



THE VOICE

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SAINT SPYRIDON HELLENIC ORTHODOX CHURCH

The Voice - Η ΦΩΝΗ

Official Monthly
Community Publication of St. Spyridon
Hellenic Orthodox Church
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ALIKAKOS
PROTOPRESBYTER

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ARCHANGELS ACADEMY ENROLLMENT FOR 2021-22 IS NOW OPEN

Archangels Academy announces that applications for the 2021-22 academic year are now available at the church office and at ArchangelsAcademy.org. Incoming students must be at least three years old by September 1st, 2021. You can reserve a classroom tour and a meeting with Mrs. Sofea Malamis, our Archangels Academy Director, by calling the church office. Please be aware that applications are accepted on a first come first serve basis with priority given to currently enrolled students, St. Spyridon stewards and alumni. We have limited space so please plan accordingly.



SHARE YOUR FAMILY'S FAVORITE RECIPES IN THE ST. SPYRIDON FAMILY COOKBOOK!

THE PTA IS COLLECTING
RECIPES UNTIL 2/28/21
PLEASE SEND ALL RECIPES TO: SPYRIDONPTA@GMAIL.COM

\$25/COOKBOOK
EACH COOKBOOK WILL INCLUDE A
ONE OF A KIND DESIGNED 5x7 BINDER
WITH DIVIDER TABS AND ALL OF
OUR ST. SPYRIDON FAMILY RECIPES

Give from the heart

One of our Goyans is collecting masks and pocket-sized hand sanitizer to distribute to the elderly parishioners of our community for Valentine's Day. Please bring your donations to the church office by Friday, February 12th.

ARCHANGELS ACADEMY

The children are very excited to be back in school and we have been learning and having fun! We started the New Year off right introducing the children to our Exercise Unit. Fitness and exercise is something we should all focus on throughout the year. Moving makes children feel capable and confident, releases tension and builds strong bodies and minds.



2021—2022 SCHOOL YEAR

Applications for the 2021—2022 School year are now available. Please be aware that applications are accepted on a first come first serve basis with priority given to currently enrolled students, St. Spyridon stewards and alumni. We have limited space so please plan accordingly.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

Monday, Feb. 15th—No school, President's Day



FATHER'S ARTICLE

Reflections by Fr. Tilemahos

To fear is one thing. To let fear grab you by the tail and swing you around is another. Katherine Paterson

The last few weeks have been particularly challenging time for our community as we were called to bid farewell to Angelo Meklis, Vivian Patras, Emmanuel Kekempanos, Gus Makris, Peter Manasses, and Soteri Malamis. As with all our parishioners who fall asleep in the Lord, they were all beloved by our community and we will miss them greatly. We will pray for them and we will entreat our Lord and God to bestow consolation to their families and loved ones.

Yet, as a parish community and families in grief, we find ourselves grieving alone and isolated from one another. We did not come together to honor these blessed souls as we are accustomed to do. Even within the grieving families, so many were afraid to attend and offer their condolences in person. Many more are still told to stay home because of various restrictions and safety precautions. Beyond these restrictions, one cannot help but notice that so many of our faithful are afraid to leave their home, visit their loved ones, come to church and receive Holy Communion. I have noticed that so many of our children, the joy and pride of our community, are kept from receiving Holy Communion even at the few times that they have attended the Divine Liturgy.

It is evident that is all this is done out of the all-too-common phrase: "an abundance of caution". For the sake of this phrase, we covered our faces, we kept our children at home, many of us lost our livelihoods, we have been kept away from our seniors who are left to die alone and in isolation, and those who grieve are grieving alone.

All this calamity is a result of an overwhelming fear. A virus that afflicts its victims indiscriminately, while not as deadly as the black plague, it has universally managed to fill every soul with fear of the unknown, fear of suffocating to death, fear of dying alone at the sound of a ventilator machine. Lack of information, conflicting advice, variant degrees of precaution, imperfect or flawed science, an ideological divide and governmental overreach into our private lives, what was meant to last two weeks, it has now lasted for almost a year; long enough that this universal fear has left a permanent mark on our lives.

Fear, however, has no place in our Orthodox faith. A quick

survey of scriptural passages testifies to this:

"For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind." (2 Timothy 1:7)

"Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. (Hebrews 2:14-15)

"There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love." (1 John 4:18)

As followers of Jesus Christ, we must live up to His Name and never succumb to fear. We are cautious, informed, tolerant and sensitive to the needs of our fellow man, but we

are never to be ruled by fear. Throughout human history, generations of our ancestors were ruled and oppressed by fear. That has not changed. Fear has always been an effective tool for those who wish to rule over others. This current environment of fear is universal and extremely pervasive. As Orthodox Christians we must cry aloud that we shall not be ruled by fear. We will adjust our lives but not who we are. We will alter our everyday routines, but we will always remain faithful to our families, to our fellow man, and to our faith.

