



THE VOICE

MARCH- 2021 - VOLUME NO. 356

SAINT SPYRIDON HELLENIC ORTHODOX CHURCH



**ARCHANGELS
ACADEMY
ENROLLMENT
FOR 2021-22
IS NOW OPEN**



**OPEN HOUSE
MARCH 25, 2021
5:30 p.m.—7:30 p.m.**

The Metropolis of Chicago Southwest Parishes

LENTEN SERVICES & REFLECTIONS

ALL
SERVICES
BEGIN
at 6pm



FOR MORE
INFORMATION
CONTACT
YOUR PARISH

Tuesday,
March 16th at
Sts. Constantine
and Helen Church
Anointing with
myrrh from icon of
St. John

Thursday,
March 25th at
Holy Cross
Church
Reflection by:
Fr. Sotirios

Thursday,
April 1st at
Assumption
Church
Reflection by:
Fr. Tilemahos

Thursday,
April 8th at
St. Spyridon
Church
Reflection by:
Fr. Athanasios

Thursday,
April 15th at
Sts. Constantine and
Helen Church
Reflection by:
Fr. Demetri

Thursday,
April 22nd at
St. Nicholas
Church
Reflection by:
Fr. Nicholas



**METROPOLITAN NATHANAEL
OF CHICAGO
TO VISIT SAINT SPYRIDON**

**PRESANCTIFIED LITURGY
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31, 2021—6:00 P.M.**

ARCHANGELS ACADEMY

I can't believe how fast this school year is just flying right past us! We have been having fun with all kinds of activities that the months have passed by in the blink of an eye.

As we entered into the month of February, it was quite different than years past. Even though we were not able to host our annual Pancake Breakfast, we celebrated with a Valentine's Day party for our children. We decorated cookies, ate sweets, and passed out yummy treats!

As you are aware Fall registration for Archangels Preschool has begun. If you know any families who have children that are eligible for preschool, please spread the word. Limited spots are available so please make sure to secure your child's spot.



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. **There will an Open House for interested families on Thursday, March 25th, 5:30 p.m. — 7:30 p.m.**

SCHOOL CALENDAR : March 22-26—Spring Break



FATHER'S ARTICLE

"I have the right to do anything,' you say—but not everything is beneficial. 'I have the right to do anything'—but I will not be mastered by anything." (1 Cor. 6:12)

As human beings made in the image of God, we possess a deep yearning for freedom. Yet we are often ruled by our habits and our passions, by our wants and needs, by our fears and anxieties. Our heart reacts and those reactions are threefold: 1) Compromise and adapt; 2) Wrath and vengeance; 3) Commit to self determination.

To compromise and adapt is the easiest of reactions. While distracted, we get comfortable with the constraints on our freedom, we perceive ourselves powerless, and we feed on the small tokens that provide the necessities for survival. We eventually become blind to the constraints on our freedom, the passions that are cultivated within the social fabric, and the deification of science and logic coupled by the removal of the sacred and fully human. We are called to be people of the times and not cause trouble. Ruled by fear, we are content with what is deemed essential to avoid worse things from happening. We are afraid to lose the stability that governance and rules provide, terrified of risking our social status or endangering our own pursuit of happiness. In the end, we become accustomed to our own passions, bereft of the power to pursue a full life and the freedom from our own self that Jesus Christ, the Life-Giver is always ready to provide.

The second reaction is wrath and vengeance. Understanding that we are created to be free, we are angered when we realize the constraints on our freedom imposed by our passions and by those in power. We feel that have missed out on life and happiness. We become angry at everything: the world, the government, our fellow man. Staring at the

monumental task of bringing about change, we dwell in our anger and do not proceed to action. Rather we pass judgment on every person and every institution and all our ills become the fault of the system. Even when we realize that we are ruled by our own destructive passions, the task of repentance and a personal spiritual struggle do not rise to a priority because we are convinced that they too are all-powerful just like the system that 'caused' them in the first place.

The third path is a commitment to self-determination. It is the healthy decision to not compromise, to not give up, to not dwell in anger, but rather to take the small steps in a

*"I have the right to do anything,' you say—but not everything is beneficial. 'I have the right to do anything'—but I will not be mastered by anything."
(1 Cor. 6:12)*

struggle to realize that which we expect of ourselves and of our own life. In this struggle, we are humble enough to ask for help. Like the prodigal son, we recognize that we had enslaved ourselves to powers that deprived us of joy and love. Yet, we come to our senses and refuse to accept that we are not able to think for ourselves and work for our own freedom through personal repentance. This is where the words of Saint Paul prove useful: "I will not be mastered by anything".

The help that comes from God when we chose the path of sacrificial love, will get us past our inaction, it will prove our anger purposeful, it will bring about change directly or indirectly by challenging ourselves first as well as those who abuse power or exploit fear. This love that comes from God sheds light on the truth that our value and freedom emanate from Above. May this Lenten journey provide us with ample opportunities to realize this truth, to challenge ourselves to find freedom in Christ, and to triumphantly declare as Saint Paul did: "I have the right to do anything,' you say—but not everything is beneficial. 'I have the right to do anything'—but I will not be mastered by anything." Amen. Fr. Tilemahos

PARAKLESIS TO ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
All the southside parishes will join to offer the Paraklesis to St. John the Baptist followed by the anointing with myrrh from the miracle-working icon of St. John in Assumption, Homer Glen.

Tuesday, March 16th, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.
Sts. Constantine & Helen, Palos Hills



STEWARDSHIP 2021

Once upon a time, a festival was to be held in a certain village. To ensure there would be enough wine for the celebration, each member of the village agreed to pour one bottle of his best wine into a large cask. "If I fill my bottle with water," reasoned one villager, "the dilution will be so slight, who will notice?" But when the feast and time for merrymaking commenced, and the cask was tapped, nothing but water poured forth. Every member in the village had reasoned alike: "My portion will not be missed!"

Scripture is filled with passages of God's call for us to be generous, loving, compassionate givers. The priority of compassionate stewardship is not to pay the bills. It is about how we, as a community, can do God's work with love and compassion. It is less about the parish's need to receive, and more about our need to give. It is our generosity with the gifts and blessings God has entrusted to us. **Compassionate stewardship is an attitude and a way of life.**

We thank the 159 Stewards that have joined so far in 2021. 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.

SPRING GENERAL ASSEMBLY—SUNDAY, MARCH 14, 2021

Register in advance for this meeting through the QR Code. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.



