
THE MESSENGER

NOVEMBER 2025

SAINTS PETER & PAUL

p.1

A Message from Father Rick Father Richard Demetrius Andrews

Greetings Brothers and Sisters:

We had another successful Golf-Outing (Oct.4). Thanks to **Christ Atsaves** for organizing and to everyone who played, contributed, or made a sponsorship.

Other activities that took place in October were the annual International Orthodox Christian Charities IOCC Walk-Run (Oct.4); Church Music Sunday (5), National Clergy Retreat (6-9), Philoptochos Cancer Walk (18); St Demetrios Feastday & 65th Anniversary Gala (26); Protection of Theotokos Feast & Oxi Day (28); Agape Trunk or Treat (30).

The month of **November** is always busy with the Daylight Savings Time--Fall back 1 hour (2), Metropolis Clergy Laity Philoptochos Assembly (4-6), Ministry Council Mtg (6), Veterans' Day (11), beginning of the Advent Fast (15), St Matthew the Evangelist (16), and Thanksgiving holiday (27-28).

But it is also rich with our sister communities feasts days: *Haralambos-Taxiarhae* in Niles (8) & *St. Nectarios* in Palantine (9); *St John Chrysostom* in Kenosha WI (13); *St Katherine Chapel* at Assumption Chicago (25), *St Andrew* in Chicago (30). We celebrate one of the major feast days with the *Entrance of Theotokos* (21).

However, we have another important feast on *Nov.1st* of the Holy Unmercenary Healers *Kosmas and Damianos*. Also, on this same day is the feast of **St. James/Iakovos of Kastoria**. He was tonsured at Docheiariou Monastery on Mount Athos. By God's grace, Saint James was able to perceive the mysteries of human hearts, and the secret thoughts of those who came to him. He was also found worthy of the gift of performing miracles. The Turkish authorities fabricated false charges against the Saint, accusing him of fomenting rebellion. In this manner, they tried to force Saint James into renouncing Orthodoxy. Saint

James and both of his disciples, Deacon James and the Monk Dionysios, endured the most severe torments for seventeen days, receiving the crown of martyrdom on *November 1, 1520*. St James-Iakovos is important to our parish because our holy altar table contain a portion of his holy relics, which were deposited therein when our temple was consecrated on *November 19, 1978*. Let us honor him and ask for his intercessions on our behalf.

We remind everyone that the **Children's Sermon** to right after the Gospel and the Adult Sermon to right before or after Holy Communion. It is extremely important for both adults and kids to **be on-time** for Divine Liturgy which starts at 9:30am. If we are not here for the children's sermon, that means we are also missing the antiphons, the trisagion hymn, the epistle and gospel reading. Why? Because **the Word of God is just as important as the Eucharist!** The Body of Christ (both as Holy

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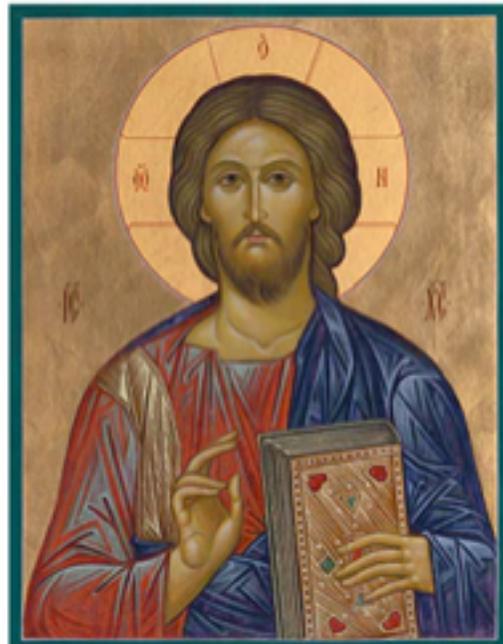
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Rev. Dn. Theodore Saclarides, M.D.

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Matins 7:45am & Divine Liturgy 9am

Sunday & Weekly Services

Matins 8:15 am

Divine Liturgy 9:30 am

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Friday: 9:00am-3:00pm

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Vice President: Christy Gouletas

Secretary: Sophia Castleberry

Corresponding Secretary: Julie Savopoulos

Treasurer: Nick Colis

Assistant Treasurer: George Seletos

Vanessa Adinamis

Mary Alukos

Keith Anderson

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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

Communion and a communion of the members) is constituted around the Logos/Word of Truth. For our bodies to be enlightened, our mind, heart and soul must be illumined with words of our Lord and His Apostles.

In line with the Metropolis Vision of Growth initiative that highlights the catechumenate, we host again the **Fall Catechism course** on *Tuesday evenings 7-9pm* which began on *September 16th*. These classes are open to everyone, especially catechumens, seekers, inquirers and current Orthodox Christians wishing to deepen their knowledge of the Orthodox Faith. Currently, we have about 30 students registered for the course.

Please notice that the old original **windows were replaced in the gymnasium** with thermal double pane energy efficient windows. Thanks always to *John Vranas* for his leadership and diligence in making sure our buildings and grounds are up to date and working well!

Third quarter stewardship giving statements were mailed in mid-October. We are now entering the last quarter of the year and thus wrapping up our 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.” During this time, we encourage our parishioners who have not yet made a stewardship contribution, and/or have a pledge balance, to make a generous and sacrificial contribution asap. We want to avoid the last-minute rush at the end of the year. Please give now and give regularly. We appreciate monthly gifts. <https://onrealm.org/ssppglview/-/form/give/now>

November is traditionally stewardship month and in addition to our year-end push, we are pleased to introduce our 2026 Archdiocese Stewardship Theme: “Rise Up and Build: Building Up the Body of Christ.” The words of the prophet Nehemiah to the Jewish people when he saw the crumbling walls of Jerusalem “Rise up and build” (Neh.2:19), apply to us today. We must continually rise up and build up the Body of Christ. We the people together form the Body of Christ—to care out His ministry in our modern time. We are called to build up the walls of our parish temples, and at the same time, tear down the walls/barriers in and around our parish that prevent people from experiencing the love, mercy and forgiveness of Christ. We do this by building up our worship and ministries. Receiving the Body of Christ in

the Eucharist means little if we are not building up each other, carrying one another’s burdens and fulfilling the law of Christ (Galatians 6:2).