*"For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind."
(2 Timothy 1:7)*

I am so immensely proud of how so many of our faithful of Saint Spyridon have resisted being succumbed by fear. You are finding ways to cope together, calling, and checking on each other, offering your presence and your assistance to those need, and graciously and patiently sharing God's consolation through your good deeds and prayers. Every day that you answer the call to tend to each other's needs, when you dare to rejoice and grieve together, when you fill the church to its socially distant maximum, and when you approach to receive the Holy Sacraments, you are declaring to the world that the Orthodox are not to be ruled by fear.

I do not often quote pop culture figures. However, since at the start of this article I began with an author, I might as well conclude with another:

Avoiding danger is no safer in the long run than outright exposure. The fearful are caught as often as the bold. -Helen Keller

In Christ's Service, Fr. Tilemahos

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344 Members

Stewardship 2020

A great stewardship year for Saint Spyridon's

344 Stewards!!!

With heartfelt gratitude we pray that the Lord our God may guide and bless all our stewards and our community to continue to worthily serve in His vineyard and to give glory to His Name.



Dear St. Spyridon Parish Family,

Happy February and may all of our families be staying well and safe.

The beautiful church services continue with many thanks to our Fr. Tilemahos. It is nice to see Sunday School classes are being offered on each and every Sunday for the month of February. Please go to the Sign-Up-Genius app and sign up for Sunday School classes. Thank you to the Sunday School teachers for your commitment and efforts to be an instrumental part of our parish children's spiritual development.

Archangels Academy offers an educational, religious and cultural learning experience that helps its students build a solid foundation for their future educational school years and life. Please consider enrolling your children as 2021-22 applications are now being accepted.

Two parish council member vacancies were filled in January. Congratulations and welcome to new parish council members George Theoharis and Spiro Tzanetakos. Your willingness to answer the call to service is truly inspiring and rejuvenating. 2021 event and fundraiser planning are underway and additional details will be forthcoming. More volunteers are always welcome and needed. Please contact Fr. Tilemahos, any parish council members or the church office for more information on volunteering to help our church, parish and community.

Thank you Fr. Tilemahos, parish council members, all of the church organizations and committees, the parishioners and volunteers for all of your unyielding efforts to help make our church and parish a place to rest and reset ourselves.

May St. Spyridon continue to guide us and protect us.

Humbly submitted, Frank Kopanis

STEWARDSHIP 2021

We thank all our stewards who offered your gifts of time, talent and treasure for 2020. As we journey through this new year, let us continue to serve our community and support our beloved Saint Spyridon parish. Your stewardship offering may be submitted by mail to the church office. We have also made online giving available on our church website (www.Saint-Spyridon.net) for one-time and periodic giving.

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Mrs. Aspasia Berdusis	Mrs. Dina Katsoulis	Mr. & Dr. Kostas Retsinas
Mr. & Mrs. James Berdusis	Mr. Stanley Ketsios	Mr. & Mrs. Gus Rougas
Mr. Peter Berdusis	Mr. & Mrs. George Kladis	Mr. & Mrs. Glyn Searl
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Berdusis	Mrs. Tasia Kladis	Mrs. Metaxia Siomos
Mr. & Mrs. Dimitris Bezanis	Mrs Sofia Kleopa	Mr. Andrew Stameson
Mr. Nicholas Bobis	Mr. & Mrs. Chris Kolyvas	Mr. James Stive
Mrs. Morfo Bountinas	Mr. Gus Kolyvas	Mr. & Mrs. Khalil Sweis
Mr. & Mrs. Zaharias Bousies	Mr. Peter Kolyvas	Emminence Nathanael Symeonides
Mr. & Mrs. David Buzo	Mr. & Mrs. Frank Kopanis	Mr. & Mrs. Christos P. Tsakiris
Mr. & Dr. Kevin Cajas	Mr. & Mrs. James Kotsiviras	Mr. Andreas Tsantilis & Mrs. Dana
Mr. Christos Catsogiannis	Mr. Demetrios Kottaras	Vasilakos
Mr. & Mrs. Polychronis Christopoulos	Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Kournetas	Mr. & Mrs. James Tsipakis
Mr. & Mrs. Adam Collopy	Mr. & Mrs. Dino Koutsoubas	Mr. & Mrs. Louis Tsonis
Mr. & Mrs. Panagiotis Deligiannis	Mr. & Mrs. George Kristo	Mr. & Dr. Vasileios Tsoukalas
Mr. & Mrs. Sam Eliopoulos	Mr. Thomas Kutsulis	Mr. & Mrs. Gleb Urobushkin
Mrs. Martha Eliopoulos	Mr. & Mrs. Konstadinos Labrakis	Mrs. Patricia Vardalos
Mrs. Georgia Evangelopoulos	Mrs. Elaine Lordots	Mr. & Mrs. Antonis Vassiliou
Ms. Ruth Faklis	Ms. Angela Malfas	Mr. & Mrs. Rocky Wagner
Mr. & Mrs. John Farsatis	Mr. & Mrs. Apostolos Malfas	Mrs. Magdalene Zippmann
Mrs. Demetrios Felecos	Mr. Labros Malfas	
Mr. & Mrs. George Gatsios	Mr. & Mrs. Peter Manasses	
	Mr. & Mrs. Theophanes Manikas	

