Greetings Brothers and Sisters:

Great and Holy Lent begins on Clean/Pure Monday (March 18). Not only is it a time for fasting from certain foods (meat, dairy) and amounts (eat less food at meals and reduce to one or two meals per day), but, more importantly, it is also a time for increased/intensified worship and prayer. We will offer three extra services per week with Monday Compline, Wednesday Presanctified Liturgy and Friday Akathistos/Salutations. Please join us for these important and inspiring services. Also, seek out additional opportunities for almsgiving—offering material assistance to the poor and needy. Why are these important? Because they are all tools that help us grow closer to God.

Please note that Akathistos/Salutations services will be starting earlier (6pm) on Friday evenings of Great Lent.

Basketball season is now over. Thank you to our athletic director Christ Atsaves and his trusted assistant Tommy Mantice as well as the coaches and parents who helped this season. Next up-Junior Olympics in May!

The Multi-source Feedback Process data has been collected. Thank you to over sixty persons (including staff, parish council, ministry leaders, and fellow clergy who provided feedback about my strengths and areas of growth. I met recently with the consultant to review the full data and the steering committee met to review the executive summary of the data. The next steps will include choosing priority areas and goal setting to help leverage my strengths and work on my growth areas. The Chicago Metropolis funded 50% of the cost and the other half came from the Fr. George Scoulas Memorial Endowment Fund. Stay tuned for more info.

I continue in the second of a two year program for clergy leadership training and coaching now renamed ‘Leadership Accelerator.’ The first clergy cohort, including myself and Metropolitan Nathanael, joined by a second cohort will travel to Knoxville Tennessee three times this year (Feb, June, Sept) to meet with our coaches for intensive seminars.

With Great Lent around the corner, one the established and beautiful traditions of the season are the Saturday of the Souls (Psychosavvato). Please see separate article but plan to attend the Liturgies and bring coliva/sitari with the names of your departed loved ones for those three consecutive Saturdays (March 9, 16, 23).

Lenten Lectures begin on Wednesday evenings after Presanctified Liturgy. This year’s theme is Fostering Vibrant Local Eucharistic (LEC) with Dr Nathan Hoppe, OCMC missionary to Albania. Topics include: 1) Vision for a Vibrant LEC: Eucharistic Life; 2) Life in a LEC: Family of God, Body of Christ, Temple of the Holy Spirit, 2) Practical Tools to Fostering LEC: Christian formation, Stewardship, Governance, 3) The Ministry of
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### SATURDAY OF SOULS

The Church follows the Apostolic Constitutions, commemorating the departed on the third, ninth, and fortieth days after their passing. Recognizing that many may not have had specific memorials, a common commemoration is held for all pious Orthodox Christians. Almsgiving is also encouraged in memory of the departed. Additionally, as we approach the Second Coming of Christ, the Church prays for the souls of the departed, trusting in God's boundless mercy and prompting us to reflect on our own mortality and repentance.
CONTACTS

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Phone: (847) 729-2235
Email: office@ssppglenview.org
Website: ssppglenview.org

Rev. Dr. Fr. Richard Demetrious Andrews, Protopresbyter, frrick@ssppglenview.org

Rev. Dn. Theodore Saclarides, M.D.

Sunday & Weekly Services
Matins 8:15 am
Divine Liturgy 9:30 am
Church Office Hours:
Mon.-Thurs. 9:00am-5:00pm
Friday: 9:00am-3:00pm

Parish Administrator: Elea Bentley
parishadmin@ssppglenview.org

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Communications Coordinator: Amanda Sideris
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Bookkeeper: Diane Bravos
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2024 Parish Council:
President: Steve Koulogeorge
Vice President: Christy Gouletas
Secretary: Therese Speropoulos
Corresponding Secretary: Sophia Lehocky
Treasurer: Nick Colis
Assistant Treasurer: George Seletos
    Julie Stefanski
    Vanessa Adinamis
    Mary Alukos
    Keith Anderson
    Christ Atsaves
    George Karajanis
    Angie Katsamakis
    Tommy Mantice
    Maryann Rasmussen
    Tracy Ronstadt
    Jim Santos
    Peter Triantafilou

PARISH MINISTRIES

Agape Preschool: Julie Mantice, agape@ssppglenview.org
Acolytes: Steven Thell, acolytes@ssppglenview.org
Athletics: Chris Atsaves, athletics@ssppglenview.org
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Book & Icon Store: Tina O'Donnell, bookstore@ssppglenview.org
Building Maintenance: John Vranas, john@vranas.com
Care for Creation: John Kirilakis, careforcreation@ssppglenview.org
Catechism: Fr. Richard Andrews, catechism@ssppglenview.org
Chanters: Chris Atsaves, chanters@ssppglenview.org
Choir Director: Therese Speropoulos
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Church School: Nick and Kery Obradovich, Elaine Carrozza
    churchschool@ssppglenview.org
Coffee Connection: Doreen DeSent,
coffeeconnection@ssppglenview.org
Coffee Fellowship: Carolyn Kolbaba,
carolyn@ssppglenview.org
Divorce Rebuilders: Carolyn Kolbaba,
divorceresouls@ssppglenview.org
Dynamis Group: Joanne Trahanas, dynamis@ssppglenview.org
Georgia Photopulos Cancer Support Group: Bud Photopoulos and Phyllis Perivolitis
    cancersupport@ssppglenview.org
GOYAlumni: Marina Alexis, goyalumni@ssppglenview.org
Greek Dance: Anna Andrews, dance@ssppglenview.org
Greek School: Stella Theoharopoulos,
greekschool@ssppglenview.org
Grief Support: Tracy Ronstadt, griefsupport@ssppglenview.org
Myrrhbearers: Anna Kallis, myrrhbearers@ssppglenview.org
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    occ@ssppglenview.org
Philoptochos: Dena Pavlopoulos, philoptochos@ssppglenview.org
Prison Outreach: Brad DeSent
    prisonoutreach@ssppglenview.org
Prosphora: TBD, prosphora@ssppglenview.org
Readers: Sophia Lehocky, readers@ssppglenview.org
Saint Basil’s Philanthropy: Christy Gouletas
    philanthropy@ssppglenview.org
Saint Stephen Men’s Group: Brad DeSent
    mensgroup@ssppglenview.org
Stewardship: Julie Stefanski, stewardship@ssppglenview.org
Sunday Coffee Fellowship: office@ssppglenview.org
Ushers/Greeters: Bo LaMotte, ushers@ssppglenview.org
Welcome: Keith Anderson, Sylvia Creatura, welcome@ssppglenview.org
Young Adult League (YAL): Maria Mantice, Tommy Mantice
    yal@ssppglenview.org

