ST. JOHN
CHRYSOSTOM
ORATORICAL
FESTIVAL
2024

WHEN:
March 3rd, 2024
After Divine Liturgy

HTTPS://WWW.GOARCH.ORG/ ORATORICAL

*PARTICIPANTS REGISTER AT
https://religioused.formstack.com/forms/sjcof_participant

ELEMENTARY
GRADE 4-6

JR DIVISION
GRADE 7-9

SR DIVISION
GRADE 10-12

WHAT TO DO:
1. Select a topic
2. Register Online*
3. Write a 4 min speech
4. Deliver it

An opportunity to learn, write and speak about Orthodox faith

WHERE:
St. Spyridon GOC

ST. SPYRIDON PARISH ORATORICAL FESTIVAL INFORMATION

Elementary (grades 3-6) participants can compete at the parish level and write a speech on any of the topics below. Every participant receives a $20 gift card. In memory of their son (see below) Michael and Maria Platis sponsor a scholarship for St. Spyridon Festival participants with the highest score at the Junior and Senior level . Additional scholarships are offered by the Metropolis and Archdiocese.

JR DIVISION: GRADE 7-9 TOPICS

TOPIC 1: Explore and discuss the teachings of His All-Holiness and the Saints on the creation of the world. What are some of our practical responsibilities as stewards of our planet, and how does that enrich our lives as Christians?

TOPIC 2: Select a Saint or person who has been the most influential in your spiritual life. Describe the particular and practical ways that influence has taken place.

TOPIC 3: On the Day of Theophany (January 6), we chant, "All those who were baptized in Christ have put on Christ". Discuss the meaning of this hymn and the obligations it places upon us as Orthodox Christians.

TOPIC 4: The Parable of the Prodigal Son teaches us about the various stages of repentance. What are they? How do they relate to the reversal of the son's journey away from the father? What does the father's reaction upon seeing his son teach us about our relationship to our Father in Heaven?

TOPIC 5: Select your favorite Church hymn and talk about how it strengthens your faith.

SR DIVISION: GRADE 10-12 TOPICS

TOPIC 1: Forgiving others who hurt us that deeply and unjustly seems almost impossible. What can we learn from Saint Nektarios, whose life was about forgiving what some might call the impossible?

TOPIC 2: Apostle Paul refers to Adam as the first man, and Christ as the Second Adam. The Fathers of the Church, especially Saint Irenaeus of Lyon, refer to Christ and Panagia as the Second Adam and the Second Eve. Why is the Most Holy Theotokos called the "Second Eve"? And why is Christ called the "Second Adam?" How do Christ and Panagia fulfill and go beyond their prototypes?

TOPIC 3: Explore the Orthodox teaching on the Eucharist by reading the prayers of the Divine Liturgy the writings of one or more Church Fathers.

TOPIC 4: How would you respond to someone who questions why God allows natural disasters to happen when we know God can intervene at any moment? If God is all-knowing, all-powerful, and all-loving, how can He allow evil things to happen?

TOPIC 5: During the Divine Liturgy, before the Consecration of the Holy Gifts, we hear the priest say the following: "Your own of Your own we offer to You, in all and for all." What does this petition mean to you as an Orthodox Christian? Why is it important for us to focus on giving back out of the gifts we have been given by God?

WE WILL

Help you research, write and practice your speech!

CONTACT

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GEORGE M. PLATIS ORATORICAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

In Memory of our son George, who proudly participated in our parish Oratorical Festival, we are offering a scholarship to our St. Spyridon festival participants. The first place speaker in both the junior division and senior division will earn a $250 scholarship. In addition, we will award another $250 scholarship to those who finish in first place at the Metropolis level. These scholarships will be distributed to any post high school educational/ job training institution of their choice.