

# ORATORICAL FESTIVAL

## Annual Oratorical Festival Creates Community Event for Saint Andrew

By: Athina Vella

We are pleased to invite youth grades 4-12 to participate in our ANNUAL ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM ORATORICAL FESTIVAL. This is the first year St. Andrew is offering an elementary division with the intent to create a family and community gathering around the Oratorical Festival.

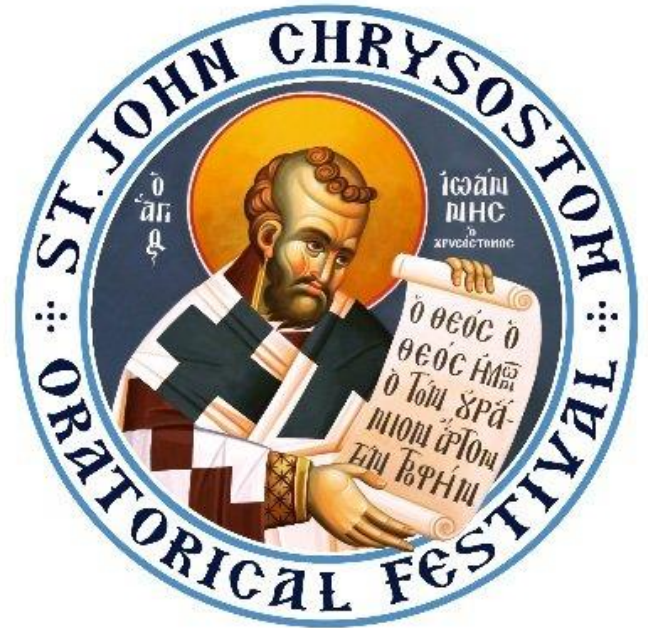
The festival will be held on **Saturday, March 12<sup>th</sup> at Noon** and we will offer a Lenten Lunch to celebrate our annual event. Please encourage your children, or young people you may know, to participate. The Oratorical Festival teaches our youth about faith, public speaking skills, and increases their self-confidence.

SAINT ANDREW ORATORICAL FESTIVAL is a national program of the Archdiocese. It gives Orthodox youth the opportunity to present a speech based on a topic of their choice. The Festival is divided into three divisions:

- Elementary Division: Grades 4-6
- Junior Division: Grades 7-9
- Senior Division: Grades 10-12

The top speakers in the Junior and Senior Division will represent St. Andrew at the District Level. The finalists have the opportunity to advance to the National Oratorical Festival to be held in Dallas, TX in June 2022. The top three speakers in each division will receive a trophy and cash prize and will present their speech in church on **Sunday April 3<sup>rd</sup> after services.**

Every year the Archdiocese creates new topics. The topics for all divisions are listed below. If you have questions about the program, please contact Athina Vella at [AMV1823@gmail.com](mailto:AMV1823@gmail.com)



### **Elementary Division (grades 4-6)**

1. Talk about a Saint you admire most. Who is it and what is their story? Why are they your favorite?
2. What is your favorite church service?  
Share your favorite bible story and why.

### **Junior Division (grades 7-9)**

1. Share what you learned about yourself after a “technology fast” of at least 21 days. What can we learn about our relationship to God and the world by fasting?
2. In our personal prayer and liturgy, we usually make requests of God. Discuss why we make these petitions and how God fulfills them.
3. Choose a saint whose life has been important to you or your family. Discuss what you find most inspiring about this saint and what others can learn from how they lived their life.
4. Discuss how you would share your Orthodox Christian faith with a visitor to your parish.
5. Discuss your favorite Church service of the year and why it is meaningful to you.

### **Senior Division (grades 10-12)**

1. Discuss the significance of Orthodox iconography (historically, symbolically and/or artistically) and how icons enhance our worship.
2. From the earliest days, Christian worship has been community-based, not only solitary, and Christians formed communities where the members learned from and took care of one another. Why is it important to be part of a Church community, and how is this relevant today?
3. The Orthodox faithful pray to the saints for physical healing and we have examples of saints like Cosmas and Damian who were doctors. What does this teach us about the Orthodox perspective on faith, health, and medicine?
4. Discuss ways that a young person can respond to God’s call to love God with heart, soul, mind, and strength and one’s neighbor as oneself (see Luke 10:27).
5. In every Church service, we pray for “peace in the world,” usually many times. Yet, war and violence persist. What is the Orthodox Christian approach to war and violence?