



MEN'S GROUP



PHILOPTOCHOS



PROJECT HOPE

THE MESSENGER

JANUARY 2025

SAINTS PETER & PAUL

p.1

A Message from Father Rick

Father Richard Demetrius Andrews

Greetings Brothers and Sisters:

Parish Council elections were held *December 8th* and the eight candidates were: *Steve Koulogeorge, Nick Colis, Mark Alukos, Keith Anderson, John Mackris, Mary Ann Rasmussen, Tracy Ronstadt and Jim Santos*. I would like to thank *Therese Speropoulos* for her many years of service and especially as secretary. Thanks also to *Tommy Mantice* for his service these past two years and to *Peter Triantafilou*, who is resigning Dec.31st We are very appreciative of their dedication, commitment and hard work on the parish council and in our community. Thus, the parish council has two seat open in 2025 and will work to elect successors. If you have any interest, please contact me.

December in review...are the Philoptochos Holiday Fair (Dec.7), Metropolis Holiday Open House (Dec.8), Philoptochos Advent Luncheon (Dec.14), St. Spyridon Palos Heights parish

feastday (Dec.11-12), Hellenic Foundation Awards (Dec.12), Pan-Orthodox Nativity Concert (at St George Antiochian Dec.20), Sanctuary Cleaning (Dec.21, 2-5pm), St Anastasia (Dec.22; relics are in our holy altar table) & Children's Christmas Pageant (Dec.22) and Nativity Services – *Tues. Dec.24-25*.

The Orthodox Church celebrates with the fast-free, joyful **Twelve (12) Days of Christmas** (*December 25th to January 6th*, for Theophany/Epiphany). As well this month of January includes St. Basil Chicago parish feastday (Dec.31 Vespers; Liturgy at SSPP Jan.1), Theophany/Epiphany Feast (Jan.5-6), St John the Baptist Des Plaines parish feast day (Jan.6-7), Parish Vasilopita (Sun.Jan.12), Catechism classes begin (Jan.13, on Monday evenings), St Athanasios Aurora parish feast day (Vespers Jan.17; Liturgy at SSPP Jan.18), Sanctity of Life service at All Saints Antiochian Chicago (Jan.26).

We ring in **the New Year** by celebrating our Father and Hierarch **St. Basil the Great** as well as the

Circumcision of our Lord on January 1st. According to secular traditions, many develop **resolutions** for beginning the new year. Let us resolve to become more Christ-like by deepening our involvement in the life of His Holy Church. This includes more frequent and full participation in Sunday Divine Liturgy, reception of the Holy Eucharist, Holy Confession and Holy Unction as well as the various ministries and programs of our parish.

We strict fast on January 5th in order to prepare for the Great Feast of **Theophany/Epiphany**—the Baptism of our Lord by John in the Jordan River. This Feast of Lights (Ta Phota) has great meaning and significance for our lives, one of which is the renewal of our human nature. Every year we pray that Christ blesses and sanctifies the waters of creation, and we take that Holy Water (Agiasmos) and sprinkle it and drink it at church and at home for the sanctification of our souls and bodies.

This year we will have our first

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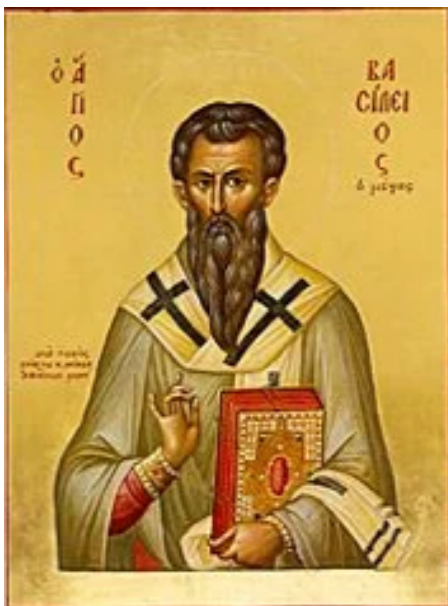
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SS Peter & Paul



SAINT BASIL THE GREAT (JANUARY 1)

Saint Basil the Great was born in 329 in Caesarea of Cappadocia to a devout and learned family, many of whom are recognized as saints. After studying in Constantinople and Athens, he embraced an ascetical life under the influence of his sister Macrina. As bishop from 370, he defended Orthodoxy against Arianism, demonstrating unwavering courage and faith even under threats from Emperor Valens. Known for his eloquence and wisdom, Saint Basil authored significant theological works, including Hexaemeron and On the Holy Spirit. He passed away on January 1, 379, at the age of 49, and is celebrated as a "revealer of heavenly things."