STEWARDS 2021-JANUARY 26TH-FEBRUARY 26TH

Mr. & Mrs. Dimitrios Alexakos
Ms. Katerina Alexopoulos
Mr. Konstantine Alikakos
Mr. & Mrs. John Arvanites
Mr. Eleftherios Avtzis
Mrs. Mary Bisbikis
Ms. Eleni Bizoukas
Mrs. Caryn Chibucos
Mr. & Mrs. Petro Christos
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Colompos
Mr. & Mrs. Nick Dages
Mr. & Mrs. Konst. Demakis
Mr. & Mrs. George Eliacostas
Mr. & Mrs. Dean Eliacostas
Mrs. Martha Eliacostas
Mr. & Mrs. Theophanis Gatsios
Mr. & Mrs. George Georgaklis
Dr. & Mrs. George Georgelos
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Georgiopoulos
Mrs. Ekaterini Grapsas
Mr. & Mrs. Aris Halikias
Dr. Alex Haralampopoulos
Mr. & Mrs. Apostolis Hardaloupas

Ms. Efrosini Kanellakes
Mr. Dean Karampelas
Mrs. Stavroula Karampelas
Mr. & Mrs. Andreas Kavvadas
Mr. & Mrs. John Kavroulakis
Mrs. Georgia Kekempanos
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Kekempanos
Mr. & Mrs. Louis Kloris
Ms. Tina Kolios
Ms. Violeta Komotos
Mrs. Sophia Kopanitsanos
Mr. & Mrs. George Kotsis
Mr. Demetrios Kottaras
Mr. & Mrs. Chris Korbakes
Mr. & Mrs. John Koziocas
Mr. & Mrs. Betty Lillios
Mr. & Mrs. George Limperis
Dr. & Mrs. Makis Limperis
Ms. Maria Meintanis
Ms. Katherine Michalarias
Mrs. Eleni Nicolaou
Mr. & Mrs. George Papadopoulos
Mr. & Mrs. Dinos Papamihail

Mr. & Mrs. Sam Papanastasatos
Mr. & Mrs. Nick Petinatos
Mr. & Mrs. James Petropoul
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Petrakos
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Perovanovic
Mr. & Mrs. Panayiotis Prassas
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Reinhart
Mr. Mark Rentas
Mr. & Mrs. Gregory Smirnis
Mr. & Mrs. George Theoharis
Mrs. Fay Thiakos
Mr. & Mrs. Konst. Trahanas
Mr. & Mrs. Spiro Tsaldaris
Mr. Andreas Tsantilis
Mr. & Mrs. Spiros Tzanetakos
Mr. & Mrs. Angelo Velissaris
Mr. & Mrs. James Voutiritsas
Mr. & Mrs. George Vythoulkas
Mr. & Mrs. James Xeros

159 Members




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



March 2021—Schedule of Events & Divine Services


Monday, March 1st	Agiasmos—9:00 a.m. * Archangels Academy—9:00 a.m. Greek School Online—4:30 p.m. * Divorce Rebuilders—7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, March 2nd	St. Nicholas Planas, Divine Liturgy—8:15 a.m.—9:15 a.m. * Greek Bible Study—10 a.m. Archangels Academy—9:00 a.m. * Festival Committee Meeting—7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, March 3rd	Archangels Academy—9:00 a.m. * Greek Education Committee Meeting—7:00 p.m.
Thursday, March 4th	Archangels Academy—9:00 a.m. * Bible Study on-line—7:00 p.m.
Friday, March 5th	Archangels Academy—9:00 a.m. * Greek School Online—4:30 p.m. * Paraklesis—6 p.m.
Saturday, March 6th	Saturday of Souls, Orthros, Liturgy & Memorial—8:00 a.m. Parea with Presvytera K&1st Greek class—10:30 a.m.
Sunday, March 7th	Sunday of Judgment Day, Orthros & Liturgy—8:00 a.m.
Monday, March 8th	Archangels Academy—9:00 a.m. * Greek School Online—4:30 p.m. Divorce Rebuilders—7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, March 9th	Forty Martyrs of Sebasteia, Divine Liturgy—8:15 a.m.—9:15 a.m. Archangels Academy—9 a.m. * Greek Bible Study—10 a.m. * Parish Council—7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, March 10th	Archangels Academy—9:00 a.m. * GOYA Night—7:00 p.m.
Thursday, March 11th	Archangels Academy—9:00 a.m. * Bible Study online—7:00 p.m.
Friday, March 12th	Archangels Academy—9:00 a.m. * Paraklesis—6:00 p.m.
Saturday, March 13th	Saturday of Souls, Orthros, Liturgy & Memorial—8:00 a.m. Parea with Presvytera K&1st Greek class—10:30 a.m. Philoptochos Meeting 10:30 a.m. * Vespers—6:00 p.m.
Sunday, March 14th	Cheese Fare Sunday, Orthros & Divine Liturgy—8:00 a.m.—11:00 a.m. General Assembly—11:30 a.m. * Forgiveness Vespers—6:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m.
Monday, March 15th	Clean Monday, Archangels Academy—9 a.m. * Holy Confession—10 a.m.—12 noon Greek School online—4:30 p.m. * Great Compline—6:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, March 16th	Archangels Academy—9 a.m. * Greek Bible Study—10 a.m. Paraklesis to St. John the Baptist—6:00 p.m. @ Sts. Constantine & Helen, Palos Hills Stewardship Meeting—7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, March 17th	Archangels Academy—9 a.m. * Holy Confession—10 a.m.—12 noon Presanctified Liturgy—6:00 p.m.—7:30 p.m.
Thursday, March 18th	Archangels Academy—9 a.m. * Bible Study—7:00 p.m.
Friday, March 19th	Presanctified Liturgy—8:00 a.m.—9:15 a.m. * Archangels Academy—9 a.m. Greek School—4:30 p.m. * Salutations to the Theotokos—7:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m.
Saturday, March 20th	Saturday of Souls, Divine Liturgy—8:00 a.m.—10:00 a.m. Parea with Presvytera K&1st Greek class—10:30 a.m. Holy Confession—4:00 p.m.—6:00 p.m. * Great Vespers—6:00 p.m.—6:45 p.m.
Sunday, March 21st	Sunday of Orthodoxy * Orthros & Divine Liturgy—8:00 a.m.—11:00 a.m. Solemn Vespers—6:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m.
Monday, March 22nd	Holy Confession—10 a.m.—12 noon * Greek School online—4:30 p.m. Great Compline—6:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m. * Divorce Rebuilders—7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, March 23rd	Greek Bible Study—10 a.m. * Bible Study online—7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, March 24th	Archangels Academy—9 a.m. * Holy Confession—10 a.m.—12 noon Great Vespers at Annunciation Chicago & Kankakee—7:00 p.m.
Thursday, March 25th	Annunciation of the Theotokos, Orthros & Divine Liturgy—8:00 a.m.—10:00 a.m. Archangels Academy Open House—5:30 p.m.—7:30 p.m. Vespers & Homily—6 p.m. @ Holy Cross, Justice
Friday, March 26th	Holy Confession—10 a.m.—12 noon * Greek School online—4:30 p.m. Salutations to the Theotokos—7 p.m.—8 p.m.
Saturday, March 27th	Holy Confession—4:00 p.m.—6:00 p.m. * Great Vespers—6:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m.
Sunday, March 28th	2nd Sunday of Lent, St. Gregory Palamas Orthros & Divine Liturgy—8:00 a.m.—11:00 a.m. * Solemn Vespers—6:00 p.m.
Monday, March 29th	Archangels Academy—9:00 a.m. * Greek School online—4:30 p.m. Great Compline—6:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m. * Divorce Rebuilders—7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, March 30th	Archangels Academy—9 a.m. * Greek Bible Study—10 a.m. * Bible Study online—7 p.m.
Wednesday, March 31st	Archangels Academy—9:00 a.m. Metropolitan Nathanael to celebrate the Presanctified Liturgy—6:00 p.m.—7:30 p.m.




