

THE MESSENGER

JULY 2026

SAINTS PETER & PAUL

p.1

A Message from Father Rick Father Richard Demetrius Andrews

Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Summer Hours for Sunday Divine Liturgy began *June 1* and extend through the end of August. By starting earlier (Orthros 7:45am; Divine Liturgy 9:00am), we'll finish earlier and have more of the day to enjoy the weather and time with family and friends. Also Saturday Vespers discontinued during the Summer.

The **Mission Team Chicago banquet** was postponed until further notice. The primary reason is the rapid onset illness and death of development director **Dan Christopoulos** who died on May 30. May his memory be eternal!

College/University Graduation Sunday was *June 7*. Congratulations to *Demi Argeros, John Andreou, Eleni Tryfonopoulos, Dina O'Connell, Marina Alexis, Georgia Caras, Chrissa Katsamakis, and Niki Pappamichiel*.

Agape Summer Camp began *June 3* and runs every weekday until *July 11*. Over 50 kids have registered, and we had close to 30 additional youth for **Vacation Church School** week on *June 8-12*.

Metropolitan Nathanael's Nameday (Nathanael/Bartholomew) was *June 10-11*. Vespers were at Holy Apostles Church and Divine Liturgy was at Annunciation Cathedral. Many years rightly teaching the word of God's truth!

We celebrated **our Parish Feast Day** of Saints Peter and Paul on *Sunday evening June 28* Vespers and *Monday morning June 29* Orthros and Divine Liturgy. Metropolitan Nathanael came on Sunday morning *June 28* to pre-celebrate our feast day.

Fanari Camp- Five separate one-week sessions started *June 15* and continue through *July 18*.

The Archdiocese **Clergy-Laity** in Cleveland is *June 30 - July 2*. Our parish delegates are *Fr. Rick, George Seletos, Vanessa Adinamis and Tracy Ronstadt*.

Blessed **Independence Day Holiday**. We will observe on *Friday July 3* and the church office will be closed.

Congratulations to **Fr. Peter Sarolas** who

completed one year of service to our parish on *July 15*.

Blessed nameday to our parish administrator *Elea Bentley* and our Agape Academy director *Julie Mantice* for the **Feast of the Prophet Elias/Elijah** on *July 20*!

We look forward to our annual **Greek Festival** on *July 25-26*. Please sign-up online to volunteer. There are many opportunities. Church tours will be *2, 4, 6 and 8pm* both days. Thank to our committee for working hard to prepare these last several months.

The youth pilgrimage to **Project Mexico** begins *July 28* and continues through *August 3*. Safe travels to our team!

Does God take Summer vacation? No, and neither does our parish. We are open throughout the summer and Divine Liturgies are schedule for every Sunday and weekdays for major feasts and saints. Even though we do not have Church School classes, we should still come for Sunday Liturgy. If we are travelling for vacation, we should look to attend an Orthodox Christian Church nearby or on the way. Take a photo with you family inside or in front of the church and send to Fr. Rick if you'd like to share with the community. This is an excellent way to continue to center our life around God and to experience other parishes and styles of worship.

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—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** in 2026. We appreciate monthly gifts. <https://onrealm.org/ssppglenview/-/form/give/now>

God bless you!

+Fr. Rick



CONTACTS

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Website: sspogglenview.org

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

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

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

Parish Administrator: Elea Bentley
parishadmin@sspogglenview.org

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

Youth Director: Steven Thell
youthdirector@sspogglenview.org

Communications Coordinator: Amanda Sideris
amanda@sspogglenview.org

Bookkeeper: Diane Bravos
diane@sspogglenview.org

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@sspogglenview.org

Acolytes: Steven Thell, acolytes@sspogglenview.org

Athletics: Steve Conway & Chris Batrich, athletics@sspogglenview.org

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

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

Building Maintenance: John Vranas, john@vrans.com

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

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

Chanters: Chris Atsaves, chanters@sspogglenview.org

Choir Director: Therese Speropoulos

choir@sspogglenview.org

Church School: Alexis Douglas and Christina Jovic

churchschool@sspogglenview.org

Coffee Connection: Doreen DeSent,

coffeeconnection@sspogglenview.org

Divorce Rebuilders: Maria Boyle

divorcerebuilders@sspogglenview.org

Dynamis Group: Joanne Trahanas, dynamis@sspogglenview.org

Georgia Photopulos Cancer Support Group:

Bud Photopulos and Phyllis Perivolidis

cancersupport@sspogglenview.org

GOYAlumni: Ana Arzoumandis and Niki Alexis

goyalumni@sspogglenview.org

Greek Dance: Anna Andrews, dance@sspogglenview.org

Greek School: Stella Theoharopoulos,

griekschool@sspogglenview.org

Grief Support: Tracy Ronstadt, griefsupport@sspogglenview.org

Myrrhbearers: Anna Kallis, myrrhbearers@sspogglenview.org

Orthodox Couples Club: occ@sspogglenview.org

Philoptochos: Julie Anastos, philoptochos@sspogglenview.org

Prison Outreach: Brad DeSent

prisonoutreach@sspogglenview.org

Prospora: Tracy Ronstadt, prospora@sspogglenview.org

Readers: Sophia Castleberry, readers@sspogglenview.org

Saint Basil's Philanthropy: Christy Gouletas

philanthropy@sspogglenview.org

Saint Stephen Men's Group: Brad DeSent

mensgroup@sspogglenview.org

Stewardship: George Karagianis, stewardship@sspogglenview.org

Sunday Coffee Fellowship: Carolyn Kolbaba

fellowship@sspogglenview.org

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

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

Young Adult League (YAL): Maria Mantice,

yal@sspogglenview.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 UPDATES

FROM FATHER RICK ANDREWS

Sabbatical Leave (July 2026 update)

As announced last November, 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 will take August 16 to November 16 this year. This will be my first sabbatical in 31 years of service, and I thank everyone for their prayerful support.