89 Members



*In gratitude for God's blessings, I commit to Christ
and His Church as a Steward of Saint Spyridon
with my 2021 Stewardship.*



SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Monday, February 1st	Tryphon the Martyr, Agiasmos & Divine Liturgy — 8:00 a.m.
Tuesday, February 2nd	Presentation of Our Lord & Savior into the Temple Orthros & Divine Liturgy — 8:00 a.m.— 10.00 a.m.
Friday, February 5th	Paraklesis— 6:00 p.m.— 6:45 p.m.
Saturday, February 6th	Vespers— 6:00 p.m.— 6:30 p.m.
Sunday, February 7th	Orthros & Divine Liturgy — 8:00 a.m.— 11:00 a.m.
Wednesday, February 10th	St. Haralambos, First Hour & Divine Liturgy - 8:30 a.m.— 9:30 a.m.
Friday, February 12th	Paraklesis— 6:00 p.m.— 6:45 p.m.
Sunday, February 14th	Sunday of the Canaanite, Orthros & Divine Liturgy — 8 a.m.— 11:00 a.m.
Wednesday, February 17th	St. Theodore of Tyron, 1st Hour & Divine Liturgy — 8:30 a.m.— 9:30 a.m.
Friday, February 19th	Paraklesis— 6:00 p.m.— 6:45 p.m.
Saturday, February 20th	Vespers— 6:00 p.m.— 6:30 p.m.
Sunday, February 21st	Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee Orthros & Divine Liturgy — 8:00 a.m.— 11:00 a.m.
Friday, February 26th	Paraklesis— 6:00 p.m.— 6:45 p.m.
Saturday, February 27th	Vespers— 6:00 p.m.— 6:30 p.m.
Sunday, February 28th	Sunday of the Prodigal Son, Orthros & Divine Liturgy — 8:00 a.m.
Monday, March 1st	Agiasmos— 9:00 a.m.
Tuesday, March 2nd	St. Nicholas Planas, 1st Hour & Divine Liturgy — 8:30 a.m.— 9:30 a.m.
Friday, March 5th	Paraklesis— 6:00 p.m.— 6:45 p.m.
Saturday, March 6th	Saturday of Souls, Orthros, Divine Liturgy & Memorial— 8:00 a.m.

ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑ ΙΕΡΩΝ ΑΚΟΛΟΥΘΙΩΝ

Δευτέρα 1 Φεβρουαρίου	Τρύφων Μάρτυς, Αγιασμός & Λειτουργία— 8:00 π.μ.
Τρίτη 2 Φεβρουαρίου	Υπαπαντή του Κυρίου, Ορθρος & Λειτουργία— 8:00 π.μ.
Παρασκευή 5 Φεβρουαρίου	Παράκλησης— 6:00 μ.μ.
Σάββατο 6 Φεβρουαρίου	Εσπερινός— 6:00 μ.μ.
Κυριακή 7 Φεβρουαρίου	Ορθρος & Λειτουργία— 8:00 π.μ.
Τετάρτη, 10 Φεβρουαρίου	Αγίου Χαράλαμπος, 1η Ωρα & Λειτουργία — 8:30 π.μ.
Παρασκευή 12 Φεβρουαρίου	Παράκληση— 6:00 μ.μ.
Κυριακή 14 Φεβρουαρίου	Ορθρος & Λειτουργία— 8:00 π.μ.
Τετάρτη, 17 Φεβρουαρίου	Αγίου Θεοδώρου Τήρωνος, Όρθρος & Λειτουργία— 8:00 π.μ.
Παρασκευή 19 Φεβρουαρίου	Παράκλησης— 6:00 μ.μ.
Σάββατο 20 Φεβρουαρίου	Εσπερινός— 6:00 μ.μ.
Κυριακή 21 Φεβρουαρίου	Κυριακή Τελώνου και Φαρισαίου, , Ορθρος & Λειτουργία— 8:00 π.μ.
Παρασκευή 26 Φεβρουαρίου	Παράκλησης— 6:00 μ.μ.
Σάββατο 27 Φεβρουαρίου	Εσπερινός— 6:00 μ.μ.
Κυριακή 28 Φεβρουαρίου	Του Ασώτου, Ορθρος & Λειτουργία— 8:00 π.μ.
Δευτέρα, 1 Μαρτίου	Αγιασμός— 9:00 π.μ.
Τρίτη, 2 Μαρτίου	Αγίου Νικολάου Πλανά, 1η Ωρα & Θεία Λειτουργία— 8:30 π.μ.
Παρασκευή, 5 Μαρτίου	Παράκληση— 6:00 μ.μ.
Σάββατο, 6 Μαρτίου	Ψυχοσάββατο, Ορθρος και Θεία Λειτουργία— 8:00 π.μ.