Family Synaxis
METROPOLIS OF CHICAGO

INVITES YOU TO AN IN-PERSON RETREAT:

PARENTING
In a tough world



WORKSHOP WITH FR. CHRIS KERHULAS
PRIEST AND AUTHOR OF PARENT POINTS



"Unless you see Christ in the eyes of your sisters and brothers, you'll never know Him!"
— Fr. Chris Kerhulas
Parent Points

Saturday, April 3, 2021
10 am – 12 pm • St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church
10301 Kolmar Ave, Oak Lawn, IL • www.stnicholasil.org

- \$25 registration fee per household includes a copy of Parent Points!
- Metropolis-approved Covid-19 plans to keep participants safe
- Live-streamed option available.
- Young adults and parents invited; unfortunately we cannot accommodate children at this retreat.
- Space is limited; seats are reserved in order registration payment is received.

Learn more & register @ www.gocfamilysynaxis.org


Have questions? chicago.familysynaxis@gmail.com • Toni Milak 630-341-2013 • [Facebook](#) Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago Family Synaxis




Family Synaxis
METROPOLIS OF CHICAGO

INVITES YOU TO A ZOOM WEBINAR:

GREAT LENT
The Clear Path to Christ



"Do not neglect the fast; it constitutes an imitation of Christ's way of life."
— St. Anthony the Great



PRESENTATION BY
V. REV. FR. TOM DEMEIDEIROS
PRIEST AT STS. CONSTANTINE AND HELEN, PALOS HILLS, IL

Friday, March 12, 2021
7:00-8:30 pm • No cost!

Learn more & register @ www.gocfamilysynaxis.org

Have questions? chicago.familysynaxis@gmail.com • Toni Milak 630-341-2013 • [Facebook](#) Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago Family Synaxis



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

Orthodox Bible Study
March Schedule

In order to accommodate the Divorce Rebuilders Ministry on Monday nights, we will move our Bible Study during March. 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.

Thursday, March 4th—7:00 p.m.
Thursday, March 11th—7:00 p.m.
Thursday, March 18th—7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, March 30th—7:00 p.m.

GOYA IS BACK
PIZZA PARTY ON
WEDNESDAY,
MARCH 10th, 2021
7:00 p.m.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

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. You can also use the same link to reserve for Sunday School classes. While the limits in attendance are relaxed, we still need to wear a mask, keep social distance, and continue contact tracing as required by the State of Illinois.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0f4caaaa22a1ff2-saint>



All services are streamed on the Parish YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC68WCiYHUYSTCqlelnAWL7Q>

UC68WCiYHUYSTCqlelnAW

L7Q

Please subscribe to the channel to receive notifications of services



Dear St. Spyridon Parish Family,

It is with much hope and prayer that this message finds all of our families staying healthy, well and safe.

The weather is warming up and the Lenten Sarakosti will be here soon. Thank you to our Fr. Tilemahos for his inspirational efforts, by the Grace of God, to keep the church holy services going even through the recent harsh winter conditions. The church being open and available gives extra hope and comfort during these challenging times that St. Spyridon and his home is here for us.

There is very good news that the Metropolis has lifted its attendance capacity limits for Divine Liturgy, Weddings, Baptisms, Funerals, Compline and other worship services. Accordingly, our parish has raised its attendance limits. Our parish with the assistance of the parish council and the Covid-19 Parish Safety Team will continue following CDC and local governing authority precautions as to social distancing, cleaning and sanitation, face mask or other covering, and facility maintenance. Each of us as a parish family member can help protect our church to continue staying open for holy services by social distancing, wearing a mask and following Fr. Tilemahos and the parish council's guidance and example.

Gus Kolyvas, parish council treasurer, has been working over many years and countless hours, with much determination to help keep our church operations running as soundly as possible. Gus recently secured a second forgivable PPP loan for our parish. There is a great deal of paperwork, coordination and time to achieve these loans and related forgiveness of them. Gus is diligent and timely to the point where the lending bank is using our church as a training example for its employees. Thank you Gus for all of your efforts. We are fortunate to have you working very hard for our parish.

Please mark our calendars to attend the Spring General Assembly Meeting that is scheduled for Sunday, March 14th, after the Divine Liturgy. The meeting will be open for in-person or remote Zoom attendance. Fundraising this year will be as important as ever, to help our church ministries continue for the benefit of our families, parish and community. Thank you to everyone inside and outside of our community for your extra sacrifices to contribute more towards stewardship and special donations.

A large part of fundraising is volunteerism. More volunteers are needed. Please volunteer for the church ministries, events and fundraisers by contacting Fr. Tilemahos, any parish council members or the church office for more information.

Thank you Fr. Tilemahos, parish council members, all of the church organizations and committees, the parishioners, volunteers and donors for your continued efforts to support our parish.

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

Σας εύχομαι Καλή Σαρακοστή. Best wishes on a Blessed Lenten Season to all. Humbly submitted,, Frank Kopanis





Sunday School has started, but it is not too late to join us! Our classes will continue to be offered during the month of March, April and May.

Classes will be held on March 7th, 14th and 21st. Combined classes K-2nd, 3rd-5th, and 6th-8th. Please register using the sign-up genius link. High School classes will also be offered on March 7th and 21st.



Advertise in the VOICE

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 1,500 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. The advertising opportunities are the following:

- Regular (1.5" x 4") - \$100/year**
- Large (4.5" x 4") - \$250/year**



FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS for Easter Food Baskets

Our parish will be distributing Food Baskets to needy families on Saturday, April 3rd.

Your generous donations will enable us to purchase all necessary items to assemble each food basket.

This year, we are asking for monetary donations (in any amount), OR if you wish to sponsor a basket, each basket is valued at \$60.

Cash/check donations may be dropped off in the church office: Monday - Friday from 9am to 2pm

Checks to "St. Spyridon" & "Food Pantry" in the MEMO section or online at: https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithe.ly/give-one-time/1390651 (Please select "Food Pantry Donation" from the dropdown menu)

Donation Deadline is Wednesday, March 31st

THANK YOU!

**Spring into Action to Help Kids Fighting Cancer!
Saint Spyridon's Lenten Toy Drive**



All proceeds to benefit:

The Pediatric Oncology Treasure Chest Foundation

Suggested Donations by Age:

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| School Age
Action Figures
Barbie Dolls & accessories
Trucks and Cars
Snapitite Models
Board Games | Adolescent
Journals
Jewelry
Nail Polish Kits
Cosmetic Bags
Purses/Wallets
Scarves/Hats
DVDs/CDs
Board Games
Gift Cards (\$5 increments) | Infant/Toddler/Preschool
Fischer-Price/Playskool toys
Play Dish Sets & Play Food
Baby Dolls & accessories
Wooden & Plastic Puzzles
Activity Books |
| Arts/Crafts
Playdough
Coloring Books
Crayola Markers/Crayons
Activity Sets/Prepackaged Crafts | | |

Drop off all NEW, unwrapped donations in boxes near the office and gym.