For Emergencies Only: Please call the main office number and access Fr. Rick’s voicemail. Leave a message stating your emergency. If you do not receive a call back within 15 minutes, call again and leave a brief message.
LEC: Evangelism, Philanthropy, Cultural Incarnation, 4) Local Mission and Witness: Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria, and 5) Taking the Gospel to the Ends of the Earth.

Look for online sign-up for Friday dinner and Saturday lunch. We will also have Lenten Meals on Wednesday evenings. Please contact the office or Christy Gouletas to volunteer to provide a meal. We encourage ministries, families or even pairings/groupings of families to host the meals.

On Sunday March 24th Mr Nick Kasemeotes, MDiv will speak about International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) and IOCC Prayer Journals will be distributed to the children. Please pray with us for peace in the Holy Land. IOCC has reconfirmed that our staff in Gaza and Jerusalem remain safe. Safety protocols are always in place, and programs continue as security conditions allow. IOCC provided food and water, hygiene items, and mattresses for hundreds of displaced people in Gaza. As the situation continues to change, IOCC is monitoring developments and is in close communication with partners. Teams across the Middle East continue working with the US-based team to determine the most urgent needs and how we can best assist. A gift today to IOCC’s Middle East Relief Fund will allow IOCC to quickly and effectively get critical care to people in need. Visit www.iocc.org/holyland23 to give.

Our Lenten Retreat – April 5-6-7 with theologian Dr Presvytera Jeanne Constantinou speaking on the theme: Crucifixion of the King of Glory. Subtopics include: 1) Conflict and Catalysts - What prompted the arrest of Jesus? 2). The Hidden History - Judas, the Arrest, and the Trials, and 3) The Sacred Passover Mysteries: Akedah, Messiah Son of Joseph. Dr. Jeanne is an exceptional scholar and lecturer with her own podcast and website.

Looking ahead to 2024, the Archdiocese theme is “Well done good and faithful servant” (Matthew 25:24). These are Jesus’ words told in the Parable of the Talents (Mt.25:14-30) to the two servants who multiplied the gifts given to them by their master. Jesus calls the third servant, who buried his one talent in the ground, “wicked and lazy” (v.26) and he represents those who use their gifts from God only for earthly things (St Gregory the Great).

God’s guideline for giving is the tithe (10%). He gives us everything but only asks for ten percent in return. That’s a pretty good deal. With a total (operations & capital) annual parish budget of $1.7M we encourage everyone to strive towards tithing (10%) but suggest a minimum of four percent (4%) annual giving.

This month we look forward to: March 1- Men’s Social and Dinner, 9- Holy Forty Martyrs and 1st Saturday of Souls, and Apokreatiko Glendi at Valley Lo, 10- Meatfare/Apokreo, 16- 2nd Saturday of Souls, 17- Cheesefare/Tyrinis with Metropolis Forgiveness Vespers at St Demetrios Church in Elmhurst, 18- Clean/Pure Monday (Great & Holy Lent begins), 23- Pan-Orthodox Triumph of Orthodoxy/Icons Vespers at St John the Baptist, 24-25 Parish Feast Day of Annunciation Church, 25-29 Agape Academy Spring Break, 30- Second Sunday of Lent -St. Gregory Palamas.

Blessed New Year and New Month!
+Fr. Rick
The reason that these remembrances are conducted on Saturdays is primarily because Jesus Himself rested (Sabbath) in the tomb on Holy Saturday from His earthly Passion, Crucifixion and death. At the same time, He was preaching to all those who died beforehand and resided in Hades. Thus, every Saturday throughout the year is the day on which Orthodox Christians remember the dead (the departed, the fallen asleep). Of course, every Sunday (Kyriake, the Lord’s Day) is the Day of Resurrection.

It is customary to make and/or bring Koliva (aka Sitari) for the Trisagion and Memorials. The symbolism of this custom is expressed in Jesus’ words: “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain” (John 12:24). The symbolism refers to our earthly bodies that are buried at death and remain until the Second Coming of Christ (Parousia) when all the dead will be raised (Creed – “the Resurrection of the dead.”), bringing forth new life, a sign of the Christ’s eternal Kingdom (Creed – “the life of the aged to come.”)

The tradition of blessing and eating koliva at the end of the first week of Great Lent is connected with an event in the reign of Julian the Apostate (361-363). The tradition states that the emperor knew that the Christians would be hungry after the first week of strict fasting, and would go to the marketplaces of Constantinople on Saturday to buy food. So, he ordered that blood from pagan sacrifices be sprinkled over all the food that was sold there. This made the food unsuitable as Lenten fare (since the Christians could not eat meat products during Lent), and in general as food for Christians, who are forbidden to eat food from such sacrifices. However, St. Theodore Tyro (d.306) appeared in a dream to Archbishop Eudoxius of Constantinople (360-370) and advised him that the people should not eat food bought at the marketplace that day, but only boiled wheat mixed with honey.
STEWARDSHIP

Nick Colis

Now I know what you are thinking, oh great, another member of the parish council is writing about how we're not giving enough money to Saints Peter & Paul. I get it, believe me I do. I’ve felt exactly how you are feeling.