CONTACTS

1401 Wagner Road Glenview, IL 60025

Phone: (847) 729-2235

Email: office@ssppglenview.org

Website: ssppglenview.org

Rev. Dr. Fr. Richard Demetrius Andrews,
Protopresbyter, frick@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

Administrative Assistant: Tina O'Donnell
office@ssppglenview.org

Youth Director: Steven Thell
youthdirector@ssppglenview.org

Communications Coordinator: Amanda Sideris
amanda@ssppglenview.org

Bookkeeper: Diane Bravos
diane@ssppglenview.org

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 Karagianis

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: Tommy Mantice, athletics@ssppglenview.org

Bible Study: Dr. Helen Theodoropoulos, biblestudy@ssppglenview.org

Book & Icon Store: Tina O'Donnell, bookstore@ssppglenview.org

Building Maintenance: John Vranas, john@vranas.com

Care for Creation: John Kiriklakis, careforcreation@ssppglenview.org

Catechism: Fr. Richard Andrews, catechism@ssppglenview.org

Chanters: Chris Atsaves, chanters@ssppglenview.org

Choir Director: Therese Speropoulos

choir@ssppglenview.org

Church School: Nick and Kery Obradovich, Elaine Carrozza

churchschool@ssppglenview.org

Coffee Connection: Doreen DeSent,

coffeconnection@ssppglenview.org

Divorce Rebuilders: Maria Boyle

divorcerebuilders@ssppglenview.org

Dynamis Group: Joanne Trahanas, dynamis@ssppglenview.org

Georgia Photopulos Cancer Support Group:

Bud Photopulos and Phyllis Perivolidis

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

Orthodox Couples Club: parishadmin@ssppglenview.org

Philoptochos: Dena Pavlopoulos, philoptochos@ssppglenview.org

Prison Outreach: Brad DeSent

prisonoutreach@ssppglenview.org

Prophora: Tracy Ronstadt, prophora@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: Carolyn Kolbaba

fellowship@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.

PASTORAL MESSAGE

CONTINUED...

annual ***Outdoor Water Blessing Service*** (Agiasmos) on *Saturday January 11th, 2024*. Two services will occur. 1) 11:00am at *Gilson Beach*, Wilmette (on Lake Michigan) 101 Lake Ave, Wilmette IL 60091. Parking adjacent to beach. Proceed to water's edge straight out from beach house. 2) 3:00pm at *Gallery Park*, 2100 Patriot Blvd, Glenview IL 60026. Parking at Attea Middle School. Proceed to Gallery Fountain on west side of lake. Please join us for these brief but meaningful services.

If you wish to have your home blessed, please email me to schedule a date/time. Please be sure to have the following items ready: icon, candle, incense and charcoal, large serving bowl with water and a sprig of basil or evergreen. The ***Blessing of Homes*** service consists of petitions and prayers with the sprinkling of the holy water throughout the home. The service begins and ends in a central gathering place like the kitchen or dining room.

The ***Winter/Spring Catechism Course*** will be Monday evenings 7-9pm, beginning *January 8th* extending 12 weeks. These classes are open to everyone: seekers, inquirers, curious, catechumens, and already Orthodox. Please help spread the word. We have a great cohort of teachers. We look forward to a great group of students. Learning is a life-long

endeavor, especially when it comes to the Faith in Christ.

The 2025 Archdiocese Stewardship Theme is "*See Our Church as it Could Be.*" A secondary, related theme is "*Your Own from Your Own, We Offer to You.*" The latter is the petition/prayer from the Divine Liturgy when the priest raises the gifts of bread and wine. The point is whatever we give to God is not really ours. Rather it is gift from Him that we offer back to Him with thanksgiving. Regarding the former theme, our parish can only reach its potential if we generously and sacrificially offer back what God has already given to us. In the coming weeks, we will have increased communications around the topic of stewardship.

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.***

Finally, we remember our departed loved ones in the year 2024.

Mary Koulogeorge, Stella Housakos, Theomisticles Basis, Corinne Karagiannis, Christos Aralis, Dhimiter Gjermanos, Bessie

Vasiliki Callas, Sia Callas, Stella Styliani Sellas, Lorraine Ourania Christy, Apostolis Paul Cios, George Karcazes, Maureen Poulakidas, Peter Christopoulos, Vivian Courialis, Daniel Arvanitis, George Latto, Betty Tatoes, Stacy Vrame, Althea Prodromos, Nick Kallas, Peter Panagiotis Apostol, Mark Damisch, Betty Vasiliki Angelos, Susan Smoley, Victoria Komas, James Tzakis and Maria Andrews. May their memories be eternal!

