

THE MESSENGER

MARCH 2026

SAINTS PETER & PAUL

p.1

A Message from Father Rick Father Richard Demetrius Andrews

The *Agape Academy* hosted the community-wide *Apokreatiko Glendi* on *January 31* at the Concorde Banquet Center in Kilder. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the event. Proceeds support the Agape Academy programs.

Our annual *Godparent/Godchild Sunday* was *February 1*. We thank the Greek Festival committee for hosting the coffee hour that day.

The *Basketball season* is now complete. Thank you to our coaches for ably guiding our children: *Christ Atsaves & Dino Tsisis (1-2 grades)*, *Evan Adams & Taso Angelopoulos (3-4 grades)*, *(5-6 grade boys)*, *Julia Economy (3-6 grade girls)*, *Christina Ballester & Nick Mastro (7-8 grade boys)*, *Roger Keys (7-12 grade girls)*, *Matthew Assimos, Steven Thell, Peter Kokkinnis, Chris Batrich (HS boys)*.

Great and Holy Lent begins on Clean/Pure Monday (*Feb 23*). Not only is it a time for fasting from certain foods (meat, dairy) and amounts (eat less food at meals and reduce to one or two meals per day), but, more importantly, it is also a time for increased/intensified worship and prayer. We will offer three extra services per week with Monday Compline, Wednesday Presanctified Liturgy and Friday Akathistos/Salutations. Please join us for these important and inspiring services. Also, seek out additional opportunities for almsgiving—offering material assistance to the poor and needy. Why are these important? Because they are all tools that help us grow closer to God.

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

The Journey to Pascha through Great and Holy *Lent* continues this month of April.

Lenten *worship* services are celebrated every Monday (Compline), Wednesday (Presanctified Liturgy) and Friday (Akathistos-Salutations) evening beginning at 6pm. A Lenten meal follows the Wednesday service.

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

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

Fasting without prayer and worship is just a diet, and actually is spiritually dangerous because we are trying to do it without enlisting God's help. That's why we have extra worship services during Lent. That's why we can receive the Eucharist midweek (Presanctified Liturgy), is to strengthen us spiritually as we struggle physically, mentally, and emotionally.

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

Almsgiving is sacrificing a portion of our

material wealth and giving it to those in need. Think about not going out for dinner, and then taking that money and spending it on meals for the poor/hungry. Our Philanthropy and Philoptochos ministries offer plenty of opportunities to aid those less fortunate than ourselves. St. John Chrysostom said, “*The rich exist for the sake of the poor. The poor exist for the salvation of the rich.*”

Also coming in March is the *Sunday of Orthodoxy/Icons* (1st). Please make sure your child brings an icon from home for the procession. That evening the *Pan-Orthodox Vespers* will begin 6pm at *Holy Resurrection Serbian Orthodox Church* in Chicago. Children should also bring a cross for the Veneration of the Cross procession on March 15th.

The Great *Feast of the Annunciation* to the Theotokos is *March 25th*. We encourage all to celebrate Vespers on March 24th with our sister parishes (Chicago, Milwaukee, Kankakee) for their feast days. We will celebrate Orthros and Liturgy here that morning.

This year's *Lenten Lectures* are on the theme of *Prayer*. Please join us on *Wednesday* evenings for Presanctified Liturgy, a Lenten meal and learn more about different prayers in our Orthodox Tradition from five different speakers. For more info see flyer in newsletter and other parish media.

our *Lenten Retreat* on *March 6-8* with *Fr. Sergius Halvorsen* who will speak on the theme of “*Faith-Based Storytelling*” with three separate topics: 1) Story and Communion (Fri eve), 2) Faith Made Perfect in Weakness (Sat. morn) and 3) Sharing Your Story (Sat. aft.). Please rsvp by February 27 as Lenten meals will be offered to attendees. For more information see flyer in the newsletter and other parish media.

FOLLOW US!

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SS Peter & Paul



CONTACTS

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Protopresbyter,** frick@ssppglenview.org

**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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2026 Parish Council:

President- George Seletos

VP- Nick Colis

Treasurer - John Mackris

Asst Treasurer - Dino Tsitsis

Recording Sec - Angie Katsamakis

Asst Recording Sec - Christy Gouletas

Vanessa Adinamis

Mary Alukos

Keith Anderson

Frank Andreou

Christine Cotromanes

George Karagiannis

Steve Koulogeorge

Dean Maragos

Dean Matsas

Marann Rasmussen

Tracy Ronstadt

Jim Santos

PARISH MINISTRIES

Agape Preschool: Julie Mantice, agape@ssppglenview.org

Acolytes: Steven Thell, acolytes@ssppglenview.org

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Chanters: Chris Atsaves, chanters@ssppglenview.org

Choir Director: Therese Speropoulos

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Church School: Nick and Kery Obradovich, Elaine Carrozza

churchschool@ssppglenview.org

Coffee Connection: Doreen DeSent,

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Divorce Rebuilders: Maria Boyle

divorcerebuilders@ssppglenview.org

Dynamis Group: Joanne Trahanas, dynamis@ssppglenview.org

Georgia Photopulos Cancer Support Group:

Bud Photopulos and Phyllis Perivolidis

cancersupport@ssppglenview.org

GOYAlumni: Marina Alexis, goyalumni@ssppglenview.org

Greek Dance: Anna Andrews, dance@ssppglenview.org

Greek School: Stella Theoharopoulos,

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Grief Support: Tracy Ronstadt, griefsupport@ssppglenview.org

Myrrhbearers: Anna Kallis, myrrhbearers@ssppglenview.org

Orthodox Couples Club: occ@ssppglenview.org

Philoptochos: Julie Anastos, philoptochos@ssppglenview.org

Prison Outreach: Brad DeSent

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Prospora: Tracy Ronstadt, prospora@ssppglenview.org

Readers: Sophia Castleberry, readers@ssppglenview.org

Saint Basil's Philanthropy: Christy Gouletas

philanthropy@ssppglenview.org

Saint Stephen Men's Group: Brad DeSent

mensgroup@ssppglenview.org

Stewardship: George Karagianis, stewardship@ssppglenview.org

Sunday Coffee Fellowship: Carolyn Kolbaba

fellowship@ssppglenview.org

Ushers/Greeters: Bo LaMotte, ushers@ssppglenview.org

Welcome: Keith Anderson, Sylvia Creatura, welcome@ssppglenview.org

Young Adult League (YAL): Maria Mantice,

yal@ssppglenview.org

For Emergencies Only: Please call the main office number and access Fr. Rick's voicemail. Leave a message stating your emergency. If you do not receive a call back within 15 minutes, call again and leave a brief message.