Donation Deadline is Sunday, April 25th

Cash/Check donations may be dropped off in the church office:
Monday - Friday from 9am to 2pm

Checks payable to "St. Spyridon" & "Toy Drive" in the Memo section, or
Donate online: https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithe.ly/give-one-time/1390651
(Please Select "Toy Drive - Pediatric Oncology Treasure Chest" from the dropdown menu)

For questions, please contact:
Stella Parhas at 708.717.2518 or Demetria Papadopoulos at 708.870.2783

Thank you for donating!



PLUTARCHOS NEWS

This month, March 2021, marks the 200th anniversary of Greek Independence. Ordinarily, this anniversary would be celebrated most ceremoniously, but the past year has been far from ordinary. A program to commemorate this bicentennial will be scheduled for the summer. Our students have started studying and learning, reading and writing, drawing and singing about this big anniversary. They are looking forward to showing off their Greek pride to the whole community!

Our Kindergarten and 1st grade students had the opportunity of enrolling Presbytera Georgia's Saturday Greek School class. The program is running for 8 weeks in March and April. How exciting that is! Hopefully more in-person programs will be available for other grades soon.

Our school board has a new president. After many years of hard work and dedication Mr. George Papadopoulos past the reins to Mr. George Vythoulkas. A big Thank you to Mr. Papadopoulos for working so hard to support our school. He will be missed. A school board meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, March 3rd.

Ellinomatheia applications are due by March 21st. For more information go to <http://www.greek-language.gr/certification/application/index.html>.



Greek Story Time & Sing-Along with Presvytera Georgia
Grades K-1

We will explore thematic units by learning songs, reading books and making crafts.
Saturdays 10:30am - Noon
at St. Spyridon
February - April

Space is limited
Free of Charge

Register today at
<http://bit.ly/3p7YviQ>



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.



PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS



The St. Spyridon Ladies Philoptochos society invites all interested High School seniors and current college students to apply for the St. Spyridon Philoptochos Scholarship.

The winning applicant will receive a \$1000 scholarship

Applications and information are available on St. Spyridon's website:
<http://www.saintspyridon.org>

The deadline for the completed application and supporting documents are due by June 15, 2021.
Please email application materials to
englishteacher30@yahoo.com
The recipient will be notified by August 15, 2021.

TAKE & BAKE

Let St. Spyridon Philoptochos help you with your family meal planning with our delicious ready to bake Greek delicacies.

*Spanakopita—Tyropita
Pastichio*

From our hearts to
your home.

Fall in love with our
Greek delicacies.

Order before
March 22nd

Online Orders:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/spring-take-bake-tickets-142800765935>

Or

Pay by check or cash
at St. Spyridon
Church Office

Metropolis of Chicago Philoptochos Lenten Retreat "Growing in Christ"

Saturday, April 10, 2021
9:00 a.m. — 1:30 p.m.

Ascension of our Lord Greek Orthodox Church

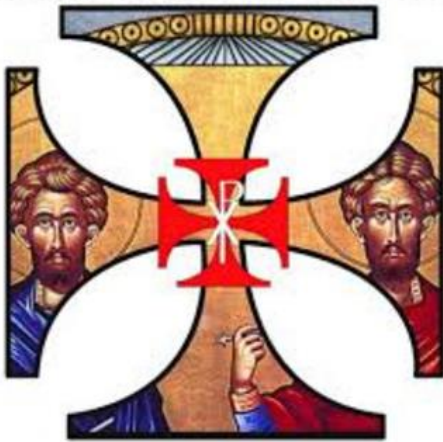
Kindly respond by March 31, 2021
RSVP with Demetria Bakris—dbakris@gmail.com
or Christina Hiotis - christinahiotis@hotmail.com

Pick up date:
Saturday April 3rd
10 am – 2 pm

St. Spyridon Church
12307 Ridgeland Ave.
Palos Heights, IL 60463
708-385-2311

Philoptochos News

PHILOPTOCHOS



Dear Friends of Philoptochos

Καλή Σαρακοστή. More than ever, our Lenten journey is a time of reflection, a time to gain strength in our faith and prepare for the joy of the Resurrection. Through these challenging times, we as a community have come together in new and different ways to continue our fellowship and promote our Christian values. We continue to pray for the health of our community, forgive each other and do works of mercy and charity for those in need. Father Tilemahos leads and inspires us with the beautiful services during Great and Holy Lent as we prepare for the light of Christ's Resurrection.

Just as Lent is coming upon us, we are looking forward to a return of more of our physical presence in church and our ministries. We are just beginning to see the light as vaccines are getting distributed and restrictions are being adjusted. Along that same line we invite our members to join us for our first in person Philoptochos meeting in

2021 on Saturday, March 13 immediately after the liturgy in the gymnasium. COVID safety measures will be in place including social distancing and we request everyone to wear a mask. If anyone is interested, we can live stream the meeting. Please let us know beforehand if you are interested in participating virtually.

During the Great and Holy Lent period we are hoping to once again gather as a community for our cherished events but await further guidance from the Metropolis. Currently, we are sponsoring a "Take and Bake" offering spanakopites, tyropites and pastichio. All orders must be placed by March 22nd and will be available for pick-up April 3rd. The order form and the link to Eventbrite are on the church website. You can also complete the order form and drop it off at the office. Please note that half the proceeds will be donated to a non-for profit: we will be finalizing where the donation will be given at our meeting on March 13th.

On March 23 we will be preparing 100 meals for the Feed the Hungry at Annunciation Cathedral, in Chicago. We will be preparing bagged lunches and distributing personal care items. We ask those who are interested in assisting with the preparations to please let us know. Due to the COVID restrictions we are limited in the number of women who can participate.

In other good news, on April 10th the Metropolis of Chicago Philoptochos Lenten Retreat will be hosted at Ascension of our Lord Greek Orthodox Church in Lincolnshire, Illinois. Last year the Lenten Retreat was cancelled, so we are happy to see it reinstated this year. There will be limited in person space with COVID protocols but it will be lived streamed for those who cannot attend in person. Please let us know if you would like to attend virtually or in person. The topic this year is "Growing in Christ" and is another tool offered to us for our Lenten Journey.

Keeping with our annual tradition, Philoptochos will once again be offering a \$1,000 scholarship to one of our well deserving graduates. We invite all interested High School seniors and current college students to apply. The deadline for applications and supporting documentation is June 15th. The application is on the Church website.

Finally, a friendly reminder that our 2021 Stewardship Campaign continues through the end of April, please fill out your membership card and return it with your donation to Dana Vasilakos or the Church Office. As always, the members of Philoptochos will work to meet the needs of our community, help those in need of comfort or assistance and share our Christian values. We cannot do this without your participation and financial support.