Blessed New Year and Theophany!
+Fr. Rick

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

Welcome new members to our beautiful parish, Keith and Angela Bebonis, Louis Pahopos, Matthew Domer and Jon and Anastasia Schauer



Metropolitan Athenagoras Blessing and Preaching to SSPP Children and our parish 12-1-2024



*Joanne Trahanas & Steven Thell
Hellenic Foundation Awards
12-12-2024*



*40 day Churching Anastasia Kelly
& Baby Evander 11-24-2024*



SSPP Sack Lunch 11-29-2024

WE REMEMBER



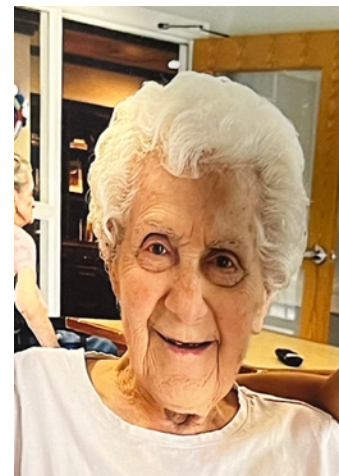
Danny Arvanitis



Althea Prodromos



Bessie Callas



Betty Angelos



Betty Tatooles



Christos Aralis



Corinne Karagiannis



Dhimiter Gjermanos



George Karcazes



George Latto



James Tzakis



Lorraine Christy

WE REMEMBER



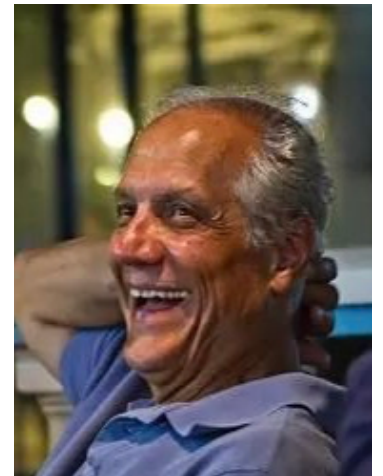
Mark Damisch



Mary Koulgeorge



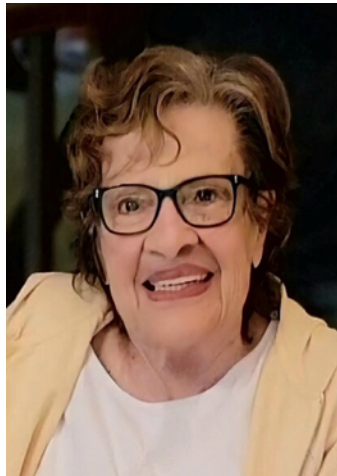
Maureen Poulakidas



Peter Apostol



Sia Callas



Stacy Vrame



Stella Housakos



Stella Sellas



Susan Smoley



Victoria Komias



Vivian Courialis



SS Peter and Paul Philoptochos

*Mix and Mingle
Ladies' Night*

FEBRUARY 6 AT 6:00PM

**MC/SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER-
DR. ANGIE BELTSOS
WOMEN'S HEALTH ADVOCATE**

**VALLEY LO CLUB
2200 TANGLEWOOD DRIVE
GLENVIEW**



**Scan QR code
to purchase
tickets
\$75**

**Proceeds will benefit
our philanthropic
efforts**

**Heavy appetizers
Cash Bar
Luxury Raffle Prizes**

Questions? Please contact-Diane Economy-Kafedmp@sbcglobal.net

SAINT STEPHEN MEN'S GROUP

MEN'S GROUP

New Study Topic starts January 9th 7:00 AM via Zoom "For the Life of the World" Written by Alexander Schmemmann

In For the Life of the World, Fr. Alexander Schmemmann offers a transformative vision of Christianity, where the Church's sacraments and worship are not mere religious rituals but pathways to understanding life as a divine gift. Written with depth and clarity, the book transcends theological academia, speaking to anyone seeking a richer understanding of the Orthodox faith and its implications for daily living.

Our sessions are from 7:00 - 8:00A AM.

Please consider joining us as we learn and discuss the book. Send an email to Mensgroup@ssppglenview.org to get the Zoom details and be added to our list.

The SSPP Annual Men's Social will be held Thursday, January 23rd 6-11pm at The Double Tree by Hilton in Skokie.

Tickets are on sale now! Visit <https://ssppglenview.org/sspp-annual-mens-social/> or stop in the Fellowship Hall after Divine Liturgy to purchase your ticket via Credit/Cash/Check. Proceeds to benefit SSPP & The Seal Future Foundation

Contact Steve Callas at 312.282.2765 for more information.



NATIVITY SCENE SET UP

The Saint Stephen Men's group braved the cold to get it set up after Thanksgiving. Thanks to Brad, George S, George N, Elias, and Jim S for their help.

ANGEL TREE PROJECT

The Men's group helped deliver gifts to 15 Angel Tree families. The Angel Tree program buys and distributes gifts for the children of families with an incarcerated family member. Thanks to everyone who purchased gifts. Special mention to Trish Iannessa, Zach Alukos for coordinating the effort. This is the fourth year we have supported this effort.

**His Eminence Metropolitan Nathanael of Chicago
and the Metropolis of Chicago Philoptochos**

Cordially invite you to
the 64th Annual



Vasilopita Celebration

To Benefit St. Basil's Academy &
Youth and Young Adult Ministries

JANUARY

12

Start 6 PM

Hosted by St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church
10301 S. Kolmar Ave, Oak Lawn, IL, 60453

Resep by January 6

Parish Reservations can be made
by calling or emailing:

708-636-5460

saintnicholasoffice@gmail.com

BASKETBALL AND SALVATION

A MESSAGE FROM FATHER

Some of you may know I like to play basketball. SSPP is the first parish I have served that has a gymnasium. Unfortunately, I haven't been able to play for the last two years because of various injuries. I got my start playing hoops at church when I was in about eighth grade. We had a junior high team at St Mary Church in Minneapolis. I wasn't very good until I went to a summer basketball camp. It was a week-long overnight camp, and I did it two years in row after ninth and tenth grades. Basketball season only lasted two or three months, going to church, attending liturgy and youth activities—that was year-round.

