



# THE MESSENGER

SEPTEMBER 2025

SAINTS PETER & PAUL

p.1

## A Message from Father Rick Father Richard Demetrius Andrews

Greetings Brothers and Sisters:

Big thank you to our **Greek Festival** committee, volunteers and patrons! By all measures, with God's blessings, it was a great success!

Several parishioners travelled again this year to **Racine Wisconsin** for our sister parish feastday Vespers of *Kimissis tis Theotokou Church*. Another bus brought 40 parishioners from St. George and St Haralambos parishes. We enjoyed the dramatic procession of the epitaphios of the Virgin Mary around the outside of the church and the warm fellowship and hospitality of Fr. Rick's former parish.

The **11<sup>th</sup> Annual Solemn Vespers** for the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation aka **Vespers for the Protection of the Environment** took place on **Sunday August 31<sup>st</sup> 7pm** at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic parish in Glenview. *Dr Apostolis*

*Sambanis* was the guest speaker that evening.

Each *September 1<sup>st</sup>* starts the new Church calendar year. It's called the **Indiction**. The custom extends back to the practice of the Israelites who celebrated the new year on a moveable feast in September. This could have an agricultural origin in that the harvest was complete by September and new seeds would be planted. *September 1<sup>st</sup>* is the date traditionally commemorating the beginning of Jesus' public ministry. On that day, after being baptized and chrismated, after fasting for 40 days and nights in the wilderness, He enters the local synagogue and reads from the Prophecy of Isaiah. The event is recorded in the Gospel of Luke 4:16-22. The Emperor Constantine formalized the practice in the Roman Empire fixing the date on Sept 1<sup>st</sup> and it continued until the Fall of Constantinople in 1453. This year, *September 1* falls on **Monday Labor Day** holiday, so

please consider starting the holiday off with morning Orthros and Liturgy. The Indiction Feast always signifies the beginning of our ministry year, especially for our youth.

Sunday **Divine Liturgy** returns to *regular start of 9:30am* in September. Please let us know your feedback about summer start time. **Saturday Vespers** also resumes in September

On *Sunday Sept. 7* we will have our annual **Fall Youth Kickoff** and **Parish Picnic**. We plan to have a simple bbq/grilled lunch for everyone. Afterwards, the youth will have activities all afternoon. For more info, contact youth director Steven Thell.

**Church School** classes will begin that day so be ready. **Children's sermons** will be right after the Gospel reading so please come on time for Liturgy 9:30am to be sure to hear the Epistle and Gospel readings as well as the kids' sermon.

On *September 8<sup>th</sup>*, we celebrate the great feast for the **Nativity of the Theotokos**.

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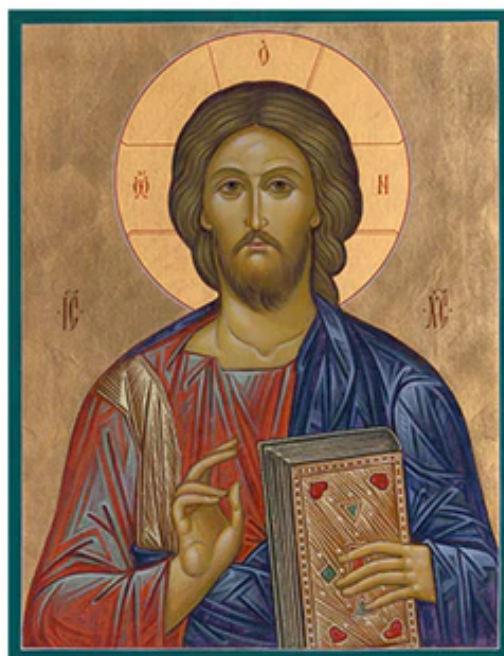
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# CONTACTS

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**Rev. Fr. Peter Sarolas, Economos,**  
**Associate Priest** frpeter@ssppglenview.org

**Rev. Dn. Theodore Saclarides, M.D.**

## Summer Sunday Hours:

Matins 7:45am & Divine Liturgy 9am

## 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

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## 2025 Parish Council:

**President:** Steve Koulogeorge

**Vice President:** Christy Gouletas

**Secretary:** Sophia Castleberry

**Corresponding Secretary:** Julie Savopoulos

**Treasurer:** Nick Colis

**Assistant Treasurer:** George Seletos

Vanessa Adinamis

Mary Alukos

Keith Anderson

Christ Atsaves

George Karagianis

Angie Katsamakis

John Mackris

Maryann Rasmussen

Tracy Ronstadt

Jim Santos

## PARISH MINISTRIES

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**Saint Basil's Philanthropy:** Christy Gouletas

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**Sunday Coffee Fellowship:** Carolyn Kolbaba

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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

## FROM FATHER RICK

On *Sunday September 14<sup>th</sup>* we celebrate the **Universal Exaltation of the Holy Cross** with Divine Liturgy and a special procession. This is a strict fast day in commemoration of the Lord's crucifixion.

In accordance with the Metropolis Vision of Growth initiative that highlights the catechumenate, we will host the usual **Fall Catechism course** on *Tuesday evenings 7-9pm* beginning *September 16<sup>th</sup>*. These classes are open to everyone, especially catechumens, seekers, inquirers and current Orthodox Christians wishing to deepen their knowledge of the Orthodox Faith.

Several **building and grounds projects** including the classroom remodel and replacing windows in the community center were recently completed just in time for new school year.

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.

Some parishioners did not give in 2024 and some have not yet given in 2025. Stewardship giving statements were mailed in mid-July. Please give now and give regularly. We appreciate monthly gifts. <https://onrealm.org/ssppglenview/-/form/give/now>

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.**

With Gratitude!  
+Fr. Rick



# MODERN HERESIES - PLURALISM

**Pluralism-** for our purposes is defined as the “*acceptance of all religious paths as equally valid.*” And this begs the questions: is the existence of so many religions part of God’s will? Also, how Orthodox relates or should relate to other religions, both Christian and non-Christian? We’ll briefly examine religious pluralism, ecumenism, and the Orthodox Christian view of other religions from various sources. Finally, we’ll look at what the Jesus and the Apostles say in the Holy Scriptures. Essentially, Orthodoxy rejects the idea that all religions are equally valid. However, Orthodox live in a pluralistic world and see it as an opportunity to witness the true-faith in Christ Jesus.