A sabbatical is an extended period of time away from one's usual work to devote to research and/or rest. The primary purpose is to recharge and return to work rejuvenated and invigorated.

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.

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.

An important component of the sabbatical is complete disconnection from parish duties. Thus, I will 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. Our associate priest, Fr. Peter Sarolas, will 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.

Fr Rick's Eulogy of Dan Christopulos

I am very grateful for Dan's pastoring and friendship over the last 31 years. In 1994, after Pres Jane, Teddy and I returned from our summer in Greece, I was waiting for word on my ordination application. Dan, who was the priest at St Mary Greek Orthodox Church in Minneapolis at the time, was very generous in offering me a lay assistant position. I worked for Dan for almost three months and he mentored me through my diaconal ordination on November 27th also at St Mary Church by the late +Bishop Iakovos of Chicago. It was a great launch for moving to Chicago and serving under +Fr Bill Chiganos at Holy Apostles Church in Westchester.

I crossed paths many times with Dan in the subsequent years, especially during our trips back to Minneapolis and then our eventual assignment to St George Church in St Paul Minnesota.

I am especially appreciative of Dan's invitation to join the Frontline Chaplains program at IOCC in 2013. He was very diligent in running that program including the annual trainings--often in the Chicago area. His leadership in the state and national VOAD (Volunteer Organizations Assisting in Disasters) was crucial to the success of the program.

I fondly remember Dan's invitation to join him in leading a seminarian group for an IOCC Home Build trip in New Orleans--my first trip there January 2017. We spent a week in humble accommodations at a local Protestant church while partnering with Habitat for Humanity--also my first experience with that organization.

The most memorable, was Dan's invitation to come to Minneapolis to deploy for IOCC the week after the 2020 riots. Our work with the state patrol, national guard and police was important and needed. We relished the opportunity to minister wherever needed most.

Dan touched many people's lives including my own and I honor his place in my life. May Dan's memory be eternal! God grant him eternal rest!



LOCAL EUCHARIST COMMUNITIES

A Reflection from Father Rick

LOCAL EUCHARIST COMMUNITIES by Nathan Hoppe - PART 4 (pp.99-113) (July 2026)

Christian Community in Paul's Letters, p.98

The Church in Corinth forgot that its entire identity was found in Jesus Christ by claiming to be followers of Paul, Apollos, Cephas or even Christ. p.99

Christian communities sometimes found it necessary to defined the integrity of their community life by excluding members who chose not to live according to community norms. (see 1Cor.5:1-13; 2Cor.2:5-11 re sexual immorality)

"Purge the evil person from among you." (1Cor.5:4-8,11-13).

The Collection for the Saints in Jerusalem, p.100

The local churches understood themselves to be part of a wider community. See 1Cor.8:2-4)

Three Realities that Manifest Christian Community in Paul's Letters, p.100

In his letters Paul speaks of the Christian community as a body, a temple and a family. The **body** is multifaceted, interconnected, diverse in which each member is closely related to and dependent on Christ and each other. Persons are united to the body of Christ through Baptism (see 1Cor.12:12-13,27). Paul speaks to this in Ephesians 4:15-16; 5:29-30 and 1Cor.11:27-39.

Some argued that the Body of Christ referred to the body and blood in the Eucharist. Others say it is the gathering of the believers as the Church. Both are true and form one continuous interdependent reality. (p.102)

The **temple** in Jerusalem was central to Judaism, the place where heaven and earth are tied together. In Jesus, the Judaic temple was superseded but continues to be present by the community of baptized believers. The community now becomes the temple of God. (see Ephesians 2:12-22 and "We are the temple of the living God" 2Cor.6:16).

Following Christ is not simply spiritual transformation. Rather it is the participation of the whole person. The actions of every person are no longer individual choices because they have implications for the entire temple structure, *"The sexually immoral person sins against his own body"* (1Cor.6:18) p.103

Regarding **family**, for those who are incorporated in Christ, the family of God becomes the first and primary family (see Eph.3:14-15). See also 1Tim.3:14-15; Eph.2:19). Family language permeates Paul's writing. He uses the Greek word 'adelphoi' or brothers (and sisters) 140 times. (p.104)

Stones in a temple must touch one another to form a building. Members of a family must spend time together, care for one another and know each other to be a family. (p.105)

Teaching Regarding Christian Community in the Gospels (p.105)

The four gospels were written in the 1st century but following the found of all LECs mentioned in Acts. The gospels were written with the life of the LECs preserving the history of Jesus' ministry.

