







GREAT PILLARS OF LENT

BOOK AND ICON STORE

COFFEE CONNECTION

р.і

THE MESSENGER

APRIL 2025

SAINTS PETER & PAUL

A Message from Father Rick Father Richard Demetrius Andrews Greetings Brothers and Sisters:

Thank you to everyone who attended the Apokreatiko Glendi at Michigan Shores Country Club on Feb.22nd. Approximately 200 people attended, and all proceeds benefited the Agape Christian Academy. The Greek Dance troupe had their second annual performance. Thanks to director Julie Mantice and the organizing committee for a great job!

We enjoyed another fabulous Lenten Retreat with Dr. Presvytera Jeanne Constantinou speaking on theme/title of her book: Thinking Orthodox- Understanding and Acquiring the Orthodox Christian Mind. The three topics/talks were 1) Apostolic Origins of Orthodox Mind, 2) The Departure of the West, and 3) Why Phronema Matters. We had sixty people on Friday evening and eighty people on Saturday. Pres Jeanne also gave both homilies on Sunday.

On the third Sunday of Lent we had the Veneration of the Cross. Children brought crosses and participated in the special procession at the end of the Divine Nathanael issued a directive for all Faith."

Clean/Pure Monday (March 3). Not goal of 'Growth,' to bring more only is it a time for fasting from people into the Orthodox Faith in certain foods (meat, dairy) and the parishes of the Metropolis. amounts (eat less food at meals and reduce to one or two meals per word has the same root as day), but, more importantly, it is 'catechism,' which in Greek means also a time for increased/intensified 'to teach orally.' Thus, a worship and prayer. We will offer catechumen is one who is being three extra services per week with taught and specifically receiving Monday Compline, Wednesday instruction in the Christian Faith to Presanctified Liturgy and Friday prepare for the Sacraments of Akathistos/Salutations. Please join Baptism and/or Chrismation. We us for these important and inspiring are expecting five catechumens to services. Also, seek out additional join the Faith on Palm Sunday. opportunities for almsgiving offering material assistance to the theme is "Journeys to Orthodoxy." poor and needy. Why are these Four people shared their stories of important? Because they are all how they heard of, learned about, tools that help us grow closer to and decided to join the Church, and God.

earlier (6pm) on Friday evenings of final two presentations. Great Lent.

In relation to that Metropolitan Liturgy. Right afterwards, *Sister* parishes to do the Litany and Praver Vassa Lerin spoke during coffee/ of the Catechumens during the fellowship hour on the theme: Divine Liturgy. This happens with "Lent- Back to the Basics of our the Prayers of the Faithful right before the Great Entrance. This is Great and Holy Lent began on in accordance with the Metropolis

What is a '*catechumen'*? The

The Wednesday Lenten Lectures how they have changed since that Please note that *Akathistos*/ time. Two more will share on April *Salutations* services will be starting 2nd and 9th. Please join us for these

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

CONTENTS

Cover/Pastoral Message1	
Contents2	
Contacts3	
Pastoral Message Cont4	
Pillars of Great Lent Collumn5	
Our Life Together6-8	
Palm Sunday Luncheon Flyer9	
Youth Letter10	
Book Store & More11	
Philoptochos12-13	
Pan-Orthodox Flyer14	
AGAPE Enrollment Flyer15	

Please See Calendar - now as an insert



@SSPPGLEN



SS Peter & Paul



CONTACTS

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Rev. Dr. Fr. Richard Demetrius 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 Administrative Assistant: Tina O'Donnell office@sspplenview.org Youth Director: Steven Thell youthdirector@ssppglenview.org Communications Coordinator: Amanda Sideris amanda@ssppglenview.org Bookkeeper: Diane Bravos diane@ssppglenview.org

2025 Parish Council: President: Steve Kouloaeorae Vice President: Christy Gouletas Secretary: Sophia Castleberry Corresponding Secretary: Julie Stefanski Treasurer: Nick Colis Assistant Treasurer: George Seletos Vanessa Adinamis Marv Alukos Keith Anderson **Christ Atsaves** George Karagianis Angie Katsamakis John Mackris Maryann Rasmussen Tracy Ronstadt Jim Santos

PARISH MINISTRIES

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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

Graduation Sunday for high school seniors will be May 4^{th} . Please send your graduate's name, parents' names, school, d e g r e e, s i g n i f i c a n t accomplishments and future plans to the office no later than April 28^{th} .