My goal is to give you a brief update on the church’s current financial picture and explain why I personally feel so passionately about the church and this community. My hope is that we'll be able to start a conversation about why each of us is passionate about our church, and what we can collectively do to cause this great institution to thrive and last well into the future.

A little bit of background on me might be helpful: my name is Nick Colis. First and foremost, I am a steward of Saints Peter and Paul. In addition to this, I have been a member of the parish council for the past five years and currently serve as a member of the Executive Committee as the Treasurer. This church has been my family’s home, spanning four generations.

To speak to the issue at hand, let me give you an update on where we stand financially. While we have looked judiciously for expenses able to be cut, we are still in a bit of a pickle when it comes to our budgeting for 2024. The church will operate at $107,000 operational deficit in 2024 based on our projections. Additionally, if we were fortunate enough to receive a 2nd full time priest, this deficit would rise to nearly $200,000.

While we do have endowments that protect us in the worst-case scenarios, the money in these funds is not intended to cover operational expenses. The main Endowment fund provides for capital improvement projects and the Koulogeorge Memorial Fund covers the salary of our full-time youth director.

The easy way to fix this issue is with increased giving and attracting new stewards, but to do either of these things I believe we need to collectively remember why we are all here.

As the Church is herself, I feel that Saints Peter and Paul is a beacon of light in an ever-changing world. A place where you can go to find like-minded people with homogeneous values and shared life experiences. A place where we can come together and know that we are safe, loved, trusted, and cared for.

This community is a body where we come together to both worship and enjoy fellowship. It’s a place where we come to celebrate our heritage and help our community. It’s a place where we come in times of sorrow when we need relief and comfort. It’s the place we turn to when nothing else in the world makes sense. This church is the rock and the foundation of our lives.

Such a place is not easy to find in the world we live in today. As technology and media continue to take over our lives, the normal American becomes further isolated. This church community is the antithesis of that idea.

The essence of this community is not that it will conform precisely to each individual's vision of how it should be governed. Such a pursuit would inevitably lead to chaos, a stark contradiction to the very principles this church upholds. The beauty of our church community is that we get to come together and experience diverse perspectives and celebrate one another, while collectively addressing our challenges.

I'm personally encouraged on one recent data point: for the first time in many years, we have filled our Parish Council to the 18-person capacity. That shows increased engagement, even if it is not reflected yet in our stewardship numbers. It shows that members of this community are recommitting their time to further the mission of this great Church.

My call to each of you is to also consider recommitting to Ss. Peter & Paul. Imagine the profound impact if everyone reeding this message chose to be fully engaged and actively participating in this church family.
Together, we can shape the trajectory of our church, steering it towards continued growth and vibrancy as we journey into 2024 and beyond.

I feel a strong bond to each and every one of you—even those of you I don’t yet know by name.

I love that we’ve all chosen to come here together to partake in faith and fellowship.

I love that come next year, we’ll go back to the farm and do another Greek fest, even bigger and better than last year.

I love that Christy and her team continue to lead soup kitchens, helping those who are hungry in our community.

I love that this church employs a full-time youth director, and that Steven is working to keep the youth of this church engaged and enthusiastic about our faith.

I love that this church supports Agape Christian Academy, which helps to educate our youth with the love of Christ.

I love our choir’s consistent dedication, pouring their hearts into the musical tapestry that graces our liturgies.

I love that Chris and Tommy have developed a basketball program which brings in so many to this church, who otherwise might not have been a part of this community.

I love that our Philoptochos is actively working hard to be the welcoming arm of our church family.

I love that Brad and his team are currently leading a revitalization of our kitchen so it can continue to be the core of our social ministries.

But at the end of the day, I love the opportunities this church provides to gather and worship God in unison. This is why I am passionate about Saints Peter and Paul, and I hope you are just as passionate as I am. I’d love to talk to you more if you feel the same, and we will collaboratively navigate the path forward, ensuring that this church stands as a beacon for generations to come.
Why pledge stewardship? Here is how I answer that question. Every year stewardship pledge cards are sent to everyone in our parish. We ask that each parishioner, couple, and family make a pledge of their time, talents, and treasures. Some ask: Why do I need to pledge? I give donations, isn't that enough? We are thankful and appreciative of all contributions to support the parish ministries. We don't require a pledge to be a financial member of the parish, but we do ask and we do remind for the following reasons: 1) Pledging requires forethought and planning, 2) Pledging sets a personal goal for giving, 3) Pledging is sacramental--it's a tangible gesture to receive and share God's grace.

Advance-planning prioritizes giving to God and His Church first. And this helps avoid 'left-over' giving, which often leaves very little leftovers for God. In the Bible, God asks His people to give generously and sacrificially--to give the first (Prov.3:9-10) and the best (Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers) of their possessions. The only way we can grow is by setting goals that challenge our status quo. God asks for a tithe (one tenth or ten percent; Lev.27:30; Matt.23:23) of our possessions, each year. We can reach that goal if we pledge in a manner that raises the bar. Because of these factors, persons who pledge, give (on average) two to three times more than those who do not.

We encourage pledging of stewardship-giving by distributing cards, asking for pledges, sending reminders, acknowledging them in letters and quarterly statements, listing names of pledgers in our monthly newsletter and other communications. We thank everyone for their generous pledges and contributions to support "Our Church--Our Spiritual Home."

In the first quarter of each year, a pledge reminder letter is sent to everyone who has not submitted a stewardship financial pledge. Without a pledge there is no way for us to know if someone’s stewardship is paid in full. A pledge is important because it requires forethought, planning, and commitment. These all help us prioritize giving to God first. We also need to pledge our Time and Talents. Of the near 700 families in the SSPP community, only about half submit a financial pledge and only about 50 submit a time and talents pledge. Let’s work together to do better!
Why Pledge Stewardship?