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 five percent (5%) annual giving** as we move into 2026.

Sabbatical Leave

As noted in recent newsletter and bulletin, with the blessing of Metropolitan Nathanael, the support of the Parish Council and the Archdiocese Presbyters Council, I was awarded a three-month **sabbatical** which I plan to take in Summer 2026. This will be my first sabbatical in 31 years of service, and I thank everyone for their prayerful support. Because clergy sabbaticals are so rare, understandably many have questions. What is it? Why is our priest taking one? Is there something wrong with the priest? What will he do during his sabbatical?

A sabbatical is an extended period of time away from one’s usual work to devote to research

PASTORAL MESSAGE

and/or rest. The primary purpose is to recharge and return to work rejuvenated and invigorated. Sabbaticals are most common in colleges and universities where professors take a semester or a whole year away from teaching and administrative duties. They usually devote their sabbatical to research and writing.

Although extremely uncommon among Greek Orthodox clergy, sabbaticals are somewhat common among Protestant clergy. Even though the Archdiocese and Uniform Parish Regulations provide for a three-month sabbatical for every six years of continuous service in a parish, very few priests take them. In addition, Hierarchs and parish communities rarely encourage their clergy to take a sabbatical.

Many people notice the prevalence of clergy divorce and misconduct along with declining physical and mental health among a number of priests. The Archdiocese Presbyters Council (APC) proposed a sabbatical program that was approved by the Eparchial Synod of the Greek Archdiocese just two years ago. The APC knew the importance of clergy health and wellness. So, they created a program that provides concrete guidelines to apply for a sabbatical. In addition, the program provides financial

assistance to underwrite the cost of the sabbatical and to provide a temporarily assigned priest (TAP) while the clergy is away. The parish only needs to maintain the regular remuneration and benefits to their priest during the sabbatical.

The only time most clergy take extended breaks from their ministry is when they are significantly ill or debilitated or suspension because of misconduct, naturally some might say: What's wrong with our priest? Why is he taking a sabbatical? Rest assured, there is nothing wrong with me. Thankfully, I am not sick or ill, nor have I engaged in misconduct. As I stated from the outset, I am taking sabbatical because I am entitled to it under the UPR, because I received permission from Metropolitan Nathanael, and I received a grant from the APC program.

The next question: what are you going to do while on sabbatical? Because I have already earned my doctoral degree, and because I have many certifications in law enforcement and disaster chaplaincy, I will not be doing any academic research or study. At the strong encouragement of His Eminence, the coordinator of the APC program, and the few clergy who previously took sabbaticals, I will be devoting my time to rest,

recreation, and travel. I do not have specific plans in place at this time.

Another question is: What will we the parishioners do when Fr. Rick is away? An important component of the sabbatical is complete disconnection from parish duties. Thus, not only will I be absent from all parish events including worship, sacraments and administration, I will not be checking my work email, I will not be answering phone calls and texts from parishioners. Thankfully, we have a very capable associate priest, Fr. Peter Sarolas, who will step and step up to fulfil the priestly duties in my absence. Fr. Peter will be supported by the Parish Council, our local Vicar, the chancellor's office and Metropolitan Nathanael if the need arises.

Again, I want to thank everyone for their understanding and support to take my sabbatical. I hope this answers some of the questions and I am happy to answer other questions as they come up.

With Gratitude!
+Fr. Rick

MODERN HERESIES -TRANSGENDERISM

PART 7

In my original lecture series on Modern Heresies, given in Saint Paul Minnesota back in 2017, I did not include this month's topic about transgenderism. However, much has changed in the last eight years, and it is important to address this somewhat novel heresy which I did during a talk on this subject at St Michael Carpatho Russian Orthodox Church in Niles this past April. Almost all the material shared here comes from the excellent book *"A History of Transgender Ideology & Gender Dysphoria: The truth about the social contagion killing our youth: historical analysis, data, and context everyone needs to know"* by Benjamin Cabe, published in 2023. He shares from the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*, also known as the DSM. *"Individuals with gender dysphoria have a marked incongruence between the gender they have been assigned to (usually at birth, referred to as natal gender) and their experienced/expressed gender. This discrepancy is the core component of the diagnosis."*—DSM-5, p. 453. American Psychiatric Publishing.

In 2018, Dr. Lisa Littman published research that stated: "Rapid-onset gender dysphoria (ROGD) describes a phenomenon where the development of gender

dysphoria is observed to begin suddenly during or after puberty in an adolescent or young adult who would not have met criteria for gender dysphoria in childhood. ROGD appears to represent an entity that is distinct from the gender dysphoria observed in individuals who have previously been described as transgender."⁵

Trans rights advocates did not appreciate her work; as a result of publishing, Littman endured grave social abuse. Eventually, the complaints of transphobia and biased research reached Brown University, who retracted the study for further inspection. A year later, the study was published with small adjustments in phraseology but no changes in data or findings. The findings were likewise unchanged: the *"cluster outbreaks of gender dysphoria...raise the possibility of social and peer contagion."*⁶

The point here, of course, is that children identifying as trans or nonbinary may indeed be experiencing significant distress, pain, and confusion. But such things are a normal part of growing up that tend to resolve naturally. Instead of allowing children to experience the natural discomfort in their changing bodies, however, they are now told that the cause of their distress is gender dysphoria. As they

begin to read more about this online and participate in friend groups where it is in vogue, they begin to manifest even more symptoms that point to the diagnosis. They are then told that living out "their truth" through social transition, cross-sex hormones, and medical transition will solve all these problems. When such affirmation becomes the primary model of care for youth, social contagion explodes.

But this was not always the primary model of care for gender dysphoria. In fact, it is recent (c. 2016). The leading expert in treating gender dysphoria, Dr. Kenneth Zucker, had been advocating what he called "watchful waiting" for years, wherein no immediate intervention is taken for the self-identifying trans-individual. Instead, the therapist and client would venture on a period of time (typically a few years) where they would observe, together, the psychological movements of the dysphoria. Although this method was radically successful in demonstrating that many children with gender dysphoria grow out of it shortly after puberty – a fact that would later be bolstered by eleven separate studies around the world, wherein it was observed that this was consonant with roughly 80% of children who present with gender dysphoria¹¹ –

MODERN HERESIES -TRANSGENDERISM

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Zucker was booted out of his position at Toronto's Center for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) in 2016 when his "watchful waiting" technique fell out of favor with the progressive society's new version of treatment: gender affirming care."