**Religious pluralism** is an attitude or policy regarding the diversity of religious belief systems co-existing in society. It can indicate one or more of the following:

- As the name of the worldview according to which one's religion is not the sole and exclusive source of truth, and thus the acknowledgement that at least some truths and true values exist in other religions.
- As acceptance of the concept that two or more religions with mutually exclusive truth claims are equally valid. This may be considered a form of either toleration (a concept

that arose as a result of the European wars of religion) or moral relativism.

- The understanding that the exclusive claims of different religions turn out, upon closer examination, to be variations of universal truths that have been taught since time immemorial. This is called *Perennialism* (based on the concept of philosophia perennis) or Traditionalism.
- Sometimes as a synonym for ecumenism, i.e., the promotion of some level of unity, co-operation, and improved understanding between different religions or different denominations within a single religion.
- As a term for the condition of harmonious co-existence between adherents of different religions or religious denominations.
- As a social norm and not merely a synonym for religious diversity.<sup>[1]</sup>

Religious pluralism can be defined as “*respecting the otherness of others*”. Freedom of religion encompasses all religions acting within the law in a particular region. Exclusivist religions teach that theirs is the only way to salvation and to religious truth, and some of them would even argue that it is necessary to suppress the

falsehoods taught by other religions. Some Protestant sects argue fiercely against Roman Catholicism, and fundamentalist Christians of all kinds teach that religious practices like those of paganism and witchcraft are pernicious. This was a common historical attitude prior to the Enlightenment, and has appeared as governmental policy into the present day under systems like Afghanistan's Taliban regime, which destroyed the ancient Buddhas of Bamyán.

Relativism, the belief that all religions are equal in their value and that none of the religions give access to absolute truth, is an extreme form of inclusivism.

[5] Likewise, syncretism, the attempt to take over creeds of practices from other religions or even to blend practices or creeds from different religions into one new faith is an extreme form of inter-religious dialogue. Syncretism must not be confused with ecumenism, the attempt to bring closer and eventually reunite different denominations of one religion that have a common origin but were separated by a schism. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religious\\_pluralism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religious_pluralism)

**Ecumenism** refers to efforts by Christians of different church traditions to develop closer relationships and better understandings. The term is also often used to refer to efforts



# MODERN HERESIES - PLURALISM

towards the visible and organic unity of different Christian [churches](#) in some form.

The adjective *ecumenical* can also be applied to any interdenominational initiative that encourages greater cooperation among Christians and their [churches](#), whether or not the specific aim of that effort is full, visible unity.

The terms *ecumenism* and *ecumenical* come from the [Greek](#) οἰκουμένη (*oikoumene*), which means "the whole inhabited world", and was historically used with specific reference to the [Roman Empire](#).<sup>[2]</sup> The ecumenical vision comprises both the search for the visible unity of the Church (Ephesians 4:3) and the "whole inhabited earth" (Matthew 24:14) as the concern of all Christians.

In Christianity the qualification *ecumenical* is originally (and still) used in terms such as "[ecumenical council](#)" and "[Ecumenical Patriarch](#)" in the meaning of pertaining to the totality of the larger Church (such as the [Catholic Church](#) or the [Orthodox Church](#)) rather than being restricted to one of its constituent local churches or [dioceses](#). Used in this original sense, the term carries no connotation of re-uniting the historically separated Christian denominations, but presumes a unity of local congregations in a worldwide

community. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ecumenism>

October 2002 in Brookline, MA – The International Conference entitled "*The Orthodox Churches in a Pluralistic World: An Ecumenical Conversation*" opened on Thursday, October 3 with the keynote address of His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, Primate of the Greek Orthodox Church in America. The conference, which is jointly sponsored by Holy Cross and the World Council of Churches, and presented in cooperation with the Boston Theological Institute and the Initiatives in Religion and Public Life at Harvard Divinity School, includes presentations by many renowned theologians and scholars who have come together to address the challenge of globalization, issues of human rights, religious violence, ethnicity and nationalism, and Christian missions.

In his address, Archbishop Demetrios acknowledged that "*In a period of rapid globalization, in a world community that is increasingly conscious of its pluralistic character, the Orthodox Churches meet a great challenge.*" He stated, however, "*that the word challenge is to be understood in the most positive and optimistic sense. The pluralistic world is not an obstacle to Orthodoxy; it is rather*

*an opportunity. In a pluralistic global society, the Orthodox Church is challenged to match her incarnational Christology with an equally incarnational ecclesiology.*"

After presenting a short analysis of the nature of the challenge and its context, he offered three distinct suggestions for responding to the "pluralistic challenge". First, he affirmed Pentecost as a model of response, as Orthodox Churches have labored through the centuries to adapt language and liturgy to the specific needs and cultural elements of local communities. Second, he affirmed the Orthodox concept of personhood, an understanding that is critical in this age of globalization. Finally, he acknowledged the need for a parish pluralism, a model of community church life rooted in the Eucharist, engaged socially, and exemplifying unity in diversity.

<https://www.goarch.org/-/conference-on-pluralism-opens-at-holy-cross-with-keynote-address-by-archbishop-demetrios?>

The approach taken in this paper is to emphasize "the middle way," that of inclusivism. It seems clear that the way of exclusivism is properly rejected as a matter of Truth. At the other extreme, the thin ice of cultural pluralism is fraught with danger.