Once again thank you for your continued support, together in faith and fellowship we can make a difference to those in need.

With Sisterly Agape,
Georgia Xeros,
St. Spyridon Philoptochos President

ΕΝΟΡΙΑΚΟ ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑ

Δευτέρα, 1 Μαρτίου	Αγιασμός -9:00 π.μ.
Τρίτη, 2 Μαρτίου	Αγίου Νικολάου Πλανά, Θεία Λειτουργία -8:00 π.μ. * Μελέτη Αγίας Γραφής -10 π.μ.
Παρασκευή, 5 Μαρτίου	Παράκληση -6:00 μ.μ.
Σάββατο, 6 Μαρτίου	Ψυχασάββατο, Ορθρος, Θεία Λειτουργία και Μνημόσυνο -8:00 π.μ.
Κυριακή, 7 Μαρτίου	Κυριακή των Απόκρεω -Ορθρος και Θεία Λειτουργία -8:00 π.μ. -11:00 π.μ.
Τρίτη, 9 Μαρτίου	Αγίων Τεσσαράκοντα, Θεία Λειτουργία -8:00 π.μ. * Μελέτη Αγίας Γραφής -10 π.μ.
Παρασκευή, 12 Μαρτίου	Παράκληση -6:00 μ.μ.
Σάββατο, 13 Μαρτίου	Ψυχασάββατο, Ορθρος, Θεία Λειτουργία και Μνημόσυνο -8:00 π.μ.
Κυριακή 14 Μαρτίου	Μέγας Εσπερινός -6:00 μ.μ. Κυριακή της Τυρινής -Ορθρος και Θεία Λειτουργία -8:00 π.μ. -11:00 π.μ. Γενική Συνέλευση -11:30 π.μ. Εσπερινός της Συγνώμης -6:00 μ.μ. -7:00 μ.μ.
Δευτέρα, 15 Μαρτίου	Ιερά Εξομολόγηση -10:00 π.μ. -12:00 μ.μ. Μέγα Απόδειπνο -6:00 μ.μ. -7:00 μ.μ.
Τρίτη 16 Μαρτίου	Μελέτη της Αγίας Γραφής -10 π.μ. Παράκληση του Αγίου Ιωάννου του Βαπτιστή και μύρο από την θαυματουργή εικόνα του Αγίου Ιωάννου -Ι.Ν. Αγίων Κωνσταντίνου και Ελένης -6:00 μ.μ.
Τετάρτη 17 Μαρτίου	Ιερά Εξομολόγηση -10:00 π.μ. -12:00 μ.μ. Προηγιασμένη Λειτουργία -6:00 μ.μ. -7:30 μ.μ.
Παρασκευή 19 Μαρτίου	Προηγιασμένη Λειτουργία -8:00 π.μ. -9:15 π.μ. Α' Χαιρετισμοί -7:00 μ.μ. -8:00 μ.μ.
Σάββατο 20 Μαρτίου	Ψυχασάββατο, Ορθρος και Θεία Λειτουργία -8:00 π.μ. -10:00 π.μ. Ιερά Εξομολόγηση -4:00 μ.μ. -6:00 μ.μ. * Μέγας Εσπερινός -6:00 μ.μ.
Κυριακή 21 Μαρτίου	Κυριακή της Ορθοδοξίας, Ορθρος και Θεία Λειτουργία -8:00 π.μ. -11:00 π.μ. Κατανυκτικός Εσπερινός -6:00 μ.μ. -7:00 μ.μ.
Δευτέρα, 22 Μαρτίου	Ιερά Εξομολόγηση -10:00 π.μ. -12:00 μ.μ. * Μέγα Απόδειπνο -6:00 μ.μ. -7:00 μ.μ.
Τρίτη, 23 Μαρτίου	Μελέτη της Αγίας Γραφής -10 π.μ.
Τετάρτη 24 Μαρτίου	Ιερά Εξομολόγηση -10:00 π.μ. -12:00 μ.μ. Μέγας Εσπερινός στον Ι.Ν. Ευαγγελισμού, Chicago & Kankakee -7:00 μ.μ.
Πέμπτη 25 Μαρτίου	Ευαγγελισμός της Θεοτόκου, Ορθρος και Θεία Λειτουργία -8:00 π.μ. -10:00 π.μ. Εσπερινός και ομιλία, Ι.Ν. Τιμίου Σταυρού -6:00 μ.μ.
Παρασκευή 26 Μαρτίου	Ιερά Εξομολόγηση -10:00 π.μ. -12:00 μ.μ. * Β' Χαιρετισμοί -7:00 μ.μ. -8:00 μ.μ.
Σάββατο 27 Μαρτίου	Ιερά Εξομολόγηση -4:00 μ.μ. -6:00 μ.μ. * Μέγας Εσπερινός -6:00 μ.μ. -7:00 μ.μ.
Κυριακή 28 Μαρτίου	Β' Κυριακή των Νηστειών, Αγίου Γρηγορίου Παλαμά Ορθρος και Θεία Λειτουργία -8:00 π.μ. -11:00 π.μ. Κατανυκτικός Εσπερινός -6:00 μ.μ. -7:00 μ.μ.
Δευτέρα, 29 Μαρτίου	Μέγα Απόδειπνο -6:00 μ.μ. -7:00 μ.μ.
Τρίτη, 30 Μαρτίου	Μελέτη της Αγίας Γραφής -10 π.μ.
Τετάρτη 31 Μαρτίου	Αρχιερατική Προηγιασμένη Λειτουργία -6:00 μ.μ. -7:30 μ.μ.
Πέμπτη 1 Απριλίου	Μέγα Απόδειπνο και ομιλία, Ι.Ν. Κοιμήσεως της Θεοτόκου -6:00 μ.μ.
Παρασκευή 2 Απριλίου	Γ' Χαιρετισμοί -7:00 μ.μ. -8:00 μ.μ.
Σάββατο 3 Απριλίου	Μέγας Εσπερινός στον Ι.Ν. Τιμίου Σταυρού -7:00 μ.μ.
Κυριακή 4 Απριλίου	Κυριακή της Σταυροπροσκυνησεως, Ορθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία -8 π.μ. -11 π.μ. Κατανυκτικός Εσπερινός -6:00 μ.μ. -7:00 μ.μ.
Δευτέρα 5 Απριλίου	Ιερά Εξομολόγηση -10:00 π.μ. -12:00 μ.μ. * Μέγα Απόδειπνο -6:00 μ.μ. -7:00 μ.μ.
Τρίτη, 6 Απριλίου	Μελέτη της Αγίας Γραφής -10 π.μ.
Τετάρτη 7 Απριλίου	Ιερά Εξομολόγηση -10:00 π.μ. -12:00 μ.μ. Προηγιασμένη Λειτουργία -6:00 μ.μ. -7:30 μ.μ.
Πέμπτη 8 Απριλίου	Μέγα Απόδειπνο και ομιλία στον Ι.Ν. Αγίου Σπυρίδωνος -6:00 μ.μ. -7:00 μ.μ.
Παρασκευή 9 Απριλίου	Ιερά Εξομολόγηση -10:00 π.μ. -12:00 μ.μ. * Δ' Χαιρετισμοί -7:00 μ.μ. -8:00 μ.μ.