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During my years of Sunday School and GOYA, I learned about Christ and how to stand firm in my faith as I continue to walk through life. As a Myrrh Bearer I learned there was a place for me to serve in any capacity and grow closer to Christ. When I went to college I felt connected to my Saints Peter & Paul community through the care packages offered by Coffee Connection and the events done by our GOYA Alum.

Upon graduating college I felt welcomed back into the parish with open arms. I became an usher and had the opportunity to greet those coming in on Sunday mornings. This gave me the opportunity to meet many members of our community I would not have ever met before.

I began working as a GOYA advisor because I wanted to give back to the programs that shaped me. I was then invited to join the YAL board and Telos team. Here I learned skills on how to minister to people where they are at and work at how to get more young people involved in our parish life. I was then offered to serve our parish in a capacity I never thought for myself when I ran for Parish Council and now on the Executive Parish Council. My most treasured ‘ask’ of my time and talents was when I was asked to become more involved with our Myrrh Bearing Women ministry as it began and continues to grow.

Saints Peter & Paul provides a multitude of areas for us to give our time and talent. My goal is to highlight all of our ministries so that others can know where their time and talents can be given. If you wish to share your story or highlight your ministry please contact me - sophia.lehocky22@gmail.com!

Sophia Lehocky

I was asked to reflect on my earliest memory of giving. Immediately I thought of sitting in a pew and waiting for my mom to give me a dollar to put into the offering basket. Although I was the one putting the dollar in the offering basket, I felt that I couldn’t count that as giving on my own. As I continued to reflect, I realized we often hear ‘giving’ and we instantly think of monetary giving and forget that we have the ability to give our time and talents as well.

Growing up at Saints Peter & Paul I always knew I could call it home. Throughout my years of Sunday School and GOYA I learned about Christ and how to stand firm in my faith as I continue to walk through life. As a Myrrh Bearer I learned there was a place for me to...
Welcome new members to our beautiful parish, Helen Basis, Greg and Joanna Gala, Pete Kokkinias, Vicky Nestor, Pete Papadopoulos and Ira Evangelou, John and Georgia Pontikes, Christos and Koralia Sotos, Christopher Stephanos, and Samer and Sylvia Zabaneh.
OUR LIFE TOGETHER

Welcome new members to our beautiful parish, Helen Basis, Greg and Joanna Gala, Pete Kokkinias, Vicky Nestor, Pete Papadopoulos and Ira Evangelou, John and Georgia Pontikes, Christos and Koralia Sotos, Christopher Stephanos, and Samer and Sylvia Zabaneh.

We Remember Rev. Father Stephen Bithos
May His Memory Be Eternal!

Wedding of Luke Smith and Shannon Edmunds on February 2nd with sponsor Koumbara Marah Smith. Thank you!

Baptism and/or Chrismation of Athena and Michael on February 3rd with parents Michael & Dina Froustis-Bratta! and godparents auren & James Broches and Teli & Hope Heotis.

Glenview Environment Award 1-24-2024
CONGRATS TO SAINTS PETER AND PAUL’S 5/6TH GRADE FOR A 2ND PLACE FINISH AND 7/8TH GRADE FOR 1ST IN DIVISION AND 2ND IN TOURNAMENT. ALSO, KUDOS TO KOSTAKI KOUROUKLIS, TEDDY AVLADAS, AND NICHOLAS PRACTIKAKIS FOR WINNING THE 2ND GRADE 3 ON 3 TOURNAMENT. GREAT WEEKEND FOR SSPP CHURCH BASKETBALL! 2-23-2024

BAPTISM AND/OR CHRISMATION OF EASON-CONSTANTINE ON JANUARY 27TH WITH PARENTS MEGAN AND NOLAN HANSON AND GODPARENTS PRESVYTERA ELYSÉ MCLISH (AND FR. JONATHAN).

CONGRATS TO SAINTS PETER AND PAUL’S 5/6TH GRADE FOR A 2ND PLACE FINISH AND 7/8TH GRADE FOR 1ST IN DIVISION AND 2ND IN TOURNAMENT. ALSO, KUDOS TO KOSTAKI KOUROUKLIS, TEDDY AVLADAS, AND NICHOLAS PRACTIKAKIS FOR WINNING THE 2ND GRADE 3 ON 3 TOURNAMENT. GREAT WEEKEND FOR SSPP CHURCH BASKETBALL! 2-23-2024

CHRISTINE ALEX WITH SON DAVID - SHE'S 101 YEARS OLD!!

PARISH COUNCIL PAST PRESIDENTS DINNER 1-30-2024
SCHOLARSHIPS 2024

SS Peter and Paul Philoptochos

Looking for a Scholarship?

Philoptochos is excited to offer three scholarship opportunities this year.
Information regarding the individual scholarships is listed below.
Spread the word to our young adults so that our parish is well represented
on GRADUATE SUNDAY, MAY 19, 2024—IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING
CHURCH SERVICE
Applications for the scholarships are available on Saints Peter & Paul website
Applications must be completed online and submitted no later than
MONDAY, MAY 6, 2024

PHILOPTOCHOS SCHOLARSHIP
$2000
A MERIT SCHOLARSHIP BASED ON GRADES, TEST SCORES, ACTIVITIES IN CHURCH
AND SCHOOL
FOR QUESTIONS, PLEASE TEXT OR CALL MS. JOANNE TRAHANAS: 708-207-4112

ATHIE KOULOEORGE PANARITES
PHILOPTOCHOS RELIGIOUS SCHOLARSHIP
SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS VARIES EACH YEAR.
DESIGNED FOR PARISHIONERS IN GOOD STANDING WHO WANT TO ATTEND
ORTHODOX RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS INCLUDING ORTHODOX RELIGIOUS CAMPS.
FOR QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT MS. MARYANN RASMUSSEN:
MARYANNPR1@AOL.COM