We will also celebrate our *Church School Promotion Ceremony* on *Sunday May 18th*. We will recognize our students and staff and take photos of each class.

College/University Graduation Sunday is June 1^{st} . Please send your graduate's name, parents' names, school, degree, significant accomplishments and future plans to the office no later than May 27^{th}

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 a 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,

CONTINUED...

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*.

Blessed Lent / Kali Tessarakosti!

+Fr. Rick



PILLARS OF GREAT LENT

Pillars of Great Lent

Camp for Christians." We do not do anything different that we do the rest of the year. We just do more of it--more prayer, more worship, more fasting, more almsgiving, more repenting. By doing more of these, we are seeking to More strictly it includes wine and oil draw closer to God and we are strengthening our spiritual muscles of faith for the rest of the year. We must push ourselves in order to benefit from all that Lent has to offer. Let's take a closer look at the three major pillars of Great Lent: fasting, prayer and almsgiving.

can't have a relationship with someone if we don't talk to them. God is no different. We can't have a real just a diet and actually is spiritually conversation with someone if we are distracted. The same is true with God. We can't have a dialogue with God if we're doing all the talking. So we have to spend some time listening. That means being silent, not just with our words but also with our thoughts. We should strive to pray each and every day, even if only a few minutes. And we should try not to do anything else during our prayer time (undistracted). And we should spend a little time in total silence (no words and thoughts).

The Lenten Prayer of St Ephraim should be recited every day: "O Lord and Master of my life, take away from from our spiritual father. me the spirit of sloth (laziness), faintheartedness (despair), lust of power (control) and idle talk (gossip). But rather give to me your servant a spirit of chastity (purity), humility, patience and love. Yes O Lord and King, grant me to see my own faults (sins) and not to judge my brother or sister. For You are blessed to the ages of ages. Amen!"

We can also recite the Jesus Prayer repeatedly throughout the day: "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me a sinner and cleanse me." Personal prayer must be guided by the Philoptochos ministries offer plenty of

communal prayers of the Divine I like to call Great Lent "Training Liturgy and Lenten worship services. Strive to attend at least one Lenten weekday service each week. Saturday Vespers and Sunday morning Orthros-Matins are also helpful.

Fasting is from all meat and dairy. during weekdays but not on weekends. The main purpose of fasting is to make us physically hungry, and instead of eating food, we pray to God. This transforms our hunger for food (which perishes) into its true nature which is hunger for God (who is imperishable). If we gain more discipline in fasting, it Praver is how we talk to God. We extends into other areas of our life, especially resisting temptation to sin.

Fasting without prayer and worship is dangerous because we are trying to do it without enlisting God's help. That's why we have extra worship services during Lent. That's why we can receive the Eucharist midweek (Presanctified Liturgy), is to strengthen us spiritually as we struggle physically, mentally, and emotionally. Repentance and Confession go well with the discipline of fasting because we'll become more aware of how we are failing to fast from sin. We can confess every day in our prayers but we must participate in the Sacrament of Confession to receive the grace of forgiveness and wise guidance

Almsgiving is sacrificing a portion of our material wealth and giving it to those in need. Think about not going out for dinner and then taking that money and spending it on meals for the poor/ hungry. Think of other ways to stop spending money ourselves and to help the poor. Reflecting on the Parables of the Rich Man and Lazaros (Luke 16:19-31) and the Last Judgment (Matthew 25:31-46) we realize our salvation depends on our sacrificial almsgiving. Our Philanthropy and

opportunities to aid those less fortunate than ourselves. St. John Chrysostom said, "The rich exist for the sake of the poor. The poor exist for the salvation of the rich."