ΕΠΙΣΚΕΨΗ ΤΟΥ ΣΕΒΑΣΜΙΩΤΑΤΟΥ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΤΗ κ.κ. ΝΑΘΑΝΑΗΛ

Τετάρτη, 31 Μαρτίου - Προηγιασμένη Θεία Λειτουργία -6:00 μ.μ. -7:30 μ.μ.

200 ΧΡΟΝΙΑ ΕΘΝΙΚΗΣ ΑΝΕΞΑΡΤΗΣΙΑΣ

Ἡ Ἐκκλησία πανηγυρίζει τὴν Ἐπανάσταση ὡς ἓνα πνευματικό γεγονός. Πανηγυρίζει τὸν Ἀγῶνα γιὰ τὴν Ἀνεξαρτησία καὶ τὴν Παλιγγενεσία ὡς τύπο τοῦ διαχρονικοῦ ἀγῶνα τοῦ ἀνθρώπου κατὰ τῆς τυραννίας καὶ τῆς δουλείας τόσο τῆς ἐξωτερικῆς, ὅσο καὶ τῆς ἐσωτερικῆς, τόσο τῆς συλλογικῆς, ὅσο καὶ τῆς ἀτομικῆς. Μὲ ἄλλα λόγια, ἡ Ἐκκλησία πανηγυρίζει τὸ 1821 ὡς μίᾶ ἄλλη Ἐξοδὸ ἀπὸ τὴν νοτιή Αἴγυπτο, πρᾶγμα τὸ ὁποῖο ὑποδηλώνεται καὶ μὲ τὸν ἐξαιρετικά συμβολικό ἀγιογραφικά ἑορτασμό τῆς ἡρωικῆς Ἐξόδου τοῦ Μεσολογγίου. Αὐτὸ εἶναι τὸ νόημα μὲ τὸ ὁποῖο ἡ Ἐκκλησία συνέδεσε ἀπὸ τὴν ἀρχὴ τὸν ἑορτασμό τῆς Ἐθνικῆς Παλιγγενεσίας, ὡς μερικὴ, δηλαδή, πραγμάτωση μέσα στὴν ἱστορικὴ συγκυρία τοῦ λουτροῦ παλιγγενεσίας τοῦ ὅλου ἀνθρώπου (Τίτ. 3, 5).

Ἡ Ἐκκλησία γνωρίζει καὶ ἐπιλέγει νὰ κατανοεῖ τὴν ἱστορία μὲ ὄρους μὴ γεωπολιτικούς διότι κατανοεῖ τὸν κόσμον μὲ ὄρους ἐσχατολογικούς. Γι' αὐτὸ ὁ λόγος τῆς Ἐκκλησίας ἀποτελεῖ καὶ τότε καὶ τώρα καὶ πάντοτε «μωρία» καὶ «σκάνδαλο» (Α' Κορ. 18, 24). Ἡ Ἐκκλησία σκέπτεται μὲ ὄρους «λειτουργικοῦ χρόνου» καὶ τοῦτο διότι, ὡς φορέας τῆς ἀποκαλύψεως τοῦ Θείου Λόγου, ἀναλαμβάνει τὴν εὐθύνη ἔναντι τῶν ἀνθρώπων πού τὴν ἀπαρτίζουν καὶ τοὺς διαποιμαίνει, νὰ μεταμορφώσει τὸν χῶρον καὶ τὸν χρόνο.

Τὸ τόλμημα τῶν προγόνων μας ἦταν μεγάλο! Τετρακόσια χρόνια ὑπὸ τὴν καταπίεση τοῦ ὀθωμανικοῦ ζυγοῦ, κι ὁμως, ἐκεῖνοι κράτησαν τὴν πίστη, τὴν ἐθνικὴ ταυτότητα καὶ τὴν ἐλπίδα. Ἄλλα ἔθνη, ἂν εἶχαν ἔστω καὶ γιὰ λίγες δεκαετίες ὑποστῆ τὸν τυραννικό ὀθωμανικό ζυγό, θὰ εἶχαν ἀλλοτριωθεῖ. Ὡστόσο, ὁ Ἑλληνισμός ἐπιβίωσε παρὰ τὸ παιδομάζωμα, τὰ σκλαβοπάζαρα καὶ τίς ἀναρίθμητες βιαιότητες, στηριγμένος στὴν Ὁρθόδοξη Ἐκκλησία, τὴν θυσία τῶν Νεομαρτύρων καὶ τὴν ἀγωνιστικότητά του.

Σὰς καλοῦμε σήμερα νὰ κλίνουμε εὐλαβῶς τὸ γόνυ ἐνώπιον τῆς σεπτῆς μνήμης τῶν Νεομαρτύρων καὶ τῶν Ἡρώων τῆς πίστεως καὶ τῆς πατρῴας γῆς. Τῶν ἀνδρῶν καὶ γυναικῶν, κληρικῶν καὶ λαϊκῶν, οἱ ὁποῖοι δὲν δέλιασαν μπροστά στοῦ σπαθί τοῦ δημίου ἢ στὴν ἀγχόνη τοῦ ὀθωμανοῦ ἱεροδικαστῆ καὶ ὁμολόγησαν Χριστὸ Ἀναστάντα. Οἱ Νεομάρτυρες θυσίασαν τὴν ζωὴ τους γιὰ νὰ διατρανώσουν τὸ μήνυμα στοὺς Ὁρθοδόξους Ἕλληνες ὅτι δὲν πρέπει νὰ ἐξισλαμισθοῦν, δὲν πρέπει νὰ γίνουν ἐξωμότες, ὅτι μέλλον δὲν ὑπάρχει χωρὶς φῶς Χριστοῦ.

Οἱ περισσότεροι ἐκ τῶν Νεομαρτύρων θὰ εἶχαν σώσει τὴν ζωὴ τους ἂν εἶχαν ἀλλαξοπιστήσει. Κι ὁμως, στάθηκαν ὄρθιοι μὲ ἦθος Χριστιανικό καὶ τόλμη Ἑλληνική. Προτίμησαν τὸν μαρτυρικό θάνατο παρὰ τὴν ἀλλαγὴ πίστεως καὶ ἐθνικῆς συνειδήσεως. Ἄς μὴν ξεχνοῦμε ὅτι, ὅποιος χανόταν γιὰ τὴν Ὁρθοδοξία, χανόταν καὶ γιὰ τὸν Ἑλληνισμό. Ὁ ἐξισλαμισμένος «τούρκευ» καὶ γινόταν διώκτης τῶν Χριστιανῶν, τῶν μέχρι πρότινος ἀδελφῶν του.

