

THE VOICE

JANUARY- 2021 - VOLUME NO. 354
SAINT SPYRIDON HELLENIC ORTHODOX CHURCH

The Voice - Η ΦΩΝΗ

Official Monthly
Community Publication of St. Spyridon
Hellenic Orthodox Church
12307 S. Ridgeland Avenue
Palos Heights, IL 60463

REV. FR. TILEMAHOS
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Angelo Angelos	Greek Dance
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Zachary Bousies	Athletics
Stella Parhas	Food Pantry
Xenia Kapsalis	Website & Social Media
Effie Papadopoulos	Church Office
Marianna Haniotakis	Church Office
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SAINT SPYRIDON FEAST DAY

With the blessings and prayers of His Eminence Metropolitan Nathanael and His Grace Bishop Timothy of Hexamilion, as well as the loving prayers of our area clergy and faithful, we celebrated the feast day of our parish with great solemnity and grace. Many thanks to all our donors and volunteers who made our feast day celebration truly beautiful and memorable.



One hundred individually wrapped vailopites were offered by one of our faithful families to be blessed in honor of Saint Basil the Great.
MAY THE NEW YEAR OF OUR LORD BE TRULY BLESSED!

ARCHANGELS ACADEMY

The students and staff of Archangels Academy would like to wish you a Very Happy and Healthy New Year!

December was a busy month for our children! Despite all the challenges and changes due to the pandemic, on Wednesday, December 23rd our children performed their annual Christmas Pageant. We are so very proud of them and all their hard work. Thank you to all the parents for being so diligent in following protocol and for all their help with preparations and decorations.

Applications for 2021-2022 will be available this month. Please be aware that applications come on a FIRST COME FIRST SERVE bases with priority given to currently enrolled students, St. Spyridon Stewards, and alumni.



2021—2022 SCHOOL YEAR

Applications for the 2021—2022 School year will be available this month. 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, Jan. 11th—School resumes

Monday, Jan. 18th—No school, Martin Luther King Day

FATHER'S ARTICLE

In the countless memes and posts that pass through my e-mail, there was one that stuck with me and it said: 'Sadness looks to the past, Fear looks around, Faith looks upward'. With this motto in mind, I invite you to begin 2021 looking upward. It makes no sense to dwell in the sadness of the past year or to be paralyzed by the fear that still dominates our present environment. People of faith always gaze with longing and confidence toward almighty God, grieving but not like those without hope, struggling but never bereft of patience, sacrificing everything but not in vain. When Christ is our Alpha and our Omega, the beginning and ending of all that shapes who we are, fear and sadness have no place in us.

I have heard many of you say that you want things to go back to normal. Our good Lord has allowed recent calamities to take place not as a respite from the way things were. Whenever our Lord intervenes in such an intense and painful manner, it is always in order to give us yet another chance to radically change who we are. The tower of Babel, Noah's ark, the plagues of Egypt, the Babylonian exile, the martyrdom of all the prophets, the crucifixion of our Lord Jesus Christ, the tumultuous history of the Church filled with wars, schisms, heresies, persecutions, all of it was allowed by our loving God in order for us to no longer be who we were before each crisis and event.

There is an old Jewish proverb that says: 'God draws straight with crooked lines'. We need to be aware that while God is always drawing us close to Him, the path takes us through so many calamities that will make it seem that we are lost and that God is no long-

er our destination. We can lose ourselves in the 'weeds', in the cares and fears of this life, so much so, as to feel that God is absent. Yet, if the scriptures and the lives of saints are to be heard, we must remember that God's ever-present desire is that we may 'be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth'. (1 Timothy 2:4)

In this coming year, let us not simply return back to normal. If that were to happen, then all that we went through would have been for nothing. We need to figure out what is in us personally, in our family, in our parish community, and our nation that God desires to be radically changed. All that happened in 2020, all that happens in any crisis, is not solely the result of accidents, science, human malice, fate or chance. All that happens at any time, while often not determined by God, it is always allowed by God. And when painful things are allowed by our loving Father in heaven, then it is important to figure out why He allowed these things in the first place. We must all answer this question for ourselves if we are still to call ourselves His children, brothers and sisters to one another and to the Newborn Christ whose nativity we just celebrated.

My prayer and my wish for all of you, our Saint Spyridon faithful, is that we will figure out God's will together, as a family, ever more present in our house of worship, safely gathering to thank God and ask Him for His will for us personally and for our beloved Saint Spyridon community.