The pace and intensity really pick-up during Holy Week with twenty-one (21) worship services including Lazaros Saturday through Agape Vespers on Pascha Sunday. Plan ahead by clearing your calendar of all other obligations. There are many ways to help, be involved and worship. We look forward to palm folding, youth retreats, sanctuary cleaning and decorating, reading, chanting, dying eggs, processions, and the lamb dinner. Don't worry, God will grant us the strength and endurance for this final leg of the race to the Resurrection!

Finally, do not be fooled with a false expectation that Great Lent will be completely peaceful. When we struggle to grow closer to God, the Devil will send his demons to throw us off course. Be ready, don't be surprised, and continue on the path. God will protect vou!

Blessed Lent and Holy Week +Fr. Rick



OUR LIFE TOGETHER

Welcome new members to our beautiful parish: Ana Dheftos and Christine Rayan





FLJ at the Trampoline park last month. 2/26/25



Marina Douglas reading for the first time during the Akathist service. 3/14/25. She did a great job!





Pres Jeanne and Father Rick 3-16-2025



7th-High School students dazzled us with amazing essays, icons, poetry and speeches for the Oratorical Festival. Congratulations and great job to all of our contestants and best wishes to those who are proceeding on to the metropolis finals.

Senior speech - Nicholas Kiriklakis Junior speech - Evie Arzoumanidis Junior Essay - Lia Mackris Senior Essay - Nicolette Mackris Poem - Yiannis Papadopoulos Icon - Mia Carrozza

OUR LIFE TOGETHER



We are pleased to announce that Deacon Theodore Saclarides was united to Sonia Mendez in the Holy Sacrament of Marriage on March 2nd at the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese chapel in New York City. Dcn Ted requested and received the blessing of Metropolitan Nathanael and the Holy Synods of the Archdiocese of America and of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Constantinople. Please welcome and join us in congratulating Deacon Ted and Diakonissa Sonia!!! In Lieu of any direct gifts consider making a contribution to Saints Peter and Paul (https://onrealm.org/ssppglenview/-/form/give/now). Donations will be used for Pascha Celebration.



Father Mark Elliot Ordained at SSPP on 3-4-1990



Sunday of Orthodoxy Icons 3-9-2025



SSPP Lenten Retreat Group 3-15-2025

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

CHURCH SCHOOL UPDATES



Church School has been busy these last few weeks. The students started Lent with their annual Brown Bag Event, we collected over 50 brown bags filled for the Des Plaines food pantry.





N3-6th grade gave their parents a glimpse into what they have been learning at Church School during our Festival of Faith.



All of our youth participated in a beautiful and moving procession on Orthodox Sunday. A beautiful site to see so many excited Orthodox Christians!

SS Peter and Paul PALM SUNDAY LUNCHEON

Sunday, April 13, 2025

immediately after Divine Liturgy

Tickets are limited!

Please reserve early: Adults \$25-Bakalao lunch with wine Children \$<u>10-Pasta</u>



https://ssppglenview.org/events/

A portion of the proceeds will be donated MISSION TANZANIA-Water for Tanzania. Provide the Gift of Clean Water and a Hopeful Future for Children Contact Diane Economy-Kafedmp@sbcglobal.net

Generously donated by Gigi and Louie Pappas and Family Catered by the Fountain Blue

YOUTH LEADER LETTER

A MESSAGE FROM STEVEN

Hello Saints Peter and Paul

Blessed Lent. As we prepare for Pascha, be on the lookout for youth events over Holy Week. Be sure to check out our Holy Week flyer. Thank you, and please keep encouraging your kids to attend services and Holy Week. We love to see them there.