Sermon on the Mount

An LEC is a community that does not live for itself alone, but it is called to be **salt and light** (Mt.5:13-14) to the world. The Beatitudes help emphasized that internal attitudes and just as important as overt actions (see Mt.5:23-24) especially forgiveness (Mt.6:14-15; Mt.7:3-5).

The Lost Sheep. (p.107)

If Someone Sins Against You (p.108) – see Mt.18

The Unmerciful Servant (p.108)]

The Church as a Liminal Community (p.108-

Liminal means 'margin' or 'marginal.' Baptism leaves the Christians marginal with regard to the unbelieving society, with no real place in that society anymore, and assimilates them into a new community. (p.110).

Boundaries that were maintained because of ritual, rank, status or ethnicity no longer affect the interaction between individuals in the liminal state.

The Christian practice of community is unique because it was within the context of societal structure, extending to people outside the community. Thus, it is able to transform the structures of society. This is different from communities that severed all their existing relationships outside the community/church. (p.111)

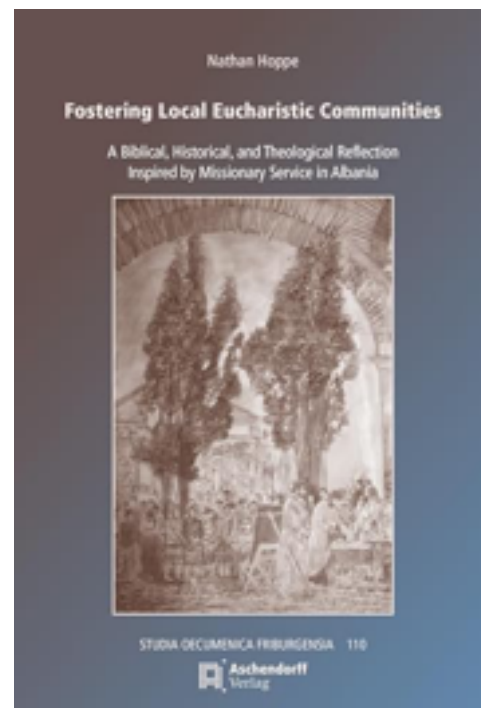
The transition to imperial (with favor and support of the emperor and the empire) Christianity, church leaders were recognized as civic leaders. Eventually,

the Christian community became part of the Imperial governing body and in doing so, the Church became structure that gained power and influence. Thus, seriously damaging its liminal quality.

In some ways, LECs of the 21st century more closely resemble those of the first three centuries. (p.112)

Community Life in the LECs in the 2nd – 3rd centuries.

As the number of Christians grew steadily during this time, the number of LECs multiplied. Christians intentionally cultivated community. In his Letter to the Ephesians, St Ignatius of Antioch emphasizes the importance of unity and connection between members of the community and their union with Jesus Christ (p.113). *"And if I, in a short time, have achieved such spiritual and not merely human communion with your bishop, all the more do I congratulate you who have become one with him, as the Church is one with Jesus Christ, and as Jesus Christ is one with the Father, so that all things may be in harmony."*



RENEWING THE LORD'S HOME



The replacement of the HVAC systems serving the rooms under the gym have been replaced. Note that the a/c condensers have been removed from the Agape playground.



The four-foot open fence surrounding the Agape playground has been replaced with a new six-foot board on board cedar fence.

OUR LIFE TOGETHER



We gathered on the church lawn to offer prayers and blessings for our beloved pets, thanking God for the joy and companionship they bring to our lives. (5/30/26)



Greek School Matriculation Ceremony 2026. (6/3/26)

OUR LIFE TOGETHER



Goyalumni gathering at Jaspers in Glenview (6/14/26)



Our GOYA spent the afternoon at the Greek American Rehab & Care Centre, sharing an afternoon of dancing, bingo, and fellowship with the residents. (5/31/26)



40 Day Churching for Georgia Londos and baby Alexios. Congratulations including dad Tommy and brothers: George and Niko.

OUR LIFE TOGETHER



The North Vicariate clergy of the Metropolis of Chicago celebrated Divine Liturgy (5/20/26)



Thank you to John and Bill Vranas and Vranas family for donating the icon of the Twelve Holy Apostles in memory of their parents: Paul and Lola Vranas. (6/14/26)



Sack Lunch volunteers Paula Steil, John Vranas and Mary Alukos (5/30/26)



Celebrating Vespers with Metropolitan Nathanael for his Namesday at Holy Apostles in Westchester (6/10/26)

OUR LIFE TOGETHER



Thank you to the Presvyteras of our SSPP community as we honored them today on National Presvyteras Sunday. (6/7/26) Mary Scoulas, Sophia Philippas, Jane Andrews, Maria Sarolas and Anna Kallis (not pictured: Elyse McClish, daughter of Carolyn and Joe Kolbaba, who serves with her husband Fr Jonathan in Cincinnati Ohio).



Agape Christian Academy graduation 2026. (5/28/26)



SS. Peter & Paul St. Stephens Men's Group hosted a Nature Walk at Independence Grove Forest Preserve in Libertyville led by Tom Anton. (6/6/26)

JR OLYMPICS 2026



CONGRATS GRADS!


Demi Argeros

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign:
Masters in Health Technology.

Awards & Achievements: Graduate Research Assistant with the Disability and Participation Quality of Life (DPQoL) Lab.