# MODERN HERESIES - PLURALISM

It is a strongly held Orthodox view that our commitment to Christian Truth affirms a pluralistic, democratic setting where all people can live in peace and harmony. Holding fast to the truth of Christianity, Orthodoxy defends the right of all religious expressions to co-exist harmoniously, in a setting of freedom, where equal protection is afforded to all under the law. (Papademetriou)

<https://www.goarch.org/-/an-orthodox-christian-view-of-non-christian-religions>

In the post-modern pluralistic world there is no truth, right, good and beauty which all human beings are created to discover, know and believe; to which they are called to conform in thought, word and deed; in which they are privileged to delight and rejoice; and for which they are blessed to give glory and thanksgiving to God. There is no meaning and purpose for all. There is rather a creation of reality, or rather, more accurately, many creations of a plethora of pseudo-realities, produced by the subjective willings of individuals, parties and "interest groups" in the context of politics, power, self-creation and permissiveness. The tenets of modern liberal democracy now become objects of worship and ends in themselves in a politicized, hedonized world. Freedom

becomes licence. Acquisition becomes a right. Differences are deified. And happiness, now understood as material and pseudo-spiritual pleasure, becomes obligatory for all. (Hopko)

If more than a half century ago H. Richard Niebuhr could say that in modern American liberal Protestantism "*a God without wrath brings man without sin into a kingdom without judgment through the ministrations of a Christ without a cross*" (The Kingdom of God in America, 1937, p. 193), it can now be said that in the new age of post-modern pluralism divinity without sovereignty brings humans without dignity into an age without responsibility through the exploitation of a god or goddess of your choice without tragedy. (Hopko)

Four unacceptable responses to Post-Modern Pluralism: 1) deny that it exists, 2) deny that our people and churches are immune to its effects, 3) retreat into self-made or self-contained refuge, 4) we must not fall prey to the post-modern pluralistic worldview as some great new opportunity for humankind which Orthodox Christians should welcome as being inherently consistent with traditional Orthodox views of freedom, personal dignity, cultural diversity, incarnational theology and apophatic mystical

theology; and our equally traditional (if sometimes facile and superficial) criticisms of "Western" rationalism, pietism, legalism and moralism. (Hopko) <http://www.svots.edu/content/orthodoxy-post-modern-pluralistic-societies>

## **Holy Scriptures:**

Of the Ten Commandments given by God to Moses on Mount Sinai, the first four emphasize His primacy:

*And God spoke all these words, saying: <sup>2</sup> "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. <sup>3</sup> "You shall have no other gods before Me.*

*<sup>4</sup> "You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; <sup>5</sup> you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, <sup>6</sup> but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.*

*<sup>7</sup> "You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.*

# MODERN HERESIES - PLURALISM

<sup>8</sup> “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. <sup>9</sup> Six days you shall labor and do all your work, <sup>10</sup> but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. <sup>11</sup> For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it. (Exodus 20:1-11)

***I am the Lord, and there is no other; There is no God besides Me. I will gird you, though you have not known Me (Isaiah 45:5).***

“Jesus said to him, ***“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”*** (John 14:6).

<sup>20</sup> “I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; <sup>21</sup> that ***they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.*** <sup>22</sup> And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: <sup>23</sup> I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the

world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me. (John 17:20-23)

<sup>18</sup> And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. <sup>19</sup> Go therefore and ***make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,*** <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen. (Matthew 28:18-20)

The Apostle Paul gives strong instruction on this matter in his Second Letter to the Christians in Corinth...

<sup>14</sup> ***Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers.*** For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? <sup>15</sup> And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? <sup>16</sup> And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: “I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people.” [Jeremiah 32:38; Ezekiel 37:27] <sup>17</sup> Therefore, “Come out from among them and ***be separate, says the Lord. Do***

not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you.” <sup>18</sup> “I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the Lord Almighty.” (2Cor.6:14-18)

<sup>9</sup> As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed. <sup>10</sup> For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ. <sup>11</sup> But I make known to you, brethren, that ***the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man.*** <sup>12</sup> For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but ***it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ.*** (Galatians 1:9-12)

<sup>3</sup> For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, <sup>4</sup> who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. <sup>5</sup> For ***there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus,*** (1Timothy 2:3-5)





# PASTORAL MESSAGE

## FROM FATHER PETER

### A Message from Father Peter Father Peter Sarolas

What does the 14th of September – Exaltation of the Holy Cross mean to me? Ever since I could remember the 14th of September was just another church holiday with the expectation of it being a strict fast day. That all changed in the fall of 1987. During my first year at Hellenic College, I really did not know what to expect. I was thousands of miles away from home. I was in a city and state that was very foreign to me. During my tenure at Hellenic College and Holy Cross, all the incoming students that were planning on becoming priests were given the blessing to wear the “Anderi” (aka cassock/black robe).

At vespers on the 13th of September, His Eminence Archbishop Iakovos of North and South America of blessed memory would read the prayer over my classmates and I so that we could wear our “Anderi”. Fast forward to 1991 we were blessed to wear the “Rasso” (the black outer robe with longer sleeves that deacons, priests, and bishops wear during certain times of the liturgical cycle of the church.) After the fall of 1987 my view of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross changed. How, you ask? It was the first time that I saw firsthand how my fellow students and classmates took pride in making sure that the chapel was clean. The pews had to be cleaned as well as polished. At the time, the carpet in the chapel had to be vacuumed. The oil vigil lamps on the Holy Altar Table and the ones hanging over the icons had to be filled with olive oil; the wicks had to be trimmed or replaced. Our altar

groups made sure that all vigil lamps were lit and maintained prior to the church services and would be responsible for making sure that at the end of the service all the vigil lamps were blown out. We took pride in taking care of our spiritual home and classroom. After all, it was at the Chapel of the Holy Cross that we took our first steps in our spiritual formation.

On the day of “Tou Stavrou” the day of the Holy Cross – the 14th of September we would hear the beautiful sounds of chanting from the upper classmen of Holy Cross School of Theology that would radiate over the entire chapel. Their chanting was out of this world. The buzz of parents, siblings, visiting priests and hierarchs from around the Archdiocese of North and South America would visit the campus. Since then, I often think of the beautiful, sweet smell of basil that would overtake the chapel. I can recall seeing all the visitors milling about in the chapel. I can still hear the chanting. I often wonder what it would be like being a student today at the seminary. It was a period in my life that I cherish very much. Now with social media such as Facebook and Instagram, ect., I can see posts from schoolmates and classmates that visit the seminary on the 14th of September, and I can see the video post of the students chanting “Save o Lord your people....” Σωσον Κυριε τον λαον σου....” and it brings back those fond memories of my seven years at Hellenic College and Holy Cross with my fellow classmates and schoolmates.

It is not only the memories that I have of the 14th of September but what the feast day really means to me. It is much more than just a feast day. It is a

day of no work, a day of strict fasting, it is a day of focusing your life on the Holy Cross. It should be a reminder of us putting on our cross and echoing the words during the sacrament of Baptism when the priest places the cross around the newly baptized saying “whoever wishes to take up his cross and follow me....” We should put on our Cross and place it as a focal point in our lives. We should “lift up” our cross so that we too can remember what Christ sacrificed for us. That the Cross is our tool/weapon for whatever is troubling us in our lives. “We venerate your Cross, O Master and we glorify Your Holy Resurrection”.