PASTORAL MESSAGE

Finally, we invite everyone to participate in the **Orthodox March for Life**, Springfield Illinois on *Thursday March 19*. More details forthcoming.

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 experience 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 \$2.2M we encourage everyone to strive towards tithing (10%) but **suggest a minimum of five percent (5%) annual giving** as we move into 2026. We appreciate monthly gifts. <https://onrealm.org/ssppglview/-/form/give/now> Blessed Triodion and Lent!

LOCAL EUCHARIST COMMUNITIES

I am sharing excerpts from the Dr. Nathan Hoppe’s book titled **“Fostering Local Eucharistic Communities” (LEC): A Biblical, Historical and Theological Reflection Inspired by Missionary Service in Albania.** (2023, Aschendorff Verlag). This is Part Two of a multi-part series over the next several months.

Part One: Historical Foundation; Chapter 1: Eucharistic Life p.29

To understand Eucharist life we must begin with creation. Fr. Alexander Schmemmann states that the food man eats is given to him by God and it is given as communion with God. All that exists is God’s gift to man. It is divine love made food for man. The first basic definition of man is that he is a priest. He stands at the center of the world and unifies it in his act of blessing God both receiving the world from God and offering it to God.

The original Eucharist was the thanksgiving

offered in the garden by the first human beings to God for everything they receive from him. By rejecting their priestly vocation and choosing to seek life in the world for themselves, humans caused a rupture between the world and the kingdom of God. God initiated a rescue plan for the cosmos through Abraham and his descendants. The tabernacle and later the temple were built as a place where heaven and earth would again be interlocked and where God would dwell in the midst of the people.

As a result of the people’s continuing unfaithfulness, the temple was destroyed and the people went into exile. A remnant returned from exile and the temple was rebuilt, but there was a continuing sense that their exile was not over and that God had not returned to His temple. (p.30)

When Jesus began His public ministry, He announced the arrival of God’s kingdom. Jesus in Himself, being the incarnate Son of God, taking human flesh from the Virgin Mary, heaven and earth were joined together, and through Him the old temple system became obsolete, because Jesus Himself is the new temple.

With the institution of the Eucharist, Jesus provided the means for His continual personal physical presence in each of the communities that would be founded by His disciples after His Ascension. The Eucharist is the place par excellence where heaven and earth are interlocked. Through His Eucharistic presence in each community, Jesus does not create isolated sacred spaces but portholes through which heaven pours into earth. Through Jesus the world again truly becomes thanksgiving and communion with God. (p.31)

When Jesus instituted the Eucharist, taking bread and wine and declaring them to be His Body and Blood and commanding His disciples to eat of them, He transforms ‘the food that perishes’ into ‘the food that endures to eternal life’ (John 6:27). Furthermore, Jesus said...

51 I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world.” 52 The Jews therefore quarreled among themselves, saying, “How can this Man give us His flesh to eat?” 53 Then Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. 54 Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.

55 For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed. 56 He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. 57 As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the

Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me. 58 This is the bread which came down from heaven—not as your fathers ate the manna and are dead. He who eats this bread will live forever.” (John 6:51-58) (p.32)

Every meal is of great significance because the choice to eat together with someone is a declaration of relationship with them. Thus, we understand better, Jesus’ choice to dine with sinners and outcasts. We hear in Matthew’s gospel:

10 Now it happened, as Jesus sat at the table in the house, that behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat down with Him and His disciples. 11 And when the Pharisees saw it, they said to His disciples, “Why does your Teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” 12 When Jesus heard that, He said to them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. 13 But go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy and not sacrifice.’ For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.” (Mt.9:10-13)

When the Apostle Peter confessed that “*You are the Christ, the Son of the living God*” (Mt.16:16) meant that every act of eating and drinking with the master is table fellowship of the redeemed community with the redeemer, a wedding feast, a pledge of a share in the meal of consummation. (p.33)

The manna in the wilderness was given to the community of Israel (Exodus 16). At the Passover meal, Israel is reconstituted in the community around Jesus. At the supper, Jesus places a great deal of emphasis on relationships within the community especially when Jesus washes the disciples’ feet and teaches them to serve one another (John 13:12-15).

Jesus gives His disciples a new commandment of love. “*A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another*” (John 13:34). This is a higher level than the original commandment to ‘*love your neighbor as yourself*’ (Leviticus 19:18). Furthermore, Jesus deepens the connection between Himself and His disciples: *Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me* (John 15:4), as well as amongst the disciples themselves, ‘*that they may be one as We are*’ (John 17:11b) (p.34)

+ Fr. Rick

PASTORAL MESSAGE

FROM FATHER PETER

A Message from Father Peter

Confession

The Lord said: "If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. Mark 8:34

My brothers and sisters in Christ, as we prepare our journey to Great and Holy Lent, we must "pick up our cross and follow Him." How are we able to do this with all the distractions around us? We have our mobile devices/smart phones, tablets/I-Pads, Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, X/Twitter, our various e-mail accounts, etc. This is the question we must ask ourselves: how can we pick up our own cross and follow Him? Can we? Are we able to do it too? That is the answer that we must reflect on as we enter Great and Holy Lent.

As I meditate and reflect on the daily struggles in my life, I often stop to wonder in what direction do I need to go. Do I take the road less traveled? Do I follow that daily grind of the same old thing? How do I get to the greener grass on the other side of the road? Sometimes the answers are not that clear cut. There are times that the answers are right in front of us. No matter what the situation I know that I have the ability to make it right/correct.

I say a prayer (it could be the Jesus Prayer....Lord and Savior Jesus Christ have mercy on me a sinner, or the Lord's Prayer, the Trisagion, Lord of the Powers, etc.) and at the end of my prayer I cross myself. When I am traveling in my car or in an airplane, I cross myself and/or I say the traveler's prayer. It is the Cross that gives me the strength to carry on and move forward. At times I find myself in this huge dilemma and I think to myself that there is no way that I can do this. I am wrong most of the time. It is through the power of the Cross that helps me overcome the dilemmas that I find myself in.