What is now known as the (GOYAL) Greek Orthodox Youth Athletic League) Family Basketball tournament got its start back in the late 1940s and early 1950s that brought Greek Orthodox churches and teams together from Iowa and Minnesota. It was called UMHOF (Upper Midwest Hellenic Orthodox Federation). Eventually, it embraced churches and teams from all over the Western District of the Metropolis of Chicago.

Our high school team won the championship in 1980 and I started playing on the men's team in 1983. In the 1980s our Mpls team on six championships including five straight. Our team would also travel to Chicago and play in the NHIBT (National Hellenic Invitational Basketball Tournament). One year we took the third place and another year we won the consolation championship. During this time, I also coached the boys' teams for a few years.

In 1990 Pres. Jane and I were married and started seminary. I played on the team there in a rec league against teams from the local Greek Orthodox Churches. One year we won the championship and another year we placed third in the Harry Agganis Invitational tournament. After I graduated, I served Holy Apostles in Westchester IL and Kimissis tis Theotokou in Racine WI but played very little organized basketball. When I returned to the Twin Cities in 1999 and began serving St George Church in St Paul MN, I started playing again with the men's team from our church. Over the course of almost twenty years, we had a couple second place finishes and one championship. Several of those years Ned Bentley (Elea's husband) played on our team. For 15 years I was also the spiritual advisor for the GOYAL Family Basketball tournament.

Why am I telling you all this? I have played a lot of basketball, and I have seen a lot of players come and go. All of them loved the game but not all of them loved Jesus more than the game. I've seen a lot of guys only want to play but not to stay--for liturgy or other spiritual activities. I've seen a lot of people say we must have a basketball program to bring kids into the Church, but it just doesn't work that way. Kids and adults don't believe in Christ because of basketball.

I've been at SSPP parish for over five years now and I see some of the same patterns and false beliefs here as elsewhere. Many people remember when Fr. Angelo cancelled the basketball program. I'm sure his reasons were the same problems that still exist today, here and in other parishes--kids come for bball but they don't come for liturgy, church school or youth group. Some parents were in an uproar at the time and held a special meeting to voice their concerns. Some families left the community to go to other churches. Eventually, the program was reinstated but it raised concern about the relative importance we place on basketball (and all athletics) versus our Faith. That concern still confronts us today.

There is a reason that the GOAL (Greek Orthodox Athletic League) of Chicago has rules that include the following:

"Players MUST be involved and active members in their home parish's youth programs, including but not limited to Junior G.O.Y.A. or J.O.Y. throughout the year and must regularly attend Church (the Divine Services) faithfully." (1f, 2c)

"To be eligible to play in a game, players and coaches must attend the Divine Liturgy on the day of the game or the day after a game (if the game is played on a Saturday). A Wedding or Baptism does not count. It is also highly recommended that each player attends Sunday School. Sunday School is an important part of the catechesis of the Church and all youth should participate and learn about their faith and the Church. However, Sunday School CANNOT REPLACE worship in the Divine Liturgy. It shall be the responsibility of the Coach(s) and Athletic Directors of each Parish to monitor the attendance of players to ensure their participation in the G.O.A.L. The G.O.A.L is in place to complement ministries of the Metropolis and is not meant to be a standalone basketball league." (3j)

"Best Example of Sportsmanship, attendance at the Divine Liturgy, Sunday

Church School attendance, Youth Group involvement (including retreat participation and overall behavior). This information is to be supplied by the Parish Priest or lay youth minister." (7/8th grade division, #9)

"Church Teams and/or Coaches participating in other outside tournaments or leagues from the 1st of September through the G.O.A.L. Basketball Season is strongly discouraged if they interfere with Metropolis programs, either educational, liturgical, spiritual, or athletic. As requested by His Eminence, Church teams should not participate in athletic events outside of Metropolis sponsored programs if they conflict with Metropolis programs and if they at all impede the spiritual and religious development or education of the young people involved, in being absent from their Church's Divine Services, Sunday School, Altar Service, or Choir." (ibid, #15)

"Each parish is required to have a Mandatory Parents/Coaches/Athletes Meeting before the season begins to discuss the G.O.A.L. Basketball Season in its entirety with those will be participating, especially parents, players and coaches, with the clergy of the parish present. The Parish Priest(s) must also attend. A copy of the sign-in sheet from the Parent/Coaches/Athletes meeting must be submitted to their Parish Priest prior to the first regular season." (3m)

"Our patron Apostle Paul wrote to his disciple Timothy,

"And also if anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules." (2Tim.2:5). When we love Christ with all our heart, mind, soul and strength, and our neighbor as ourselves (Mt.22:37-40), we don't need rules to tell us the right thing to do. I am heartened by what I see the high school boys' coaches (Matthew Assimios and Steven Thell) doing and teaching their players--that faith and salvation are more important than basketball (or any sport or anything else). I hope that all the parents and coaches and our whole community join together in this same message and spirit, committing one another and our whole lives to Christ our God.