Wishing you a blessed, safe and uplifting New Year of the Lord 2021. Fr. Tilemahos



Beginning last March, life as we knew it changed. Stay at home, social distancing and church being unavailable for a while. Luckily, in October we began to offer Sunday School to our students. Our average class size has been around 7 students. It truly was heartwarming to see the kids so excited to be with their classmates. We were able to offer classes in a safe way, using only a few of our classrooms, and limiting the number of students. As we move forward to 2021, trying to get back to some normal, we will continue to offer Sunday School to our students. Our dedicated teachers are committed to being here whether there is one student or ten. Many thanks to all of our volunteers for sharing their time and talent with our St. Spyridon families. This month, we will have Sunday School for grades K-8 on January 10, 17 and 24. We will also have a High School class on January 17th. Please continue to use the same sign-up genius that you use for liturgical services to reserve your spot. Wishing all of our families and Happy New Year! *Zoe Kopanis, Sunday School Director*

PARISH FOOD PANTRY

The St. Spyridon community distributed food baskets on December 21, 2020 to 25 needy families. Your generous donations enabled us to purchase items for the baskets, including ham shank, five pounds of frozen vegetables, butter, canned corn, beans, and peas, canned chicken soup, flour, sugar, macaroni and cheese, spaghetti, tomato paste, oil, pancake mix and syrup, frozen pie, chicken stock, rice, brown and serve rolls, a 10 pound bag of potatoes, onions, celery, carrots, fresh fruit (including apples, pears, oranges, and bananas), a tin of cookies, and summer sausage. Each basket was valued at approximately \$60, and gift cards were also distributed to our needy families.

Thank you so much to everyone who made monetary donations and donated goods for the baskets.

Our parish would not be able to support the community without your generosity. We would also like to give a special thanks to the volunteers who stepped up to assemble and distribute the baskets. We are grateful for everyone who made this special event possible.



**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



Plutarchos Hellenic Academy wishes everyone a Happy, Healthy and Blessed New Year!

The month of December we celebrated our Patron Saint Spyridon by learning about His life and working on some related projects. Although we were not able to attend Services as a school, we made sure that honored him and asked for his blessings.

Our Parent Teacher conferences were also held last month. Parents met up with teachers on Zoom and discussed progress, plans and concerns. Thank you to all that participated. If anyone was not able to conference, please feel free to contact your child's teachers to make an appointment.

On Monday, December 21st, we had our Christmas virtual party. We dressed in ugly Christmas sweaters, sang Christmas Carols and played lots of fun games. Big thank you to father Tilemahos for joining us. We all learned something new about Greek Christmas traditions and customs. It was lots of fun for all, young and old!

Classes are set to resume on Friday, January 8th. January is Hellenic Letters Month and we will be celebrating the Three Hierarchs, St. Basil, St. John the Chrysostom and St. Gregory.

This year we are celebrating the 200th Anniversary of Greek Independence. Our school is planning to mark the event with a special celebration. The Metropolis' Agrafon essay competition we will be offered in March and the theme will be related to the big Anniversary.

2021 Ellinomatheia exams have been scheduled for May 18th -19th. Registration is open February 1st to March 21st, 2021. More information to follow soon. Due to the pandemic the results from last year's examination have been delayed and hopefully announced soon.

PARISH NEWS

Dear St. Spyridon Parish Family, Happy New Year! Καλή Χρονιά!

It is with great hope and prayer that this message finds you and your families staying well and safe. Thank you Fr. Tilemahos for the many beautiful Christmas season church services. Your efforts to have extra liturgical services and continually update the Sign-Up-Genius app, has provided all of us parishioners much needed access to attend in-person and be closer together with our beloved St. Spyridon. Thank you parish council members for serving in the narthex and encouraging safety protocols.

Plutarchos Academy remote classes are planned to resume after Christmas break. The School Board met in December to discuss textbooks, homework, and student reviews including Parent-Teacher conferences. Archangels successfully managed in-person classes and plans to continue the same after Christmas vacation. 2021-2022 Archangels student enrollment applications will be forthcoming this month, January. Church building repairs and maintenance continue to move forward as the southeast and southwest exterior doors and frames were replaced in December. You may notice the doors, as they are grey in color, and will be finish-painted when warmer weather allows. The Chicago Metropolis is coordinating with all of its Illinois parishes, for each of them to adopt a sexual harassment policy that complies with Illinois law by December 31, 2020. Our parish implemented this policy with parish council approval and compliant training as required by law.