How Did We Get Here?

Cabe posits the current transgender friendly stance to the sad developments that occurred in phenomenology over the centuries. Three of which were pointed out earlier in the modern heresies' series. "The mainstream acceptance of transgender ideology is traceable to a series of cultural shifts over the last few hundred years according Dr. Carl Trueman in his excellent work, *The Rise and Triumph of the Modern Self*. Reflecting on American sociologist Philip Rieff's three world assessment model of culture, Trueman explains that throughout history there have been *three primary paradigms*.

The **first** was belief in fate and the gods like the Greeks of antiquity, which Reif calls a **first world culture**. A **second** paradigm bloomed with the rise – and widespread acceptance of – Christianity. *Fate was replaced by faith* and the divine will; polytheism was replaced with monotheism. With the advent of modern science followed by the

technological advancements of the industrial revolutions, however, the broader cultural paradigm replaced the supernatural with the natural. This movement from what Rieff calls the second world culture of Christianity to the **third** world culture now prevalent in society was an *open rebellion against the transcendent*: which is something both the first and second world cultures shared in common. In third world cultures, there is no objective meaning or truth – there is not fate or divine will. There is no plan. That which is right is said to be so because people feel it to be right; two individuals can disagree on truth and both be correct, according to this model, because truth is inherently internal, based on feelings, subjective, and individually personal. Truth is relative: what is right for someone does not mean it's right for everyone. Charles Taylor called this the immanent frame as opposed to a transcendent frame (for the first and second world cultures).

Indeed, just as the third world culture replaced the supernatural with the natural, the **fourth** has replaced the natural with the *unnatural* – objective *scientific fact for science fiction*. I would argue that the fourth world culture is in fact one that has replaced *fact with fantasy*; one that has

cultivated a social imaginary, in Taylor's words, that allows for the expression of general, societal truths rooted in its own fantastical first principles.

By the time of the industrial revolution, Marx would frame history as a long stream of oppression; by the time of Freud, ultimate fulfillment was considered to be satisfying suppressed desires through sexual expression. Between Marx and Freud, "*society now intuitively associates sexual freedom with political freedom*," according to Trueman, "*because the notion that...we are defined by our sexual desires is something that has penetrated all levels of our culture*."¹⁶ This is precisely why, over the last one hundred years, sexual preference (or sexual orientation to use the modern terminology) is considered directly connected to personhood."

This concludes our seven-part series on Modern Heresies. I pray that it helpful to everyone in discerning the truth about God, humankind and our relationship with Him.

THANK YOU CHRIS ASTAVES!

We want to thank Chris for his 23 years of service as the Athletic Director. He has revamped, maintained, and grown the athletic program to become what it is today. In addition to serving as the Athletic Director, he has coached multiple teams and drawn hundreds of kids closer to Christ throughout his tenure. We cannot thank him enough for all he has done for Saints Peter and Paul.



Congrats and thank you to Chris Astaves for 23 years as SSPP Athletic Director! On October 12th, our parish honored his tireless dedication to generations of youth. Our new co-directors, Steve Conway and Chris Batrich, have big shoes to fill—just as Chris did when he succeeded George Nassos in 2002.



Chris coaching junior olympics and winning medals - May 2017



Chris with his one of the basketball teams he coached 06-27-16

PASTORAL MESSAGE

FROM FATHER PETER

A Message from Father Peter

St. Katherine: Have you heard the phrase that a picture is worth a thousand words? If you notice that all around our church we see icons, they are not pictures or photographs. The icons in our churches tell us a story. In our case it is an event regarding Jesus' life such as His Crucifixion, Resurrection, etc. What about a Saint? If we look at the icon of **St. Andrew** who is always depicted with a cross upside down or an "X", it is because **St. Andrew** felt that he was not worthy to die on the cross as did his teacher, Jesus. Sometimes you will find a Saint who is holding an infant, that saint is **St. Stylianos** who is the patron saint of infants. There are men and women saints that are depicted in icons holding a cross and sometimes they are even shown with their other hand up, they are martyrs. In some icons, the martyrs also have their hands out which tells us that they are open to God's will. Each icon tells us a story of a thousand words about a particular saint and/or event in Christ's life.

On *November 25th*, we celebrate the feast day of a young woman who died in what she believed in. A young rich teenager who had it all. She died in the fourth century. She died for something that she believed in and that was Jesus.

St. Katherine was the daughter of the ruler of Alexandria, named Konsta. We really do not know much about her mother or her mother's name. Katherine was one of the richest women in Alexandria. She was tall and very beautiful. Katherine was very wise as well. She became a Christian later in her life under the influence of her mother. Many of her relatives were Christians as well. They felt that this was important due to the position of her father. Meaning they were afraid that the pagans would take over Alexandria and promote their beliefs on them.

Katherine would often turn down marriage proposals. Since she was very wealthy and very beautiful. She would often tell people that she was looking for

someone who is richer than she was and more polite than she was. Someone who was wiser than she was. Someone who was more beautiful than she was. That someone did not exist during her times but that did not stop people from looking to try to find that special soul mate for Katherine.