Thanks for listening!
+Fr. Rick

BOOK STORE AND MORE

BOOK AND ICON STORE

Christ is Born, Glorify Him! Your Book and Icon Store would like to extend a heartfelt thank you for your support this past year and to wish all of you a Healthy and Happy 2025. We are honored to continue to help you in your journey as your faith continues to grow. Please stop in after Liturgy to see all that your bookstore has to offer Orthodox Christians of all ages. Anything we don't have, we are happy to order at any time. Questions or suggestions can be sent to bookstore@ssppglenview.org



COFFEE CONNECTION

January 19 - Navigating Our Challenges: Technology

- What other challenges of modern technology confront our Faith?

January 26 - Navigating Our Challenges: AI and Truth

- How does AI shape information and our perception of reality?
- Will AI cause relativism to become our norm?

PROJECT HOPE COMMUNITY BAGGING EVENT



Friday | January 31, 2025 | 6:30-8:30pm. SS Peter and Paul Greek Orthodox Church-Fellowship Hall. We will be purchasing bulk non-perishable food items and our goal is to pack 150-200 grocery bags for distribution to the Des Plaines Food Pantry and the Garfield Park Pantry Please consider sponsoring or underwriting this worthwhile event by scanning the QR code below: Sponsor a bag for \$25



SAINT NICHOLAS PROJECT

Our Church School Students had another successful St. Nicholas Project on December 8th , they collected over 150 gifts to be shared at a toy room in Chicago for kids who may not otherwise get a toy for Christmas.





AGAPE

Summer Camp

2025

Ages
2-7



June 2nd - July 11th

St. Peter & Paul Church
1401 Wagner Road, Glenview
(across from Wagner Farm)

Registration
begins
Jan. 6th

Sports, arts and crafts,
religion, water days and
many more fun activities!

For more info and registrations
please contact Director, Julie Mantice:
agape@ssppglenview.org
<https://ssppglenview.org/agape-preschool/>



HOPE

Humanitarian Outreach Philanthropic Engagement



Our goal is to
assemble
150-200
bags



COMMUNITY BAGGING EVENT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

to pack and assemble
non-perishable grocery bags for distribution to the
Des Plaines Food Pantry and the Garfield Park Pantry

Friday | January 31, 2025 |
6:30-8:30pm

SS Peter and Paul Greek
Orthodox Church-Fellowship Hall

Sponsor a bag for \$25.00

or consider a group, family or business
donation.

We will be purchasing bulk food to fill our

https://ssppglenview.org/project_hope/



PARISH COUNCIL LETTER

WINTER WONDERLAND

A Happy Holiday Season to you all! We've come to the end of 2024... a time when we spend the holiday season with our family and friends that we cherish most while wondering if things in this world of ours could possibly get any crazier! It is of great comfort to have a faith like ours, that gives us a compass as to the proper path before us, while all around us, it is stormy and uncertain.

As many of you know, the final months of the year, November and December, are historically the months where the Parish Council focuses on stewardship. We have been extremely blessed to have Parishioners who have given us unwavering, dedicated support year after year.

To those of you who have sent in their Pledge cards and followed up with their 2024 Stewardship commitment, we say thank you... your support, is the lifeblood of our Ministries; our commitment to a community dedicated to Christ, to the nurture and support of our youth, who are the future of our Faith and those who support our Ministries either as administrators or as participants; your love and generosity will never be taken for granted.

To those who have submitted Pledge cards, but have yet to donate, I respectfully ask that you please "close the loop" and honor your commitment to our Parish. We all give what we can to our Parish community, not just in terms of dollars, but also in terms of our commitment of time and fellowship. These are the elements of a successful Parish and attributes that we will need to foster and grow in the upcoming years.

OUR 65TH ANNIVERSARY

Believe it or not, 2025 is the 65th anniversary of the founding of our Parish. It is also a time when we will be assessing our progress as a Parish. As part of our Parish Leadership Retreat in October 2024, with Father Evan Armatas, as facilitator, the Parish Council, along with the Ministry leaders of Saints Peter and Paul focused on the lessons learned in 2024 to begin to grow as individuals and as an Orthodox Community; by renewing our

pledge to build a healthier parish, to move closer to our faith and to our community. As I have mentioned before, I took the 2024-2025 year as a challenge for myself and others to "Be Present" in our parish as well as in each of our personal lives.