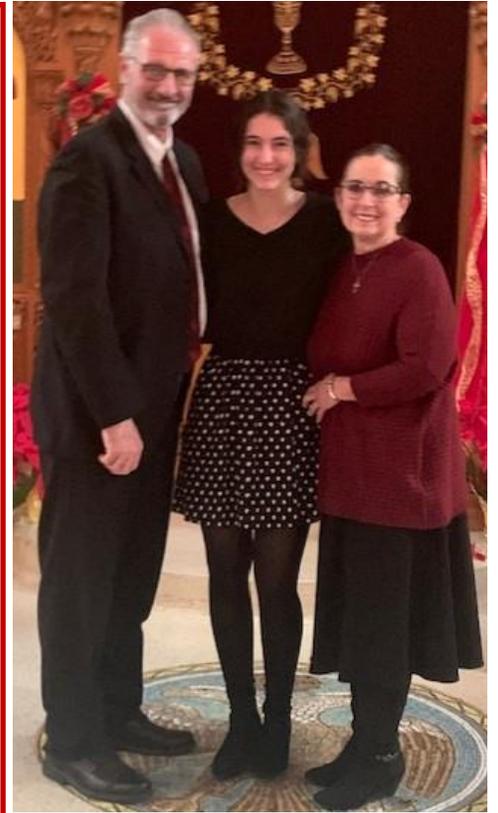
The fall 2020 General Assembly voted and passed the 2021 budget, the December 31, 2019 Audit Report and deferred the parish council elections for 12 months. There are two vacancies on the current parish council that need to be filled for the good of our parish. Besides parish council members, more volunteers are always welcome and needed. Please contact Fr. Tilemahos, me or the church office for more information on volunteering.

The Stewardship Committee has prepared and mailed out the new 2021 Stewardship applications. Please contact the church office if you have yet to receive an application. May we, by the Grace of God, continue working together to build on the stewardship program in 2021, that the parish ministries may benefit our parish, community and future generations.

Thank you Fr. Tilemahos, parish council members, all of the church organizations and committees, the parishioners and volunteers for all of your benevolent efforts.

Warmhearted wishes to everyone on a healthy, happy and prosperous 2021.

With love and humility, Frank Kopanis



*Congratulations to our
2020 PTA Scholarship Recipient,
Ms. Christina Eliopoulos*

PARISH FOOD **PANTRY**

Thanks to the generous support of our faithful our Food Pantry offered Christmas Baskets to 25 needy families. Donations of cash, gift cards and food are needed.

You may drop-off your food donations during office hours
Monday-Friday, 9am-2pm.

Thank you for supporting our community Food Pantry.

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

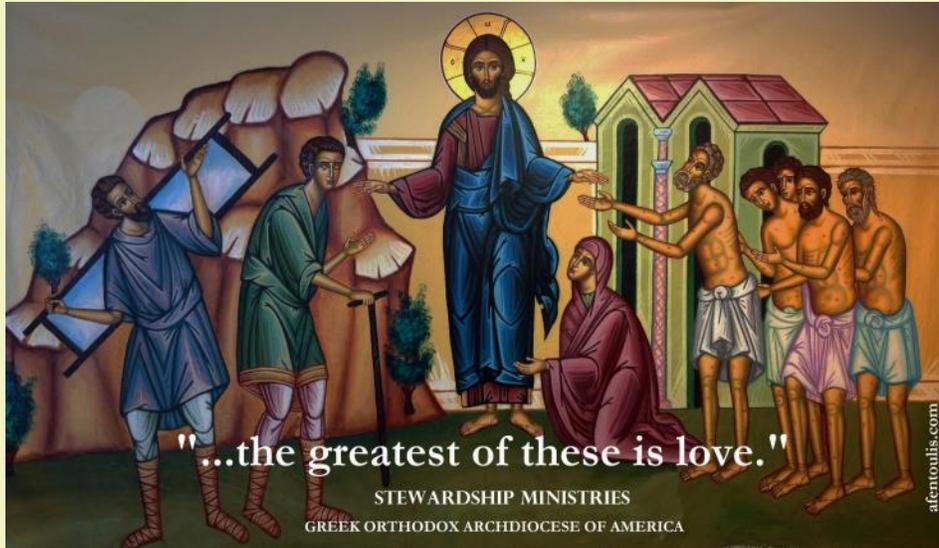
Friday, January 1, 2021	Circumcision of our Lord, St. Basil the Great Orthros & Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil—9:00 a.m.
Tuesday, January 5th	Royal Hours, Vespers Liturgy & Agiasmos – 5:00 p.m.—8:30 p.m.
Wednesday, January 6th	Theophany of our Lord Orthros, Divine Liturgy & Agiasmos—8:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.
Thursday, January 7th	St. John the Baptist, 1st Hour and Divine Liturgy—8:00 a.m.—9:00 a.m.
Sunday, January 10th	Saint Gregory of Nyssa, Orthros & Divine Liturgy – 8:00 a.m. –11:00a.m.
Saturday, January 16th	1st Hour & Divine Liturgy—8:30 a.m.—9:30 a.m. Great Vespers—6:00 p.m.
Sunday, January 17th	Saint Anthony the Great, Orthros & Divine Liturgy—8:00 a.m.-11:00a.m.
Monday, January 18th	Sts. Athanasios, Divine Liturgy at Sts. Constantine & Helen—9:00 a.m. Vigil for St. Mark of Ephesus—6:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m.
Wednesday, January 20th	St. Efthimios, Divine Liturgy—8:00 a.m.—9:00 a.m.
Friday, January 22nd	Paraklesis—6:00 p.m.
Saturday, January 23rd	Vespers—6:00 p.m.
Sunday, January 24th	Orthros & Divine Liturgy –8:00 a.m.—11:00 a.m.
Friday, January 29th	Paraklesis—6:00 p.m.
Saturday, January 30th	Three Hierarchs, Orthros & Divine Liturgy—8:00 a.m.—10:00 a.m. Vespers—6:00 p.m.
Sunday, January 31st	Orthros & Divine Liturgy –8:00 a.m.—11:00 a.m.

ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑ ΙΕΡΩΝ ΑΚΟΛΟΥΘΙΩΝ

Παρασκευή, 1 Ιανουαρίου	Περιομή του Ιησού Χριστού, Αγίου Βασιλείου Όρθρος και Θεία Λειτουργία—9:00 π.μ.
Τρίτη 5 Ιανουαρίου	Παραμονή των Θεοφανείων Βασιλικές Ωρες, Λειτουργία & Αγιασμός—5:00 μ.μ.
Τετάρτη 6 Ιανουαρίου	ΘΕΟΦΑΝΕΙΑ, Όρθρος, Θεία Λειτουργία & Αγιασμός—8:00 π.μ.
Πέμπτη 7 Ιανουαρίου	Αγίου Ιωάννη του Βαπτιστού, Θεία Λειτουργία –8:00 π.μ. –9:00 π.μ.
Κυριακή 10 Ιανουαρίου	Αγίου Γρηγορίου Νύσσης, Όρθρος και Θεία Λειτουργία –8:00 π.μ.
Σάββατο 16 Ιανουαρίου	Όρθρος και Θεία Λειτουργία—8:30 π.μ.—9:30 π.μ. Μέγας Εσπερινός—6:00 μ.μ.
Κυριακή 17 Ιανουαρίου	Αγίου Αντωνίου του Μεγάλου, Όρθρος και Θεία Λειτουργία—8:00 π.μ.
Δευτέρα 18 Ιανουαρίου	Αγίων Αθανασίου και Κυρίλλου Θεία Λειτουργία στον Ι.Ν. Αγίων Κωνσταντίνου και Ελένης –9:00 π.μ. Αγρυπνία του Αγίου Μάρκου της Εφέσου –6:00 μ.μ. –9:00 μ.μ.
Τετάρτη 20 Ιανουαρίου	Αγίου Ευθυμίου –Θεία Λειτουργία 8:00 π.μ. –9:00 μ.μ.
Παρασκευή, 22 Ιανουαρίου	Παρακλησή—6:00 μ.μ.
Σάββατο 23 Ιανουαρίου	Μέγας Εσπερινός—6:00 μ.μ.
Κυριακή 24 Ιανουαρίου	Όρθρος και Θεία Λειτουργία –8:00 π.μ.
Παρασκευή, 29 Ιανουαρίου	Παρακλησή—6:00 μ.μ.
Σάββατο 30 Ιανουαρίου	Τριών Ιεραρχών—Όρθρος και Θεία Λειτουργία—8:00 π.μ. Μέγας Εσπερινός—6:00 μ.μ.
Κυριακή 31 Ιανουαρίου	Όρθρος και Θεία Λειτουργία –8:00 π.μ.