Future Plans: Healthcare technology, continue research and design projects.


John Andreou

Purdue University: Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Economics

Awards & Achievements: Dean's List with Semester Honors; Purdue Mock Trial Team

Future Plans: Chicago-Kent College of Law


Dina O'Connell

University of North Carolina Chapel Hill with a PhD in Cancer Pathology.

Awards & Achievements: Awards from NIH; published in Journal of Modern Pathology. Thesis "Genomic Analysis of the Tumor Microenvironment and Immune Activity Across Breast Cancer Subtypes."

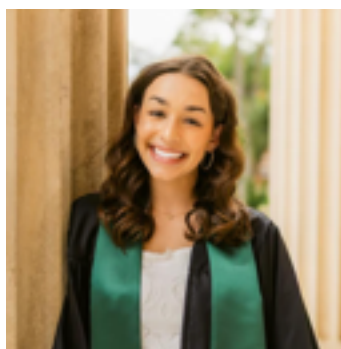
Future Plans: Continue working at UNC lab.


Eleni Tryfonopoulos

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign - Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology, Minor in French

Awards & Achievements: Highest honors in the James Scholar Honors College.

Future Plans: Northwestern University to pursue a Doctorate in Physical Therapy.


Marina Alexis

Baylor University- Bachelor of Arts in Political Science; minors in Legal Reasoning/Analysis & Religion.

Awards & Achievements: Summa cum Laude, Dean's List, Phi Beta Kappa, Pi Sigma Alpha, Alpha Lambda Delta, PanHellenic Scholarship

Future Plans: Law school


Niki Pappamichiel

Marquette University – Masters in Physician Assistant Studies

Awards & Achievements: Summa cum Laude & Dean's List

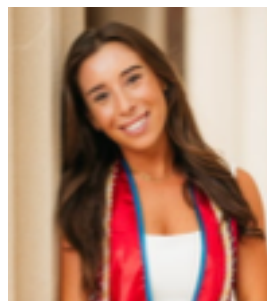
Future Plans: Pediatric medicine in Chicagoland area


Georgia Caras

Harvard Law School- Juris Doctor.

Awards & Achievements: Cum Laude; International Law Journal; Immigration Clinic; Women in Law Association

Future Plans: Litigation associate at Sullivan Cromwell LLP in New York. In 2027 starts a federal clerkship in New Orleans, Louisiana.


Chrissa Katsamakis

Southern Methodist University - BA in English and BA in Advertising

Awards: Achievements: Mock Trial; Risk Manager for Pi Beta Phi Sorority; Internships at AT&T, Dallas, the Children's Advocacy Center, and Cannes Lions—London; Alumni Networking Chair for the Alexander Hamilton Society

Future Plans: Law School- fall of 2026.

AGAPE JOB OPPORTUNITY

AGAPE Christian Academy is seeking a passionate and dedicated Preschool Teacher to join our play-based early childhood program. The ideal candidate will foster a safe, inclusive, and engaging classroom environment where children are encouraged to explore, learn, and grow. Responsibilities include designing age-appropriate lesson plans, guiding children through developmental milestones, and maintaining active, positive communication with families.

If you have a background in early childhood education and a true commitment to nurturing young minds, we would love to have you on our team. For details regarding this position, please contact, Julie Mantice, Director at agape@ssppglenview.org or 847-849-7870.



PASTORAL MESSAGE

FROM FATHER PETER

A Message from Father Peter

St. Nicodemus the Hagiorite (and of Mount Athos and from the Island of Naxos)

Last summer when my family and I were vacationing in Greece, our travels took us to Athens and the Acropolis, Aegina, Kefhalonia, Tripoli, Sparti, Olympia (the ancient Olympic site) and to Naxos. We really did not realize at the time that we would stumble upon a Saint that we really did not know anything about until after our trip. We spent about four to five days on the Island of Naxos (Naxos is a Greek Island on the Cyclades side of Greece.) My family and I did our usual thing, meaning we walked around taking in the sites that any tourist would do to check out the various sites and sample the awesome food as well as see the different types of shops. We also went into the various churches and lit candles.

Let me take you back to last summer. Around the eleventh of July, 2025 my family and I entered a church in Naxos not realizing that four days later would be the feast day of St. Nicodemus of Naxos the Hagiorite. As I mentioned, we entered this beautiful, white-washed church with a blueish dome and several crosses on the top of the church building. As we entered the church, we lit our candles and walked around, we noticed an icon of a St. Nicodemus on the ikonostasio/icon screen and to be honest with you, I do not think that we knew much about who St. Nicodemus was or anything about him. We did see relics of various saints such as, Saint Nicholas Planas, Saint Athanasios of Paros, Saint Arsenios of Paros and of Saint Nicodemus. There was also an icon of St. Nicodemus where he is standing with a scroll in his hands, in the background is Mount Athos to the right and to the left the Island of Naxos and the monetary of St. Chrysostom written in the icon. My personal and humble opinion is that because St. Nicodemus is from the Island of Naxos and a monk of Mount Athos that is why he is depicted in the icon that way.