REALM UPDATE:

The Realm Committee members; Keith Anderson, Brad DeSent and Angie Katsamakakis are working on ways to communicate to parishioners how the Realm database works, with their first task being to find a way to integrate the Church calendar into Realm. Look for a Realm table at our next upcoming Ministry Fair, to get the scoop on how you can get hooked up to our exciting new platform! More to follow, as we get closer to a full roll-out.

NEXT UP:

December 25-26 2024: SSPP Office Closed for the Christmas.
December 23-January 3 2025: AGAPE Winter Break.
December 31 2024 – January 1, 2025 Office Closed for Holiday
January 12, 2025 (11:30-12:30pm) Vasilopita cutting
January 23 (6:00-10:00pm) SSPP Men's Social; North Shore Doubletree Hotel. Tickets - \$150
February 22 (5:00pm-10:00pm) Saints Peter and Paul Glendi; Michigan Shores Country Club. Tickets: Adults \$80, Children \$30.

In Christ,
 Steve J. Koulogeorge (Parish Council President)

PHILOPTOCHOS

HOLIDAY FAIRE

Thank you to everyone that made Holiday Faire 2024 such a success! Even though it seemed impossible to improve on this sixty-plus year tradition, we can all agree that the event was especially festive and lively this year! Perhaps it was the vision of Santa Claus joining in the Greek dancing, or the sounds of the Glenbrook South carolers dressed in Victorian garb, but most likely it was the beaming faces of everyone in attendance. Here are some of the highlights.



Santa and Glenbrook South's Chamber Choir entertain the crowd.



Young shoppers model their new jewelry from our Curated Collection.



Families enjoy decorating Gingerbread houses together.



Fresh Gyros anyone? Served close to 700 meals!



Tina O'Donnell stops to take a family photo



New this year, our cooking demonstrations with Vaea Kakureotis were a hit.



That's a wrap - Event Chair Kris Tsitsis embraces Decor Chair Georgene Shanley.

Holiday Faire was only one way we spread yuletide cheer this holiday season! Our other endeavors included visiting the Pilsen Senior Center where we delivered 50 Project Hope bags of groceries and spent two hours making Christmas Ornaments and socializing with community members, delivering another 50 Project Hope bags to the Northside Men's Shelter, hosting our Advent Brunch where we joined together in fellowship and collected nonperishable food items, providing 300 warm hats to students at Holmes School in Prospect Heights, throwing a festive Christmas party for the boys and young men who live at Lawrence Hall (complete with stockings and Christmas gifts), and visiting 50 senior members of our parish who find it difficult to leave their homes. How blessed are we to be sharing God's gifts?!



Santa's helpers, Carrie Collis, Maria Costas, Stephanie Vlahakis, Olga Panagakis, and Vicky Limperis prepare the "Blessing Bags" for distribution to our seniors.

PROJECT HOPE

We can use your help with Project Hope! Friday night, January 31, 6:30 – 8:30 is our parish packing day. Please stop by to help us assemble non-perishable groceries in bags for distribution to the DesPlaines and Garfield Park Food Pantries. It is a fun,

PHILOPTOCHOS

PROJECT HOPE

family friendly evening! Also, please consider sponsoring a bag of groceries. A \$25 donation will go a long way towards feeding a family. Contact Joanne Trahanas at joannetrahanas@mac.com or Tru Bazianos @ Trubazianos@gmail.com for more information. To contribute on-line, visit https://ssppglenview.org/project_hope/



Diane Papadakis-Economy and Zach Bazianos pack groceries for Project Hope in 2023.

MEMBERSHIP

AND REMEMBER: It's not too late to become a Philoptochos Member. We rely on your stewardship, as well as our fundraising efforts, to generate income that makes our philanthropic projects a reality. Please visit us at <https://ssppglenview.org/philoptochos-stewardship-donation/> or use this QR code to submit your application and donation. Thank you!



MIX AND MINGLE

Join us for our next social event – Mix and Mingle! You won't want to miss the Ladies Night Out that will be held on Thursday, February 6 at Valley Lo Club. The lively evening will be emceed by Angie Beltsos, MD, a Women's Health Advocate, who will make a brief presentation. Enjoy a festive atmosphere, heavy appetizers, an opportunity to win luxury raffle prizes, and most importantly, fellowship as we join together in raising funds for our many philanthropic projects. Tickets are \$75 and can be purchased on-line or in Fellowship Hall after liturgy. For more information, contact Diane Papadakis-Economy at kafedmp@sbcglobal.net.



SAVE THESE 2024/2025 DATES

JANUARY

12 – Metropolis Vasilopita Cutting at St. Nicholas
31 – HOPE Bagging Event

FEBRUARY

2 – Go Red Sunday - Raising Awareness about Heart Disease
6 – Mix and Mingle at Valley Lo Club, 6pm
25 – General Meeting & Presentation with Cardiologist, Sarah Alexander, MD

APRIL

5 – Blankets for Babies
13 – Palm Sunday Bake Sale

All events at Saints Peter and Paul unless otherwise indicated.