VIGIL FOR ST. MARK OF EPHESUS—Monday, January 18th—6:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m.
ΑΓΡΥΠΝΙΑ ΤΟΥ ΑΓΙΟΥ ΜΑΡΚΟΥ ΤΗΣ ΕΦΕΣΣΟΥ— Δευτέρα, 18 Ιανουαρίου, 6 μ.μ. -9 μ.μ.

STEWARDSHIP 2021



"My hope is that we will seize the opportunity that is literally being forced upon us, to become more altruistic, more compassionate toward others, more patient, and indeed more faithful."

-Archbishop Elpidophoros of America

Dear Stewards of our Saint Spyridon Family,

In the words of Archbishop Elpidophoros, "The Ekklesia extends far beyond the four walls of any church building." The Church is not the building, but rather, it is people of faith that remain connected, drawing spiritual nourishment from God and strength from one another.

As leaders of our parish, we are working to build upon existing ministries and to initiate new ministries that will keep us connected as the Saint Spyridon family. We have been streaming our services since early this year to keep you connected when you cannot attend. We are methodically reaching out to our faithful to be sure they can meet their basic needs in this crisis. We have also taken the opportunity to improve our facilities by completing many deferred maintenance projects.

These initiatives and ministries will continue to support the long-term mission of our parish when this current crisis has passed. Please continue to support our church so that together we may serve our members and our community during this difficult time. 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.

Through our faith we can trust that we will all soon gather in our beloved Saint Spyridon Church, our spiritual home, to resume our ministries with renewed vigor and enthusiasm. Your continued dedication to our parish and fervent participation in Christ's ministry are a reflection of the constant intercessions of our patron Saint Spyridon and the loving grace of our almighty God.

With love in Christ,

Fr. Tilemahos Alikakos
Parish Priest

Mr. Frank Kopanis
Parish Council President

"For God, Infinite though He be, has chosen to work through us, through our gifts, to continue His saving work in the world today." -Fr. Anthony M. Coniaris



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



STEWARDSHIP 2021

PARISH INCOME 2021

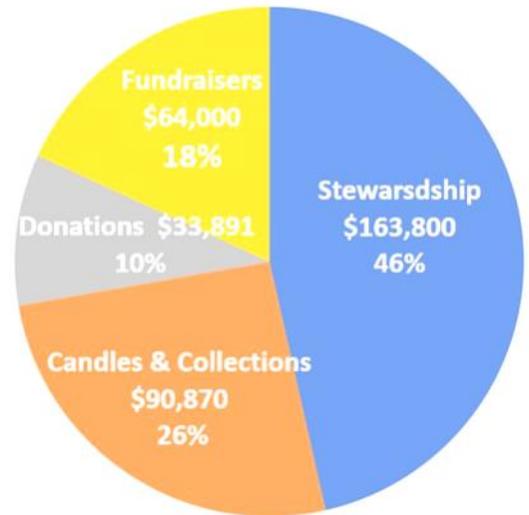
STEWARDSHIP (\$163,800) is the primary way of supporting the ministries of our church. This has been especially critical during the pandemic. Our stewardship should adequately reflect our priorities and our devotion to our parish home. We are called to work together in the various volunteer opportunities for ministries vital to our parish. Please encourage your family and friends to join our parish and also consider becoming more actively involved in our parish ministries.

CANDLES & COLLECTIONS (\$90,870) are very much dependent on church attendance. Once the pandemic eases, we need to once again attend church regularly, partake of communion frequently, and live our Orthodox Faith in a way that expresses our priorities and devotion to God and to our community.

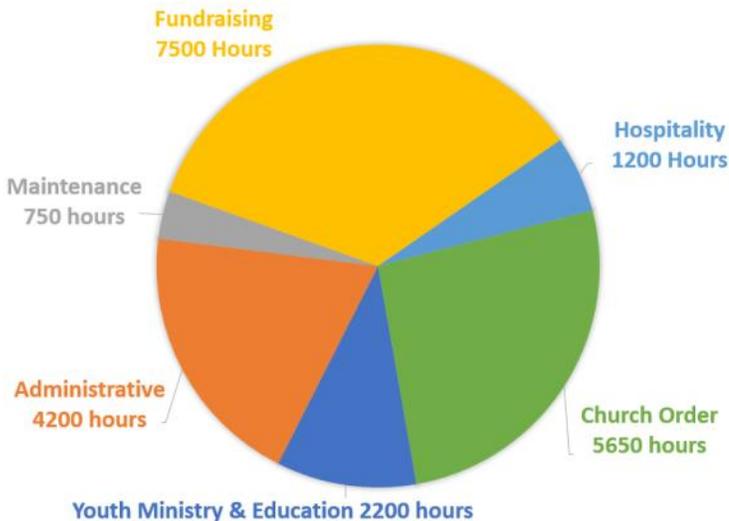
FUNDRAISERS (\$64,000) include the Summer Festival and Raffle, and the Community Dinner Dance.