Fr. Peter Sarolas



# YOUTH GROUP UPDATE

## HELLO SAINTS PETER AND PAUL

As summer has come to a close, and school has started, we reflect on the busy end of July and August we had at our parish.

The youth schedule is out! The dates for the year are on our calendar. If you do not receive our weekly youth emails, please reach out to me, and I can get you on our list. Additionally, we have links to download the youth calendar to your phone or computer so that you can see live updates of events.

We had an outstanding representation of youth who helped, served, and worked hard at our parish festival. From setting up on Thursday and Friday to working until 10:30 PM on Sunday, I am very proud of all their efforts. Their dedication and service to the church shine a positive light on our future generations. Eight high schoolers from our parish recently embarked on a pilgrimage to Boston & New York. Their journey took them to

Holy Cross, venerated Saint Nectarios' epitachelion, the Arch Dioceses, and the Saint Nicholas Shrine that was built on the 9/11 grounds. They also had the chance to experience kayaking, seafood, and the bustling energy of Times Square. Their participation in these pilgrimages not only helps them grow in their faith but also inspires us all with their dedication. Next summer, we look forward to another opportunity as we embark on Project Mexico, building homes for those in need.

Kim and Bill Angelos' graciously hosted Faith, Love, and Joy at their house. We had over 45 kids and adults come over to spend time with each other. It was a great night.

As we enter September, we are excited to ramp up our youth events and get back into the rhythm of youth ministry. The youth group offers a valuable opportunity for kids to learn, ask questions, and grow in their faith—something they may not experience in school or during extracurricular activities. I encourage you to bring your kids to the youth group so they can forge lasting bonds and create cherished memories with fellow Orthodox Christians.

Thank you!  
Steven Thell - Youth Director



*FLJ and Parents at Kim and Bill Angelos house*

# THANKS TO ALL WHO MADE GREEK FEST '25 A TREMENDOUS SUCCESS!

Congratulations to Joanne Trahanas, Anna Andrews. Tina O'Donnell and Steve Callas, Greek Fest 2025 co-chairs, and their entire organizing committee (listed here) for a hugely successful Festival. Their hard work in planning and carrying out this year's event - along with the support of hundreds of volunteers and many generous sponsors and donors - greatly contributed to the tremendous results.

The Fest not only surpassed financial goals, but helped strengthen our relationship with our neighbors in Glenview and surrounding communities. Family Service Center, a mental health agency serving the North Shore, will receive 20% of Fest proceeds.

A big thanks to all involved in the preparation and hosting of this major fundraiser. It was especially heartwarming to see so many youth, teens and young adults stepping up to help - and having a great time doing it!

Our SSPP Youth Dancers, under the direction of Anna Andrews, did a phenomenal job of entertaining the crowds on both days. They stayed on the floor to teach a traditional dance to many enthusiastic Festival guests.

Most importantly, despite the hot temperatures, almost all guests and volunteers left the Fest with smiles on their faces - a good sign they'll be returning next year!

## FEST ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Co-Chairs:	Joanne Trahanas, Anna Andrews. Tina O'Donnell, Steve Callas
Advisor:	Louis Pappamichiel
Finance:	George Seletos, Nick Colis
Sponsorships:	Suzanne Santos, Jim Santos
Volunteer Staffing:	Zach Alukos, Brad DeSent
Sales Staffing:	Christy Gouletas
Promotion:	Elaine Buscaglia, Anna Andrews, Tru Bazianos, Suzanne Santos
Loyola Parking & Shuttles:	Presvytera Jane Andrews
Valet Parking:	Steve Callas
Security:	Louie Redic
Signage:	Elaine Carrozza, Elaine Buscaglia
Decoration:	Pres. Jane Andrews, Georgene Shanley
Set-up/Food Prep:	Christy Gouletas, Chris Batrich, George Poulos
Take-Down (Sun.): Runners/Culinary Logistics:	Elaine Carrozza  George Poulos, Chris Batrich
Table Cleaners:	James Gordon, Anna Gordon
Book Store/Discover Orthodoxy:	Tina O'Donnell, Doreen DeSent
Dinners:	Scott & Maria Gordon
Drinks:	Teddy & Anna Andrews
First Aid:	Tracy Ronstadt
Frappe/Ice Cream:	James Gordon
Grilling:	Chris Atsaves
Gyros:	Mark Lucas
Kids Zone:	Steven Thell, Emily Alexander
Kitchen:	Adam & Desiree Peterson
Loukoumades:	Vanessa Adinamis
Mezze:	Joe & Patti Zubay
Music:	Steve Callas
Pastries:	Debbie Kunkel, Paula Mueller
SSPP Merch:	Chris Batrich
Welcome Tables:	Doreen DeSent, Tracy Ronstadt



# GREEK FEST RECAP





# GREEK FEST RECAP





# GREEK FEST RECAP





# GREEK FEST RECAP





# SSPP GREEK DANCE

***Come be a part of our Greek Dance Ministry!***

***Our mission is to cultivate a feeling of unity, family, and community in our youth through song and dance.***

**Practices begin Sunday, September 29th.**

## Schedule

**2nd - 5<sup>th</sup> grades**

Sundays, 12 - 1pm

**6th - 10<sup>th</sup> grades**

Sundays, 1pm - 2pm



**Register Here: <https://forms.gle/rrAWDDtSAzdQRasy5>**



## Tuition

1st child - \$120

2 children - \$200

3 children - \$260

For more information reach out to Anna at [dance@ssppglenview.org](mailto:dance@ssppglenview.org)



# OUR LIFE TOGETHER

**Welcome our newest member to our beautiful parish: Chrystalla Argiris**



*Sending off our college students on August 10th*



*So nice to meet and see founding members, Evelyn & Peter Panos, who were visiting from North Carolina*



*Our parish staff and office volunteers welcome our new associate priest, Fr. Peter Sarolas!*



*Welcome to the newly baptized and chrismated servants of God Liam and Megan Stavropoulos. Congratulations to them, their dad Gus, and their godparents Nouno Nick Stavropoulos and Nouna Maria & John Bausch!*