«Κατ' ἀλήθειαν τοῦτο εἶναι θαῦμα παρόμοιον ὡσάν νὰ βλέπη τινὰς μέσα εἰς τὴν καρδίαν τοῦ χειμῶνος ἔαρινά ἄνθη καὶ τριαντάφυλλα ... Ἐν τῷ καιρῷ τῆς αἰχμαλωσίας νὰ βλέπη ἐλευθερίαν!» Ἐτσι ἐκφράζει τὸν θαυμασμό του γιὰ τοὺς Νεομάρτυρες, τοὺς μετὰ τὴν ἄλωση τῆς Κωνσταντινουπόλεως καλῶς ἀθλήσαντας καὶ ξίφει ἢ ἀγχόνῃ τελειωθέντας, ὁ Ἅγιος Νικόδημος ὁ Ἁγιορείτης. Ὁ πολυγραφότατος Νάξιος μοναχὸς τοῦ 18ου αἰῶνος κατέγραψε 87 συναξάρια Νεομαρτύρων σὺ



περίφημο «Νέον Μαρτυρολόγιον», τὸ ὁποῖο ἐξεδόθη τὸ 1799. Μεταξὺ τῶν Νεομαρτύρων τοὺς ὁποίους καταγράφει, περιλαμβάνεται καὶ ὁ Φωτιστὴς τῶν σκλάβων, ὁ Ἅγιος Κοσμάς ὁ Αἰτωλός (1714 – 1779), ὁ ὁποῖος ἐργάσθηκε ἀόκνως γιὰ νὰ ἀποτρέψει τοὺς ἐξισλαμισμούς καὶ νὰ διαδώσει τὴν

Ἑλληνορθόδοξη Παιδεία.

Οἱ Νεομάρτυρες ἦσαν οἱ πρῶτοι ἀντιστασιακοὶ τῆς δουλείας, ὅπως τοὺς ὀνόμασε ὁ ἀείμνηστος θεολόγος καὶ ἱστορικός π. Γεώργιος Μεταλληνός. Οἱ ἀγιασμένες αὐτὲς μορφές, αὐτὸ τὸ πραγματικό νέφος τῶν χιλιάδων Νεομαρτύρων, ἦσαν οἱ πρωτεργάτες τῆς Ἑλληνικῆς Ἐπαναστάσεως. Ἄν αὐτοὶ δὲν εἶχαν θυσιασθεῖ γιὰ τὴν Πίστη καὶ τὴν Πατρίδα, δὲν θὰ ὑπῆρχαν τὸ 1821 Ἕλληνες Ὁρθόδοξοι γιὰ νὰ ἀγωνισθοῦν.

Ἡ Ἑλληνικὴ Ἐπανάσταση ἦταν ἐπανάσταση ἐθνικὴ καὶ θρησκευτικὴ. Δὲν ἀντέγραψε καμία ἄλλη ἐπανάσταση οὔτε, ἄλλωστε, θὰ μπορούσε νὰ ἐμπνευσθεῖ ἀπὸ ἰδεολογίες πού περιεῖχαν ἀθεϊστικά ἢ ἀντιεκκλησιαστικά μηνύματα. Ὁ Στῆβεν Ράνσιμαν, κορυφαῖος Βρετανὸς Βυζαντινολόγος τοῦ 20οῦ αἰῶνος, ἔγραψε σὺν τῷ ἔργου του «Ἡ Μεγάλῃ Ἐκκλησίᾳ ἐν Αἰχμαλωσίᾳ» ὅτι: «στὴ διάρκεια τῶν σκοτεινῶν αἰῶνων ἡ Ὁρθοδοξία διαφύλαξε τὸν Ἑλληνισμό. Ἀλλὰ καὶ χωρὶς τὴν ἠθικὴ δύναμη τοῦ Ἑλληνισμοῦ ἢ ἴδια Ὁρθοδοξία ἴσως νὰ εἶχε συρρικνωθεῖ».

Τὸ σημεῖο τοῦ Σταυροῦ «δι' οὗ πάντοτε νικῶμεν»

200 ΧΡΟΝΙΑ ΕΘΝΙΚΗΣ ΑΝΕΞΑΡΤΗΣΙΑΣ

παρουσιάζει ο Αλέξανδρος Ύψηλάντης στην πρώτη Προκήρυξή του της 24ης Φεβρουαρίου του 1821. Η Φιλική Έταιρεία είχε ορίσει, ήδη από τον Οκτώβριο του 1820, ως ημέρα του ξεσηκωμού την ημέρα του Ευαγγελισμού, την 25η Μαρτίου, για να καταδείξει την σύνδεση της Παναγίας και της Έλευθερίας, της Πίστewας και της Πατρίδος. Την σύνδεση του Χριστού και των Έλλήνων ως Σώμα της Εκκλησίας Του. Οι πρωταγωνιστές του Αγώνα ομολογούν την Χριστιανική Πίστη τους και σε όλες τις Έθνικές Συνελεύσεις θέτουν ως προοίμιο των Συνταγμάτων την επίκληση προς την Αγία Τριάδα. Οι όθωμανοί, γνωρίζοντας ότι ο Όρθόδοξος κληρικός ήταν η πνευματική ήγεςία του Έλληνισμού, έκδικήθηκαν πρώτους απ' όλους Πατριάρχες, Έπισκόπους, Ίερείς, Μοναχούς και Μοναχές. Και τους θανάτωσαν με τρόπο μαρτυρικό. Μεταξύ αυτών ξεχωρίζει η μορφή του Αγίου Έθνοϊερομάρτυρος Πατριάρχου Κωνσταντινουπόλεως Γρηγορίου Ε', του οποίου το άγιασμένο λείψανο φυλάσσεται στον Καθεδρικό Ναό των Αθηνών, μαζί με τα ιερά λείψανα της Κυράς των Αθηνών, της Αγίας Φιλοθέης.

Ήθελε όντως άρετήν και τόλμην ή Έλευθερία! Οί συνθήκες ήσαν αντίξoες. Η Ίερά Συμμαχία αντίπαλεν τις έθνικές έξεγέρσεις λαών πού διασπούσαν τις μεγάλες Αυτοκρατορίες. Οί Έλληνες ήσαν λιγότεροι αριθμητικά, αλλά πέτυχαν να έλευθερωθούν. Παρά την διχόνοια, ή όποια έθεσε σε κίνδυνο τον Αγώνα, κατόρθωσαν να σηκώσουν τό άνάστημά τους άπέναντι στον όθωμανό δυνάστη, να προτάξουν και να κατακτήσουν την Έλευθερία εναντι του θανάτου. Οί Έλληνες ύπηρεχαν, ύπάρχουν και θά ύπάρχουν! Όπως χαρακτηριστικά άπάντησε ό Έθνομάρτυς του 1821 Αρχιεπίσκοπος Κύπρου Κυπριανός στον όθωμανό διοικητή και δήμιό του: «Η Ρωμηοσύνη εν να χαθη όντας ό κόσμος λείψει!». Ο Όρθόδοξος Έλληνισμός, δηλαδή, θά ύπάρχει, θά επιβιώνει και θά αγωνίζεται μέχρι την συντέλεια του αιώνας.