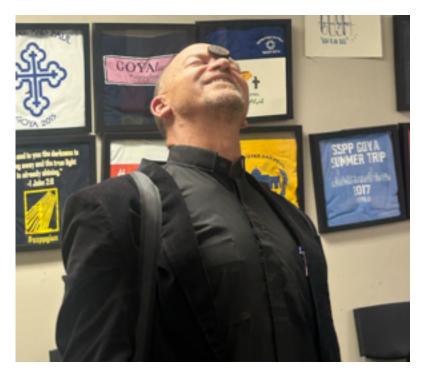
FLJ had a great gathering learning about the Saint Ephrem Prayer; they practiced in church while doing prostrations and created posters to hang in their room to recite daily. We also had a fun time trying the Oreo challenge. Father Rick participated as well! The other gathering we attended was the pre-sanctified liturgy, and some demonstrated their faith by reading during the service.

The Junior GOYAns attended an Akathist service and demonstrated their faith by reading and serving during the service. Afterward, we hung out and had a blast. At the other meeting, we discussed Sunday of the Cross and why the cross is so significant in our faith.

The Senior GOYAns attended an Akathist service and demonstrated their faith by reading and participating in the liturgy. We also packed 60 food bags for the Hope group and sent them to the Primo Center in Chicago. As this messenger is being printed, we did a joint Jeopardy night with Ascension of our Lord in Lincolnshire Senior GOYA. I hope we did well.

We will have more opportunities for youth to participate in church for the rest of Lent. Please take a look at our flyer and let me know if you are interested or have any questions.

Thank you Have a blessed day, Steven Thell Youth Director



Father Rick is trying the cookie challenge during Faith Love and Joy. 3/13/25.



Senior GOYA with the bags of food they packed for the primo center. 3/11/25



Nicolette Aliferis, Marianthi Logothetis, Triffen Adams, and Sean Gallagher are trying the cookie challenge. 3/13/25

BOOK STORE AND MORE

BOOK AND ICON STORE

Pascha is almost here, and now is the time to shop for meaningful Easter Gifts for everyone on your list! Fill your baskets with unique gifts that inspire and bring joy. We are stocked with beautiful Easter books, unique basket stuffers, Snuggly Saint Dolls, engaging dry erase activity books, sticker by number, and even magnetic Resurrection kits that bring the Easter story to life. If you're looking for something special for prayer and reflection, we have prayer ropes for all ages and stunning icons to enrich your home.

The new 60th Anniversary Edition of the Beloved Holy Week -Easter Books are now available for purchase featuring new improvements such as a larger font size (easy to read), Illustrated with icons, titles and headers printed in red, and a true asset to attending Holy Week and Easter Services.

Stop by any Sunday immediately following the Divine Liturgy or schedule a special tour by email at <u>bookstore@ssppglenview.org</u>



AGAPE ANNOUNCEMENTS

AGAPE Summer Camp 2025! Sign up today for an amazing camp experience! This summer program is offered from June 4th through July 11th, Monday - Friday 8:45am to 1:30pm. We also offer a Summer Enrichment Program from 1:30pm to 3:00pm. Interested? Check out our programs on the SSPP website under Ministries/Education/AGAPE

AGAPE Christian Academy 2025-2026 enrollment is now open.

AGAPE was established in 2002 and offers a center-based, nurturing environment. Our curriculum prepares students for Kindergarten while prioritizing social emotional growth and a strong Chrstian Orthodox foundation. Come for a tour of the school! Check out our programs on the SSPP website under Ministries/Education/AGAPE.

Doves: 2 years old by September 1 Fishermen: 2 1/2 years old by September 1 Disciples: 3 years old by September 1 (must be potty trained) Apostles: 4 years old by September 1 Saints: (Kindergarten) 5 years old by September 1

COFFEE CONNECTION

April 6th – We will be discussing how Christ's Resurrection overcomes the challenge that death present, and will be putting together Spring College Care Packages to send to our parish students near and far. If you can stay to help, it would be greatly appreciated!

April 27th – Being Welcoming to All in the Church We will have a guest speaker to help us navigate how we can be more welcoming and inclusive to people who are differently abled.