DONATIONS (\$33,891) include all the appeals on Christmas, Pascha, flower and memorial donations, and other gifts that are offered by the faithful.

Parish Income for 2021



VOLUNTEER HOURS



Volunteering

With the slow return to normal parish life, we hope to open up more opportunities for volunteering. While Stewardship, in terms of dollars and cents, is vital to the well-being of our faith community, the success of our ministries requires a tremendous amount of volunteering. The following are estimates of how many total hours our volunteers contribute in parish life:

Fundraising ~ 7,500 hours: Volunteering at our Greek Festival, the Christmas Craft Show, our Annual Golf Outing, and the various fundraisers that take place throughout the year.

Church Order ~ 5,650 hours: Serving at the narthex, at our choir, in the altar, as icon decorators, and

prosfora bakers all are necessary in the worship life of our church.

Administrative ~ 4,200 hours: Financial recording, payroll, data entry, record keeping, and other administrative tasks.

Youth Ministry & Education ~ 2,200 hours: Teaching Sunday School, coaching, leading a youth group, volunteering in our schools.

Hospitality ~ 1,200 hours: Providing hospitality following the various Divine Services.

Maintenance ~ 750 hours: Various contractors and skilled workers offer a variety of services in maintaining our church edifice.

STEWARDSHIP 2021

PARISH EXPENSES 2021

PARISH MINISTRIES (\$164,872)—include all the staff that is required to support our worship services, outreach, philanthropy, education and youth.

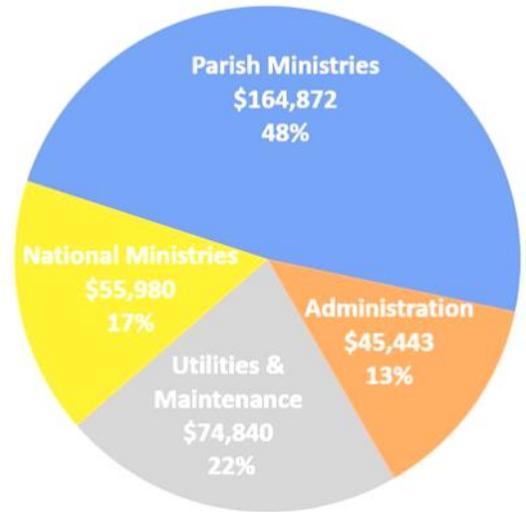
ADMINISTRATION (\$45,443) includes our secretarial staff, copying, postage, paper, and equipment needed to communicate with all the faithful.

NATIONAL MINISTRIES (\$55,980) include our contributions to the Archdiocese as it is set by the Archdiocese Clergy Laity Congress, and other contributions that are set by the Metropolis Clergy Laity Assembly.

UTILITIES & MAINTENANCE (\$74,840) include utilities, snow removal, and routine maintenance that is constant with an aging building.

What is not showing in the maintenance budget is the long term depreciation. The big ticket items that come up every few years such as the roofs, heating and AC units, parking lot, and structural repairs require us to set aside about \$40,000 every year in anticipation of these long term expenses.

Parish Expenses for 2021



Further thoughts on Total Stewardship...

♦ As outlined earlier, the direct financial cost of our parish ministries is just over \$341,000/year. **If this was to be covered completely by Stewardship, it would amount to just about \$1,000/year, or \$83/month per household.**

♦ The volunteer hours that are needed to run our parish total about 21,500 hours. Split evenly, it would be about 63 hours/year per household.

♦ If it were possible to find people to hire for these volunteer hours, it would cost an additional \$338,500. Coupled with the in-kind donations of goods and services estimated at \$60,000/year and our annual depreciation of \$40,000, the total cost of our parish operations is about \$779,500/year.

In addition to this operational cost, one must consider the vital work of our two auxiliary organizations: Philoptochos and Parent & Teacher Association.

♦ *Our Philoptochos*, with the support of our stewards and community friends, offers over \$40,000 in helping the needy. Along with other philanthropic donations through the Mission Fund and other organizations, our parish distributes roughly \$60,000/year to those in need.