Here is a brief story of who St. Nicodemus was and how he became a Saint in our church. Saint Nikodemus was born on the Aegean island of Naxos, to pious parents, and baptized with the name of Nicholas. He was educated first on Naxos by a learned archimandrite and then at the celebrated Greek 'Evangelical School' of Smyrna. On completing his studies in 1770, he returned to his home island, where he found employment as the bishop's secretary. A bright pupil such as Nicholas would normally have gone abroad for university studies. Nicholas's family had the means to enable him to do so, but while he was working for the bishop of Naxos he met Makarios, a former metropolitan of Corinth, who inspired him to enter the monastic life.

A few years after returning home, Nicholas met Macarius of Corinth. They became lifelong friends. Soon after, Nicholas decided to become a monk. He was inspired by three monks he met who came from Mount Athos. Mount Athos had been an important center for monks for over 700 years. These monks convinced Nicholas to go to Mount Athos. He arrived there in 1775 when he was 26 years old. When Nicholas became a monk, his name was changed to Nicodemus. This is a common tradition for those who choose a monastic life. He learned about hesychia, a special way of praying. "Hesychia" is a method that involves inner stillness, controlled breathing, and repeating the

"Jesus Prayer". This prayer is: "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner."

On Mount Athos, Saint Nicodemus joined a group of monks called the Kollyvades. They wanted to bring back traditional Orthodox practices and ancient Christian writings. Nicodemus spent the rest of his life translating and publishing these important works. He also wrote many original books of his own. He reached the highest rank for Orthodox monks, called megaloskhemos ("Great Schema" is one of the several types of monastic ranks a monk can become in the monastery that they are attached to.)

Saint Nicodemus became known as an ascetic writer and publisher of patristic writings. His veneration increased, and in 1955 he was canonized. The memory of the saint is celebrated on July 14th and on the first Sunday of September with the other Saints of Paros and Naxos (the saints that are celebrated on the first Sunday of September are: St. Nicodemus the Hagiorite, St. Athanasios Paros, St. Arsenios of Paros, St. Philotheos of Paros, St. Theoktisti of Paros, St. Nicholas Planas). May Saint Nicodemus as well as St. Athanasios Paros, St. Arsenios of Paros, St. Philotheos of Paros, St. Theoktisti of Paros, St. Nicholas Planas intercede in all our lives.



Church of St. Nicodemos in Naxos



Relic of St. Nicodemos

A LETTER FROM

Therese Bartholomew Speropoulos

Dear Father Rick, Father Peter, and my extended family at SSPP:

Thank you all so much for the many tributes, condolences, and prayers for my nephew, John Bartholomew. Thank you also for the monetary donations for his widow, Renee and family.

John was an exemplary person, always ready to help anyone who needed it. The person who killed John gave himself over to the Evil One. In spite of this horrible situation, I still believe that there are many more good people than bad ones. I echo Father Rick's sentiments in his "Reflection" in the June Messenger. We all need to remember how first responders come to our aid every day. We're safe because these brave people keep us that way.

I would like to share a text sent to me by a friend after John was killed:

"I want to wish you and your family my most sincere condolences for your dear nephew.

I was involved in a hit and run accident near St. Andrew 3 years ago. He was the officer who came right to my aid and helped me get my banged-up car off the road. Together we got it running and I was able to get myself back home safely. I never forgot his name. "Oh, you're Greek and headed to my church! I'm Officer Bartholomew." I thought of him so much. When I saw his name on WGN my heart sank to the floor. I hope the killer gets life.

I had no idea he was your nephew, and no idea he was the grandson of Fr Kutulas. I even saved the police report he wrote up for me. I never felt so cared for."

This story so perfectly describes our Johnny. He always had a smile on his face and always wanted to help whoever needed it in any way he could. It's a beautiful story. When I received it, I read it to some family members and police officers (our CPD "care team") and there wasn't a dry eye in the group.

Thank you again. I truly think of you all as my extended family. Please pray for our first responders.

May John's memory be eternal.

In Christ,
Therese Bartholomew Speropoulos



PARISH COUNCIL LETTER

Parish Council Update

As a follow-up to my June Messenger report, I would like to provide an update on the discussions the Parish Council held regarding the three parishioner questions raised during the Spring Parish Assembly as well as provide updates in other areas. Transparency and open communication remain important priorities for the Parish Council, and we appreciate the thoughtful questions and engagement from our parish family.

1. Should the parish consider hosting an annual church banquet similar to the 65th Anniversary celebration?

Council Response:
After thoughtful discussion, the Parish Council concluded that, given the number of social and fellowship events already included in our annual calendar—including the Fall Parish Picnic in September and the reestablished Church Festival in July—it would be most appropriate to reserve large-scale anniversary celebrations for milestone years. At this time, the Council envisions hosting the next major anniversary celebration in conjunction with our 70th Anniversary in 2030. Should circumstances change or new opportunities arise, the Council will revisit this decision as appropriate.

2. Should the parish develop a church directory that includes parishioners' occupations and professional services?

Council Response:
After careful consideration, the Parish Council is not in favor of publishing a directory containing parishioners' personal or professional information. Several factors informed this decision:

- **Privacy and Consent:** Privacy concerns have increased significantly in recent years, particularly regarding data breaches and identity theft.
- **Security Considerations:** The Council wishes to minimize the risk of personal information being distributed beyond the parish community.
- **Legal and Liability Risks:** Collecting and sharing personal information may expose the parish to legal and liability concerns.