CHRISTINA MOURIKES SPIRATOS
“MAKE A DIFFERENCE” SCHOLARSHIP
$5,000.00
THIS SCHOLARSHIP HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED TO ASSIST A COLLEGE BOUND
OR CURRENT COLLEGE STUDENT TO ACHIEVE HIS OR HER ACADEMIC AND
CAREER ASPIRATIONS.
THE SCHOLARSHIP WILL AWARD A STUDENT WHO HAS
“MADE A DIFFERENCE” IN SERVICE TO OTHERS IN NEED.
FOR QUESTIONS, TEXT OR CALL MS. MARY ALUKOS AT 847-302-0059.
Church School had our first ever GAME SHOW SUNDAY! Grades 3 through High School tested their knowledge of our Church and Orthodoxy. This year’s hosts, Steven “Mr. Sparkle” Thell, Elaine and Luke Carrozza were impressed by how much the kids knew! Congratulations to our winners (only by two questions may we add) High Schoolers; Vaggeli Milovanovic, Anna Arzoumanidis, Valerie Keys and Lauren Keys.

GAME SHOW NIGHT

READ MORE BELOW

AGAPE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

1401 Wagner Rd
Glenview, IL 60025

2024-2025 REGISTRATION

- Ages 2-5 years old
- Flexible Schedules
- Low student : Teacher ration
- After school enrichment
- Faith-based curriculum

Schedule your tour today!

Academy Director: Julie Mantice
We work in partnership with our families to ensure kindergarten readiness, starting at the age of two.

Email: agape@ssppglenview.org
Phone: 847-849-7870
Church School had our first ever GAME SHOW SUNDAY! Grades 3 through High School tested their knowledge of our Church and Orthodoxy. This year’s hosts, Steven “Mr. Sparkle” Thell, Elaine and Luke Carrozza we were impressed by how much the kids knew! Congratulations to our winners (only by two questions may we add) High Schoolers; Vaggeli Milovanovic, Anna Arzoumanidis, Valerie Keys and Lauren Keys.
# Lenten Lecture Series

## Saints Peter & Paul Greek Orthodox Church

**Year 2024**

**Annual Lenten Lecture Series**

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**Fostering Vibrant Local Eucharistic Communities (LEC)**

By Dr. Nathan Hoppe

Jesus promised that the gates of hell would not prevail against the Church, but in our secularized and digitalized age it feels like we, as Christians, are embattled. This lecture series will provide a renewed vision for the life of local church communities in which every member is equipped to fulfill their God-given role in the body of Christ serving one another and witnessing to the world. The lectures will provide guidance for practical personal and community transformation based on decades of ministry experience and in-depth academic study.

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<td></td>
<td>April 10</td>
<td>The Ministry of LEC: Evangelism, Philanthropy, Cultural Incarnation</td>
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<td>April 17</td>
<td>Local Mission and Witness: Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria</td>
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<td>April 24</td>
<td>Taking the Gospel to the Ends of the Earth</td>
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### Schedule

- 5:30pm Ninth Hour Service
- 6:00pm Presanctified Liturgy
- 7:30PM Lenten Community Meal
- 8:00pm Lecture
- 8:45pm Q&A
- 9:00pm Conclude.

*To host a meal, contact Christy Goulletas at christygoulletas@gmail.com or (847) 989-3382*

### Location

Saints Peter and Paul Greek Orthodox Church, 1401 Wagner Road, Glenview, Illinois 60025

[www.ssppglenview.org](http://www.ssppglenview.org)

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Nathan Hoppe is the author of a new book entitled, *Fostering Local Eucharistic Communities*, based on his years of service in Albania and his academic research at St. Vladimir’s Seminary.

Nathan was born and raised in Colombia, South America, into a missionary family. He holds master’s degrees from Wheaton College and Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology and a D.Min. (Doctor of Ministry) from St. Vladimir's Theological Seminary. Nathan has served as an OCMC missionary in Albania under Archbishop Anastasios for more than 25 years.

Nathan, together with his wife Gabriela, directs the Central Children's Office of the Orthodox Church of Albania with a staff of 15 full-time workers. Its ministry is focused on fostering and facilitating the life of local Eucharistic communities. Nathan is a Lecturer at Logos University in the Department of Theology and Culture and represents the Orthodox Church of Albania in a variety of venues including the official dialogues with the Roman Catholic Church, the Lutheran World Federation, and the worldwide Anglican Communion.
LENTEN LECTURE SERIES

From the foreword of Nathan Hoppe’s book: *Fostering Local Eucharistic Communities: A Biblical, Historical, and Theological Reflection Inspired by Missionary Service in Albania* (Aschendorff, Munster, Germany 2023)

One of the requirements in the D.Min project was a description of my ministry context. I will include that here because I think it may be useful for the reader. I have two primary ministry contexts that will inform the theological and practical reflections of this project. I am a long-term missionary, sent by the Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC) from the United States serving in the Autocephalous Orthodox Church of Albania for the past twenty-five years. As an OCMC missionary, I have had the opportunity to interact extensively with Orthodox churches across the United States. I, together with my family, am financially and spiritually supported by a network of parishes and individuals.

As a missionary in Albania, I have had the privilege of serving under the direction of Archbishop Anastasios in the immense work of resurrecting the Orthodox Church of Albania after decades of intense persecution at the hands of the atheist communist government. This was the only government in the world to declare itself an officially atheist state in which all forms of religious belief and practice were illegal from 1967–1991. In Albania, I have served as a theological educator and in a variety of other roles in the life of the Orthodox Church, including directing the Central Children’s Office and university ministry. These roles have allowed me to work directly with existing parish structures struggling to build local eucharistic communities.