♦ *Our Parent & Teacher Association* helps meet the needs of the youth in our schools: Sunday School, Greek School, and Archangels, with a \$10,000 contribution from the stewards of our community.

Stewardship 2021

“...The Greatest of these is Love”

Ministries of Your Stewardship

Worship & Sacraments

Philanthropy

Religious Education

Archangels Academy

Plutarchos Hellenic Academy

Floga Greek Dance Troupe

Missions & Diakonia

Social & Cultural Events

Elderly Ministry

Youth Ministry

Athletics

Iconography School

Byzantine Music School

Senior & Junior Choir

VOICE Publication

Internet Ministry

Kentro Bookstore

Archdiocese Ministries

Metropolis Ministries

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

Dear Parishioners and Friends of Philoptochos

Happy New Year! The members of the St. Spyridon Ladies Philoptochos wish our entire community the blessings of Faith, Health, Hope and Love. As the year ends, we reflect on the past year, thankful for many blessings, saddened by the losses and praying for a healthy new year. Through the challenging past year, we are blessed to have Fr. Tilemahos as our spiritual Father. I express our gratitude to Father Tilemahos for his love, strength, empathy, wisdom, patience and humor. His prayers and love continue to lift our spirit and renew our faith. Also, thank you to all our Philoptochos ladies who continue to work hard to fulfill our philanthropic and charitable endeavors. As always, a special thank you to each of you for your constant support for Philoptochos.

During the month of December, we successfully managed our first "Pastries to Go" fundraiser. Thank you for all the ladies who baked and coordinated this fundraiser. Though we are embracing the virtual world and working within the social distancing guidelines we cannot wait for things to go back to the old way – a thank you, a hug and a smile. The baking also continued in December for our "philo bags" which were delivered to our shut-ins before Christmas. In addition to the delicious home baked treats, this year we also included beautiful Christmas trees decorated by Mrs. Yannoula Malfas and Angela Malfas. Our thanks to the Malfas ladies for the beautiful decorations and handmade ornaments, they truly reflect the glory of Christmas. We would also like to thank all the ladies who delivered our "philo bags" with our Christmas greetings. Though we may be physically distant, we are not apart and must continue to reach out to each other.

Although we were not able to get together for our annual Christmas party, we were able to join together in the true nature of Philoptochos to raise money for the Pediatric Oncology Treasure Chest. Thank you for all your contributions.

January is Philoptochos Membership Month! We invite everyone to join our St. Spyridon Philoptochos for 2021. Your stewardship is critical so we may continue our many good works for our parish and for the many in need through our philanthropy. So please join us in volunteering your time, talent and energy to promote the values of our Orthodox faith.

In closing, let us continue to pray and thank all those who are on the front line working to keep us healthy and safe. Also, we must continue doing our part to protect others: please social distance and wear your masks to keep our most vulnerable safe. We pray the New Year will continue to strengthen our community, reinforce our resilience and faith in each other and bring an end to the pandemic.

With Sisterly Agape, Georgia Xeros, Philoptochos President



Parish Registry

Kostoula Makris fell asleep in the Lord on November 26, 2020. Her funeral took place on December 4th, and her internment was at St. John Chrysostom Monastery.

Angelo Meklis fell asleep in the Lord on December 24th, 2020. His funeral took place on December 31st and his internment was at Evergreen Cemetery.

Vivian Patras fell asleep in the Lord on December 29th, 2020. Her funeral took place on January 4th, and her internment was at Elmwood Cemetery.

Memorials

+3 years for Athanasios Kakos, +20 years for Demetra Bursinos, +52 years for Konstantinos Bursinos, +1 year for Katerine Nicholas

May their memory be eternal!!

“...Μείζων δὲ τούτων ἡ ἀγάπη” (Α΄ Κορ. 13:13)

Αγαπητοί ενορίτες του Αγίου Σπυρίδωνος,
Η ζωή των Ορθοδόξων Χριστιανών όλων των εποχών είναι μια συνδρομή με τον Κύριον Ιησούν Χριστόν και την σωτηριώδη διακονία Του. Καλούμαστε ως συνδρομητές Του να εκφράσουμε εμπράκτως την αγάπη Του προς όλους τους συνανθρώπους μας και ειδικότερα προς την εκκλησιαστική μας κοινότητα.