PHILOPTOCHOS ADVENT BRUNCH



Members of our Philoptochos Board with Father Rick



Vice President and Event Chair Julie Anastos conducts Table 5 in a rendition of the Twelve Days of Christmas.



Members of our Philoptochos Board collected groceries for local food pantries at the Advent Brunch.

SAINTS PETER & PAUL
PRESENTS
The Annual
MEN'S SOCIAL

TICKETS
\$150



TICKETS
\$150

January 23, 2025
6PM – 11PM

Featuring

Sinatra Tribute Artist Stevie Swing

Blackjack ▪ Craps ▪ Poker
(for entertainment purposes only)

**Open bar, appetizers, buffet, whiskey tasting, fellowship, prizes,
silent auction, and more!**

TICKETS ON SALE NOW AT <https://ssppglenview.org/sspp-annual-mens-social/>

& IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL AFTER SUNDAY LITURGY, OR CONTACT STEVE CALLAS 312.282.2765

- PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT SSPP & THE SEAL FUTURE FOUNDATION -

Monaco Ballroom | The Double Tree by Hilton | 9599 Skokie Blvd, Skokie, IL

Catering provided by Jameson's Original Charhouse



agape ♥
christian academy

KINDERGARTEN OPEN HOUSE

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 30TH
STOP BY ANYTIME FROM 6-7PM**

1401 Wagner Road, Glenview
(directly across from Wagner Farm at
St. Peter & Paul Church)

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR AN OPEN
HOUSE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR
KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM!**

You will have a chance to:

- Meet the teachers
- Tour the classroom
- Review the curriculum
- Ask questions
- Learn about our programs
- Meet the Director

For more information about our open house, please contact Julie Mantice,
Director at agape@ssppglenview.org or at (847)729-2235

COFFEE CONNECTION

NEW MINISTRY INITIATIVE

Coffee Connection Spearheads a New Ministry Initiative

As part of our outreach ministry as a Local Eucharistic Community, Coffee Connection has committed to assist 2 Greek Orthodox Churches in California (St. Barbara in Santa Barbara and St. Paul in Irvine) with regard to their truly wonderful ministry of providing fresh water for communities in Tanzania, Africa through building, repairing and maintaining wells in remote villages. We have dedicated a fund for this project and welcome the whole parish to join us in this initiative. Watch for more details in the next Messenger or for further information, contact Coffee Connection at coffeeconnection@ssppglenview.org.

Spring 2025 Schedule

Date	Topic
January 19	Navigating Our Challenges: Technology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What other challenges of modern technology confront our Faith?
January 26	Navigating Our Challenges: AI and Truth <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does AI shape information and our perception of reality? • Will AI cause relativism to become our norm?
February 16	Navigating Our Challenges: AI and Personhood <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does AI impact human relationships? • What can we learn about what it means to be human from AI?
March 2	Navigating Our Challenges: Modern Science <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can modern science and Faith coexist? Can they support one another?
April 6 <i>College Care Packages</i>	Navigating Our Challenges: The Challenge of Death <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does Christ’s resurrection overcome the challenge that death presents?
April 27 <i>Guest Speaker: Costas Z</i>	Navigating Our Challenges: Being Welcoming to All in the Church <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can we be more welcoming and inclusive to people who are differently abled?
May 11	Navigating Our Challenges: Atheism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do we as Christians begin to speak to the challenges that Atheism brings to us?

Questions? Contact coffeeconnection@ssppglenview.org
 Or visit
<https://ssppglenview.org/education/adult-education/coffee-connection/>



February 22, 2025
Michigan Shores Country Club

Save The Date

Sts. Peter and Paul
invites you to Save the Date for the
Γλέντι της Αγάπης (Festival of Agape)
benefiting Agape Christian Academy.
Join us for an unforgettable evening
in support of a meaningful cause!