If we allow ourselves for Christ and the Holy Spirit to enter into our lives and give them a chance to live in us, then we are capable of doing our God given talents. We must allow Christ to enter into our lives so that we can make those necessary changes in our lives. No matter how big or small we must carry our cross. We must be ready to face the obstacles that life throws our way. We must be ready for the challenge day and night.

We must remember to make the sign of the cross every morning when we wake up and at night before we go to bed as well as every time that we break bread (breakfast,

lunch, and dinner). We need to cross ourselves before and after a dilemma. The cross should be the focal point in our lives not only during Great and Holy Lent but throughout the year. Over thirty (30) years ago, I picked up my Cross and followed Him to Hellenic College and Holy Cross School of theology. It is the Cross that I continue to pick up on a daily basis. There are times that I think to myself that the cross that I am carrying today is very heavy, but I am reminded of Jesus and His journey to Golgotha. It is my prayer that the Cross that we all carry in our lives continue to guide us and guard us during our journey through Great and Holy Lenten.

In His Service,
Fr. Peter Sarolas Economos



PARISH COUNCIL

LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

As the newly elected President of the Parish Council, I would like to share with you a few thoughts and reflections on the year ahead. First and foremost, I want to thank each one of you for your generosity and continued support of our parish. Without you—our parish could not thrive or faithfully proclaim the gospel of our lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. As we move throughout the coming year, the Parish Council will be working toward a clear vision that we outlined during our initial meetings. This vision is not about change for the sake of change, but about growth rooted in faith, unity, and stewardship. It encompasses several key initiatives I would like to briefly share with you today.

First, we seek to reflect the Church's Purpose, Vision, and Mission in all aspects of parish life. In its simplest form, our mission is this: to proclaim the Gospel through Orthodox Christian worship, fellowship, service, and witness. Everything we do—how we worship, how we serve, how we care for one another, and how we welcome others—should flow from this mission.

Second, the Parish Council is committed to aligning our work with the priorities outlined in our Parish Health Plan. This plan gives us a framework for growth through five essential pillars. These pillars are:

- Worship and Spiritual Formation, where we seek to strengthen engagement and deepen the joy we experience in worship.
- Community, where we strive to better welcome and integrate new members into the life of the parish.
- Service, where we encourage greater participation in parish ministries and outreach.
- Witness, where we grow in our ability—both individually and together—to share the Good News of Christ through our words and actions.
- Foundations, where we strengthen and expand volunteerism through clearer communication, broader reach, and greater effectiveness.

Third, the council will embrace and adapt the 2026 Stewardship theme, "Rise Up and Build." This theme calls us not only to building and rebuilding with bricks and mortar, but to something even more important: a deeper, spiritual building—the renewal of our faith. Like the people of God in the time of the prophet Nehemiah, we are called to 'rise up and build' carrying on god's work in our parish community.

Fourth, we are committed to establishing a comprehensive and structured Parish Planned Giving program. At a high level, this means expanding our current endowment structure to better support the future of our parish. Elements of the program may include:

- Seed funding for new parish programs,
- Seed funding for new, mission-based philanthropic initiatives,
- Building on our current capital endowment to assure all long-term capital needs of the parish are met
- And finally, providing a clear structure for legacy gifts through estate planning.

Planned Giving will allow us to care not only for today's needs, but for the generations ahead.

In closing, I want you to know that your Parish Council is a hard-working and dedicated team. We will strive each day to make our parish stronger and healthier. And we invite each of you to participate in the ministries of the church where your time and talents are needed. Please do not hesitate to ask a council member or Father Rick or Father Peter if you have questions or wish to learn more.

George Seletos - President

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

**Welcome our newest member to our beautiful parish:
Cynthia Callas, Vanessa LoVerde and Nicholas Peszek**



Church School Field Trip on baptism



Fr. Rick and Fr. Chris Avrampoulos at AHEPA 100th Anniversary



Jr. GOYA learned to make prosphora and Fr. Peter did a wonderful explanation of the preparation of the gifts.

OUR LIFE TOGETHER



6-8th grade boys



7-12 grade girls



3-6 grade girls



5-6 grade boys



High School boys

OUR LIFE TOGETHER



Philoptochos Go Red, Feb 1st



Greek Fest Hosts Coffee Fellowship, Feb 1st



Glendi



YAL Bowling Nite at Pinstripes, Jan 29

AGAPE GLENDI - JAN 31st





THE TRIAL *of* ODYSSEUS

Thursday, March 12, 2026 | 7:00 PM
\$50 Tickets | \$25 Students & Educators

Hero or Criminal? You Decide.
NationalHellenicMuseum.org/Trial2026



DEFENSE
Patrick M. Collins
King & Spalding LLP
Tinos Diamantatos
King & Spalding LLP

PROSECUTION
Antonio M. Romanucci
Romanucci & Blandin LLC
Katerina Alexopoulos
US Department of Homeland Security

HARRIS THEATER
MILLENNIUM PARK
205 East Randolph Street, Chicago

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BENEFITING

NATIONAL
HELLENIC
MUSEUM

EARN CLE CREDIT | The National Hellenic Museum will apply for 1.5 hours of General CLE for the following states: IL and NY.

SSPP LENTEN RETREAT



**Saints Peter and Paul Greek Orthodox Church
Lenten Retreat March 6-8, 2026**

Faith Based Storytelling

Sharing the Good News through the Sacred Art of Narrative

Guest Speaker: Fr. Sergius Halvorsen

Sponsored by the Saints Peter and Paul Creticos Memorial Lectures

Friday, March 6

6:00pm Akathistos/Salutations Service | 7:30 PM Lenten Meal (RSVP by February 27)

8:00pm Story and Communion

How does story bring us into communion with God and with one another? What role do stories have in our Orthodox Christian faith? How can stories share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with others?

Saturday, March 7

10:00am Coffee and Fellowship

10:30am Faith Made Perfect in Weakness

How does the Crucified Messiah reveal God's power through vulnerability? What kinds of stories invite people into relationship with God?

12:00pm Lenten Luncheon (RSVP by February 27)

1:00pm Sharing Your Story

What are your stories of faith? How can our stories strengthen our faith and strengthen our communities? What are the opportunities for evangelization with faith-based storytelling?