AGAPE Christian Academy is excited to announce that we are seeking qualified teachers and teaching assistants to join our dedicated team for the 2025-26 school year. We are looking for passionate individuals who are commited to providing a high-quality, child-centered education to our students. Ongoing employment opportunities for future years are also available as we continue to grow and expand our school community.

All interested parties should contact Julie Mantice, AGAPE Director, at <u>agape@sspppglenview.org</u> or 847-729-2235.

Questions? Please contact Julie Mantice, Director at 847-849-7870

PHILOPTOCHOS

LENT AND PHILOPTOCHOS

These last weeks of Lent are a time of reflection and prayer, a time of giving of oneself and appreciating God's blessings. As you gear up for Pascha, this most holy of holidays, know that our Philoptochos would benefit greatly from the gifts of your time and treasure toward the success of these philanthropic events:

+++

Our SSPP Chapter will be hosting the annual Metropolis of Chicago Philoptochos Blankets for Babies event on Saturday, April 5, from 10am – 2pm. Help us make blankets for those little ones who are hospitalized in the UIC Pediatrics Unit or are in the UIC Adolescent Child Life Program. No need to know how to sew! Just stop by with your willing hands, hearts, and maybe a pair of scissors! All are welcome. For more information or to make a donation to offset our expenses, visit our website at https:// ssppglenview.org/philoptochos-blankets-for-babies/ or use this QR Code. You can also direct questions to Tru Bazianos at sspeterandpaulphiloptochos@gmail.com.





Angie Lofgren prepares the fabric for a blanket in 2024.

PALM SUNDAY

Join us after liturgy on Palm Sunday, April 13. It's a big day for us, with both our Annual Palm Sunday Bake Sale and the launch of what we hope will be our first annual Palm Sunday Bakalao Luncheon taking place. This luncheon is made possible by a generous donation by Gigi and Louie Pappas;



family and will be catered by Fountain Blue Banquets. Tickets are only \$25 for adults (including wine) and \$10 for children who will be served makoranatha. As we enter into the holiest of weeks, there is no better way to be together as a family and community, and a portion of the day's proceeds will benefit Mission Tanzania, whose mission is to build wells in rural Tanzania. Tickets must be purchased in advance, as we expect to sell out. Please stop by our reservation table after Liturgy during Lent, use the QR code below, or visit us online at https://ssppglenview.org/palm- sundayluncheon/. You can also make a donation toward Mission Tanzania at the website or with the code. We would love for you to help us serve that day! Please reach out to Diane Papadakis-Economy at kafedmp@sbcglobal.net.



Participants from throughout the Metropolis join our President Dena Pavlopoulos in 2024.

PALM SUNDAY BAKE SALE

Our Palm Sunday Bake Sale is a major annual fundraiser for us that supports our many philanthropic projects. Remember to pick up your mouthwatering Karidopita, Galaktobouriko, Koulourakia, Kourambiethes,



Tsourekia, Melomakarouna, Spanakopites, Tiropites, and more on that day and during the weeks leading up to Palm Sunday. You can also save time and money by pre-ordering one of our beautiful baskets that you can pick up on Saturday, April 12, 11:30 - 1pm, or on Palm Sunday after Liturgy. Baskets are \$100 and can be ordered online using the QR code above, visiting https:// ssppglenview.org/easter_basket_sale/, or contacting Nancie Poulos at nepoulos@hotmail.com. A portion of the proceeds from the sale of the baskets will benefit the Philoxenia House, providing free housing to patients at the Mayo Clinic, and their families. Please help us bake Melomakarouna on Monday, April 7 and/or Tsourekia on Wednesday and Thursday, April 9 and 10, in Fellowship Hall, beginning at 9:30am. We will be there until midday, but we welcome you to give as much time as you are able. It is really a fun experience! We can also use your help in setting up for the bake sale. Contact Nancie Poulos for this as well. nepoulous@hotmail.com.

INTERESTED IN A SCHOLARSHIP?