One day her mother told her to visit the Ascetic who was teaching and guiding her family about Jesus. The ascetic had heard of Katherine's wise words about her ideal man. The ascetic would later tell Katherine about a man who was very wise, who had riches, who was handsome. Katherine wanted to meet this man. As it turns out, it was Jesus that the ascetic was talking about. The ascetic told Katherine one day to pray before the icon which he had just given her. The icon was of Panagia holding the infant Jesus in her arms. The ascetic instructed Katherine that if she prayed to the icon, Jesus would reveal Himself to her. She went home that day and did as she was told. She prayed all night to the icon, and she fell asleep holding the icon in her arms. The Lord looked elsewhere though, and not at St. Katherine. Katherine changed her stance to look at the Lord, but He again turned away. This happened three times. It was then that the Virgin Mary spoke to the Lord: "Look at your servant Katherine, who surpasses all those of her age in riches, wisdom, beauty and politeness. *The Lord refused. As long as she is an idolater, she is uneducated, poor and beneath contempt! That is why I cannot look at her. The Blessed Virgin Mary begged Her Son not to disown Katherine. The Blessed Virgin Mary spoke to her Son saying: Tell her what she must do to enjoy Your Glory and see Your Face. The Lord replied: Tell Katherine to go to the ascetic who gave her the Icon. He will tell her what to do.*

When Katherine awoke, she went immediately to the ascetic and asked to be baptized. The ascetic sent

her away again to pray to the icon of the Panagia and ask for guidance. Katherine was dressed in her baptismal garment and again prayed all night to the icon of the Panagia. She eventually fell asleep and saw the Virgin Mary and the Infant Christ again. *The Virgin Mary spoke to Our Lord: How do you see Our Daughter Katherine now? He replied: She is bright and glorious, rich and wise. I accept her as my bride. Katherine knelt down in tears. I am not worthy Lord to reign with you. Let me be one of your servants, she said. It was then that the Virgin Mary took hold of Katherine's right hand and said: Give her Lord the Ring of Betrothal, to allow her to be Your Bride and to reign with You." Immediately the Lord gave Katherine a beautiful ring and said: From Today you are My Bride. Keep this agreement and never marry on earth.* When Katherine woke, she had the ring on her right hand. She was eighteen, and she was dedicated to the Lord.

There was an emperor during the time of Katherine named Maximinus. He was intrigued by St. Katherine's beauty, wisdom, and logic. He many times tried to pursue St. Katherine in being his bride, but Katherine would not have anything to do with him. The emperor Maximinus commanded a festival to be held to the (idol) gods, and many animals were sacrificed. Watching this in sadness, Katherine went to the emperor and told him that his gods were demons of fantasies and illusions. She told him that there was only one God, whose word maintains the world. When the Emperor Maximinus decreed that all his subjects should offer sacrifices to the gods of Rome, it was then that Katherine showed the strength of her faith. Katherine walked into the temple where sacrifices were being offered and rebuked the emperor and told him that there is only one true God, Christ.

PASTORAL MESSAGE

FROM FATHER PETER

He was furious but he did not say anything because he did not wish to open a theological debate with Katherine. He knew her wisdom and he feared being made a laughingstock in front of all his subjects. He decided therefore, to invite one hundred fifty of his most learned speakers to discuss the true God with Katherine. Katherine's wisdom defeated them all. Many turned to God themselves. The emperor Maximinus was furious and ordered the one hundred fifty speakers to be beheaded. Katherine blessed them all. They all went down the road to Martyrdom. The emperor Maximinus tried to persuade Katherine to renounce her faith. Katherine refused. He ordered her to be beaten until she bled, then to be thrown into prison. Even in prison she converted many to Christianity with the strength of her faith, including Queen Faustina, her lieutenant and two hundred soldiers. All were executed. The emperor Maximinus had ordered Katherine to be tied to a wheel which

had blades around it. As it turned it would slice into her skin, and she would die a painful death. An Angel of the Lord broke the wheel in half, and St. Katherine suffered nothing. The emperor Maximinus ordered Katherine to be beheaded. Even then, as she was executed, witnesses saw milk flow from her wounds instead of blood. Katherine was executed on the *25th of November* 305 AD, and Katherine was eighteen years old. It is said that five centuries later a monk had the vision of angels carrying the celestial body of St. Katherine upon the highest mountain. On top of this mountain, which later was named Mount Katherine, monks found the intact body of St. Katherine emitting sweet smelling myrrh. Today the skull and her left hand remained in the Church of the Transfiguration, of Mount Sinai. The church/monastery that bears her name was originally named Holy Transfiguration but was later changed to St. Katherine's monastery. Every year on

the twenty fifth of November the monks celebrate the anniversary of St. Katherine's martyrdom, and her relics are carried in a great procession around the Church. St. Katherine is indeed a remarkable young lady that showed tremendous faith in the Lord. Now we know why she is depicted with a wheel next to her in some of the icons. May St. Katherine intercede in our lives and be an example to us all.

In His Service,
Fr. Peter Sarolas, Economos



YOUTH GROUP UPDATE

HELLO SAINTS PETER AND PAUL

We had a busy October! Our Hope group met at Cunliff Park for a fun day where our youngest children from the church got to run around and play together.

Our Faith Love Joy group got off to a fast start as we discussed what it means to pray and explored our faith through activities. We combined with agape preschool and had our Trunk-Or-Treat outside in our parking lot. There was a lot of cool costumes.

The Junior GOYA painted our gaga ball pit, showcasing their artistic skills. They also spent an exciting evening at Urban Air, enjoying go-karts, trampolines, rope climbing, and laser tag.

The Senior GOYA held a cake bake-off and worked hard to create the best cake. All the cakes were delicious! We also had a Senior GOYA parklesis service where we prayed to the Theotokos in the church. Additionally, we visited Richardson Farms and ran through the largest corn maze in the world. We got to pet animals and even watched pig races—a fun Sunday afternoon!

Coming up, we have our Junior and Senior GOYA retreat at the *Saint Iakovos Retreat Center from November 14-16*. Please reach out to me if you are interested. This weekend retreat will include spiritual learning, games, and activities, and it is typically a favorite event for our youth. I hope you can make it!

*Stay on the lookout for more Project Mexico meeting dates. We are very excited to be attend Project Mexico over the summer and build houses for those in need.

Thanks!
Steven Thell - Youth Director



Jr. GOYA @ Urban air 10-17-25



Senior GOYA Paraklesis service 10-8-25



Father Peter discussing the faith at FLJ 10-3-25

PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Meeting of September 18th, 2025

Parishioner Comments – None.