3:00pm Great Vespers Service

Sunday, March 8

9:30am Divine Liturgy – Homilist Fr Sergius Halvorsen

Fr Sergius Halvorsen, Ph.D. V. Rev. J. Sergius Halvorsen is Assistant Professor of Homiletics and Rhetoric at St Vladimir's Seminary where he also serves as director of the Doctor of Ministry Program, and director of the Compelling Preaching project. In addition to teaching homiletics and rhetoric, he also teaches courses in Christian education and the sacred art of narrative. He is a priest of the Orthodox Church in America, and is attached to Holy Transfiguration Church in New Haven, CT. He is an accomplished liturgical musician and has contributed to a number of "Archangel Voices" recordings. He lives in New Haven, CT, and serves part-time as a chaplain at Yale New Haven Hospital.



Link for sign up for the Lenten Retreat:
<https://ssppglenview.org/lentenretreat/>

SSPP LENTEN RETREAT

BIOGRAPHY - Fr. Sergius Halvorsen, PhD

Education

B.A. Biology, University of California, Santa Cruz, 1992

M.Div., St Vladimir's Seminary, 1996

Ph.D., Drew University, 2002



Teaching Interests:

Homiletics, Rhetoric, Faith-based Storytelling, Christian Education, Distance Learning

Current Projects and Research Interests

During the twenty years that he has taught preaching, his primary focus has been on the art and craft of liturgical preaching; the sacred art of preaching within the context of the Divine Liturgy. Increasingly, his recent research has shifted towards how clergy and laypeople can better share their Orthodox Christian faith beyond the liturgical context. In the fall of 2022, St. Vladimir's Seminary received a grant from the Compelling Preaching Initiative of the Lilly Endowment, and this has provided an opportunity to explore and develop faith-based storytelling as a dynamic, personal approach to sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He has incorporated faith-based storytelling into two seminary courses, and the results have vastly exceeded expectations. Not only were the stories compelling and dynamic, but the process of developing stories and sharing them strengthened the faith of the storytellers and built relationships of faith between the storytellers.

Recent Courses Taught at St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary

Homiletics, Faith Based Storytelling, Sacred art of Rhetoric, Christian Education, Peacemaking in Troubled Times

Recent Publications

- "The Liturgical Homily as Sacred Art" in Essays from St. Vladimir's Symposium on Liturgy and Sacred Arts ed. Grant White and Rossitza Schroeder. (St. Vladimir's Seminary Press) forthcoming.
- "Preaching the Impossible in the Face of the Unthinkable: Nonviolence, Love, and Thanksgiving in a Coptic Easter Sermon." In Religions 2024, 15, 455. <https://www.mdpi.com/2077-1444/15/4/455/pdf>
- "Preaching in the Orthodox Theological Family" in Preaching the Manifold Grace of God, Vol. 1 Theologies of Preaching in Historical Theological Families. ed. Ron Allen (Eugene OR, Cascade Books, 2022) 1-26.

Recent Presentations

- "Eucharistic Preaching: Thanksgiving and the story of God's presence"
- North American Academy of Homiletics, Richmond VA
- "Creativity as Death and Resurrection: An Eastern Christian Reflection on the Spiritual Life of the Preacher" Marten Preaching Conference, University of Notre Dame
- "Power Made Perfect in Weakness: Ascetical theology as homiletical antidote to rage addiction" North American Academy of Homiletics, Atlanta GA
- "The Creativity of the Humbled Soul: Preaching as an invitation to ascesis for preachers and hearers." Lausanne-Orthodox International Conference: Worship, Liturgy & Discipleship, Södertälje, Stockholm, Sweden

Other notables about Fr Sergius:

(M.Div. '96; Ph.D., Drew University, 2002) is Assistant Professor of Homiletics and Rhetoric at St Vladimir's Seminary and serves as director of the Doctor of Ministry Program, and Director of the Compelling Preaching project. In addition to teaching homiletics and rhetoric, he also teaches courses in Christian education and the sacred art of narrative. Fr Sergius is a priest of the Orthodox Church in America, he is attached to Holy Transfiguration Church in New Haven, CT, and has contributed to a number of "Archangel Voices" recordings. He currently lives in New Haven, CT, and serves part-time as a chaplain at Yale New Haven Hospital. He loves gardening, hiking, biking, and reading biographies and fiction.

For a full biography of Fr Sergius:

<https://www.svots.edu/people/very-rev-dr-sergius-halvorsen#>

LOCAL EUCHARIST COMMUNITIES

FROM FATHER RICK

LOCAL EUCHARIST COMMUNITIES (February 2026)

I am sharing excerpts from the Dr. Nathan Hoppe's book titled "***Fostering Local Eucharistic Communities***" (LEC): *A Biblical, Historical and Theological Reflection Inspired by Missionary Service in Albania.*" (2023, Aschendorff Verlag). This is Part Two of a multi-part series over the next several months.

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To understand Eucharist life we must begin with creation. Fr. Alexander Schmemmann states that the food man eats is given to him by God and it is given as communion with God. All that exists is God's gift to man. It is divine love made food for man. The first basic definition of man is that he is a priest. He stands at the center of the world and unifies it in his act of blessing God both receiving the world from God and offering it to God.

The original Eucharist was the thanksgiving offered in the garden by the first human beings to God for everything they receive from him. By rejecting their priestly vocation and choosing to seek life in the world for themselves, humans caused a rupture between the world and the kingdom of God. God initiated a rescue plan for the cosmos through Abraham and his descendants. The tabernacle and later the temple were built as a place where heaven and earth would again be interlocked and where God would dwell in the midst of the people.

As a result of the people's continuing unfaithfulness, the temple was destroyed and the people went into exile. A remnant returned from exile and the temple was rebuilt, but there was a continuing sense that their exile was not over and that God had not returned to His temple. (p.30)

When Jesus began His public ministry, He announced the arrival of God's kingdom. Jesus in Himself, being the incarnate Son of God, taking human flesh from the Virgin Mary, heaven and earth were joined together, and through Him the old temple system became obsolete, because Jesus Himself is the new temple.