In addition to my primary ministry roles in Albania and the United States, I have also had the honor of working in a number of roles that have allowed me to connect with the life of Orthodox churches around the world. I was active in *Syndesmos* (World Fellowship for Orthodox Youth) for about ten years, organizing its General Assembly in Albania in 2003 and participating in and speaking at numerous events. I have also represented the Orthodox Church of Albania in the official international dialogues with the Roman Catholic Church, the Lutheran World Federation, and the worldwide Anglican Communion, which has given me the opportunity to work closely with many Orthodox leaders and to visit a number of autocephalous churches.

I also serve on the steering committee of the *Lausanne–Orthodox Initiative* (LOI), which has given me the opportunity to work with Orthodox and evangelical leaders from around the world. I have represented the Orthodox Church of Albania at two Global Gatherings of the Global Christian Forum (GCF): first in 2011 in Manado, Indonesia, where I gave a plenary address about the resurrection of Orthodox Church of Albania, and again in 2018 in Bogotá, Colombia. In 2015, I led the local organizing team for the GCF’s conference in Albania on the theme Discrimination, Persecution, Martyrdom: Following Christ Together. These experiences have given me the opportunity to work with Christian leaders from around the world and to understand more fully the opportunities and challenges in the process of building up the Church of Christ, which the gates of hell will not prevail against (Mt 16:18).

(Icon of the great commission from the Cathedral in Tirana)

About our community:

The parish of Saints Peter and Paul in Glenview, Illinois was established in 1960. The sanctuary was completed in 1964 and the community center in 1974. We have over 700 individuals, couples, and families with about 30 different ministries. Our worship services are in English, we have a robust Sunday Church School, and active youth programs for all ages including basketball and Greek School. Agape Day School has classes for pre-school and kindergarten. We are located at 1401 Wagner Road, on the corner of Lake Avenue, across the street from the historic Wagner Farm. For more info, visit [www.sspglview.org](http://www.sspglview.org).
SAINTS PETER & PAUL

LENTEN RETREAT

SAINTS PETER and Paul Greek Orthodox Church

Lenten Retreat April 5-7, 2024

Crucifixion of the King of Glory
Explaining Hidden History and Revealing Sacred Mystery

Guest Speaker: Dr. Jeanne Constantinou

Sponsored by the Saints Peter and Paul CRETICOS Memorial Lectures

Friday, April 5
6:00pm   Akathistos/ Salutations Service | 7:30 PM Lenten Meal (RSVP by March 7)
8:00pm   Conflict and Catalysts - What prompted the arrest of Jesus?
Dr Constantinou will share a little bit about her faith journey and then turn to the background to the events of the Lord’s Passion. Why did the Jewish leaders want to destroy Jesus? They had clashed with him often, so what actions taken by Christ directly led to his arrest and their decision to put him to death immediately? Why do we celebrate his entry into Jerusalem when he was on the way to his death? Why did Jesus cleanse the Temple? Did he lose his temper? How does Lazarus fit into all of this?

Saturday, April 6
10:00am   Coffee and Fellowship
10:30am   The Hidden History - Judas, the Arrest, and the Trials
What motivated Judas and was his betrayal necessary for the crucifixion of Christ? Why did Judas throw the silver coins into the Temple? Why did Caiaphas and the Sanhedrin have difficulty prosecuting a case against Jesus? What did Christ do that finally allowed them to pronounce the death penalty? Who was Pontius Pilate? Is Pilate’s reluctance to crucify Jesus historically accurate? Why did Pilate hesitate, and why did he decide to crucify Jesus, despite his reservations? Why did the crowd demand Jesus’ crucifixion when he had been hailed by a crowd as the Messiah only five days earlier?
12:00pm   Lenten Luncheon (RSVP by March 7)
1:00pm   The Sacred Passover Mysteries: Akedah, Messiah Son of Joseph, etc.
Why did the Jewish leaders want Jesus to die by crucifixion? Why did he say “My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?” How is the crucifixion the fulfillment of an important event in ancient Jewish history that occurred long before Moses and Passover? What is the significance of his side being pierced? What is the meaning of Christ’s death precisely on that day and at that time? How was his death by crucifixion foreshadowed in the way lambs were sacrificed in the Temple? How were seemingly conflicting prophecies fulfilled in an unimaginable and divine manner by the Lord’s Passion?
3:00pm   Great Vespers Service

Sunday, April 7
9:30am   Divine Liturgy – Homilist Dr Jeanne Constantinou

Presvytera Jeanne Constantinou, Ph.D. earned a B.A. in Religious Studies at the University of San Diego, a J.D. from Pepperdine University School of Law, a Master of Arts in Practical Theology from University of San Diego, Masters of Theology from Holy Cross Seminary and Harvard Divinity School, and a Ph.D. from Universite Laval, Quebec City, Canada. She taught biblical studies and early Christianity extensively at Orthodox and non-Orthodox universities and graduate schools of theology, including Hellenic College/Holy Cross. She is the host of Search the Scriptures LIVE on Ancient Faith Radio. Her most recent books are The Crucifixion of the King of Glory and Thinking Orthodox. She is married to Father Costas and they have one child, Christopher (32).

Anastasia and Angelo Creticos were founding and longtime members of Saints Peter and Paul who established this fund so as to encourage all parishioners in the continuing study and growth in our faith, in part by bringing the best thoughtful and faithful educators to speak at Saints Peter and Paul.
LENTEN RETREAT

BIOGRAPHY - Dr. Jeanne Constantinou

Education
Bachelor's Degree in Religious Studies, University of San Diego ('80)
Juris Doctorate. Pepperdine University School of Law ('85)
Master of Arts in Practical Theology, University of San Diego ('92)
Masters of Theology, Holy Cross Seminary ('96)
Masters of Theology, Harvard Divinity School ('98)
Ph.D. from Universite Laval, Quebec City, Canada ('08) Dissertation topic: The Apocalypse in the Ancient Church of the East.