Κατά την διάρκεια της πανδημίας αντιμετωπίσαμε ποικίλες δυσκολίες και στενοχώριες. Με την βοήθεια του Θεού και τις ικεσίες του Αγίου Σπυρίδωνος, αγωνιστήκαμε να φροντίσουμε για τις ανάγκες των ενοριτών και να συνεχίσουμε την λειτουργική, την φιλανθρωπική και κατηχητική διακονία της ενορίας μας. Επίσης, μας δώθηκε η ευκαιρία να ανακαινήσουμε τον ναόν μας και το κοινοτικό μας κέντρο για να είναι έτοιμο να υποδεχθεί όλους τους πιστούς όταν βελτιωθούν οι συνθήκες της πανδημίας.

Με την συνδρομή μας για το 2021 εκφράζουμε ότι το μεγαλύτερο δώρο του Θεού στην ζωή μας είναι η αγάπη. Ως Ορθόδοξοι Χριστιανοί βλέπουμε τον κόσμο ως μαρτυρία της αγάπης Του και έναν τρόπο κοινωνίας μαζί Του. Η ενορία του Αγίου Σπυρίδωνος καλεί εσάς τους πιστούς Χριστιανούς, να προσφέρετε, ως συνδρομητές, το δώρο της αγάπης σας, δια την διακπεραίωση του ιερού έργου και της αποστολής της Εκκλησίας.

Παρακαλούμε να συμπληρώσετε την κάρτα της συνδρομής σας. Ευχόμαστε όπως το νέο έτος να είναι ευλογημένο με υγεία και την χάριν του Θεού για σας και τους προσφιλείς σας.

Με αγάπη Χριστού,

π. Τηλέμαχος Αλικάκος

Πρωτοπρεσβύτερος

κ. Φώτιος Κοπανισάνος

Πρόεδρος Κοιν. Συμβουλίου

ΑΓΙΑΣΜΟΣ ΟΙΚΩΝ

Λόγω της πανδημίας, οι ιερείς δεν επιτρέπονται να πηγαίνουν στα σπίτια εκτός από έκτακτη ανάγκη.

Καλούμε όλους τους πιστούς να λάβετε τον Μέγα Αγιασμό των Θεοφανείων και να ευλογήσετε τα σπίτια σας. Στο εικονοστάσι σας ανάψτε το καντήλι σας και το θυμιατό. Βάλτε νερό και αγιασμό σε δοχείο, και με λίγη πρασινάδα ή βασιλικό, ραντίστε όλα τα δωμάτια του σπιτιού σας σταυροειδώς, τις εικόνες σας και όλα τα μέλη της οικογένειας ψάλλοντας το απολυτίκιο της εορτής:

Ἐν Ἰορδάνῃ βαπτίζομένον σου Κύριε, ἢ τῆς Τριάδος ἐφανερῶθη προσκύνησις· τοῦ γὰρ Γεννήτορος ἢ φωνῆ προσεμαρτύρει σοι, ἀγαπητόν σε Υἱὸν ὀνομάζουσα· καὶ τὸ Πνεῦμα ἐν εἶδει περιστερᾶς, ἐβεβαίον τοῦ λόγου τὸ ἀσφαλές. Ὁ ἐπιφανεῖς Χριστὲ ὁ Θεός, καὶ τὸν κόσμον φωτίσας δόξα σοι.

Λόγω των συνθηκών της πανδημίας, όλοι υπομείναμε τους περιορισμούς για την ασφάλεια και υγείαν όλων. Για να προσέλθετε στις ιερές ακολουθίες πρέπει να τηλεφωνήσετε στο κοινοτικό γραφείο ή να κλείσετε θέση μέσω της ιστοσελίδας της ενορίας μας. Αυτό είναι απαραίτητο από τις πολιτειακές διατάξεις. Επίσης πρέπει να ακολουθήσουμε τα ακόλουθα:

- ♦ Αν δεν αισθάνεσθε υγιείς ή αν ανήκετε στις ευάλωτες ομάδες παρακαλούμε να μείνετε σπίτι.
- ♦ Όλοι πρέπει να φοράτε μάσκες όταν έρχεσθε στον ναόν. Αν δεν έχετε μάσκα, διαθέτονται στον νάρθηκα.
- ♦ Αντισηπτικά τζελ βρίσκονται σε διάφορα μέρη του ναού για την πλήση των χεριών σας.
- ♦ Η κοινοτική αίθουσα θα παραμείνει κλειστή.
- ♦ Ιερά Εξομολόγησις είναι διαθέσιμη με ραντεβού.



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