With the institution of the Eucharist, Jesus provided the means for His continual personal physical presence in each of the communities that would be founded by His disciples after His Ascension. The Eucharist is the place par

excellence where heaven and earth are interlocked. Through His Eucharistic presence in each community, Jesus does not create isolated sacred spaces but portholes through which heaven pours into earth. Through Jesus the world again truly becomes thanksgiving and communion with God. (p.31)

When Jesus instituted the Eucharist, taking bread and wine and declaring them to be His Body and Blood and commanding His disciples to eat of them, He transforms 'the food that perishes' into 'the food that endures to eternal life' (John 6:27). Furthermore, Jesus said...

⁵¹ *I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world.* ⁵² *The Jews therefore quarreled among themselves, saying, "How can this Man give us His flesh to eat?"* ⁵³ *Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴ Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. ⁵⁵ For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed. ⁵⁶ He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. ⁵⁷ As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me. ⁵⁸ This is the bread which came down from heaven—not as your fathers ate the manna and are dead. He who eats this bread will live forever."* (John 6:51-58) (p.32)

Every meal is of great significance because the choice to eat together with someone is a declaration of relationship with them. Thus, we understand better, Jesus' choice to dine with sinners and outcasts. We hear in Matthew's gospel:

¹⁰ *Now it happened, as Jesus sat at the table in the house, that behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat down with Him and His disciples. ¹¹ And when the Pharisees saw it, they said to His disciples, "Why does your Teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"* ¹² *When Jesus heard that, He said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ¹³ But go*

and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice.' For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance." (Mt.9:10-13)

When the Apostle Peter confessed that "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Mt.16:16) meant that every act of eating and drinking with the master is table fellowship of the redeemed community with the redeemer, a wedding feast, a pledge of a share in the meal of consummation. (p.33)

The manna in the wilderness was given to the community of Israel (Exodus 16). At the Passover meal, Israel is reconstituted in the community around Jesus. At the supper, Jesus places a great deal of emphasis on relationships within the community especially when Jesus washes the disciples' feet and teaches them to serve one another (John 13:12-15).

Jesus gives His disciples a new commandment of love. "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another" (John 13:34). This is a higher level than the original commandment to 'love your neighbor as yourself' (Leviticus 19:18). Furthermore, Jesus deepens the connection between Himself and His disciples: *Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me* (John 15:4), as well as amongst the disciples themselves, 'that they may be one as We are' (John 17:11b) (p.34)



Triumph Of Orthodoxy

PAN ORTHODOX VESPERS

Sponsored by the Orthodox Christian Clergy Association of Greater Chicago



Sunday, March 1, 2026
at 6:30 p.m.

Holy Resurrection
Serbian Orthodox Cathedral
5701 N Redwood Drive, Chicago, IL



Homilist:
His Grace Bishop Serafim
of Kostajnica
Vicar of the Diocese of
New Gračanica-Midwestern America

Responses by
The Pan Orthodox Choir of Greater Chicago
Gordana Trbuhovich, Director

BOOK STORE AND MORE

BOOK AND ICON STORE

As we enter the holy season of Great Lent and prepare our hearts for the radiant joy of Pascha, we invite you to visit our Orthodox Book & Icon Store for everything you need to deepen your prayer and celebrate the Resurrection. Prepare for Great Lent: Beautiful hand-painted and mounted icons of Christ, the Theotokos, and the Saints, Lenten prayer books, including the Lenten Triodion and devotional guides, Prayer ropes (komboskini/chotki) in wool and wood, Incense, charcoal, and hand-crafted censers for your home prayer corner, Orthodox study books and children's resources to guide the whole family through the Fast, Lenten Cookbooks with delicious new recipes and Holy Week - Easter Books in Greek and in English (now in larger print!) Celebrate the Bright Feast of Pascha: Orthodox greeting cards and gifts proclaiming "Christ is Risen!", Paschal items and gifts for godchildren and young relatives or friends.

Whether you are enriching your home icon corner, searching for a meaningful gift, or looking to grow deeper in prayer during the Fast, our carefully curated selection honors the beauty and tradition of the Orthodox Faith. Visit us in-store or contact us for special orders at bookstore@ssppglenview.org



13th DISTRICT AHEPA SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

The AHEPAN District Foundation comprises of 5 officers and 13 directors. District 13 provided over \$35,000 in scholarships in 2025 to many well deserving students. This scholarship is funded separately from the chapter and national scholarships. All students are encouraged to apply for chapter, district, and national scholarships. The status for an applicant in one scholarship has no bearing in the the others. Status: 2026 application and administrator form are available for download. APPLICATION SUBMISSION DATES: January 1 to March 15, 2026 Who Can Apply: Male and Female students, high school seniors through junior year, see application for more details. Go here to learn more: <https://ahepadistrict13.org/district-13-education-scholarship>

COFFEE CONNECTION

Please join us for 3 Coffee Connection sessions in the youth room this month. Our theme is "The Creed: Why Does it Still Matter 1700 years Later?" **March 8:** We will discuss "Christ's Second Coming and Judgement" by asking the questions: What do we know about the end times? and What has Christ told us about judgement? **March 22:** We will discuss the Holy Spirit (Lord, Creator of Life, Who proceeds from the Father, Who spoke through the prophets) by asking: Let's talk about the elephant in the room...filioque and Where does the Holy Spirit fit into our lives and our faith? **March 29:** We will discuss "One Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church" by asking the questions: What does Catholic really mean? and Why are each of these adjectives essential? On March 29 after our session, we will be filling the College Care Packages for college students. So please plan to stay after, to help with this wonderful ministry to our college students!

College Care Packages for Spring Semester On March 29, Coffee Connection will be putting together Spring College Care Packages to send to our parish students near and far. If you have a student in college and would like them to receive a care package, please send their name and collegiate address to youthdirector@ssppglenview.org OR office@ssppglenview.org by **March 20**

GREEK FEST 2026

Save the Date
GREEK FEST 2026
July 25 & 26

If you're interested in participating on the Fest organizing committee, contact Joanne Trahanas, joannetrahanas@mac.com



A donation of \$13,800, representing a portion of proceeds from our 2025 Greek Fest, was presented to executives of Family Service Center (FSC) on January 11. Pictured, from left, are: *Fr. Rick*; *Anna Andrews*, Greek Fest co-chair; *Chris Northwick* and *Renee Dominguez*, FSC co-executive directors; *Joanne Trahanas*, Fest co-chair; and *Fr. Peter*. Family Service Center, based in Northfield, is a mental health organization whose highly experienced clinicians can be accessed by families and family members in need, while removing barriers to receiving care. Planning is already underway for our 2026 Greek Fest, which will take place July 25 & 26.

