

# ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM ORATORICAL FESTIVAL 2025

**WHEN:**

**March 2nd**

*After Divine Liturgy*



**[WWW.GOARCH.ORG/-/ST-JOHN-CHRYSOSTOM-ORATORICAL-FESTIVAL](http://WWW.GOARCH.ORG/-/ST-JOHN-CHRYSOSTOM-ORATORICAL-FESTIVAL)**

**\*PARTICIPANTS REGISTER AT**

**[HTTPS://RELIGIOUSED.FORMSTACK.COM/FORMS/SJCOF\\_PARTICIPANT\\_1](https://RELIGIOUSED.FORMSTACK.COM/FORMS/SJCOF_PARTICIPANT_1)**

**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 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 winners at the Junior and Senior level. Additional scholarships are offered by the Metropolis and Archdiocese at the national level.

## JR DIVISION: GRADE 7-9 TOPICS

**TOPIC 1:** Philanthropy is an important part of the Church's mission. It involves more than giving money. Why is it important to support people in different ways besides just donating? In what ways can we offer support, and how can these other forms of help make a difference in the lives of individuals and the community?

**TOPIC 2:** In Psalm 4, we are told to "be angry, but sin not." Why would we be encouraged to be angry? How does anger fit into the life of an Orthodox Christian?

**TOPIC 3:** The Orthodox Church is filled with repetition: we sing "Lord, have mercy" dozens of times every service, we sing the Paschal Troparion all throughout Pascha, and we repeat the same Divine Liturgy every single time. What is the importance of repetition in the Orthodox Church?

**TOPIC 4:** The Russian Orthodox novelist, Fyodor Dostoevsky, once said that "Beauty will save the world." What is the role of beauty in the Church and in the world at large?

**TOPIC 5:** What is the symbolism of the liturgical vestments worn by a deacon, priest, and bishop, and how do these vestments reflect and correlate to their specific roles and responsibilities within the Divine Liturgy?

## SR DIVISION: GRADE 10-12 TOPICS

**TOPIC 1:** His All-Holiness, the Ecumenical Patriarch, is recognized as the highest Primate in the Church. This title signifies a unique leadership role within the Orthodox Church, where authority and primacy are balanced with equality among Patriarchs. Discuss the practical implications versus the theoretical aspects of His All-Holiness' role in the Orthodox Church. What does it mean for him to be both "first among equals" and "first without equals"?

**TOPIC 2:** The Seven Ecumenical Councils are regarded as seven of the most important parts of Church History, which came after the completion of the Bible. Pick one of the Council's and explain why it is important.

**TOPIC 3:** The Bible is full of figures, both good and bad, who, while not talked about frequently, can be hugely helpful in understanding both salvation history and our place in it. Pick a lesser-known figure from the Bible, explain who they are, how they fit into the Biblical narrative, and what we can learn from them.

**TOPIC 4:** While every church building is different, there are specific guidelines and practices that describe how and why they are built the way they are. Research them, and then explain their theological significance.

**TOPIC 5:** As the world grows increasingly tumultuous and fearful, today's youth appear to be more anxious about the future. Discuss Christ's role as the bringer of hope and how that fits into modern life.

## WE WILL

Help you research, write and practice your speech!

## CONTACT

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\*Participants Register at  
[https://religioused.formstack.com/forms/sjcof\\_participant](https://religioused.formstack.com/forms/sjcof_participant)

### 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.*