Formal Invitation to Follow

JANUARY 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
COMING IN FEBRUARY 2 MEETING OF OUR LORD & Godparent/child Sunday 6 Philoptochos Mix & Mingle 10 ST HARALAMBOS 14 ST VALENTINE 17 Presidents' Day Holiday 22 SATURDAY OF SOULS #1 & Glendi - Agape Christian Academy 23 MEATEFARE 26 ST PHOTINI THE SAMARITAN						
5 +SUN B4 THEOPHANY +EVE OF THEOPHANY - STRICT FAST NO CHURCH SCHOOL 8:15am ORTHROS-MATINS 9:30am DIVINE LITURGY 11am AGIASMOS - HOLY WATER BLESSING 6:15pm 1st & 2nd Grade Bball Practice 7pm GREAT VESPERS @ St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church, Des Plaines, IL 12:15pm Greek Dance	6 +THEOPHANY 8:30am ORTHROS-MATINS 9:30am DIVINE LITURGY 11am AGIASMOS - HOLY WATER BLESSING 6:15pm 1st & 2nd Grade Bball Practice 7pm GREAT VESPERS @ St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church, Des Plaines, IL	7 +SYNAXIS OF FORERUNNER 9am DIVINE LITURGY VESPERS @ St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church, Des Plaines, IL 6pm 3rd & 4th Boys Bball Practice 6:30pm Philoptochos Board Meeting 7pm Senior GOYA Gathering 7:15pm 5th & 6th Boys Bball Practice 8pm Bball Men's YAL (pickup)	8 10:30am Bible Study 6pm 3rd-6th Grade Girl's Bball 8:30pm Bball Men over 40 (pickup)	9 10am Dynamis "Kali Pareta" Breakfast at George V's 7pm 7th-8th Grade Bball 7pm PC Exec Meeting 8:15pm HS Boys Bball	10 +ST GREGORY OF NYSSA 6pm Faith Lowe Joy Gathering	11 +ST THEODOSIOS CENOBIARCH 11am OUTDOOR AGIASMOS at Gibson Park 12pm OUTDOOR AGIASMOS at Gallery Park 5pm VESPERS
12 +SUN AFT THEOPHANY CHURCH SCHOOL RESUMES 8:15am ORTHROS-MATINS 9:30am DIVINE LITURGY 11:30am VASILOPTIA 12:15pm Greek Dance 1:30pm-7pm Bball Games 6pm Metropolis Vasiloptia @ St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in Oak Lawn	13 6:15pm 1st & 2nd Grade Bball Practice 6:30pm Greek Fest Meeting 7pm Catechism Class 8pm Stewardship Committee Meeting	14 +APODISIS THEOPHANY 6pm 3rd & 4th Boys Bball Practice 7:15pm 5th & 6th Boys Bball Practice 8pm Bball Men's YAL (pickup)	15 10:30am Bible Study 6pm 3rd-6th Grade Girl's Bball 6pm Junior GOYA Gathering 8:30pm Bball Men over 40 (pickup)	16 BLESSED CHAINS OF ST PETER 7am Men's Study Group 8:30am ORTHROS-MATINS 9:30am DIVINE LITURGY 10am Dynamis "Kali Pareta" Breakfast at George V's 7pm 7th-8th Grade Bball 7pm Senior GOYA Gathering 8:15pm HS Boys Bball	17 +ST ANTHONY THE GREAT 7pm GREAT VESPERS @ St. Athanasios Greek Orthodox Church in Aurora	18 +STS ATHANASIOS & CYRIL 8:30am ORTHROS-MATINS 9:30am DIVINE LITURGY 5pm VESPERS
19+12TH SUN LUKE / 29TH SUN. +ST MAKARIOS THE GREAT NO CHURCH SCHOOL 8:15am ORTHROS-MATINS 9:30am DIVINE LITURGY 11am Coffee Connection 12:15pm Greek Dance	20 ST EUTHYMOS THE GREAT 6:15pm 1st & 2nd Grade Bball Practice 7pm Catechism Class GOA CLERGY COUPLE RETREAT	21 +ST MAXIMOS THE CONFESSOR 6pm 3rd & 4th Boys Bball Practice 7pm Senior GOYA Gathering 7:15pm 5th & 6th Boys Bball Practice 8pm Bball Men's YAL (pickup)	22 +ST TIMOTHY THE APOSTLE 8:30am ORTHROS-MATINS 9:30am DIVINE LITURGY 10:30am Bible Study 6pm Faith Love and Joy Gathering 6pm 3rd-6th Grade Girl's Bball 8:30pm Bball Men over 40 (pickup)	23 7am Men's Study Group 10am Dynamis "Kali Pareta" Breakfast at George V's 6pm SSP Men's Social @ Double Tree by Hilton Hotel Chicago - North Shore Conference Center 7pm 7th-8th Grade Bball 8:15pm HS Boys Bball	24 25+ST GREGORY THEOLOGIAN	5pm VESPERS
26+15TH SUN LUKE / 32ND SUN. NO CHURCH SCHOOL 8:15am ORTHROS-MATINS 9:30am DIVINE LITURGY 11am Coffee Connection 11:30am Church School Field Trip -1st Grade- Baptism Role Play 12:15pm Greek Dance	27 +TRANSLATION RELICS CHRYSOSTOM 6:15pm 1st & 2nd Grade Bball Practice 7pm Catechism Class	28 +ST EPHREM THE SYRIAN 6pm 3rd & 4th Boys Bball Practice 6pm 4th/5th Boys Bball Practice 8pm Bball Men's YAL (pickup)	29 10:30am Bible Study 6pm 3rd-6th Grade Girl's Bball 8:30pm Bball Men over 40 (pickup)	30 +THREE HIERARCHS 7am Men's Study Group 8:30am ORTHROS-MATINS 9:30am DIVINE LITURGY 11:30am Dynamis "Kali Pareta" Breakfast at George V's 6pm Senior GOYA Gathering 6pm AGAPE Open House 7pm Parish Council Meeting 7pm 7th-8th Grade Bball 8:15pm HS Boys Bball	31 +STS KYROS & JOHN - UNMERCENARIES	

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