- **Administrative Challenges:** Maintaining accurate and up-to-date personal and professional information would require significant ongoing effort and could create frustration within the parish community.
3. Should the Parish Vitality Committee expand its participation metrics to include ministries such as choir, altar servers, and prosphora?

Council Response:
The Parish Council agrees that these ministries are important indicators of parish engagement. Keith Anderson and the Parish Vitality Committee are currently reviewing this recommendation as part of their ongoing efforts to strengthen parish participation metrics.

May Parish Council Actions

At its May meeting, the Parish Council approved the following motions:

- Approved memorial fund transfers to the Capital Account totaling \$12,472.
- Approved memorial fund transfers to the General Operating Account totaling \$5,108.
- Approved a memorial fund transfer of \$2,435 to the Helen Gallanis Lecture Fund.
- Approved Agape Academy teachers' salary increases for the 2026–2027 school year.
- Approved painting of the church ceiling in the amount of \$19,500.
- Approved a \$1,500 contribution to Philoptochos in support of the parish feast day celebration at the end of June.
- Approved implementation of an employee 403(b) retirement plan offered through the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.
- Approved a 20% charitable outreach allocation from festival profits to be distributed to two worthwhile causes:
 - The Sophia Bartholomew Trust fund, which will support Sophia, the daughter of fallen Chicago Police Officer John Bartholomew.
 - The Center of Enriched Living, a nonprofit organization in Riverwoods Illinois that supports individuals with developmental disabilities.

Security and Safety Committee Reestablished
In addition to these motions and discussions, the Parish Council has reestablished the Security and Safety Committee. Building upon the many positive measures already in place, the committee recognized the need to develop a formal Safety and Security Plan to help ensure the well-being of our parish community.

The comprehensive plan will address areas including:

- Governance and leadership responsibilities
- Facility and security assessments
- Emergency response and continuity planning
- Communications and emergency notification procedures
- Physical security and access controls
- Life safety systems and emergency equipment
- Training and drills
- Community partnerships with police, fire, and emergency services
- Risk management and compliance
- Ongoing review and sustainability

Given the extensive scope of this effort, it's anticipated the committee's initial focus will be on life safety and training initiatives. In the coming months, parishioners will hear more about this important work.

The committee welcomes parishioners who have an interest or expertise in safety, emergency management, healthcare, law enforcement, facilities, or related fields to participate in this ministry.

In closing, I would like to thank everyone for your continued support of our parish community. It is through your gifts of time, talent, and treasure that our parish continues to grow and thrive. May God continue to bless our parish family and all who worship here.

In Christ,
George Seletos
Parish Council President

MINISTRY UPDATES

Book & Icon Store

Whether you're planning a quiet staycation or heading off on a family road trip, we've gathered a collection perfect for your summer adventures. From inspiring reads and engaging books for kids, to prayer ropes, bracelets, icons, tapestry pouches, and more—these compact, travel-friendly items are easy to pack and meaningful to carry. There's something for everyone—young and old, quiet reader or curious traveler. We're also an excellent source for weddings, graduations, baptisms, and even housewarming. Make this a summer filled with faith, inspiration, and a little something for the road.

Saints Peter and Paul Greek School

Pre-registration is now in progress for the 2026-2027 school year. We offer an excellent educational program in a child centered, loving and caring church environment. For information contact Stella Theoharopoulos by her cell at (847) 529-5899 or by email tjheostell@aol.com

SCHOOL HOURS

Monday: Preschool /Kindergarten / 1 st to 6 th grade 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Saturday Kindergarten / 1 st to 6 th grade 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.



Saint Stephen Men's Ministry

The Saint Stephen Men's group brings men closer together through Orthodox Christian Fellowship, Philanthropy, and Educational programs. Join the Mailing List: Please join our email list to keep up to date with activities. We welcome all adult men from Saints Peter and Paul, Orthodox and Non-Orthodox, and their friends who are interested in participating. Please join the email list at: <https://ssppglenview.org/st-stephens-mens-group/>

Thursday Morning Study Group (Meets via zoom) We will be studying the book starting in September. (Available in the Church Book Store)

Thirty Steps to Heaven: The Ladder of Divine Ascent for All Walks of Life - Book by Vassilios Papavassiliou

Archimandrite Vassilios interprets the Ladder for the ordinary Christian without sacrificing any of its beauty and power. Now you too can accept the challenge offered by St. John Climacus to ascend closer to God with each passing day. Please join us starting on September 10th 7:00 AM via Zoom to start this study.

Coffee Connection An Educational Ministry for All Adults

Coffee Connection is hosting a two session summer book club on Tuesday, July 28 and Wednesday, August 19. We chose the book, ALL IS WELL, by Dr. Al Rossi, with the hope that it will give anyone who reads it a sense of peace and calm. We will meet in the youth room from 7:00-8:30pm for 2 sessions: Please read the pages suggested BEFORE each session, so everyone is ready to discuss. Books are available in our bookstore for \$10.00. "This book is best read with a cup of coffee or tea in hand." So come join us and we will make sure you get that cup of coffee or tea!

