλά είναι μεγάλα. Μπορεί να σου φαίνονται απλά, αλλά είναι δύσκολα. Δεν είναι φανταχτερά και γι' αυτό ίσως κάνεις αυτές τις σκέψεις. Να εφαρμόζεις αυτά καθημερινά στη ζωή σου, είναι πραγματικός ηρωϊσμός. Με αυτό τον τρόπο είσαι πανέτοιμος να ανταποκριθείς σε μεγαλύτερα, όταν η πατρίδα σου το ζητήσει. Μπορεί με εμπιστοσύνη ν' αντικρύσεις τον δίκαιο Κριτή σου. Πες έμπρακτα όχι, σε κάθε τι αρνητικό και ναι, σε κάθε τι θετικό για την πρόοδο του Ελληνισμού.

Ζήτω η 28η Οκτωβοίου 1940.



PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS





18TH ANNUAL

Walk the Walk for IOCC

Saturday, October 5, 2024

Join us for our 5K Walk/Run and make a difference for those in need around the world!

St. Andrew Greek Orthodox Church 5649 N. Sheridan Rd. • Chicago, IL 60660

Registration 8:00 AM • Walk/Run Begins 9:00 AM • Breakfast following the race \$20 - Registration before 9/15 | \$30 - Registration after 9/15 | \$10 - Children under 12

Register at iocc.org/chicago or detach and complete form below

Address:	
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Phone:	Age on Race Day:
I wish to sponsor the 18th Annual Wa	alk the Walk for IOCC (Please select sponsorship level):
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31,000 Platinum Medal	\$500 Gold Medal \$250 Silver Medal
_	
Order your t-shirts here (one	per participant). Indicate quantity on the line provided:
Order your t-shirts here (one	per participant). Indicate quantity on the line provided:

Make checks payable to IOCC To guarantee a t-shirt, register by 9/20

Questions? Contact ioccchicago5K@gmail.com



SAINT SPYRIDON HELLENIC **ORTHODOX CHURCH**

LAW ENFORCEMENT **APPRECIATION SUNDAY** & FEAST DAY OF

SAINT ARTEMIOS

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20 MEMORIAL & ARTOKLASIA

JOIN US AS WE WILL HONOR SAINT ARTEMIOS ALONG WITH THE BRAVE MEN AND WOMEN OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

We will also remember fallen police officers and their families

There will be special seating for Law Enforcement





Meet International Bestselling Author

Yvette Manessis Corporon

in conversation with Journalist & Author Maria A. Karamitsos

She'll read and sign copies

of her new novel, Daughter of Ruins Sunday,

October 6 12:15 pm

Sts. Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church 11025 S. Roberts Road (Hon. Father Byron Way) Palos Hills, IL

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St. Helen Women's Philoptochos

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Light refreshments will be served INFO: 708.289.9004 or 708.715.5322







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