STEWARDSHIP 2025

THANK YOU

Thank you to all parishioners for achieving our 2025 stewardship goal and a good start for 2026. We appreciate everyone's contribution whether monetary or time/talent towards the support of our church. Details of stewardship activity, church expenses and capital projects are available on the St Peter and Paul Church website.

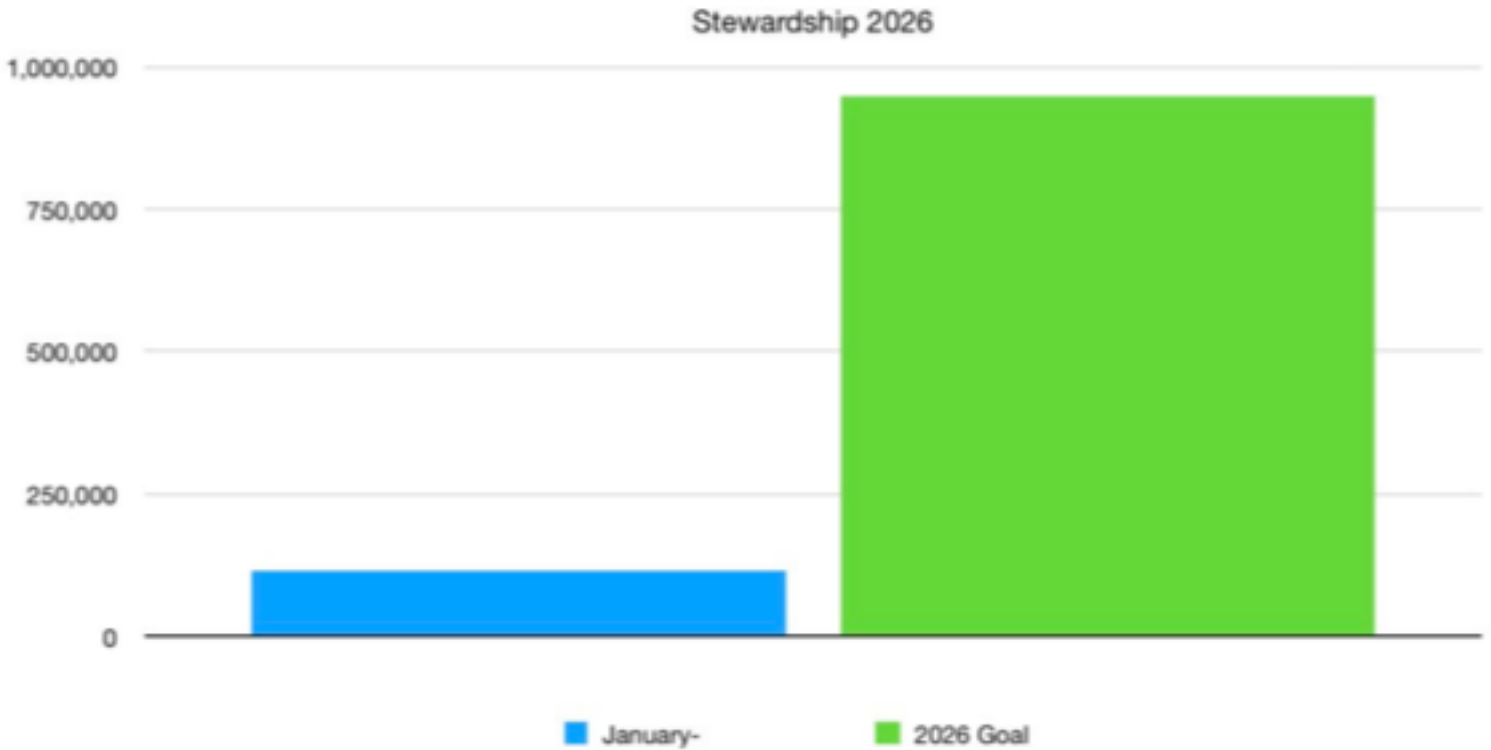


Table 1

| | January- | 2026 Goal |
|------------------|----------|-----------|
| Stewardship 2026 | 115,525 | 950,000 |

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Cynthia & Kerry Abbott
 Scott & Athena Abbott
 Elias & Jeannette Abou Mourad
 Christopher Adams
 Evan & Anne Marie Adams
 Evelyn Adams
 Nicole Adams
 John Adinamis
 Vanessa Adinamis
 Kwaku Adonteng
 David Alex
 Chris & Emily Alexander
 George & Lori Alexander
 Gus & Daphne Alexander
 Stergios & Helen Alexander
 Frank & Penny Alexis
 Greg & Kim Alexopoulos
 Pola Alexopoulos
 Nicholas & Marcie Alexos
 Pelopidas & Calliope Aliferis
 Mary Alukos
 Zach Alukos
 Gregory & Penny Amarantos
 Sue Amarantos
 Constance Anagnost
 Gus Anagnostopoulos
 John & Julie Anastos
 Keith & Randa Anderson
 Frank & Magdelene Andreou
 Fr. Richard & Presb. Jane Andrews
 Teresa Anesinis
 Costadina Aneziris
 Tasos & Nicole Angelopoulos
 William & Kimberly Angelos
 Louis & Alexandra Apostol
 Sophia App
 Effie Aralis
 Gust & Anna Aralis
 James & Amy Aralis
 Tom & Georgia Aralis
 Chrystalla Argiris
 Alex & Renee Arzoumanidis
 Steven & Laura Assimos
 Leon & Eleni Athas
 Irene Athens
 Christ & Tina Atsaves
 Constantine & Marina Avdalas
 John & Mary Ayaleanos
 Fadi & Kate Bakhos
 Christina & Ivan Ballester
 Nancy Barkulis-Gianaras
 Anthony & Cynthia Baroud
 Francine Basis
 Maria & John Bausch
 Perry & Patrice Bazianos
 Zachary & Petroula Bazianos
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 Efthymia Bekas