Είδαμε άδελφούς να χάνονται, αλλά δέν λιποψυχήσαμε! Είδαμε κατακτήσεις και άπώλειες έδαφών, αλλά δέν σταματήσαμε να αγωνιζόμαστε! Η πίστη στον Θεό, ή συνείδηση της διαχρονικής συνέχειας του Έθνους, ή άγάπη μας για τά γράμματα, τό αντίστασιακό μας ήθος, ή κοινοτική άλληλεγγύη, αυτά ήσαν τά πνευματικά έφόδια πού όδήγησαν στην Έλευθερία και θέριεψαν τό κίνημα του Φιλελληνισμού.

Χωρίς να άπελευθερωθούν όλα τά έδάφη όπου διαβιούσαν Έλληνες, επί 400 χρόνια για την Νότιο Ελλάδα και 500 χρόνια για την Βόρειο Ελλάδα, διατηρήσαμε άσβεστη την φλόγα και δέν άπογοητευθήκαμε! Δέν ύποδουλωθήκαμε ήθικά και πνευματικά. Ήμασταν και είμαστε πάντοτε έλεύθεροι. Έλεύθεροι στην καρδιά, έλεύθεροι στην σκέψη, έλεύθεροι στο φρόνημα, έλεύθεροι στην συνείδηση!

Η Ίερά Σύνοδος της Εκκλησίας της Ελλάδος, διά της Ειδικής Συνοδικής Επιτροπής Πολιτιστικής Ταυτότητος, έχει προγραμματίσει 261 έκδηλώσεις σε όλη την επικράτεια της για να τιμηθεί ή μεγάλη Έπέτειος, οργανώνοντας εκδόσεις, συνέδρια, λατρευτικές συνάξεις και καλλιτεχνικές έκδηλώσεις. Τό Πρόγραμμα βρίσκεται ήδη άναρτημένο στον ιστότοπο www.ekklisia1821.gr, τον όποιο δημιούργησε ή Ίερά Σύνοδος ειδικά για τις Συνοδικές και Περιφερειακές δράσεις της Εκκλησίας της Ελλάδος κατά τό έτος 2021. Παράλληλα, κυφοροούνται συνεργασίες με τά Ανώτατα Εκπαιδευτικά Ίδρύματα, την Τοπική Αυτοδιοίκηση και άλλους Φορείς.

Αδέλφια μας, έλατε!

Είναι ό καιρός να θυμηθούμε, να μάθουμε, να άναστοχασθούμε.

Για την Έλευθερία και την Αυτοδιάθεση, για τό Δίκαιο και την Ένότητα, για την Άξιοσύνη και την Φρόνηση.

Για του Χριστού την Πίστη την Άγία και της Πατρίδος την Έλευθερία.

Για όλα εκείνα τά ιδανικά πού μās έκαναν φωτοδότες αγωνιστικότητας, πολιτισμού και προκοπής έχουμε τό χρέος και την άπαραμίλλη τιμή να έορτάσουμε κατά την διάρκεια του σπουδαίου αυτού έτους τά 200 χρόνια του άναστημένου Γένους. Κι αν νομίζουμε πως οί δυσκολίες μπορούν να μās νικήσουν, ως θυμόμαστε πάντοτε ότι άνασυστήσαμε τό Κράτος μας βασισμένοι στα ιδανικά του '21, ενω όλα «τά σκιαζε ή φοβέρα και τά πλάκωνε ή σκλαβιά».

Είναι ή στιγμή να τιμήσουμε τό αίμα μας, να κοιτάξουμε κατάματα την ιστορία μας. Τούτη την ιστορία, πού λάμπρυνε τό Έθνος μας στα πέρατα της Οικουμένης. Τούτη την δόξα, πού στεφανώνει τις θάλασσες και την γη μας. Τούτη την πίστη, πού κρατεί άταλάντευτη την έλπίδα απ' άκρη σ' άκρη αυτού του τόπου. Από την Κρήτη ως την Θράκη κι από την Ήπειρο ως την μαρτυρική μας Κύπρο.

Μέ γνώση για τό παρελθόν και χριστιανική βεβαιότητα για τό μέλλον, οί Μεγάλες Ώρες του Έθνους μās οδηγούν!



IN MEMORIAM



Panagiotis D. Perivoliotis, at rest February 8, 2021

Panagiotis D. Perivoliotis, age 77, beloved husband of Koula (*nee* Vlahos); Loving father of James (Margarita) Pervoliotis and Jenny (Charles) Thompson; Cherished grandfather of Achilles and Electra; Beloved son of the late Dimitrios and Trisevgeni Perivoliotis. Dear brother of George (Vasso), Bill and the late John (Aspasia) Perivoliotis. Panagiotis will also be missed by many other dear relatives and friends. Interment Bethania Cemetery, Justice, IL.

Eleftherios G. Vasilopoulos

August 29, 1943 - February 19, 2021

Born in Roino, Arkadias Greece and passed away peacefully Friday, February 19, 2021. Devoted and beloved husband of Tasia (*nee* Argyropoulos) for 52 years. Dearest father of Theodora (Kostentinos) Govas, Kasiane (Wayne Brezovar) Vasilopoulos and Maria (Raymond, Jr) Vasilopoulos-Deitelhoff. Loving and proud Pappouli of Dimitri, Anastasia and Eleftheria. Beloved son of the late Konstantinos and Kasiane Vasilopoulos. Dear brother of Angelo (Vicky), Niki (Panayioti) Neofotistos, Christina (late Grigori) Michael and Panayioti (Irimi). Dear son-in-law of the late Sotiros and Konstantina Argyropoulos. Brother-in-law of Toula (Yanni) Papatsakonas and Xristo (Stavroula) Argyropoulos. Fond uncle of many nieces and nephews; cherished friend to many. Through his passion for the "klarino" he began VASILOPOULOS ORCHESTRA and created life-long memories for many generations. You will forever be in our hearts. We love you very much. May your memory be eternal.



Parish Registry

On February 13th, James Voutiritsas and Joanna Wojtyczka were joined together in the sacrament of marriage. Their sponsor was Niko Maniakouras.

On February 28th, Richard Reinhart and Spyridoula Mataragas were joined together in the sacrament of marriage. Their sponsor was tina Kolios.

Memorials in February

+40 days for *Vivian Patras*, +40 days for *Emmanuel Kekempanos*,
 +40 days for *Pete Manasses*, +40 days for *Sam Manasses*,
 +40 days for *Sam Malamis*, +9 months for *Gus Grapsas*, +9 months for *Nick Chibucos*, +1 year for *Christos Katsoulis*
MAY THEIR MEMORY BE ETERNAL

The Voice - Η ΦΩΝΗ

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Secretary	
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Labros Malfas	Altar Boys
Nicky Glikis	Jr. Choir Director
Angelo Angelos	Greek Dance
Cindy Polyzos	Floga Dance Troupe
John Farsatis	Athletics
Zachary Bousies	Athletics
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