Youth Report: (Elea Bentley for Steven Thell)

- The youth kickoff went very well. Dental Digest came and talked with the youth about streaming. This year's focus is for youth to reflect on the amount of time spent on phones and the content watched online.
- The Faith/Love/ Joy kickoff went very well. We had a bounce house and games for the kids in the gym. Both JR and SR GOYA are creating GOYA boards. This gives them more responsibility and leadership roles. The church barbecue went well, and we had a lot of food.
- Steven worked with Lisa, Fr Rick's virtual assistant, to create basketball sign-ups through Realm. Steven sent the sign-up link in his youth emails.
- Steven is looking to "re-boot" the Hope Group; our children's group is for ages 0-5 and their parents. The Hope Group met at Cunliff Park on September 27th. More to follow!!!

Parish Administrator Report: (Elea Bentley)

- The new payroll platform and system began in test mode; feedback received, was that it was easy to use.
- Administrative focus has turned to reviewing and re-testing our current security system:

Capital Projects and Maintenance (Elea Bentley for John Vranas):

- The work in the Latto Center classrooms has been completed. The rooms have been utilized by the church School this past Sunday. The total expense is anticipated to be under \$75,000 budgeted amount. Bill Dimitriadis, the painter, generously donated his labor to paint the classrooms.
- The windows on the upper level of the Latto Center have been replaced with very little impact on the interior finishes. The gymnasium window replacement is scheduled to commence this week.
- The contract with IGS for natural gas expires in December. We will be looking at a slight cost increase. John recommended going with the 23-or 35-month contract. A motion was made (George Seletos) to approve extending the IGS contract for a 35-month term, Mackris seconded. The motion carried.

Clergy Report: (Father Peter for Father Rick)

- Fr Rick noted that Fr. Peter is doing a great job as our new associate pastor. Father Peter has stepped in to do liturgies, funerals and pastoral visitations, especially during Father Rick's day off which is Friday. Fr. Peter's day off is Monday. Father Rick and Father Peter will meet every week to coordinate our ministerial activities and continue with his onboarding.
- Fr. Peter will be attending the first Leadership Accelerator intensive at St Iakovos Retreat Center October 20-23.

- Father Rick will be away this weekend for a wedding in Minneapolis. Father Rick be on vacation in Ireland Sept.24-Oct.1. Father Rick will be at the National Clergy Retreat in Naples Oct.5-10. Father Rick's sabbatical leave was approved by the Metropolis, and he received a grant (1 of 3 clergy in the US) from the Archdiocese Presbyters Council. He plans to take the sabbatical next summer 2026. Father Rick thanked the parish council, Metropolitan Nathanael and the APC for their support.

- The National Presbyteras Retreat is in San Antonio Texas Oct.16-19. Metropolitan Nathanael issued a letter to all parish councils on 06/25/2025 strongly encouraging parishes to support their presbyteras(s) to attend the retreat. The cost breakdown of registrations, flight, and hotel for both Presbyteras total \$1,473.00. A motion was made (Jim Santos) to approve the expenditures for our Presbyteras to attend the retreat. John Mackris seconded the motion, and it was passed.

- Several months ago, the Church's liturgical epistle book disappeared, and we have been unable to locate it. The council has researched and selected a replacement gold-covered book at a cost of \$1,700 from Crown Church Supplies in Greece. As we have already received a donation from a parishioner to cover the cost, no formal vote was needed for approve the expenditure.

- The Metropolis of Chicago's Clergy-Laity biennial event will take place at the Meridian in Rolling Meadows Nov.5-6. In addition to the ex-officio delegates of the parish priest and the parish council president, we have two additional representatives: Mrs Sophia Lehocky-Castleberry and Mr Dean Matsas for these open roles. Without a parish assembly meeting schedule before the clergy-laity, we need parish council approval for the two additional delegates. Fr. Peter will also attend the clergy laity.

- Fr. Rick, Fr. Peter, Steven Thell and Chris Atsaves will meet next Monday with the two prospective athletic directors. We anticipate a co-director or director and assistant director arrangement. Fr. Rick met with George Seletos to review the designated memorials. Fr. Rick will be reaching out to families to share the memorial designation policy and encourage them to designate a fund or project. Parallel to this effort, Fr. Rick and Fr. Peter have been working diligently to identify projects to enhance our sanctuary and sacred appointments. Some examples include new sacristy vestment cabinets, new vestment coverings for altar etc., new icon stand, new artoklasia stand, festal icons, mural icons. All projects will be presented to parish council for approval when bids and designations are ready.

- Furla Studios began working on Fr Angelo's Portrait. Pres. Patricia has approved the proof. As discussed at last pc exec mtg, Glenview police will be contacted to conduct a security review. We will likely re-start our internal security committee to review and propose changes/updates to our security plans.

Correspondence:

We received letters from the Metropolis regarding reviewing the clergy compensation across the metropolis in accordance with clergy compensation guidelines and provided recommended clergy

PARISH COUNCIL

compensation and housing allowances for Father Rick and Father Peter.

We received a donation request from the National Forum of Greek Orthodox Musicians.

Approval of prior minutes: Ronstadt made a motion to approve August 21st , 2025 meeting minutes, Karagiannis seconded, and it carried.

Executive Report: (Christy Gouletas for Steve Koulogeorge): 65th anniversary email blast went out. We currently have around 320 seats; we committed to 300-400 seats. The price will not increase this weekend; it was decided to be too early, but it may be increased in early October.

- o The 65th anniversary dinner is on 10/26.
- o We have tentatively scheduled our Parish Assembly for 11/09.
- o Notification(s) to be sent out October 27th.

Stewardship Report: (George Karagiannis):

The full report is included in the meeting packet. The next Stewardship meeting is on 10/20. Our Stewardship Committee – Is still looking for new members. For further information, contact our Office Administrator at Elea@sspplenview.org.

Financial Report: (George Seletos/Nik Colis)

The 2026 budget is in process. Nick and George will look to present for approval in October. Nick and George are still looking for a source to fund the virtual assistant. While they are looking, they recommend extending through the month of October, cost will be about \$1,845 per month. Santos made a motion to extend through October, Rassmussen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Parish Health Team Report: (Keith Anderson)

Keith took the council through the draft of the parish health plan as it stands right now, he will also send this out to the council. The team is looking to meet with smaller groups from the parish to gather feedback on the priority objectives identified by the team to gather feedback. The team will present the plan to council in October and at the Parish Assembly in November.