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 Margo & James Benz
 Brian & Koula Berlin
 Scott & Elizabeth Betzelos
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 Diane Blanas
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 Heather Butz
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 Valerie & Martin Crowley
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 Anthony & Margaret Dakis
 Litsa & Angelo Dalageorgas
 Despina Damianides
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 Patty Damisch
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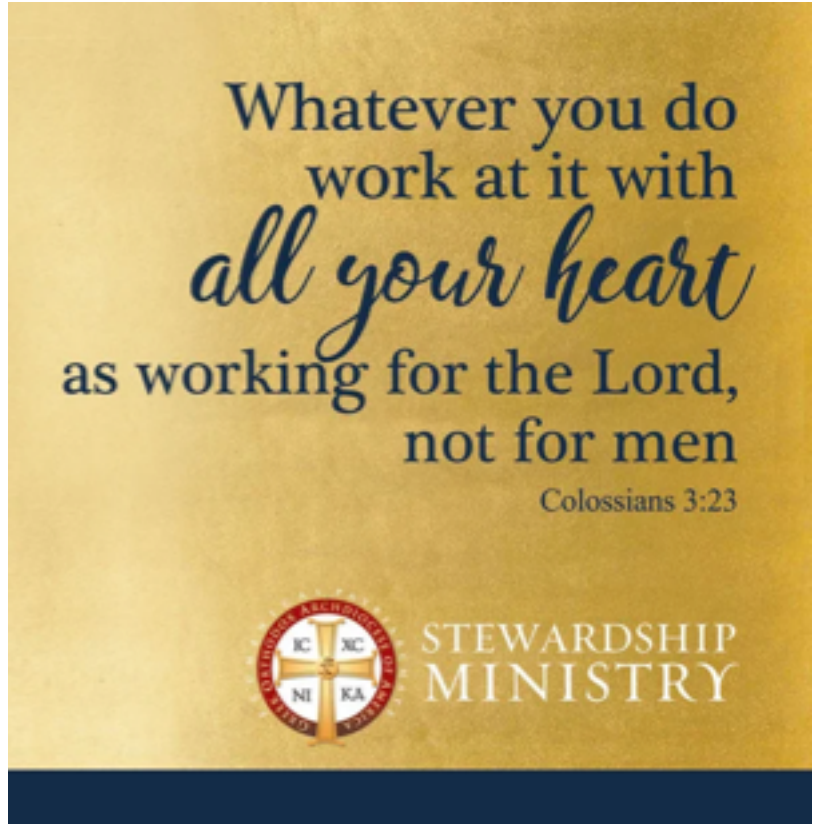
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PHILOPTOCHOS

LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Dear Church Family,

As we welcome the longer days of spring, we are reminded that this season invites renewal — in our hearts, our homes, and our care for one another. Our Lenten journey gently prepares us for Easter through reflection, generosity, and loving service.

We look forward to gathering for the Philoptochos Lenten Dinner on March 11 following the Wednesday evening service as well as preparing for our cherished Palm Sunday Bake Sale and Luncheon. We ask that you mark your calendars for our May 1 fundraiser, A Night to Amaze, at the Glen View Club — an evening that will celebrate our community and strengthen our philanthropic outreach.

Thank you for your continued love and support. Together, we make a difference.

With Love and Gratitude,

Julie Anastos

Philoptochos President

THIS MONTH!

Lenten Bake Sales – Sundays After Church

Lent began on 2/23. The Philoptochos Bakery will continue to have Lenten pastry options as well as some Greek spreads like taramasalata. Come visit us after church on Sundays!

Palm Sunday Bake Sale – April 5th

Palm Sunday is a major annual fundraiser that supports our many philanthropic projects. At this sale, you can pick up your mouthwatering Tsourekia, Karidopita, Koulourakia, Kourambiethes, Melomakarona, Spanakopites, Tiropites, and more. Also, look out for information on how to order your beautiful Easter Basket, to pick up on Palm Sunday. More information to come! We need volunteers to help us bake in advance of the event so please come to our baking dates. No experience needed. It is a great way to meet and connect with people.

Palm Sunday Luncheon – April 5th

Join us for Palm Sunday Luncheon after Liturgy on April 5th, generously donated by the Fountain Blue. We will be serving traditional bakalao and makoranada for the kids. We will also have fun children's activities for families to enjoy. Tickets are only \$25 for adults (including wine) and \$10 for children. As we enter the holiest of weeks, there is no better way to be together as a family and community. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the philanthropic endeavors of Philoptochos.

Advance purchase of tickets is necessary as we expect to sell out. Watch for details in upcoming correspondence and look for our reservation table after Liturgy during Lent.

Would you like to be involved and help us serve that day? We would love that! Please reach out to Diane Economy at kafedmp@sbcglobal.net.

PHILOPTOCHOS

MEMBERSHIP! IT'S NEVER TOO LATE

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



Save the Date – May 1st “A Night To Amaze”

Philoptochos will host their Spring Fundraiser – so save the date! The Glen View Club - 100 Golf Road, Golf IL. A portion of the proceeds will support “Friends of the Hogar Rafael Ayau” a registered 501(c) entity, Supporting adult orphans with a strong foundation for a bright future. Look for your invitation and registration and join what is sure to be an unforgettable evening!

PREVIOUS MONTH HIGHLIGHTS

Go Red – Feb 1 ‘26

February was all about having heart! Thanks to everyone who wore red to raise awareness about heart disease— our nation's number one killer.



Project Hope – Feb ‘26

Thank you for a hugely successful event! We are so proud of our many volunteers and donations!

Lawrence Hall Valentine’s Visit – Feb ‘26

Members of our Philoptochos made a Valentine visit to the 10 boys we “adopted” at Lawrence Hall Chicago. “Childhood trauma can cause complete distrust in family and home as safe spaces. Lawrence Hall focuses on providing nurturing, healthy living environments to promote and ensure stability in the children’s and older adolescents’ lives.”

As a Philoptochos member, if you want to experience one of our philanthropic efforts, join us for one of these visits. The boys greet us with excitement and anticipation knowing there will be early evening of special food we bring, a game or two to play, a craft to make, conversation, and lots of hugs.



All smiles celebrating Valentine's Day with our “adopted” boys at Lawrence Hall in Chicago. From left to right: Joanne Trahanas, Tina O'Donnell, Kris Tsitsis, Julie Anastos and Anastasia Gonzalez.