*Welcome Fr. Peter, Pres Maria, Yianni, Vasili and Stephanos to our SSPP family!*



# OUR LIFE TOGETHER



*Welcome to newly baptized and chrismated servant of God Charlotte-Haralampia! Congratulations to parents Evangeline Politis and Robert Morse and godparent Nouna Kate Lovell!*



*On August 12th, SSPP was honored to host for clergy the Peace of Mind Mental Health First Aid training, a program of the The Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America and sponsored by the Hellenic Foundation.*



*Sylvia and Paul Creatura & Jim and Mary Stamatopoulos visiting another parish in Florida*



*Welcome to the newly baptized and chrismated servant of God George! Congratulations to parents Tiffany Bien and Thomas Samuel and godparent Nouno Daniel Bien*



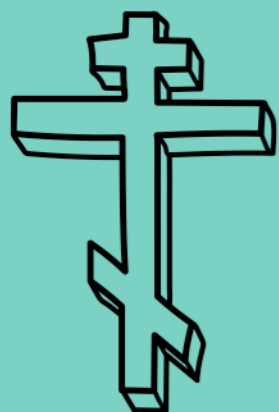
*We had Fanari Camp on Sunday August 17th at SSPP. Our campers shared some of their favorite experiences with everyone.*



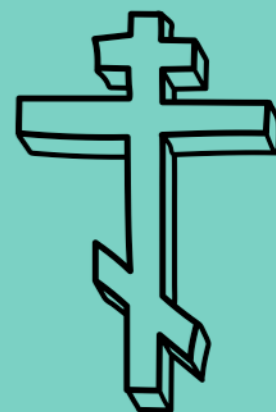
# BOSTON TRIP PICTURES







# CHURCH BBQ & FALL YOUTH KICKOFF!



SEPTEMBER 7TH, 12:00-3:00

CHURCH WIDE BBQ AND PICNIC-AFTER SUNDAY  
SCHOOL EVERYONE IS INVITED STAY FOR BBQ  
AND FESTIVITES.

GRADES 6-12TH, (JR. AND SN. GOYA) WILL HAVE  
THEIR YOUTH KICKOFF WITH ACTIVITIES, AND A  
DUNK TANK. LETS START THE YOUTH YEAR  
STRONG

LETS CELEBRATE OUR  
SSPP COMMUNITY

CONTACT STEVEN AT  
[YOUTHDIRECTOR@SSPPGLEVIEW.ORG](mailto:YOUTHDIRECTOR@SSPPGLEVIEW.ORG)  
WITH ANY QUESTIONS AND IF YOU  
WOULD LIKE TO HELP IN ANYWAY.





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# SAINT STEPHEN MEN'S MINISTRY

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## Upcoming Activities

Welcome to the 2025/2026 Ecclesiastical Year. Please join our email list to keep up to date with activities. We welcome all adult men from Saints Peter and Paul, Orthodox and Non-Orthodox, and their friends who are interested in participating.

## Please join the email list at:

<https://ssppglenview.org/st-stephens-mens-group/>

The Saint Stephen Men's group brings men closer together through Orthodox Christian Fellowship, Philanthropy, and Educational programs. Thursday Study Group begins on Thursday September 4th at 7AM. Our first meeting will be in person at Saints Peter and Paul to welcome Fr Peter. We will

be studying Hebrews. Hebrews is a New Testament book that encourages Christians to persevere in faith by emphasizing the New Covenant of Jesus over previous religious systems and figures.

*The study group meets via Zoom on Thursdays from 7AM - 8AM.*

Please email Brad DeSent at [mensgroup@ssppglenview.org](mailto:mensgroup@ssppglenview.org) to get the details. A few of our upcoming Activities to get the new Ecclesiastical year started. We pray you can join us for one, or all, of them.

## Parish Golf Outing on Saturday October 4th

Golf Outing Registration

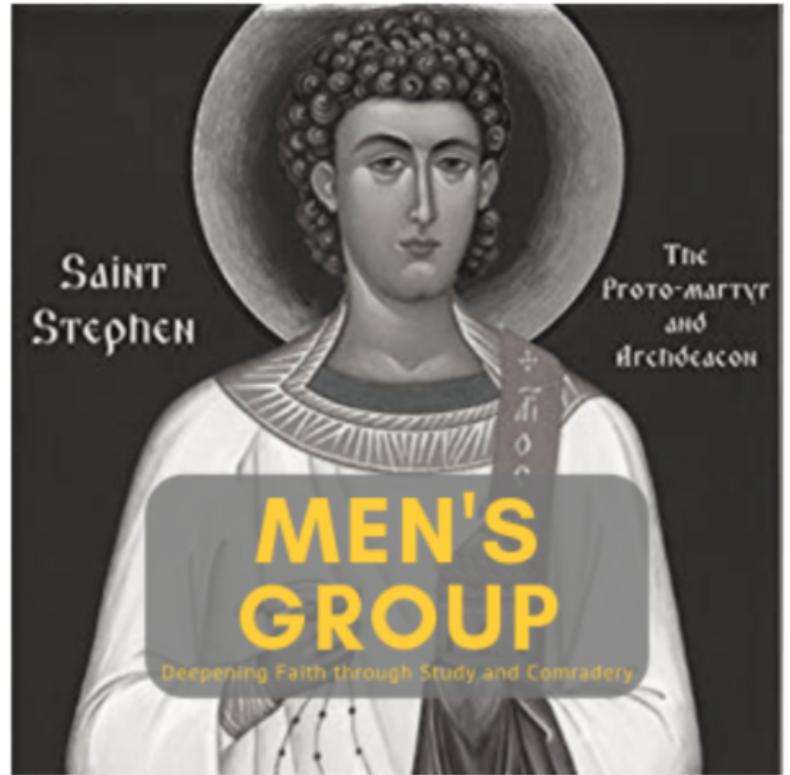
<https://ssppglenview.org/golf-outing-registration/>

Men's Fellowship Thursday October 9th at Northbranch (7PM - 9PM)

## Registration Link

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc\\_s3uWyzRJNinlbSigeH-3IVfaPg4\\_whHOHFeTb2r6FPSzJw/viewform?usp=header](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc_s3uWyzRJNinlbSigeH-3IVfaPg4_whHOHFeTb2r6FPSzJw/viewform?usp=header)

Please email Brad DeSent at [mensgroup@ssppglenview.org](mailto:mensgroup@ssppglenview.org) to get the details.