Are you looking for a scholarship? We are excited to offer three scholarship opportunities to students in our parish

 \sim \$2000 Merit-Based Philoptochos Scholarship – evaluation is based on grades, test scores, and activities in the church at school.

~ \$5000 Christina Mourikes Spiratos "Make a Difference" Scholarship -offered to current or college-bound students who have been committed to the service of others.

~ Athie Koulogeorge Panarites Religious Scholarship – Designated for parishioners in good standing who want to attend Orthodox Religious Institutions and Orthodox Religious camps.

For more information, use the QR Code below or visit https:// ssppglenview.org/philoptochos- scholarships/.

PHILOPTOCHOS

FEED THE HUNGRY PROGRAM

Would you like to join us as we participate in the Metropolis Feed the Hungry Program at the Annunciation Cathedral on LaSalle Street? This is a fulfilling ministry, and we welcome our members to join us. Our next opportunity to participate is Tuesday, April 15, at 10:30. Please get in touch with Kris Tsitsis if you would like to attend at kristsitsis@sbcglobal.net



Board Members Kris Tsitsis and Nancie Poulos are joined by Member Connie Anagnost at the February Feed the Hungry event where they distributed sack lunches, socks, and Valentine treats to 130 people.

You can see we have a lot to look forward to. Now, take a look at what we have been up to! Our past two fundraisers were very successful, generating approximately \$50,000 in funds that we will use toward our philanthropic efforts! The Holiday Faire netted approximately \$38,000, and our Ladies' Mix and Mingle raised approximately \$12,000. Thank you to everyone who supported us along the way, especially our Holiday Faire chairwoman Kris Tsitstis, and Diane Papadakis-Economy and Georgene Shanley who co-chaired Mix and Mingle. A portion of the funds we raised at the Holiday Faire will benefit Camp One Step and the Youth Services of Glenview.



Michelle Brody (center), Development Manager of Youth Services of Glenview, accepts a \$6500 check from Philanthropy Chairs Pat Nassos and Kris Tsitsis. But not everything we do is about raising money for philanthropy. We also strive to raise awareness, and we welcomed Dr. Sarah Alexander to our General Meeting on Tuesday, February 25, to speak to us about women's cardiovascular health. It was a very informative, well-attended meeting, and we all left feeling more knowledgeable on the subject.



Dr. Angela Bicos and Dr. Sarah Alexander chat after the presentation.



Program Chair Annette Vranas, Dr. Sarah Alexander, and President Dena Pavlopoulos.

SAVE THE UPCOMING DATES

- April 5 Blankets for Babies 10am 2pm
- April 7 Melomakarouna baking beginning at 9:30
- April 14 Scholarship Application Deadline
- April 9-10 Tsourekia baking beginning at 9:30am

April 12 – Pick up your pre-ordered Easter Basket, 11:30am – 1pm Sunday, April 13 – Palm Sunday Bake Sale and Luncheon after Liturgy (Reservations for lunch are required.)

May 4 – Graduate Sunday and Presentation of the Scholarships June 28-29 – Saints Peter &; Paul Vespers and Feast Day August 19 – Senior Appreciation Luncheon

Pan - Orthodox AKATHIST HYMN

Sponsored by the Orthodox Christian Clergy Association of Greater Chicago



7:00 pm Tuesday, April 8, 2025

St Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church 7373 N. Caldwell Ave, Niles, Illinois

Homilist: Mr Peter Savas Chicagoland Region Ministry Support of the OYM Orthodox Youth and Young Adult Ministries

Responses by The Pan-Orthodox Choir of Greater Chicago

All are welcome! Coffee Fellowship follows service



ENROLLMENT Now open for 2025-26

Flexible Programming available for Ages 2 through Kindergarten. Conveniently located across from Wagner Farm at St. Peter & Paul Church.

Register Now

Contact Director, Julie Mantice for additional information or to schedule a tour. Email <u>AGAPE@ssppglenview.org</u> or visit https://ssppglenview.org/agape-preschool/

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