We will continue to hold limited Sunday School classes through February. Students in K-8th will have class every Sunday, while the High School students will have class on February 7th and 21st.



Please register for these classes through our Sign-Up Genius: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0f4caaaa22a1ff2-saint> or through our website: www.Saint-Spyridon.net.

Furthermore, the topics for the Oratorical Festival are now available at: <https://www.chicago.goarch.org/oratorical-festival>

Encourage all our youth to participate in this year's Oratorical Festival through the variety of virtual events made available to them.

Saints Peter and Paul Divorce Rebuilders

Saint Peter and Paul Divorce Rebuilders Group is an Orthodox ministry that offers support, guidance and hope to those who are separated and divorced. For the last 15 years, Divorce Rebuilders has addressed the contemporary needs of Orthodox Christians by offering them a place to process the many aspects of the divorce experience through instruction, guidance, and support.

The SS. Peter and Paul Divorce Rebuilders Group is based on evidence based counseling practices that equips participants with understandings, skills and tools to help them rebuild from divorce. New insights and perspectives help you create new understandings towards developing new personal, relational and spiritual goals in your life.

Group session discussions are grounded in psychoeducational and faith based principles and references. One group session is led by the parish priest. Social activities with members of the group will be offered.

Examples of topics covered in the series are as follows:

- Components of the divorce experience
- The grieving process and one's journey toward recovery
- Gaining clarity in one's experiences
- Identifying work to be done towards personal growth
- Necessary endings and new beginnings; becoming anew
- Combatting loneliness and negative self-talk
- Steps and strategies for rebuilding and personal growth
- The role spiritual growth plays in healing, hope, personal growth and rebuilding

The Divorce Rebuilders program has achieved a 100% success rate as evaluated by over 180 participants since its inception. Participants have indicated a closer connection to their Orthodox faith and church along with new goals, self-awareness and spiritual and personal growth. Participants may repeat this program as many times as desired.

Meetings this Spring 2021 will be held via ZOOM and will be hosted by St. Spyridon Greek Orthodox Church, Palos Heights, Illinois, on Mondays, February 15-March 29, excluding March 15th, starting at 7 p.m. for six weeks. There is no fee for this program. For more information and to enroll by ZOOM in this program please e-mail Maria Boyle at: sspp.divorcerebuilders@gmail.com or mariaharduvel4@gmail.com.

"No Christian should walk through the pain of divorce alone."

ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΙΚΗ ΕΓΚΥΚΛΙΟΣ

Ποιμαντορική ἐγκύκλιος γιὰ τὴν ἑορτὴ τῶν Τριῶν Ἱεραρχῶν, ἡμέρα τῶν Ἑλληνικῶν Γραμμάτων.

30 Ἰανουαρίου 2021

«Εὐθὺς οὖν ἐξ ἀρχῆς ἐπισκοπεῖν ἕκαστον τῶν μαθημάτων, καὶ συναρμόζειν τῷ τέλει προσῆκε, κατὰ τὴν Δωρικὴν παροιμίαν, τὸν λίθον ποτὶ τὰν σπάρτον ἄγοντας» (Ἅγιος Βασίλειος ὁ Μέγας. Πρὸς τοὺς νέους, ὅπως ἂν ἐξ ἑλληνικῶν ὠφελοῖντο).

Προσφιλεῖς ἀδελφοὶ καὶ ἀδελφές ἐν Χριστῷ,

Ἡ σημερινὴ ἡμέρα, ἑορτὴ τῆς

Συνάξεως τῶν ἁγίων Τριῶν Ἱεραρχῶν, Βασιλείου τοῦ Μεγάλου, Ἰωάννου τοῦ Χρυσσοστόμου καὶ Γρηγορίου τοῦ Θεολόγου, εἶναι ἀφιερωμένη στὰ ἑλληνικὰ γράμματα. Ἡ ἑορτὴ αὐτὴ καθιερώθηκε ὡς ἀπάντηση στὴ διαμάχη τῶν τότε χριστιανῶν γιὰ τὸ ποιὸς εἶναι ὁ καλύτερος ἀπὸ τοὺς τρεῖς. Καὶ βέβαια ἡ ἀπάντηση ποὺ δίδεται ἑορτάζοντας καὶ τοὺς τρεῖς μαζί εἶναι ὅτι καὶ οἱ τρεῖς εἶναι ἄριστοι χωρὶς καμμὶα διάκριση.