# SAINTS PETER AND PAUL GOLF OUTING

**SATURDAY OCTOBER 4TH, 2025**

**GLENVIEW PARK GOLF CLUB**

**800 SHERMER RD GLENVIEW, IL 60026**

**DONATION: \$200.00**

**INCLUDES: GOLF & CART, GIFTS  
AND PRIZES, LUNCH (LUNCH  
ONLY \$75 AROUND 12:30PM)**

**REGISTRATION: 7:30 AM**

**SHOTGUN START: 8:00 AM**

**LUNCH: AT THE NORTH BRANCH  
RESTAURANT FOLLOWING GOLF**

**FIRST 144 APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED**

**DEADLINE: WEDNESDAY, OCT 1ST**

**PLEASE MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: SS PETER AND PAUL GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH - NO CASH**

SEND TO: SS PETER AND PAUL  
1401 WAGNER ROAD  
GLENVIEW, IL 60025  
WWW.SSPPGLENVIEW.ORG

QUESTIONS? CALL: CHRIS ATSAVES  
847-729-3253 HOME  
847-942-8389 CELL  
CHRIS.ATSAVES@UBS.COM



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# BOOK STORE AND MORE

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## BOOK AND ICON STORE

With the end of summer and the school year beginning, don't forget to add Prayers to your daily structure. Your Book & Icon Store is the place to meet all your needs encouraging a commitment to your faith for Orthodox Christians of all ages. Constantly adding new titles for all to enjoy, please stop in to see all that we have to offer. In addition to reading selections, we carry an extensive collection of icons, prayer ropes, and jewelry that's sure to impress anyone. We are open every Sunday immediately following the Divine Liturgy or by appointment during the week. Any questions or special orders can be sent to [bookstore@ssppglenview.org](mailto:bookstore@ssppglenview.org)

## TANZANIA WATER PROJECT UPDATE

In November of 2024, as part of Coffee Connection's outreach ministry as a Local Eucharistic Community, we decided to commit 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 dedicated a fund for this project and welcomed the whole parish to join us in this initiative. AND WE WERE NOT DISAPPOINTED!!! A BIG THANK YOU to the people who have donated money to provide fresh water for communities in Tanzania, Africa through building, repairing and maintaining wells! Our donations thus far have totaled \$30,199.00 so we are well past our goal of \$10,000!!! GLORY TO GOD! We praise God for His gifts that He blesses us to share! With that amount, we hope to help build 2-3 new wells (\$9,000 each) and have money left over to repair non-functioning wells (\$700 each). Of course, the outreach ministry of St. Barbara's Greek Orthodox Church in California will be making the final decision on the best use of the money. Once we are notified by St. Barbara's outreach ministry regarding where this money will be used, we will have updates in future Messengers about the progress being made. Thank you again for your generous support!

## CHURCH SCHOOL

Registration is due by September 1st. Church School is back in session on September 7th. Blessings for a year of grace, love and goodness!





# PHILOPTOCHOS

## LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear Parish Family, On behalf of our Philoptochos Society, I am honored to share with you the good works accomplished during the 2024–2025 ecclesiastical year. Through the generosity and dedication of our members and parish community, we were able to donate over \$105,000 to a wide range of philanthropic organizations and ministries, both within our Orthodox family and in the greater community. Our contributions supported the American Cancer Society, Bessie's Table, Camp One Step, Camp Soar, Erica's Lighthouse, Feed the Hungry at Annunciation Cathedral, Family Forward, Fill a Heart for Kids, Fire Relief for California, Greek American Rehabilitation and Care Centre, Holy Cross/Hellenic College, International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC), Lauri Bauer Foundation for Sudden Loss, Lawrence Hall for Boys, Metropolis Philoptochos Society, National Philoptochos Society, Operation Classroom at Oliver W. Holmes Middle School, Philoxenia House, the Priest's Emergency Fund, Project HOPE, SS Peter and Paul Greek Orthodox Church, our Senior Ministry – Senior Luncheon, St. Basil's Academy, Watts of Love, Wells for Tanzania, and Youth Services of Glenview/Northbrook. In addition, we were blessed to award scholarships to deserving students of our parish. As we now begin the 2025–2026 ecclesiastical year, we look forward with joy and anticipation to continuing our mission of philanthropy, service, and fellowship. We warmly invite all parishioners to become involved in our projects, join us in our efforts, and attend our upcoming events. Together, we can continue to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those in need. With gratitude and love in Christ,

Julie Anastos - President, Saints Peter and Paul Philoptochos Society



*Last year's membership reception was full of joyous fellowship!*

## JOIN US @ THESE UPCOMING EVENTS!

**Membership Kick-Off  
Reception - Thursday,  
Sept 25th 6:30pm**

Our new ecclesiastical year is kicking off this month! Please join us at our super-fun Membership Reception, to be held on Thursday, September 25th, at 6:30 pm in the SSPP Atrium. We have a fabulous evening planned, featuring a multimedia presentation by film historian Annette Bochenek, Ph.D. on the Greek-American actress and comedian Betty White—including fascinating stories about her Greek heritage and her iconic life and career. Enjoy heavy hors d'oeuvres, drinks, door prizes, fellowship, a brief meeting, and fun! Please RSVP by September 15th to Patty Damisch (Greekmom3@gmail.com) or Tina Rierner (Tinarmr@gmail.com). Walk-ins are welcome!



*Learn all about Greek-American Actress/Comedian Betty White*

## **Spirit of Hope Metropolis Luncheon – Saturday, Sept 20th 11am**

It's that time of year! The Metropolis of Chicago Philoptochos is hosting their annual September Luncheon on Saturday, September 20th at 11am at Concorde Banquets in Kildeer, IL. Come join us to celebrate sweet, sisterly love, featuring guest speak entrepreneur and chocolatier Karina Markoff. Please RSVP by September 5th to Eleni Soukoulis (elenisoukoulis@hotmail.com)

"Spirit of Hope" Luncheon Proceeds will benefit: ~Guardian Angel Community Services ~Wings of Hope ~St. Iakovos Retreat Center ~The Philanthropic Endeavors of Philoptochos of the Metropolis of Chicago

## BAKING DATES

Please come help us bake for Holiday Faire bake sale! On Thursday, September 11 we will be making spanakopites and on Tuesday, September 30 we will be making tiropites. We need a lot of help so come for both dates and spend whatever time you have! We will begin at 9:30am, serve a light lunch, and work until 3:00pm. For more information, please reach out to Nancie Poulos [nepoulos@hotmail.com](mailto:nepoulos@hotmail.com).