Old Business:

Sophia Castleberry and Dean Matsas volunteered to be our two additional delegates at the Clergy-Laity Assembly. Gouletas made a motion to approve, Santos seconded the motion, and it carried.

New Business:

The attorneys from the Lorraine Christy trust contacted us to fill out tax forms. Jim Santos confirmed the trust has been settled. Steve and Elea filled out the relevant information needed to complete the tax forms and the documents were forwarded.

motion to approve, Santos seconded the motion, and it carried.

New Business:

The attorneys from the Lorraine Christy trust contacted us to fill out tax forms. Jim Santos confirmed the trust has been settled. Steve and Elea filled out the relevant information needed to complete the tax forms and the documents were forwarded.

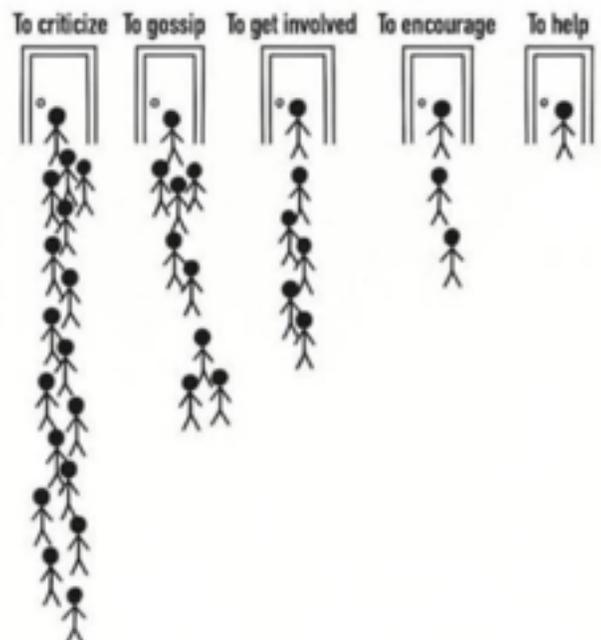
Dismissal: Colis made a motion to adjourn, Gouletas seconded, and it carried. The meeting ended at 8:13PM.

The October/November period, is the time to consider running for the Parish Council. We are currently looking for those with talents in accounting, bookkeeping and legal.

Be Involved. . . Be Committed. . . Get Inspired. . . BE PRESENT! ! !

In Christ,
Steve J. Koulogeorge
Parish Council President

The Lines of Life



OUR LIFE TOGETHER

**Welcome our newest members to our beautiful parish:
*Ezra and Georgia Clark, Asimina Panagakis and Theodore Tsekouras***



Faith, Love and Joy celebrated Steven's birthday in October.



Elevation Feast of the Holy Cross on 09.14.25



*Church Music Sunday on 10.05.25
Thank you to our Choir and Chanters !*

OUR LIFE TOGETHER



GOLF OUTING



GOLF OUTING



Christening of Jessica (Theodora) Mercer on October 5th. Sponsor is Jennifer Kyriakouplos. Congratulations!



40 Day Churching for Julie Stefanski & baby Zoe on September 28th. Congratulations to all including Dad--Foti Savopoulos!

Do You or Your Family Celebrate a Name Day in
September, October, or November?

If so, join us in hosting

Coffee Fellowship with the autumn Saints!

Sunday, November 9th (after liturgy)

Please consider donating refreshments, sharing an icon of your Patron Saint for the
table and/or serving coffee.

Let's celebrate together while honoring our Saints!

For more information, call or text Carrie Colis at 847.921.4736





**Coffee Connection:
Connecting in Faith and Fellowship
An Educational Ministry Open to All Adults**



To deeply connect with God and each other.



**This Year's Theme is:
"The Creed: Why Does It Still Matter
1700 Years Later?"**

Sessions are Sundays in the Youth Room following
Holy Communion.
As always, watch for future updates.

Fall 2025 Schedule

| Date | Topic |
|---|--|
| October 5 | Introduction to The Creed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why have a Creed? • Why this Creed? • Does it still matter? |
| October 26 | Father Almighty <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who do you think He is? • Old Testament/New Testament view of God the Father |
| November 2 <i>College Care Packages</i> | Creator of Heaven and Earth <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does the Creed speak to our relationship with the created world and the environment? |
| November 23 | Jesus, Only-begotten...Consubstantial with the Father <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are modern misunderstandings of who The Son of God is? • Does it matter if Jesus is "true God of true God"? |
| December 14 | Became Man...Truly Human <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does it mean to be a human being? • How can we draw from Christ becoming human to prepare for the true meaning of Christmas? |

Questions? Contact coffeeconnection@ssppglenview.org

Or visit

<https://ssppglenview.org/education/adult-education/coffee-connection/>



saturday night opa!

SAINTS PETER & PAUL
INVITE YOU TO

Save
the
Date

FOR OUR ANNUAL GLENDI SUPPORTING
AGAPE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY
SATURDAY JANUARY 31, 2026
CONCORDE BANQUETS

dance like zorba, sparkle like disco

BOOK STORE AND MORE

BOOK AND ICON STORE

As we approach the Holiday Season and begin to prepare for everyone on your list, stop in to your Book and Icon Store first. We're prepared to please with a large selection of gifts for Orthodox Christians of all ages that will be sure to leave lasting memories. With Advent beginning November 15th, begin each day reading a daily devotion written by Father Stavros, in his book [Let All Creation Rejoice](#). We've got a new selection of ornaments and Nativity Scenes to decorate your home or give as gifts. Stop in after Divine Liturgy every Sunday or call to make an appointment.

bookstore@ssppglenvie.org

COFFEE CONNECTION

Please join us for the next 3 Coffee Connection sessions in November/December as we continue our discussion about The Creed. November 2 – Please stay after our session to help fill the College Care Packages for our parish students. Please note, we have cancelled the November 16 date and changed the date of the last one in November, from the 30 to the 23!

| | |
|---|--|
| November 2 <i>College Care Packages</i> | Creator of Heaven and Earth <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How does the Creed speak to our relationship with the created world and the environment? |
| November 23 | Jesus, Only-begotten...Consubstantial with the Father <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are modern misunderstandings of who The Son of God is? Does it matter if Jesus is "true God of true God"? |
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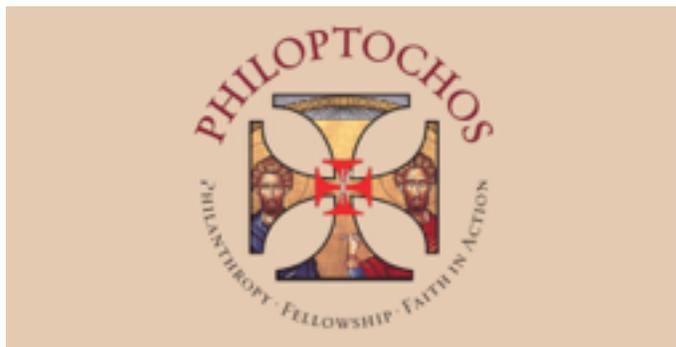
WINTER BLOOD DRIVE

Please mark your calendar and join us for our Winter Blood Drive on December 9th 2:30-7pm. Our recent collections have been low, and we're hoping to rally the community and collect as many units as possible in December. If you're able, your donation would make a real difference. Interested in donating? Contact Christy at cgouletas@hotmail.com or sign up via Vitalant — search for our drive by the date 12/9. Thank you for stepping up!



PHILOPTOCHOS

LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT



As we enter November—a month dedicated to gratitude—our Philoptochos chapter has much to be thankful for. We are especially grateful for our members and for the generosity of our Saints Peter and Paul community, whose support allows us to continue our mission of making the world brighter for so many in need.

Our next General Meeting will feature a special program on “Decluttering.” Just in time for the holidays, this presentation will inspire us to simplify our spaces and, hopefully, spark donations to the Curated Room at our upcoming Holiday Faire. As you tidy up, please consider setting aside gently used treasures to help us stock our store!

November will also be a busy and joyful month of baking and preparing for the Holiday Faire, one of our most beloved traditions. Invitations for both the Holiday Faire and our Advent Brunch—which take place on the first two Saturdays in December—will be sent out soon. We hope you'll mark your calendars and join us for these festive events that bring our parish family together in fellowship and faith.

As we celebrate Thanksgiving, may our hearts be filled with appreciation for all the blessings we share, and for the opportunity to serve others through Philoptochos.

With gratitude and love in Christ,
Julie Anastos
President, Saints Peter and Paul Philoptochos

JOIN US @ THESE UPCOMING EVENTS!

Join us for a fabulous presentation on “decluttering at any stage” on Tuesday November 18th. Anna Gliemi will inspire you to create your dream ambiance. The presentation will be preceded by a brief general meeting and socializing/refreshments. It is sure to be a fun evening!

6:00pm Social and Refreshments
6:30pm Meeting
7:00pm Presentation



Anna Gliemi, professional organizer, will inspire you to declutter and create your dream ambiance!

HOLIDAY FAIRE PLANNING!

That “most wonderful time of year” is coming up and we need volunteers! The Holiday Faire is on December 6. We need volunteers to help that day, to help the day before, to help making baked goods, and to help finding sponsors! Stay tuned for more details or contact Kris Tsitsis at kristitsis@sbcglobal.net to help.



The Gingerbread Room is always a fan favorite (memorable pic from '23 Holiday Faire)!

PHILOPTOCHOS

PREVIOUS EVENT HIGHLIGHTS Membership Kick-Off Reception - Sept '25



Tina Reimer and Patty Damisch chaired the fabulous membership kick-off!



What a way to welcome the new ecclesiastical year! 80 attendees enjoyed taking a trip down Hollywood Boulevard to learn about Betty White and her Greek-American-Chicago roots!

Breast Cancer Walk – Oct '25

The Philoptochos Team gathered a strong and mighty group for the “Making Strides Against Breast Cancer” walk along the lake on a beautiful Chicago October morning, raising over \$1,000 for the cause.

They joined nearly 10,000 participants, collectively raising \$682,000 (and counting) to support the American Cancer Society’s mission to end breast cancer.

We extend a big thank you to Tex Foods/Costianis Family for donating the bus to and from the event! Join us again next year to support this important cause and partake in this inspiring walk.



Pictured from left: Frances Dolan, Patty Dolan, Toni Tollefsen, Alexandra Moxley, Julie Anastos, Connie Moxley, Julie Mantice, Debbie Kunkel, Maria Mantice.

PHILOPTOCHOS

CHARITY SPOTLIGHT

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

Lawrence Hall – Chicago, IL

Lawrence Hall is a long-standing nonprofit organization in Chicago dedicated to empowering and transforming the lives of at-risk youth and families through compassionate care, education, and community-based programs. One of the many ways Lawrence Hall supports youth is through its residential program, which provides a safe and nurturing home environment for boys as they work toward healing and independence.

The Saints Peter and Paul Philoptochos Society has "adopted" a group of boys in the residence program at Lawrence Hall, offering support, encouragement, and fellowship as they navigate their personal journeys. Our partnership focuses on building relationships, sharing joy, and helping the boys feel seen, valued, and loved through meaningful activities and celebrations throughout the year.

Upcoming Opportunities to Get Involved:

- Nov 8: Brunch-Lunch at 11:00 AM –
Cooking with the boys in their kitchen
- Nov 11: Magic Show and Pizza Party
- Nov 26: Drop off treats for Thanksgiving
- Dec 18: Christmas Party, 4:30–6:30 PM

If you're interested in joining these efforts or learning more, please contact Kris Tsitsis at kristitsis@sbcglobal.net.



SAVE THE DATES!

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

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

Tues, Nov 18 – Philoptochos General Meeting and Presentation

Tues, Nov 11 5-6pm – Donations for the Holiday Faire Curated Room will be accepted

Tues, Nov 18 5-6pm – Donations for the Holiday Faire Curated Room will be accepted

Thurs, Nov 20 3-6pm – Donations for the Holiday Faire Curated Room will be accepted

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*

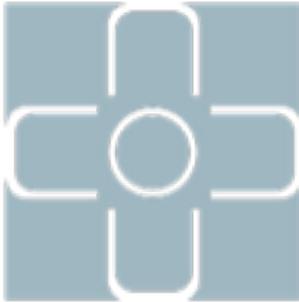
NOVEMBER 2025

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|
| COMING IN DECEMBER 1-24 Advent Fast 6 ST NICHOLAS & Philoptochos Holiday Faire 7 Parish Council Elections 12 ST SPYRIDON & Agape Liturgy 13 Philoptochos Advent Luncheon | 17 ST DIONYSIOS & PROPHET DANIEL 21 Children's Christmas Pageant 22 ST ANASTASIA 24-25 NATIVITY OF OUR LORD 27 ST STEPHEN - PROTOMARTYR | | | | | |
| 2 +5TH SUN LUKE DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME PHILOPTOCHOS SUNDAY 8:15am ORTHROS-MATINS 9:30am DIVINE LITURGY 11am Coffee Construction + College Care Packages 12pm Greek Dance - 2nd-5th grade 1pm Greek Dance - 6th-10th grade | 3 7pm Divorce Rebuilders 8pm Stewardship Meeting | 4 5pm Bball Practice 3-6 Grade Boys 6:30pm Metropolitan Council Mtg 7pm Catechism Class 7:15pm Bball Practice HS Boys | 5 10:30am Bible Study 5:30pm Bball Practice 3-6 Grade Girls 7pm Choir Rehearsal 7pm Ss. GOYA Gathering-Retreat Prep 7pm Bball Practice 7-12 grade Girls 8:30pm Bball Men over 40 (pickup) | 6 7am Men's Study 10am Dynamic "Kali Pasa" Breakfast at George V's in Northbrook 5:30pm Bball Practice 3-4 Grade Boys 6pm Pt. Eric Meeting 6:30pm Jr. GOYA Gathering 7pm Bball Practice 7-8 Grade Boys | 7 6pm FLJ Gathering 7pm GREAT VESPERS at St. Haralambos in Niles | 8 +ARCHANGELS 9am DIVINE LITURGY at St. Haralambos in Niles 5pm VESPERS 7pm GREAT VESPERS at St. Nectari- on in Palatine |
| 9 +7TH SUN LUKE + ST NECTARIOS VETERANS/1ST RESPONDERS SUNDAY 8:15am ORTHROS-MATINS 9:30am DIVINE LITURGY 12pm Parish Assembly 12pm Greek Dance - 2nd-5th grade 1pm Greek Dance - 6th-10th grade | 10 7pm Divorce Rebuilders | 11 +ST MENAS GREAT MARTYR 5pm Bball Practice 3-6 Grade Boys 6:30pm Philoptochos Board Mtg 7pm Cancer Support 7pm Catechism Class 7:15pm Bball Practice HS Boys | 12 10:30am Bible Study 5:30pm Bball Practice 3-6 Grade Girls 6pm Ministry Council Meeting 7pm Choir Rehearsal 7pm Bball Practice 7-12 grade Girls 8:30pm Bball Men over 40 (pickup) | 13 +ST JOHN CHRYSOSTOM 8:30am MATINS 9:30am DIVINE LITURGY 5:30pm Bball Practice 3-4 Grade Boys 5:30 HCHC: Seminary Fundraiser at Empress Banquets 7pm Bball Practice 7-8 Grade Boys | 14 +APOSTLE PHILIP +ADVENT-NATIVITY FAST+ 1ST LITURGY @ SSP 1964 +ADVENT-NATIVITY FAST+ | 15 +ADVENT-NATIVITY FAST+ 1ST LITURGY @ SSP 1964 +ADVENT-NATIVITY FAST+ |
| 16 +ST MATTHEW EVANGELIST +ADVENT-NATIVITY FAST+ | 17 7pm Divorce Rebuilders 8pm Stewardship Meeting | 18 5pm Bball Practice 3-6 Grade Boys 6pm Philoptochos General Mtg 7pm Catechism Class 7:15pm Bball Practice HS Boys | 19 +PROPHET OBDIAH+ | 20 7am Men's Study 8:30am ORTHROS-MATINS 9:30am DIVINE LITURGY 5:30pm Bball Practice 3-4 Grade Boys 5:30 HCHC: Seminary Fundraiser at Empress Banquets 7pm Bball Practice 7-8 Grade Boys | 21 +ENTRANCE OF THEOTOKOS +ADVENT-NATIVITY FAST+ | 22 +APOSTLE PHELEMON 10am OTM Mahigenerational Retreat at St. Haralambos in Niles |
| 23 +9TH SUN LUKE SOCC SUNDAY +ADVENT-NATIVITY FAST+ | 24 +ST CLEMENT OF ROME 7pm Divorce Rebuilders 8pm Stewardship Meeting | 25 +ST KATHERINE GREAT MARTYR 8:30am MATINS-ORTHROS 9:30am DIVINE LITURGY 5pm Bball Practice 3-6 Grade Boys 7:15pm Bball Practice HS Boys | 26 +ST STELLANOS THANKSGIVING OFFICE CLOSED | 27 7am Men's Study 8:30am ORTHROS-MATINS 9:30am DIVINE LITURGY 5:30pm Bball Practice 3-4 Grade Boys 5:30 HCHC: Seminary Fundraiser at Empress Banquets 7pm Bball Practice 7-8 Grade Boys | 28 8:30am ORTHROS-MATINS 9:30am DIVINE LITURGY 6pm FLJ Mtg Luck | 29 5pm VESPERS 7pm GREAT VESPERS at St. Andrew in Chicago |
| 30 +SAINT ANDREW APOSTLE 8:15am ORTHROS-MATINS 9:30am DIVINE LITURGY | 7pm Vespers @ Assumption St. Kather- ine Chapel in Chicago | 8:30am MATINS-ORTHROS 9:30am DIVINE LITURGY 5pm Bball Practice 3-6 Grade Boys 7pm Catechism Class 7:15pm Bball Practice HS Boys | THANKSGIVING OFFICE CLOSED | 21 +ENTRANCE OF THEOTOKOS | THANKSGIVING OFFICE CLOSED | 5pm VESPERS 7pm GREAT VESPERS at St. Andrew in Chicago |

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