PHILOPTOCHOS

CHARITY SPOTLIGHT

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

Hogar Rafael Ayau– Guatemala

(HRA) in Guatemala is an Orthodox Christian orphanage founded in 1856 and later revitalized thanks to Orthodox nuns under Mother Ines in the 1990s. Hogar Rafael Ayau offers a home, education, and healing to hundreds of abandoned, abused, or high-risk children. This Orthodox home operates with a focus on love, nurturing, and stability. Hogar Rafael Ayau will be receiving the proceeds from the May 1st "Night To Amaze" Fundraiser.



SAVE THESE DATES!

Wednesday, March 11 Philoptochos Lenten Dinner following the evening service

Sunday, April 5 – Palm Sunday Bake Sale / Palm Sunday Luncheon

Sunday, April 12 – EASTER PASCHA

Tuesday, April 21 – Philoptochos General Meeting & Program

Friday, May 1 – Spring Fundraiser "A Night To Amaze"

Tuesday, May 19 – Philoptochos General Meeting – Budget and Program

Sunday, June 28 – SSPP Vespers – Philoptochos hosts coffee hour

Monday, June 29 – SSPP Feast Day – Philoptochos & Parish Council host lunch after service

Tuesday, June 30 thru Thursday, July 2 – National Clergy Laity in Cleveland, OH

Saturday, July 25 & Sunday, July 26 – SSPP Greek Fest 2026

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

MARCH 2026

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|
| 1 +ST BENEDICT LENT - ORTHODOX/ALBANS PROCESSION OF ICONS 8:15am ORTHODOX ALBANS 9:30am DIVYSE LITURGY 11:30am Greek Communion 6:30pm Holy Spirit at Holy Spirit with the Serbian Orthodox Cathedral, Chicago | 2 Apes COFFEE 7pm Carillon Class | 3 6:30pm Philanthropy Board meeting 7pm St. GUY'S Gathering 7:30pm End of Life Project meeting | 4 +ST GERARDON OF JORDAN 8:00am Bible Study 9:30am NORTH BOOK Apes PRESANCTIFIED LITURGY 7:30pm Lenten Meal & Lecture | 5 7pm Men's Study 8:30am "Kali Power" Breakfast at George V's Neighborhood 7:30pm Lenten Retreat | 6 Apes St. GUY'S Alabaster Apes AKATHISTOS 7:30pm LENTEN RETREAT | 7 Apes LENTEN RETREAT Apes VESPERS |
| 8 +ST ANDREW LENT - ST GREGORY PALAMAS 8:15am ORTHODOX/ALBANS 9:30am DIVYSE LITURGY 11:30am Greek Communion 11:30am Church School/Task-Chair Practice Open Greek Dinner | 9 +ST MARTIN OF SEVASTE Apes COFFEE 7pm Carillon Class | 10 Apes FJL Gathering 7pm Cancer Support Zoom Only 7pm Metropolitan Archbishop of Korea at Holy Apostles in Westchester | 11 8:00am Bible Study 9:30am NORTH BOOK Apes PRESANCTIFIED LITURGY 7:30pm Lenten Meal & Lecture 8:30pm Bull Men over @ (pachol) | 12 +ST THEODORE NEW THEOLOGIAN 7pm Men's Study 8:30am "Kali Power" Breakfast at George V's Neighborhood 8:30pm St. GUY'S Gathering 7pm PC Ever Mtg | 13 9:30am PRESANCTIFIED LITURGY 8:30am AGAPE Dinner (Lump) Pre-announcement Apes AKATHISTOS | 14 +ST BENEDICT OF NUBIA Apes VESPERS |
| 15 +ST ANDREW LENT - VENERATION CROSS 8:00am CHURCH SCHOOL 8:15am ORTHODOX/ALBANS 9:30am DIVYSE LITURGY 11:30am Greek Communion 11:30am Church School/Task-Chair Practice Open PENTECOSTAL VESPERS | 16 Apes FJL Communion Apes COFFEE 7pm Carillon Class Apes Neighborhood Meeting | 17 +ST ALEXANDER MANS OF GOOD | 18 +ST CYRIL OF JERUSALEM 8:00am Bible Study 9:30am NORTH BOOK Apes PRESANCTIFIED LITURGY 7:30pm Lenten Meal & Lecture 8:30pm Bull Men over @ (pachol) | 19 7pm Men's Study 8:30am "Kali Power" Breakfast at George V's Neighborhood 8:30am Orthodox March for Life at Saint Anthony in Springfield 8:30pm Greek Dinner Workshop | 20 Apes AKATHISTOS | 21 |
| 22 +ST ANDREW LENT - ST JOHN CLIMACUS 8:15am ORTHODOX/ALBANS 9:30am DIVYSE LITURGY 11:30am Greek Communion 11:30am Church School/Task-Chair Practice | 23 Apes COFFEE 7pm Carillon Class | 24 | 25 +ANNUNCIATION 8:00am ORTHODOX/ALBANS 9:30am DIVYSE LITURGY 11:30am Bible Study | 26 +ST PROTHIN - SAMARIAN 7pm Men's Study at Districts in Deerfield Apes Long Range Capital Committee 7pm Parish Council Mtg | 27 +ST MARTIN OF THERMOPILES Apes AKATHISTOS | 28 Apes VESPERS |
| 29 +ST ANDREW LENT - SAINT MARY EGYPT 8:15am ORTHODOX/ALBANS 9:30am DIVYSE LITURGY 11:30am Greek Communion 11:30am Church School/Task-Chair Practice | 30 Apes COFFEE 7pm Carillon Class | 31 6:30pm St. GUY'S Holy Monk Talk 7pm Pan-Orthodox Alabaster at Pan-Orthodox Alabaster in Chicago | | | | |

COMING IN APRIL

- 3 Palm Folding Prep w/ dinner
- 4 LAZARUS SUNDAY - Mandatory Cleaning
- 5 PALM SUNDAY
- 10 HOLY FRIDAY - Youth & Family Retreat
- 12 GREAT & HOLY PASCHA
- 13-14 EASTER WEEK
- 17 BRIGHT FRIDAY - 1 WEEK @ SIBC
- 18 ANTI-PASCHA - ST THOMAS
- 19 ANTI-PASCHA - ST THOMAS - Parish Assembly only
- 20 ST GEORGE - GREAT MARTYR
- 25 ST MARK EVANGELIST

+BREAD LENT / STRAFT FAST - used April wk

*1401 Wagner Road
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