# PHILOPTOCHOS

## ***Breast Cancer Walk – Sat, Oct 18th 8am***

Join us in Making Strides Against Breast Cancer on Saturday, October 18th, at 8am, at Soldier Field in Chicago. Battling cancer is very personal to us, that's why our Philoptochos chapter partnered with the American Cancer Society in raising funds and awareness about this illness. Start pulling your pink wardrobe together and become part of our team - we promise that you will have a great time working towards our ultimate goal, ending cancer as we know it. (Monetary donations will also be gratefully accepted.) Come join us! Contact Julie Mantice (juliamantice1@gmail.com) to find out how to be involved.



*Some of our team members on a beautiful fall day at our 2024 Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Event*

## **HIGHLIGHTS FROM LAST MONTH**

### ***Senior Luncheon – Aug 19th***

At the event which Father Rick calls "one of his favorites", our Philoptochos graciously served lunch to 125 people, celebrating our cherished seniors. We even had a few centenarians attending! Here are some pictures that commemorated this joyous event.



*Our cherished elders were full of smiles, enjoying being served by our Philoptochos volunteers*



*Not a moment's rest! Georgene Shanley and Carrie Colis were among the many Philoptochos women who volunteered to serve our seniors lunch.*



*Rev. Fr. Peter Sarolas, Rev. Fr. Chris Kerhulas, Rev. Fr. Rick Andrews, Philoptochos President Julie Anastos and First Vice President Joanne Trahanas sitting together*



*Anna Andrews, dance instructor extraordinaire, led us in Greek dancing while Grecian Formula performed classical Greek music*



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# PHILOPTOCHOS

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## CHARITY SPOTLIGHT

Guided by faith and a spirit of service, our Philoptochos members work together to provide charitable aid, sponsor programs that nurture spiritual and social well-being, and respond to local, national, and international causes.

Each month we highlight one of our charity recipients. This month's spotlight is:

### ***The Lauri Bauer Foundation for Sudden Loss in Lincolnshire, IL***

When a child loses a parent, sibling, or close loved one, their world changes forever. The Lauri Bauer Foundation for Sudden Loss exists to offer help, healing, and hope to families facing these moments of heartbreak. The Foundation operates Centers throughout the Chicagoland area and provides grief counseling, peer support and programs that nurture both emotional and spiritual recovery to guide children, teens, and adults toward reclaiming their lives.

Powered by the generosity of donors and volunteers, the Lauri Bauer Foundation provides the resources, tools, and compassion needed to navigate loss and rediscover hope.



## SAVE THE DATES!

***Thurs, Sept 11th*** – Spanakopites making @ 9:30am

***Sat, Sept 20th*** – Metropolis Philoptochos Luncheon @ Concorde Banquets

***Thurs, Sept 25*** - Philoptochos Membership Kick-Off Reception @ 6:30pm

***Sun, Sept 28th*** – Ministry Fair (during coffee hour after church)

***Tues, Sept 30th*** – Tiropites making 9:30am

***Sat, Sept 27th*** – Children's Medical Fund Luncheon in Atlanta, Georgia

***Sat, Oct 4*** – IOCC 5K Walk/Run @ St. Andrews Greek Orthodox Church, Chicago 8am

***Sat, Oct 4*** – Dress A Girl @ St. Basil in Chicago 9am-2pm

***Sat, Oct 18*** – Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk in Chicago, Soldier Field 8am

***Sun, Nov 2*** – Philoptochos Sunday (hosting coffee hour)

***Wed/Thurs, Nov 5 & 6*** – Clergy Laity Assembly @ Meridian Conference Center

***Sat, Dec 6*** – Holiday Faire

***Sat, Dec 13*** – Advent Brunch @ Sunset Ridge Country Club in Northfield, IL

***Sun, Dec 14*** – The Metropolis of Chicago Christmas Open House in Lombard, IL

*\*Unless otherwise specified, events will take place at SSPP*

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# GREEK SCHOOL

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Do you speak Greek? If you don't we are here to teach you. Learning the Greek language is like discovering the roots of education. We are all excited to start our new school year in our fully remodeled classrooms. Register your children in our excellent Greek program. Besides teaching our students how to communicate in Greek using interactive programs, role playing, games, creative activities, art, music, dance and exposure to the traditions of our ancestors, we help them develop self confidence, using always positive reinforcement. Our program starts on Monday, September 8<sup>th</sup> for the Monday program and on Saturday, September 13<sup>th</sup> for the Saturday program. Registration continues throughout the month of September. In our school learning the Greek language is a fun experience.

For more details call or email to:

Stella Theoharopoulos

Phone: (847) 529-5899 Email: [theostell@aol.com](mailto:theostell@aol.com)



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# 65TH ANNIVERSARY

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## SAVE THE DATE

Our 65th Anniversary Dinner is Approaching Having spent a joyous weekend working together on our Annual Greek Festival, the Parish will be turning it's attention to the 65th Anniversary Gala Dinner, which is to be held on *October 26th* (5:00pm-10:00pm). at the Westin Chicago North Shore, in Wheeling, Illinois. Entertainment to be provided by Sarlas Music. The 65th Anniversary Gala committee invites you to join them for a night of dinner, dancing and festivities. It is our hope that this gala on *October 26*, will be a continuation of our hugely successful 2025 Greek Festival and serve to enhance fellowship and community, peace and love toward each other, good deeds and unity with Christ. For our 65th Anniversary sponsorship book, we encourage all those who will be attending this important event; please bring us your most

most treasured "remembrances" of yourself, your family, and how Saints Peter and Paul helped to foster your growth as an Orthodox Christian: it could be in the form of a short story, or a poem, pictures from your family photo album and any, memorabilia, newspaper clippings, photos, or film, so that we may capture these memories into a Sponsorship book that can remain as a personal keepsake. For further information, please contact [phaedrakoulogeorge@gmail.com](mailto:phaedrakoulogeorge@gmail.com) Be on the lookout for our 65th Anniversary station in the fellowship hall, after church. Tables are filling up fast and we all want to make certain, that family and friends are present at this unique event.