Ἡ λάμψη τῶν «τριῶν μεγίστων φωστῆρων τῆς τρισηλίου Θεότητος» δὲν προέρχεται μόνο ἐξ αἰτίας τῆς πνευματικῆς διδασκαλίας καὶ σοφίας τους, ἀλλὰ καὶ ἀπὸ τὴν ιδιαίτερη ἐκτίμηση ποὺ εἶχαν στὴν ἐκπαίδευση καὶ στὰ ἑλληνικὰ γράμματα. Ὁ Μέγας Βασίλειος καὶ ὁ ἅγιος Γρηγόριος ὁ Θεολόγος σπούδασαν στὴν Ἀκαδημία τοῦ Πλάτωνος. Ὁ ἅγιος Ἰωάννης ὁ Χρυσόστομος θεωροῦνταν ὡς ὁ μεγαλύτερος ρήτορας τῆς ἐποχῆς του, ἐνῶ μαθήτευσε δίπλα στὸ μεγάλο μὴ χριστιανὸ φιλόσοφο Λιβάνιο τὸ Σοφιστὴ. Οἱ Τρεῖς Ἱεράρχες δὲ φοβήθηκαν τὴν ἐπιστήμη καὶ τὴ μάθηση. Ἀντίθετα, ἔθεσαν τὰ ἐπιστημονικὰ εὐρήματα τῆς ἐποχῆς καὶ τὴ γνώση στὴν ὑπηρεσία τῆς Ἐκκλησίας καὶ τῆς πίστεως.

Ὀνομάζουμε τὸ Βασίλειο «Μέγα», διότι ἀποτελεῖ πρότυπο ἱεράρχου στὴ διδασκαλία τῶν δογμάτων, μοναδικὸ στὴν ποιμαντικὴ φροντίδα χωρὶς προσωποληψία καὶ παράδειγμα ἀκεραιότητος καὶ ταπεινώσεως. Ἀποκαλοῦμε τὸν Ἰωάννη «Χρυσόστομο»,

διότι τὰ κηρύγματά του ἦταν μοναδικὰ καὶ ἐμπνευσμένα, πολυτιμότερα ἀπὸ τὸ χρυσὸ καὶ τὰ πολύτιμα πετράδια. Δίδουμε τὸ ἐπίθετο «Θεολόγος» στὸ Γρηγόριο, διότι τὰ συγγράμματα καὶ τὰ ποιήματά του εἶναι γεμάτα μὲ ὑψηλὰ θεολογικὰ νοήματα, ποὺ ἐκφράζουν τὴν ἀλήθεια τῆς ὀρθόδοξης διδασκαλίας γιὰ τὴν Ἁγία Τριάδα.

Καὶ οἱ τρεῖς αὐτοὶ μεγάλοι διδάσκαλοι στόλισαν τὰ θεολογικὰ τους ἔργα μὲ πολυτίμα πετράδια, βγαλμένα

ἀπὸ τὴν Ἑλληνικὴ Φιλοσοφία καὶ τὴν Παιδεία. Καὶ οἱ τρεῖς χρησιμοποιοῦν τὴ ἴδια δωρικὴ παροιμία «τὸν λίθον ποτὶ τὰν σπάρτον ἄγοντας» δηλαδή «ἡ πέτρα τοποθετεῖται ἀκολουθώντας τὸ νῆμα τῆς στάθμης», τὴν ὁποία χρησιμοποιεῖ ὁ ἅγιος Γρηγόριος στὴν Ἐπιστολὴ 38 «Πρὸς Θεμίσιον», καὶ ὁ ἅγιος Ἰωάννης ὁ Χρυσόστομος στὸ «Ὑπόμνημα εἰς τὴν Α΄ πρὸς Κορινθίους - Ὀμιλία 35». Ὁ σοφὸς οἰκοδόμος πρῶτα ὑπολογίζει καὶ συλλέγει τὰ ὑλικά ποὺ χρειάζεται καὶ ἔπειτα ἀρχίζει τὴν οἰκοδομὴ. Ἔτσι καὶ κατὰ τὸ χτίσιμο τῶν ψυχῶν μας πρέπει ἐπίσης νὰ ὑπολογίσουμε καὶ νὰ κατηγοροποιήσουμε τὰ ὑλικά ποὺ θὰ χρησιμοποιηθοῦν. Κάποια εἶναι ἐποικοδομητικά, ἄλλα διασκεδάζουν καὶ εὐφραίνουν τὸν ἀκροατὴ, ἄλλα εἶναι χρήσιμα γιὰ παραινήσεις

καὶ συμβάλλουν στὴν πνευματικὴ καὶ σωματικὴ ὑγεία. Οἱ τρεῖς Ἱεράρχες βρῆκαν θησαυροὺς γνώσεως καὶ σοφίας μελετώντας κείμενα τῶν ἀρχαίων ἑλλήνων συγγραφέων καὶ καλοῦν ὅλους μας νὰ τοὺς μιμηθοῦμε παραδίδοντας τὴν κληρονομία αὐτὴ στὰ παιδιά μας. Ἄς ἑορτάσουμε λοιπὸν σήμερα τὴ μνήμη τους ὑποσχόμενοι ὅτι θὰ καλλιεργήσουμε καὶ θὰ διατηρήσουμε τὴ γλῶσσα καὶ τὸν πολιτισμὸ μας, αὐτὸν τὸν τεράστιο καὶ ἀνεκτίμητο θησαυρὸ ποὺ ὀνομάζεται Ἑλληνικὴ Παιδεία. Αὐτὸ εἶναι τὸ αἷμα μας! Αὐτὴ εἶναι ἡ κληρονομία μας! Ἄς βαδίσουμε στὸ δρόμο ποὺ χάραξαν οἱ «Τρεῖς μεγίστοι φωστῆρες τῆς τρισηλίου θεότητος»!

Μετὰ πατρικῆς ἀγάπης ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ.

† Ὁ Ἀμερικῆς Ἑλπιδοφόρος

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

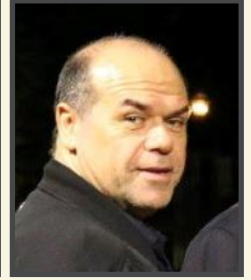
SPECIAL PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Congratulations to our newest Parish Council Members, Mr. George Theoharis and Mr. Spiro Tzanetakos, who were elected by special election on January 12, 2021. We also thank Mr. Nick Bobis and Mr. Bill Kiliyas who also volunteered to run for the Parish Council. The 2021 Parish Council Members are as follows:

Nika Alex, Dimitrios Alexakos, Nick Argyropoulos, Zacharias Bousis, Dean Eliacostas, John Farsatis, Michael Haniotakis, Gus Kolyvas, Peter Kolyvas, Frank Kopanis, James Korbakes, Peter C. Korbakes, Nicholas Kournetas, John Koziocas, Konstantinos Labrakis, Labros Malfas, Anastasios Panagiotopoulos, George Papadopoulos, Nikolaos Petinatos, Panagiotis Stamus, George Theoharis, Spiro Tzanetakos, Dana Vasilakos, George Vythoulkas, James Xeros.



Spiro Tzanetakos



George Theoharis



**Drive Thru
Food Pantry Pick Up**

Helping to Feed those in Need

Open to the public

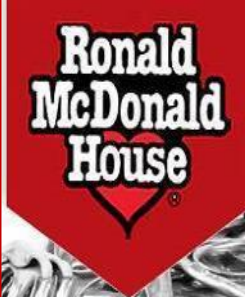
Every Thursday 1pm -2pm (While Supplies Last)

Saint Spyridon Hellenic Orthodox Church
12307 S. Ridgeland Avenue, Palos Heights, IL
When you arrive for a pick-up call: 708-385-2311




Important information:

- Drive Thru Only
- Keep your windows rolled-up
- Be prepared to open your trunk
- Stay in your vehicle - unless opening your trunk



**Pull for the
House.**



Many Hearts. One Home.

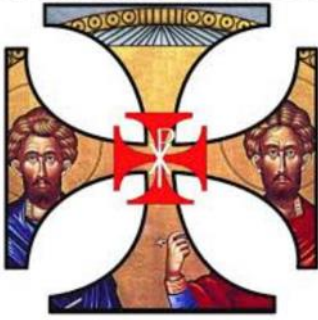
One of our Goyans is collecting pop tabs for Ronald McDonald House. Please save your pop tabs and drop them off at church during office hours or at the designated basket located in the narthex during Sunday Services.

Orthodox Bible Study is moving to Thursdays.

In order to accommodate the Divorce Rebuilders Ministry on Monday nights, we will move our Bible Study discussion to Thursdays, starting on February 18th. Bible Study will still be available on Zoom and on YouTube Live. Please subscribe to our Parish YouTube Channel or to our Listserv in order to receive notification of classes.

Philoptochos News

PHILOPTOCHOS



January kicks off the Philoptochos Membership Drive. We thank all our current members who do extraordinary things to benefit our community always with love and true humility. We hope you will continue supporting us by renewing your membership for 2021. We also invite and welcome new members to join our St Spyridon Philoptochos. Please join us by sharing your talents, time and energy so together we can work to meet our philanthropic mission and promote the values of our Orthodox Faith.

Over the last year we have had to navigate many difficulties presented by the pandemic but we continue to rely on the strong traditions that are the foundation of our St Spyridon Philoptochos: fellowship, service to our community and helping those in need and experiencing hardships.

Many of us for the first time experienced the feeling of isolation and loneliness as we limited our physical interactions to protect our families, especially the vulnerable. But these challenges did not stop Philoptochos it only emboldened us to reach out and continue our philanthropic work, especially to our community. There may no longer in person meetings, or coffee hours or working side by side for our fundraisers but we continue to actively provide fellowship to our community. We have implemented a calling tree, where our volunteers call in monthly to check in with our members. We have also implemented a quarterly “Philo Bag” with volunteers who personally deliver a package of goodies to our isolated parishioners so we can share a smile and give hope and comfort for we are not alone.

We also continued our traditions of community gathering and celebration. We celebrated the success of our children by giving two scholarships to our young adults, and our Greek school graduates. In lieu of our Mother’s Day Luncheon, we decorated the icon of our Theotokos and offered a community Mother’s Day card. Because we could not gather for our Christmas party, funds were donated to the Pediatric Oncology Fund, an organization that works with children with cancer. Finally, our ladies were not to be held back, they wore their masks practiced social distancing and cleaned and reorganized the kitchen, prepared spankopites for the “Take and Bake” and baked pastries for “Pastries to Go.”

Our Philanthropic efforts also reached outside of our own community as we sponsored a Blood Drive to aid in dangerously low blood supplies. We are participating in Feeding the Hungry at our Annunciation Cathedral, preparing and serving 400 lunches in November, January, March and May. Additionally through our annual contributions to our National Philoptochos, we donate funds to St. Basil’s Academy, to our Orthodox missions, UNICEF, social services and health funds (cancer, autism). We also fund an emergency fund, allowing Philoptochos to offer immediate assistance for major disasters.

There is always more we can do! Your stewardship is critical so we may continue the good works for our parish and the many in need of our philanthropy. Last year his Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros was the keynote speaker at the Philoptochos Medical Luncheon which was held in Chicago. I would like to quote from his speech as I believe he best describes Philoptochos, from Helen Keller “Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.”

He also said, “Nothing you do is small or insignificant. Each fashion show, each festival of tables, each coffee hour that you host has great value. Each member of the Philoptochos has great value . . . You are an army of “agape” that conquers pain and anguish through your generosity and kindness . . .”

“As we began with the words of Helen Keller, so we conclude. She also said “The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched – they must be felt with the heart.” Today we feel those precious things: joy, mercy, respect, unity. We have some words in Greek: filotimia (philotimia) and filanqrwpia (philanthropia), personal dignity and love for humanity. With these feelings our hearts are full.”

“Together we can do so much.” So once again we ask for your support by becoming a member of St. Spyridon Philoptochos. You may also complete the stewardship form online and make your stewardship contribution on Event Brite or send it to the office.

Thank you for your support

With sisterly agape,

Dana Vasilakos, Chairwoman

Georgia Xeros, President

IN MEMORIAM

Angelo S. Meklis—July 15, 1929 - December 24, 2020

Angelo S. Meklis, Marine Corps Veteran, age 91, of Palos Heights; beloved husband of the late Constance (nee Kutsulis). Loving father of Spero (Marylou) and James (Debbie) Meklis. Devoted grandfather of Ashley (Jacob) Morales, Vincent Meklis, Dawn (David) Martin, Tiffany (Tim) Kurrincie, Sandra Harte, Christopher Meklis and Dylan Meklis. Great-grandfather of Valentino, Taylor, Kala, Collin, Autumn and Peyton. Interment Evergreen Cemetery. In lieu of flowers donations to St. Spyridon Hellenic Orthodox Church (<http://www.saint-spyridon.net/>) in Angelo's name are appreciated.



Vivian Patras, at rest December 29, 2020

Vivian Patras (nee Haralambous) passed away in her home surrounded by her family on Tuesday December 29, 2020 after a courageous battle with cancer. Born May 24, 1958 in Milia Arkadia, Greece to Andrea and Chrysanthi Haralambous. Beloved wife of George; loving mother Alexander and Katerina; devoted sister of the late Fotios (Vasiliki) Haralambous, Vasiliki (Spero) Christos, late Panagiotti (Panagiota) Haras, caring godmother of Socrates Kakotaritis and dear sister-in-law of Dr. James (Angie) Patras.

Vivian came to the United States in 1970 where she attended beauty school and went on to style countless clients in the city of Chicago. She met her husband George in 1987 and they were married in 1988.

Vivian was an avid hiker and often travelled across the country to do so. She would hardly ever be seen without her dog, Meli, walking alongside her. Vivian had passion for photography and capturing the best moments in life. As much as she is survived by her family she is survived by the thousands of beautiful pictures she has taken over the years. Her life was centered on her family and she cherished her role as an aunt to many nieces, nephews and mother of two children. She derived her joy in life from being surrounded by family and close friends. She will be remembered for her unwavering strength in the face of fear, a fiery spirit, and her unconditional love for her family and friends. May her memory be eternal. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in her name may be made to Mayo Clinic Hematology and Oncology Department 200 1st SW, Rochester MN 55905 or to Saint Spyridon Greek Orthodox Philoptochos Society 12307 Ridgeland Ave, Palos Heights IL 60463.

Gus C. Makris, age 90, at rest January 18, 2021.