1st session – Tuesday, July 28 --- Read p. 5-73 which include the Forward, Introduction and Chapters 1-5 - **2nd session** – Wednesday, August 19 --- Read p. 74 -130 which include Chapters 6-11

To RSVP or for any questions, contact coffeeconnection@ssppglenview.org

Sunday Summer Liturgy Hours and No Saturday Vespers

Summer Sunday Liturgy early start (9:00am) begins June 7 and continues through August 30th. Hopefully, this will help everyone start the day earlier worshipping God and allow more daytime to enjoy the beautiful summer weather. In a similar spirit, there will be no Saturday Vespers during the summer (June, July and August).

MINISTRY UPDATES cont.

SSPP Divorce Rebuilders Celebrates 20th Anniversary

SS Peter and Paul's Divorce Rebuilders celebrated its 20th Anniversary on April in Glenview with approximately 21 participants attending from Illinois, Ohio, Michigan, Iowa, and Oregon for a three day retreat in April 2026. SSPP Divorce Rebuilders was started by ministry leader Maria Harduvel Boyle as a response to her own difficulties overcoming the challenges of divorce.

Currently, SSPP Divorce Rebuilders is the only Orthodox divorce support group presently known that serves participants from the entire USA as well as participants from Hawaii, Canada, Australia and the Bahamas.

The purpose of SSPP Divorce Rebuilders is to support those going through the pain of separation and divorce by creating a space and community where broken hearts encounter compassion, where shame gives way to dignity and where Christ heals what has been wounded.

For more information about enrolling in this program, please email: divorcerebuilders@ssppglenview.org.



Project Mexico (July 28th - August 3rd)

Four highschoolers from our parish have chosen to spend a week of their summer helping build homes for families in need through Project Mexico. Their willingness to serve others is a beautiful example of faith in action and a meaningful opportunity to make a difference in the lives of those they will serve.

We would like to thank everyone who supported our recent car wash fundraiser. Your generosity and encouragement are helping make this mission possible.

Please join us on July 19 for our Mexican-themed Coffee Hour fundraiser. We hope you will stop by for food, fellowship, and an opportunity to support our youth as they prepare for this life-changing experience.

If you would like to make a donation, please make checks payable to SSPP and write "Project Mexico" in the memo line.

Since 1992, our parish has been blessed to send young people to Project Mexico to do God's work. Through prayer, service, and working alongside the families they help, our youth not only build homes but also deepen their faith and grow closer to Christ.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support



SSPP GREEK FEST 2026

What's the Best Part of Volunteering at Our Fest? ...the New Friendships You'll Make!



Some of the most enduring (maybe even surprising) friendships among parishioners got started at a festival. Working side by side to grill souvlaki, package dinner or mezze orders, slice gyros or dip loukoumades provides many opportunities to get to know that person you occasionally shake hands with during Liturgy.



We still have openings available, especially in the 7-10:30 pm time slot on both days.

PARENTS GET YOUR KIDS SIGNED UP.

They must be 15 or older to help serve hot food; but tweens, teens and young adults are needed as food runners, in the Kids Zone, serving ice cream and for prep, set-up and tear-down.



DON'T SIT ON THE SIDELINES – SIGN UP NOW TO HELP!



Scan the QR code to the left to access Sign-up Genius, where you'll see the dates, times and specific areas that still need volunteers.

JULY 25 & 26 • 1-10 PM

SSPP GREEK FEST 2026

HELP US SURPASS OUR '25 FESTIVAL SPONSORSHIP SUCCESS !

Last year, our Greek Fest raised \$29,000 in sponsorships. **In 2026 we aim to exceed that total, but we have less than four weeks left to do it.** As we wish to make an impact beyond supporting our church, 20 percent of the Fest's net proceeds will benefit two worthy causes: the Sophia Bartholomew Trust Fund, established for the daughter of fallen Chicago Police Officer John Bartholomew, a member of our Greek Orthodox community; and the Center for Enriched Living, which supports individuals with developmental disabilities by maximizing opportunities for personal success, fun and friendship, employment and community involvement.

Sponsorship levels and the recognition associated with each contribution amount can be found below. Complete the form included in the recent sponsorship request mailing and mail it to the church. Or visit <https://ssppglenview.org/greek-fest-2026/> (the Fest website), then select the "Become a Sponsor" box where you can complete and submit the form online. Please act soon – **the deadline for acknowledgement in our printed materials is July 10.**

<i>Olive Branch</i> \$25-\$249	<i>Laurel Wreath</i> \$250 - \$499	<i>Bronze</i> \$500 - \$999	<i>Silver</i> \$1000 - \$2499	<i>Gold</i> \$2500+
Name featured on the church website and in the festival program.	Name featured on a large banner at the festival entrance.	Name featured on a medium-sized banner in the main dining tent.	Name and/or simple logo featured on a large-sized banner in a single booth*.	Name and/or simple logo featured on a large-sized banner at the main stage.
			*see booth options below	

Donors at all levels will be included in the festival program and on the Saints Peter and Paul website. Additional recognition, if applicable, is noted in each category.

Gold \$2,500

The donor's name or company logo on a large banner at the main stage.

Silver \$1,000

The donor's name or company logo on a large banner at a single booth.

Bronze \$500

The donor's name on a medium-sized banner in or around the main dining tent.

Laurel Wreath \$250

The donor's name will appear on a large banner listing all contributors at the festival entrance at the \$250 or above level.