Background
Raised in Southern California in a Greek-American household. Married for 43 years to Father Costas and has one son, Christopher (32). Presbytera has taught at Hellenic College/Holy Cross Seminary, Patriarch Athenagoras Orthodox Institute, and most recently for five years at Ss Cyril and Athanasius Coptic School of Theology, nine years the Franciscan School of Theology, and she retired from the University of San Diego after twenty years. She has led bible studies, taught, and lectured on the Bible, early Christianity and Orthodoxy at parishes, conferences, retreats and seminars for over 40 years.

Some of Presbytera Jeannie’s Topics & Presentations
Thinking Orthodox: Understanding and Acquiring the Orthodox Christian Mind.
The Crucifixion of the King of Glory: A Scriptural and Patristic Lenten Journey
The Theotokos and Orthodox Women: Separating Life from Legend and Theology from Piety
Beyond the Veil: The Apocalypse in the Orthodox Church
Golden Mouth, Golden Mind, Golden Heart: The Extraordinary Life of Sr. John Chrysostom
From Persecutor to Promoter and Attacker to Advocate: The Amazing Life, Literature and Contributions of St. Paul
CSI: Canon of Scripture Investigation. Uncovering the Bible’s Past
Women Apostles: the Female Disciples of Christ
Cults and Heresies: Three American Religions

Other notables about Pres. Jeannie:
She began the first Orthodox internet bible study podcast sixteen years ago, called Search the Scriptures on Ancient Faith Radio (www.ancientfaith.com) and in a short time gained an enthusiastic following among people all over the globe. For the past four years she has hosted a live call-in program on Ancient Faith, Search the Scriptures LIVE! on Mondays at 8 pm Eastern/5 pm Pacific. Over 350 of her podcast lessons on the Bible can be found for free at orthodoxbiblestudy.info. Her PhD research was on the Apocalypse in the Ancient Church of the East. She translated the oldest Greek patristic commentary into a modern language on Revelation by Andrew of Caesarea, which was published by the Catholic University of America Press in 2012 in their series The Fathers of the Church, volume 123. She also wrote a book about the Apocalypse in the Eastern Church, Guiding to a Blessed End: Andrew of Caesarea and his Apocalypse Commentary in the Ancient Church. Her two most recent books are Thinking Orthodox: Understanding and Acquiring the Orthodox Christian Mind and The Crucifixion of the King of Glory: The Amazing History and Sublime Mystery of the Passion.

Her website is drjeannie.com
For a full biography of Pres. Jeannie:
PROJECT MEXICO FUND

T.P NASSOS PROJECT MEXICO

T.P. NASSOS PROJECT MEXICO FUND TO HELP OFFSET TRAVEL EXPENSES FOR SOME PARTICIPANTS

The family of Dr. Tassos Nassos has requested that proceeds from donations made to our church in his memory be used to establish the T.P. Nassos Project Mexico Fund. Beginning with next summer’s group, the Fund will help offset travel expenses for youths who want to participate in Project Mexico but may need some financial assistance to do so.

Nassos family members took part in Project Mexico at various times over the years. Tass and his wife, Mary Ann, were there with an adult group in 2004. Their four children participated as well: Marc, Peter and Jonathan in 1992; Jonathan and Christin in 2003. Because of their own memorable, enriching experiences, they wish to assist future participants in having the same opportunity. Thank you Nassos family!
BOOKSTORE & MORE

BOOK STORE

Your Book and Icon Store is prepared to share your Lenten Journey with Daily Lenten Devotionals for all Orthodox Christians. Come in to see our beautiful icons, and wide selection of Children's Bibles to encourage our younger parishioners to strengthen their faith. Stop in anytime to browse and look at our inventory. We are constantly adding new titles, and would be honored to support your Lenten Journey and celebrate this time with you.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY

If you, a family member, or friend are looking to serve your SSPP community but are not sure how to do it, consider hosting Coffee Fellowship following Divine Liturgy. Coffee Fellowship doesn’t just serve the purpose of filling rumbly bellies and satisfying caffeine withdrawal symptoms. It’s a ministry that helps to build a community of friends and family, and provides opportunities to connect with your church family – the same people who can love and support you throughout your spiritual journey.

This important ministry is also a wonderful way to commemorate an anniversary, birthday, family milestone, or memorial. It’s a minimal time commitment that goes a long way in expressing appreciation and gratitude. For more information on hosting a Coffee Fellowship, contact Carolyn Kolbaba at fellowship@ssppglenview.org

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN COUPLES

Please join us in fellowship for the SSPP Glendi, March 9th at Valley Lo. It promises to be a wonderful evening, whether you come as a family or get a table of couples together, this evening is for ALL parishioners. There will be food, cocktails, dancing, and a silent auction. Proceeds will benefit the Agape Academy. We look forward to seeing you! (https://ssppglenview.org/glendi/)

COFFEE CONNECTION

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 3</td>
<td>How We Worship (Orthodox, Protestant, Jewish)</td>
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<td>- How are the sounds of worship different?</td>
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<td>- Who are the major players in worship?</td>
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<td>March 17</td>
<td>Holy Communion</td>
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<td>- How is communion different in each Christian church?</td>
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<td>- What does it represent to each?</td>
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<td>March 31</td>
<td>Salvation + Eternal Life (Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Buddhism)</td>
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<td>- What's the end goal? Heaven, Paradise, Nirvana?</td>
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<td>- How does each group view the result of good works?</td>
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“No Christian should walk through the pain of divorce alone.”