Beloved husband of the late Connie Makris; Loving father of Agnes (Scott) Koldenhoven and Christos (Constantina) Makris; Cherished grandfather of Constantina, Ekaterina and Giovanna; Dear brother of John (Thomai) Makris and the late Tom (Vai), late Olga, late Elefthia and late Thomai; Fond uncle of numerous nieces and nephews. Also survived by many cousins, relatives and friends. "May His Memory Be Eternal"



Emmanuel Kekempanos, age 93, at rest January 4, 2021.

Beloved husband of Georgia (nee Giannakoulas); Loving father of Loula (George) Kladis, Angie (George) Danos and Larry (Yonna) Kekempanos; Cherished grandfather of Michael, Tony, Toula, Joanne, Peter, Dean, Georgia, Andreana, and Emmanuel; Dearest great-grandfather of Daniel, Gian, Noah, Marissa, Katherine and Nicholas; Predeceased by his beloved siblings Demetrios Kekempanos, Pantelis Kekempanos, John Kekempanos, Niko Kekempanos and Sophia Pappageorge; Fond uncle, cousin and friend of many here and in Greece. "May His Memory Be Eternal"

Peter K. Manasses, at rest January 24, 2021

Peter K. Manasses, 82, of Palos Heights and born of Argos, Greece, passed away peacefully Sunday morning January 24, 2021, with family at his side. Beloved husband of Tina (nee Kritikos) for over 54 years. Loving father of Chris (Eddie) Yoshimura, Dean (Patty) Manasses, Helen (Bret) Renaud, and Theodore Manasses. Dearest pappou of Alexis, Gabriella, Angelina, Phillip, and Jeremy. Devoted son of the late Konstantino and late Chrisoula and stepson of the late Theodora. Dear brother of the late James (Tasia) Manasses,



IN MEMORIAM

the late Gus (late Sophia) Manasses, George Manasses, Angeline (Nick) Brinias, the late William (Elaine) Manasses, The late Sam Manasses, Cathy (John) Kourelis, Thomas (Doreen) Manasses, Christina (Peter) Chiamas, Maria (the late Peter) Economou, and Athanasia (Napoleon) Papadopoulos. Dear son-in-law of the late Theodore and Helen Kritikos and brother-in-law John (Monica) Kritikos, Peter (Frannie) Kritikos, Maria Minakis, Vicky (Gus) Panos, and Christina (Jim) Jorgensen. Fond uncle of many nieces and nephews. Visitation and funeral were held on Thursday, January 28th. Interment Bethania Cemetery of Justice.



Malamis, Dr. Sotirios A. "Sam" Age 28

Beloved son of Alexandros and Zoi Malamis. Loving brother of Chrissy (fiancée Kyriakos Anastopoulos) Malamis. Proud grandson of Ahileas and the late Panagiota Aggelis and Sotirios and Kleopatra Malamis. Fond nephew and cousin to many in the U.S. and Greece. May his memory be eternal!

Parish Registry

BAPTISMS

The son of Mr. & Mrs. Sam Eliopoulos was given the name Panagiotis and was baptized on January 9th, and his Godparent was Ms. Christina Eliopoulos.

Memorials in January

+40 days for Kostoula Makris, +6 years for Andrianna Dendrinis, +6 months for Gregory Les, +16 year for Eugenia Mazarakos, +20 years for Vasiliki Georgiou, +42 years for Alexandros Georgiou, +5 years for Konstantinos Georgiou, +3 years for Panagiotis Kaloghirou, +40 days for Angelo Meklis

**MAY THEIR MEMORY BE
ETERNAL**



ATTENDING DIVINE SERVICES

Please call the church office or visit the sign-up link to reserve your spots for the Divine Services in the church or in the community center:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0f4caaaa22a1ff2-saint>

All services are streamed on the Parish YouTube Channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC68WCiYHUIYSTCqlelnAWLvQ>
Please subscribe to the channel to receive notifications of services



PLUTARCHOS NEWS



The year started with some very exciting news! We finally got the long-anticipated results of last year's Ellinomatheia (certification of attainment in Greek Language) exam. 19 of our students participated in 3 different proficiency levels and most of them made their parents, grandparents, and teachers very proud! Kudos to our kids for their achievements and best wishes for their next adventures. Once we receive the certificates we will announce the names and plan a big celebration.

As our first semester is coming to an end at Plutarchos Academy, we are all very happy with the way the school year is progressing. Our students attend online classes regularly and turning in their assigned homework and projects. Thank you to all the teachers that are working so very hard to make this year so very successful. Looking forward to hopefully returning to our classrooms soon.



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We call upon all our faithful and friends to continue to sponsor our monthly newsletter by advertising your business for the benefit of all the parishioners. Your ad will reach our 375 parish families, four hundred email addresses in our listserv, over 1,000 followers of our Facebook page, and of course everyone who picks up a copy of our Voice newsletter from the church narthex or community center. Please contact the church office for more information or to submit an advertisement for your business.

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Large - \$250/year

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