Olive Branch <\$250

The donor's name is listed in the festival program and on the church website.



**BE PART OF OUR NATION'S 250TH
ANNIVERSARY AND REPRESENT
OUR CHURCH & GREEK FEST
IN GLENVIEW'S JULY 4TH PARADE!**

You can actively participate in celebrating our country's 250th birthday, while helping us represent Saints Peter & Paul to promote our upcoming Greek Festival on July 25 & 26. We had a great group last year – and a lot of fun! So come join us.

The parade starts at 11:20 a.m. and is only 10 blocks in length. Adults, young people and families with strollers are welcome. Kids under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. To sign up, contact Angie Katsamakis, akatsamakis@comcast.net, or Steven Thell, steven@ssppglenview.org, or visit the Greek Fest table during Sunday fellowship.



A Surprise Treat This Year....

A vintage fire truck, courtesy of Gia Xenakis and Larue Highsmith, will be joining our entourage in the parade! Thank you Gia and Larue!

PHILOPTOCHOS

A Letter from Our President!

Dear Saints Peter and Paul Church Family,

Summer has arrived, bringing opportunities to slow down, spend time with family and friends, and enjoy the blessings of the season. Even as many of us take time away, the spirit of Philoptochos remains active in our parish community. One of the highlights of summer is preparing for our beloved Greek Fest. Baking days are always a wonderful reminder of what makes our church family so special — coming together in fellowship, sharing traditions, and working side by side in support of our parish. Thank you to everyone who gives their time and talents to help make the bakery a success. We welcome all who would like to join us! Summer is also a time to look ahead. Your Philoptochos Board has begun planning for the coming year, and we would love your input. If you have ideas for programs, service opportunities, speakers, fellowship events, or new ways to engage our community, please email your suggestions to me at philoptochos@ssppglenview.org. Your ideas help shape the meaningful work we do together.

Wishing you and your families a joyful, relaxing, and blessed summer.

With gratitude, Julie Anastos - President
Saints Peter and Paul Philoptochos

PREVIOUS MONTH'S HIGHLIGHTS

Saturday, June 6th Lawrence Hall Youth Breakfast

On Saturday, June 6, six Philoptochos members went to Lawrence Hall to make breakfast with the boys that our chapter has "adopted". We made waffles from scratch, sausage and eggs. It was a wonderful way to spend the morning. The boys loved preparing and then eating what they made. They even enjoyed wearing Philoptochos aprons!



Sunday, June 7th Donation Check Presentation

Following Divine Liturgy, Philoptochos joyfully presented donation checks to three deserving organizations: \$7,500 to Camp SOAR, \$7,500 to K9s for Veterans, and \$15,000 to Hogar Rafael Ayau.

These gifts represent the heart of Philoptochos in action — charity, service, and love for those in need. They were made possible through the generous support of our volunteers, parishioners, and community members who gave their time, talent, and resources to the Holiday Faire and our May Fundraiser, "A Night to Amaze."



UPCOMING EVENTS

July Baking Dates

Wednesday, July 15 | 9:00 a.m.– approximately 5:00 p.m.

Making koulourakia and kourambethes

Monday, July 20 | 11:00 a.m.– approximately 5:00 p.m.

Making melomakarouna and packaging baklava

Please join us for our July baking days in preparation for this year's pastry sales! This is a church-wide baking effort, and everyone is warmly encouraged to help. You do not need to be a Philoptochos member to participate.

Our homemade Greek pastries, lovingly prepared in our church kitchen, have become so popular that last year we sold out much earlier than expected. This year, we are making more pastries and adding more variety so more people can enjoy them — and we need many helping hands to make that possible.

PHILOPTOCHOS

Tuesday, August 18th Senior Appreciation Luncheon @ Noon

Parishioners of a "certain age" - don't miss out on our Senior Appreciation Luncheon on Tuesday, August 18th! This is often the highlight of the summer, with excellent food, great fellowship, and live entertainment by Grecian Formula. Based on what we saw last year, you may even need to wear your dancing shoes! The complimentary lunch is open to all our senior parishioners. RSVP by August 4 to Ida Haris at 847-309-9223 or Pat Nassos at patnassos@gmail.com. You can also reach out to volunteer to help us serve.



Charity Spotlight

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



The Philoptochos is proud to highlight Erika's Lighthouse, a nonprofit dedicated to raising awareness about adolescent depression, encouraging strong mental health, and breaking down the stigma surrounding mental health issues. Through free school programs, classroom education, family resources, and student empowerment clubs, Erika's Lighthouse helps young people understand mental health, recognize when they or a friend may need help, and feel less alone.

By supporting Erika's Lighthouse, we help bring hope, education, and compassionate support to students and families — a mission that reflects the heart of Philoptochos.

Save these Dates!

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

Wednesday, July 15 9:00 a.m. – Baking koulourakia and kourambethes

Monday, July 20 11:00 a.m. – Baking melomakarouna and packaging baklava

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

Tuesday, August 18 – Senior Appreciation Luncheon – Philoptochos Serves (70 and older invited)

Saturday, September 26 – Metropolis-wide Annual September Luncheon, Empress Banquets, Addison, 11 am

Tuesday, October 20 – Feed the Hungry at Annunciation Cathedral – Everyone is Welcome to Help!

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

*1401 Wagner Road
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