SS. Peter and Paul’s Divorce Rebuilders offers support, guidance and hope to those who are separated and divorced. Meetings will begin this February starting on Tuesday, February 6 through March 12, 2024, 7-8:30 p.m. C.T, for six consecutive weeks at Saints Peter & Paul Greek Orthodox Church, Glenview, IL. ZOOM will be available for those who cannot attend in person. This group provides a place where you can learn, heal and rebuild from the hurt of divorce. New insights and perspectives will help you create new understandings towards developing new personal, relational and spiritual goals in your life. Discussion, feedback and support are integral components of this program. In addition, our group participates in ongoing social activities.

Leader: Maria Boyle, Counseling, Northwestern University.

To enroll in this program, please email: mariaharduvel4@gmail.com or divorcerebuilders@ssppglenview.org

Please note in the subject heading: Divorce Rebuilders.

There is no cost for this program.
"No Christian should walk through the pain of divorce alone."

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To enroll in this program, please email: mariaharduvel4@gmail.com or divorcerebuilders@ssppglenview.org. Please note in the subject heading: Divorce Rebuilders.

There is no cost for this program.

Antiques Appraisal Clinic - Tuesday, May 14th presented by George Glastris, an antiques appraiser.

George Glastris, formerly with Christie’s and Sotheby’s, and a frequent specialist on PBS’s “Antique Roadshow.” You won’t want to miss this opportunity. George and his associate will appraise up to two items per guest, including antiques, art, jewelry, silver, watches, and collectibles! Bring photos for larger objects. Presentation at 7pm, following our 6:30 General Meeting.

JOIN US THIS SPRING AS WE PRESENT TWO EXCITING PROGRAMS AS PART OF OUR ONGOING SEMINAR AND LECTURE SERIES:

“Bridging the Gap Between Rehab and Training,” - Tuesday, March 12, presented by Glenview’s The Edge Sport Enhancement Training.

The Edge Owner and Certified Strength Coach Mark Sich, along with The Edge Physical Therapist and Director of Performance Therapy, Antigone Matsakis Vesci, will discuss and demonstrate how to get rid of pain while working towards your health and fitness goals. They are a very knowledgeable duo. Antigone is also an Adjunct Faculty Member at Northwestern University and the Athletic Trainer for the Glenbrook South Ice Hockey Team. Presentation at 7pm, following our 6:30 General Meeting.

In Person Blankets for Babies is back!

In Person Blankets for Babies is back! Be sure to join us in providing comfort and support to infants and children in the University of Illinois Hospital Pediatric Unit, Blankets for Babies is back in person, Saturday, April 20th, 10am - 2pm, with a light lenten lunch being served. This is an annual lenten project of the Metropolis of Chicago Philoptochos and everyone is welcome to attend. No sewing experience is necessary. Other ways to help include pre-sewing at home before the event and by making a donation to SS Peter and Paul Philoptochos. ATTN: Blankets for Babies Committee, 1401 Wagner Road in Glenview, IL 60025, or go online: //ssppglenview.org/events/. Questions? Email Trubazianos@gmail.com.
We have been busy! Here is a wrap up of the last few weeks’ events:

Our Philoptochos chapter volunteered at Bessie’s Table on Monday, January 22nd. Bessie’s Table is a weekly mission of the First United Methodist Church of DesPlaines that serves a hot meal and carry-out lunches (for the next day) to less fortunate members of the community. We cooked 120 homemade Greek Chicken dinners in our kitchen and delivered them to DesPlaines on a rainy night. Needless to say, they were a big hit! A big Shout Out to our volunteers who assisted at Bessie’s Table on January 22nd. Above: Dena Pavlopoulos, Suzanne Santos, Pat Nassos, Kris Tsitsis, Eleni Soukoulis, Pam Paradies, Georgene Shanley. (not pictured Anthony Karkazis, Tina O’Donnell and Connie Anagnost.)

Board Member Joanne Trahanas and Member Eva Thomas deliver two trays of Rizogalo (rice pudding) and 2 trays of Galopita (custard pie) to the residents of the Greek American Nursing Home on Thursday, January 25. Members of the staff, also pictured here, were extremely grateful for the treats!

Saints Peter and Paul Parishioners Wear Red in Support of American Heart Month, Sunday, February 11th

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, March 12, 7pm Bridging the Gap Between Rehab and Training, Following our General Meeting at 6:30.

Saturday, April 20, 10am - 2pm, Blankets for Babies in Fellowship Hall. Lenten lunch served.

Sunday, April 28, After Liturgy, Palm Sunday Bake Sale

Tuesday, May 14, 7pm, Antiques Appraisal Clinic, Following our General Meeting at 6:30.

Festival of Tables-TBD
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<tr>
<th><strong>SUNDAY</strong></th>
<th><strong>MONDAY</strong></th>
<th><strong>TUESDAY</strong></th>
<th><strong>WEDNESDAY</strong></th>
<th><strong>THURSDAY</strong></th>
<th><strong>FRIDAY</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>COMING IN APRIL</strong></td>
<td><strong>MARCH 2024</strong></td>
<td><strong>PHILOPTOCHOS</strong></td>
<td><strong>SAINTS PETER &amp; PAUL</strong></td>
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<td>5-7:30pm Vespers</td>
<td>4pm Palm Sunday Prep w dinner</td>
<td>6:30pm St. Panteleimon's 10 Church’s School Food</td>
<td>7pm Palm Sunday</td>
<td>5pm Vespers</td>
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<td>26 Palm Sunday Preparations</td>
<td>7-9pm Holy Week</td>
<td>7pm Holy Week</td>
<td>5pm Vespers</td>
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<td>5pm Palm Sunday Dinner at St. Panteleimon’s 10 Church’s School</td>
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<td>7pm Holy Week</td>
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<td>7pm Holy Week</td>
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<td><strong>NO Fasting</strong></td>
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<td>27 Palm Sunday Preparations</td>
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<td>5pm Vespers</td>
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<td>28 Palm Sunday Preparations</td>
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<td>5pm Vespers</td>
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<td>29 Palm Sunday Preparations</td>
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