As mentioned before, the Committee still welcomes volunteers for this event. Those who can help out with invitations, Flowers, and Children's entertainment are most certainly welcome.

Committee Chairs: Steve and Phaedra Koulogeorge can be reached at: [skoulogeorge@gmail.com](mailto:skoulogeorge@gmail.com) and [phaedrakoulogeorge@gmail.com](mailto:phaedrakoulogeorge@gmail.com).



# 65TH ANNIVERSARY

## Personal messages and photos encouraged

Sponsorship opportunities range from \$300 - \$5000.

*Kindly reply by October 6*





2025 OCAMPR Conference

# THE PASSIONS:

## The Theology & Science of Addictions & Compulsions

### PLENARY SPEAKERS

Oct 2 - 4  
Mundelein, IL

#### PSYCHOLOGY



REV. FR. DIMITRIOS  
MORAITIS, DMIN

#### MEDICINE



JENNA NIKOLAIDES,  
MD, MA, FACEP

#### THEOLOGY



V. REV. FR. MAXIMOS  
CONSTAS, PHD  
*VIRTUAL PRESENTATION*



#### KEYNOTE

RIGHT REV. SERAFIM

Bishop of Kostajnica, Vicar to the  
Metropolitan of Midwestern America

Register on  
[ocampr.org](https://ocampr.org)



**OCAMPR**  
Orthodox Christian Association of  
Medicine, Psychology, and Religion

**CONVERSATION. CONNECTION. COMMUNITY.**

OCAMPR is a grateful recipient of a 2024 Hellenic Foundation grant award.

# SEPTEMBER 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 +INDICTION - ECCLESIASTICAL NEW YEAR  OFFICE CLOSED 8:30am ORTHROS-MATINS 9:30am DIVINE LITURGY	2  8pm Bball Men's YAL (pickup)	3  8:30pm Bball Men over 40 (pickup)	4  7am Men's Study at SSPP 10am Dynamis "Kali Parea" Breakfast at Georgie V's in Northbrook, IL	5  5pm VESPERS	6  5pm VESPERS
7 +SUNDAY BEFORE CROSS 8:15am ORTHROS-MATINS 9:30am DIVINE LITURGY 11am Church School Begins 11:30am Stand Up to Jewish Hate/All Hate Sunday 12pm Parish Picnic & Fall Youth Kickoff & Backpack Blessing	8 +NATIVITY OF THEOTOKOS 8:30am ORTHROS-MATINS 9:30am DIVINE LITURGY 4:30pm Greek School Classes Begin 7pm YAL Bonfire & Monday Night Football	9 6:30pm Philoptochos Board Mtg 7pm Cancer Support 8pm Bball Men's YAL (pickup)	10  7pm Choir Rehearsal 8:30pm Bball Men over 40 (pickup)	11 7am Men's Study 10am Dynamis "Kali Parea" Breakfast at Georgie V's in Northbrook, IL 6pm PC Exec Mtg	12  5:30pm FLJ Kick Off	13 9am YAL Habitat for Humanity 9:30am Greek School Classes Begin 5pm VESPERS 7pm GREAT VESPERS at Holy Cross in Justice, IL
14 +EXALTATION OF HOLY CROSS  FAST DAY 8:15am ORTHROS-MATINS 9:30am DIVINE LITURGY	15 + ST SOPHIA	16 +ST EUPHEMIA  7pm GREAT VESPERS at St Sophia GOC in Elgin, IL 7pm Catechism Class Begins 8pm Bball Men's YAL (pickup)	17 +ST SOPHIA <b>Patriarch Bartholomew US Visit</b> 8:30am ORTHROS-MATINS 9:30am DIVINE LITURGY 7pm Sn. GOYA Gathering 8:30pm Bball Men over 40 (pickup)	18  7am Men's Study 10am Dynamis "Kali Parea" Breakfast at Georgie V's in Northbrook, IL 6:30pm Jr. GOYA Gathering	19  +ST EUSTATHIOS	20 +ST EUSTATHIOS  10:30am AGAPE Meet and Greet 10:30am Blessing Lake Michigan, Dive for Cross & Youth BBQ in Chicago, IL 11am Metropolis - Philoptochos Luncheon at Concorde Banquets 5pm VESPERS
21 +SUNDAY AFTER CROSS	22  8:15am ORTHROS-MATINS 9:30am DIVINE LITURGY 11:15am Church School Open House	23 +CONCEPTION OF FORERUNNER  7pm Catechism Class 7pm Sn. GOYA Gathering 8pm Bball Men's YAL (pickup)	24  6pm FLJ Gathering 8:30pm Bball Men over 40 (pickup)	25 7am Men's Study 10am Dynamis "Kali Parea" Breakfast at Georgie V's in Northbrook, IL 6:30pm Philoptochos Membership Nite 7pm Parish Council Mtg	26 +DORMITION OF ST JOHN EVANGELIST  8:30am ORTHROS-MATINS 9:30am DIVINE LITURGY 6:30pm Jr. GOYA Gathering	27  5pm VESPERS
28 +1ST SUN LUKE / 16TH SUN 8:15am ORTHROS-MATINS 9:30am DIVINE LITURGY 11am MINISTRY FAIR 12pm Greek Dance 1pm Greek Dance	29  8am METROPOLIS GOLF OUTING at Wynstone Golf Club in North Barrington	30  7pm Catechism Class 8pm Bball Men's YAL (pickup)			<b>COMING IN OCTOBER</b> 4 SSPP Golf-Outing / IOCC Walk-Run 5 Church Music Sunday 6-9 National Clergy Retreat 18 Philoptochos Cancer Walk 26 SSPP 65th Anniversary Gala 28 PROTECTION OF THEOTOKOS 28 Oxi Day 30 AGAPE / FLJ Trunk or Treat	



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Glenview, IL 60025*

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PETER  
& PAUL

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH