

THE MESSENGER

SEPTEMBER 2026

SAINTS PETER & PAUL

p.1

A Message from Father Rick Father Richard Demetrius Andrews

Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

I am currently on Sabbatical, returning November 17. We return to **regular hours** for Sunday Divine Liturgy on *September 6*. (Orthros 8:15am; Divine Liturgy 9:30am), Also Saturday Vespers will resume on *September 12*.

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. I am absent from all parish events including worship, sacraments and administration. I am not checking my work email, I am not answering phone calls and texts.

Our associate priest, *Fr. Peter Sarolas*, is fulfilling the priestly duties in my absence. Fr. Peter is 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.

Our annual **Greek Festival** took place July 25-26. Church tours were held at 2, 4, 6 and 8pm both days. Thanks to our committee for all their hard work preparing and carrying out our festival.

Project Mexico summer **youth pilgrimage** was July 28 through August 3. We look forward to hearing about our team's experiences.

We will send off our **college youth** on

about our team's experiences.

We sent off our **youth** on *Sunday August 16* will a special prayer and blessing. The Philoptochos **Senior Appreciation luncheon** took place on *Tuesday August 18*. The **Church school staff** and teachers had their Fall prep meeting on *Sunday August 24*.

The **11 Annual Solemn Vespers** for the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation aka Vespers for the Protection of the Environment will take place here at SSPP on *Monday August 31* 7pm. Our guest speaker that evening will be *Franciscan Friar James F. Puglisi, SA*. See flyer for more info.

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

Indiction Feast always signifies the beginning of our ministry year, especially for our youth.

On *Sunday Sept. 13* we will have our annual **Fall Youth Kickoff** and **Parish Picnic**. We plan to have a simple bbq/grilled lunch for everyone. Afterwards, the youth will have activities all afternoon. For more info, contact youth director Steven Thell.

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

On *September 8*, we celebrate the great feast for the **Nativity of the Theotokos**.

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

In accordance with the Metropolis Vision of Growth initiative that highlights the catechumenate, we will host the usual **Fall Catechism course** on *Tuesday evenings 7-9pm* beginning *September 15*. These classes are open to everyone, especially catechumens, seekers, inquirers and current Orthodox Christians wishing to deepen their knowledge of the Orthodox Faith.

Our 2026 Archdiocese **Stewardship Theme: "Rise Up and Build: Building Up the Body of Christ."** The words of the prophet Nehemiah to the Jewish

CONTACTS

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Rev. Fr. Peter Sarolas, Economos,
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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

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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

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Building Maintenance: John Vranas, john@vranas.com

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

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Bud Photopulos, cancersupport@ssppglenview.org

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Greek Dance: Anna Andrews, dance@ssppglenview.org

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Saint Basil's Philanthropy: Christy Gouletas

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Saint Stephen Men's Group: Joe Kolbaba and Dean Matsas

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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 UPDATES

FROM FATHER RICK ANDREWS cont.

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 carry out His ministry in our modern time. We are called to build up the walls of our parish temples, and at the same time, tear down the walls/barriers in and around our parish that prevent people from experiencing the love, mercy and forgiveness of Christ. We do this by building up our worship and ministries. Receiving the Body of Christ in the Eucharist means little if we are not building up each other, carrying one another’s burdens and fulfilling the law of Christ (Galatians 6:2).

God’s guideline for giving is the tithe (10%). He gives us everything but only asks for ten percent in return. That’s a pretty good deal. With a total (operations & capital) annual parish budget of \$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



WHAT'S IN A BAPTISMAL/SAINT'S NAME?

An Article from Fr Rick

Why is it Important?

What's in a name? A name, my name, your name, everyone's name, is not just a word. It is also a sign and a symbol, a representation of who we are. It sums up the totality of our being, our personhood, our entirely unique combination of characteristics and experiences.

Notice that in the bible no one has a last name. That would come centuries later, when one's father's first name became his/her last name. The remnant of this tradition is preserved in many current last names like "*Peterson*", which meant of course "*the son of Peter*." Modern Greek names demonstrate this tradition in that many of them are cast in the possessive case, like "*Papandreou*"

However, a name has more meaning than just signifying our historical existence. Our name connects to the very core of our being and thus has existential or ultimate meaning. Our name is like our fingerprint, it's utterly unique and unrepeatable. Almost from the day of our birth, our parents called us by our name. Those who gave birth to us, also gave us a name that meant something to them. And then, sweetly and lovingly, they repeated that name over and over to us. Even before we were conscious of our name, we were conscious of our parents' gentle voice, loving gaze and warm embrace. The sound of

their voice, especially saying our name, is one we will never forget. Our parents' voice and words helped to call our being and personality into existence.

The other aspect of our name is what does it literally mean or what does it mean to the people who named you? Sometimes names are given by parents because they like how it sounds or it's a popular name. Some parents wish to be counter-cultural and give their child a very unique name. Sometimes, names are given to show honor and respect for another person like a grandparent or another beloved relative.

In the biological and verbal begetting of their children, parents become co-creators with God. In the first chapter of the book of Genesis, God creates heaven and earth. He then creates light by saying, "*Let there be light*" (v.3). Later, He calls "*the light Day; the darkness He called Night*" (v.5). Later, God calls "*the dry land Earth*" and "*the waters He calls Seas*." We are familiar with the rest of the creation story. The important point is that through God's spoken word, He creates all that exists. As well, through His spoken word, through His voice, God **names** the various elements of creation. In addition, God creates the first man and woman, and **names** them Adam and Eve. God then gives this first man, Adam, the privilege to **name** all of the animals in the creation. When Adam and Eve were hiding from God because they were ashamed of their transgression, "*they heard the*

voice of the Lord God" (v.8) and God called, "*Adam, where are you?*" (v.9). Thus, God calls us to repentance through our name.

The important name of all is the name Jesus. The angel tells Joseph to call the child about to be born of Mary, "*Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins*" (v.21). The name Jesus literally means "*He who saves*." This is why we call Jesus, "*our Savior*." Matthew the Evangelist notes that this is a fulfillment of prophecy and quotes Isaiah 7:14 "*Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel*." Because the Greek speaking people may not have known the Hebrew, Matthew explains that the name Immanuel means "*God with us*" (v.23). So, not only is Jesus our Savior, He is also God, "*conceived of the Holy Spirit*" (v.20), who lives among us and in us. The Greek translation 'Isous' of the Hebrew 'Yeshwah' also means healing. Thus, Jesus is our healing Savior.

The Prophet Isaiah said, "*God called me before I was born, from my mother's womb He pronounced my name*" (Is.49:1). When Mary Magdalene, whom Jesus had previously cast seven demons from, encounters Jesus after His Resurrection, she does not recognize Him (John 20:11-15). However, when Jesus says her name, "*Mary*" (v.16), she immediately recognizes Jesus and calls Him "Rabboni" (or teacher).

In our Orthodox Christian

WHAT'S IN A BAPTISMAL/SAINT'S NAME?

tradition, when someone is baptized, they are given a **saint's name** who will become their patron, praying and interceding for them. That saint also becomes a model and example of someone who followed Christ in order for us to learn from and imitate.

When we receive the Holy Sacramental Mysteries, the Orthodox Christian practice is to say our **baptismal/chrismation/saint name**. Why this custom? Why is it important? This tradition began in the second and third centuries and became a widespread custom in the fourth century (300s). Church leaders like St John Chrysostom (d.407) actively urged parents to name their children after holy saints.

In the early Church, when adult conversion and baptism predominated, Metropolitan Augustinos of Florina writes, "*when the catechumens had been taught everything that they were supposed to, their teachers would lead them back to the bishop, and the bishop would recommend that they change their pagan names and adopt Christian ones, names to remind them of holy persons or of virtues (e.g., Agapios, from agape, 'love;' Elpidos, from elpis, 'hope;' Irenaios, from eirene, 'peace...'). As you see, the Early Church attached great importance to a person's name. Yet certain people insist on giving their children names which have nothing to do with the glorious history of Christianity, or even the names of atheists and unbelievers who waged*

war and still wage war against Christianity. The names of Christians must be reminders of faith and virtue."

This new name is inscribed in the **Book of Life**. Our patron Apostle Paul wrote about this: "*And I urge you also, true companion, help these women who labored with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the Book of Life*" (Philippians 4:3). John the Evangelist also wrote: "*He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels*" (Revelation 3:5; see also 13:8; 17:8; 20:12,15; 21:27; 22:19). There is a Naming Prayer in the Making of a Catechumen service and another prayer asks that this name be written in the Book of Life.

Going back even further, we see the powerful connection between creating and naming. In the Book of Genesis, God named all the elements of Creation and He allowed Adam to name all the animals (2:19) as well as Eve/Zoe (3:20).

When we are given a baptismal-chrismation saint name, we are receiving somewhat of a new identity as a newly (re)formed Christian. It signifies a change that is occurring within us. Just like when God renamed Abram to Abraham (Gen.17) to signify his new identity as the Father of God's chosen people —Israel. Almost every biblical

person's name has a significant meaning including Isaac and Jacob and Jesus.

In the early Church, when infant baptism became the norm, there arose a special prayer service for **naming** a child on the **Eighth Day** after birth. This follows the custom of Jesus receiving His name at His circumcision on January 1 (Luke 2:21). Unfortunately, this service has fallen into disuse and forgotten by the faithful, but the priests still encourage it and will do it upon request.

An Orthodox Christian receiving a baptismal/saint name, also establishes a **relationship with our patron saint** who becomes our intercessor and a role model to follow in striving for holiness. Parents and godparents and sponsors should help their godchildren get to know intimately their patron saint.

Our name is special and should be treated so because **God's name is holy**. Of course, this is based on the Third Commandment given by God to Moses: "*You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain*" (Exodus 20:7). King David the Prophet wrote: "*Bless the Lord, O my soul; And all that is within me, bless His holy name!*" (Psalm 103:1). In ancient Israel it was considered so holy it wasn't even uttered or fully written down. The Virgin Mary affirmed this: *For He who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is His name* (Luke

WHAT'S IN A BAPTISMAL/SAINT'S NAME?

for me, and **holy is His name** (Luke 1:49). We humans are created in the image and likeness of God (Genesis 1:26) and thus **our names are holy too**, especially after baptism. That's one of the reasons why it is a sin to murmur or gossip about others.

Thus, the Orthodox consider receiving a Christian name a great dignity and privilege. After all, that name unites us to God's family, to Himself, to His Son and Holy Spirit, and to the Saints of Heaven. We remember that Christ Himself, through the mouth of the priest, gave each of us our new name and identity. As the Lord said, "*To him who overcomes...I will give a white stone, and a new name written on the stone which no one knows but he who receives it*" (Rev.2:17).

In addition, our baptismal name

and our patron saint are so special, Orthodox Christians practice the tradition of celebrating "***Namedays***"—the day that our Saint is commemorated in the life of the Church. Much less practiced but just as important is celebrating our ***spiritual birthday***--the day we received our special name—the day of our baptism. We must be disciplined and vigilant to celebrate more than just our natural day of birth.

When parents are ***choosing a name for their child***, or when an adult is converting to Orthodoxy, here are some guidelines: 1) Pray that God will connect you to a patron saint. Ask that this saint would act on your behalf, and in effect choose you first. 2) Meditate in silent prayer to discern if a love for a certain saint

has been born in you already by the Holy Spirit. Is there a saint you feel connected to more strongly than others? 3) Locate the date of your birth and baptism. Consider taking as your patron one of the saints commemorated on either of those days. You can search for saint commemorations online by date or purchase a Calendar of the Saints to help with this. 4) Consider speaking with a spiritual father who knows you well. Perhaps he knows of a saint who would serve as a wonderful patron for you!

Thus, do not take your own baptismal/name for granted, nor the one of anybody else. Use it, learn about it, share it, especially when praying for a loved one and participating the Sacramental life of the Church.



If you want to see a fairly comprehensive list of baptismal/saints names, go here:

https://orthodoxwiki.org/Baptismal_names

Referenced for this article:

<https://www.saintjohnchurch.org/choose-patron-saint/>

<http://orthodoxinfo.com/praxis/orthname.aspx>

<https://arizonaorthodox.com/becoming-orthodox/christian-names-patron-saints/>

CELEBRATING NAME DAYS

Join in at Coffee Fellowship to celebrate Name Days and Feast Days in autumn, winter, summer, and spring!

Each of our names are special and worthy of celebration! The Orthodox Church attaches great importance to a person's name, baptizing the faithful with a name that serves as a reminder of faith and virtue.

"The servant of God (your name) is baptized in the name of the Father, Amen. And of the Son, Amen. And of the Holy Spirit, Amen." -- from the sacrament of baptism

The saint becomes our patron, praying and interceding for us. The saint becomes a model of someone who followed Christ and a person for us to learn and imitate.

The names given to us can also remind us of holy virtues, such as Agape, for **'love'**, Irenaios (Irene), for **'peace'**, or Elithea, for **'truth'**. As **God's Name is holy**, we human beings -- created in the image and likeness of God -- bear **names that are also holy**.

So meaningful and sacred is our baptismal name, that Orthodox Christians practice the tradition of celebrating **"name days,"** honoring the day that our saint or feast day is commemorated in the life of the Church.

The name day is meant to be celebrated just as joyfully as a birthday! It is an opportunity for families and friends to gather and honor both the celebrant and the saint whose name they bear, sharing sweets, coffee, and meals, while offering good wishes.



As a parish family, we have begun and will continue to gather at Coffee Fellowship one Sunday each season to celebrate the autumn, winter, spring, and summer saints. This is a wonderful opportunity to continue learning about each other, while growing closer to our beloved saints!

We will begin this ecclesiastical year by celebrating the **"autumn saints"** on Sunday, September 27th. On this day as part of Coffee Fellowship following Divine Liturgy, we will be honoring saints commemorated in September, October and November. Those who celebrate during this time are encouraged to share a plate and/or an icon or print of your patron saint for the table. These include saints such as St. Melpomene (one of 40 women saints commemorated on Sept. 1), St. Sophia (Sept. 17), St. Luke (Oct. 8), St. James (Oct. 23), Archangel Michael (Nov. 8), St. Katherine (Nov. 25), or St. Andrew (Nov. 30) to name a few! For a more comprehensive list of baptismal/saints, go here: www.orthodoxwiki.org/baptismal_names

If interested in donating refreshments, serving coffee or assisting with clean up, please contact Annette Vranas at 847.987.2797 or amvranas@yahoo.com, or Carrie Colis at 847.921.4736 or carriekaterina@gmail.com.

SSPP Welcome Committee members will be on hand for support. May this opportunity enrich our fellowship with each other and unite us closer to the saints!



YOUTH UPDATE

An Article from Steven Thell

Hello Everyone,

I can't believe summer is already over and school is starting up again. We ended the season on a high note with a wonderful turnout of youth volunteers who dedicated their time and talents to our church for the Greek Festival. Thank you to all the youth who participated!

In August, we had a great time at Kim Angelo's house, celebrating our FLJ members and their families. Additionally, we took our older kids to Bear Paw Adventure Park.

Four brave high schoolers took a week out of their busy summers to help build a home for a family of five in Tijuana, Mexico. They worked 7-8 hour days, mixing concrete, drilling beams, and performing many other manual tasks to construct the home. We couldn't be prouder of them! This kind of philanthropy is what God calls us to do. We would also like to thank everyone who donated, allowing our kids to have these life-changing opportunities, as well as those who supported and prayed for our journey.

Now, we are excited to kick off the youth year! September 11th is the FLJ kickoff, and September 13th is the Jr. GOYA and Senior GOYA kickoff. We have a lot of fun activities planned for this youth year. Please reach out if you are not on our mailing list and would like to be included. Youth group is a great way to connect with other Orthodox Christians and freely ask questions about the church and life. We look forward to another great youth year!

Have a blessed day,
Steven Thell
Youth Director

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Saints Peter and Paul Greek Orthodox Church



Project Mexico crew standing outside the finished house. 8/1/26



Mia Dehnert and Yianni Papadopoulos drilling in the beams to the home 7/30/26



George, Vasili, Vagelli, and Yianni grilling delicious souvlaki at our Greek Fest. 7/26/26

PASTORAL MESSAGE

FROM FATHER PETER

A Message from Father Peter

The feast day of Saint Sophia is the 17th of September. Saint Sophia is truly an inspiration for us all. What do I mean by that? Saint Sophia was widowed shortly after the birth of her third daughter. Saint Sophia's daughters names are Faith, Hope and Agape (sometimes translated to as Charity) That did not stop Sophia with her faith in our Lord and Savior. She lived life by fasting, praying and giving alms. She raised her three daughters in the same manner. They did not, in any moment, hide their faith in Jesus.

This is what makes Saint Sophia remarkable. When she was put to the ultimate ask, she chose her faith in Jesus. You see Saint Sophia and her three daughters were asked to denounce their faith in Jesus. They did not and ultimately they were tortured for their belief in Jesus. The torture would be at the expense of the daughters first. The youngest Agape, who was about nine (9) years old was first tortured. The thought behind this was that the emperor, Hadrian, would torture the youngest thinking that the mom in this case St. Sophia would bend and denounce her faith in Jesus by sparing her daughter's (Agape) life. That was not the case. First they (the Emperor) ordered the three girls to be tortured.

The oldest daughter, Faith, who was twelve years old, was brought in first. She boldly dismissed the tyrant's flatteries and deprecated his shameless deeds and vain plots against the Christians. The infuriated Emperor had her stripped and mercilessly beaten. The other tortures she endured were to no avail, for she was protected by the power of God. When, at last, they came to strike off her head, Sophia encouraged Faith to accept with joy the death that would unite her to Christ.

Hope, who was ten years old, was brought in next. Confessing Christ as steadfastly as her sister, she was beaten and cast into a raging furnace, but its fire went out on touching her, in whom the love of God burnt with a fiercer flame than material fire. After many other tortures, she too died by the sword, giving thanks to God.

Agape, the third of the sisters, was then summoned before the Emperor whose anger had maddened. She was only nine years old

but of the same steadfast mind as her sisters. She was hung on gallows and chained so tightly that her limbs were broken by the bonds. She was then thrown into a furnace, from which she was delivered by an angel, and finally, beheaded.

In order to intensify Saint Sophia's inner suffering, the emperor permitted her to take the bodies of her daughters. She placed their remains in coffins and loaded them on a wagon. She drove beyond the city limits and reverently buried them on a high hill. Saint Sophia sat there by the graves of her daughters for three days, and finally she gave up her soul to the Lord. Even though she did not suffer for Christ in the flesh, she was not deprived of a martyr's crown. Instead, she suffered in her heart. Believers buried her body there beside her daughters.

Looking at the tremendous courage and faith that Sophia and her three daughters had is really remarkable. They (emperor Hadrian and his soldiers) used/tortured St. Sophia's three daughters to make them change their minds by rejecting their faith and belief in God and Jesus. I think about this and I am amazed by the will power and their strong faith in Jesus that ultimately gained the crown of martyrs. (Side note: In most icons that you will see a saint either male/female holding a cross in the hand means that they have been martyred. That is why they are holding the cross to show that they are martyrs of the church.)

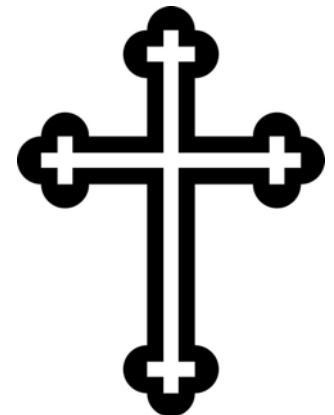
I often think about St. Sophia and her three daughters, and I am completely blown away by their faith. I also think about other martyrs of our church that have experienced the ultimate torture, and they did not give in to the dark side of idol worshippers pagan. It is through their faith and sacrifice that makes our faith so unique. May the example of Saint Sophia, and her three daughters Faith, Hope and Agape be an inspiration in our lives. Their lives are truly an inspiration for us all to follow as they never rejected our Lord in the trials and tribulations that they endured.

May St. Sophia and her three daughters Faith, Hope and Love intercede in our lives.



From Menaion

As the Psalm says, you grew as a fruitful olive tree in the courts of the Lord, O Sophia, righteous Saint; and you offered unto Christ, by contests of martyrdom, the blessed offspring of your womb, as if sweet and pleasing fruit, Faith, Hope and Love, your three daughters. Now we entreat you to pray Him, on behalf of us who honor you.



THANKS TO ALL WHO MADE GREEK FEST '26 A GREAT SUCCESS!

Congratulations to Joanne Trahanas, Anna Andrews and Tina O'Donnell, Greek Fest 2026 co-chairs, and their entire organizing committee (*listed here*) for another amazing Festival. Their efforts in planning and carrying out this year's event – along with the support of hundreds of volunteers – contributed to the tremendous results.

Several additions this year were big hits – including the lamb on the spit, baklava sundaes and ouzoritas. The new Agora saw plenty of customer traffic too.

Sincere thanks to Dino Tsitsis, Larry and Georgene Shanley, and Anthony Karkazis for donating 6 lambs and for being there throughout the Fest to roast and prep the lamb for serving. We also appreciate the many sponsorships and cash donations received, totaling nearly \$34,000!

Our two Youth Dance groups, directed by Anna Andrews, did a phenomenal job entertaining crowds on both days.

A huge thank you to all involved in the preparation and hosting of this major fundraiser. Many youth, teens and young adults stepped up to help – and had such fun doing it! The wonderful fellowship among parishioners and with our local neighbors was an added bonus of the Fest!

FEST ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Co-Chairs:	Joanne Trahanas, Anna Andrews. Tina O'Donnell
Advisor:	Louis Pappamichiel
Finance:	George Seletos, John Makris
Sponsorships:	Suzanne Santos, Jim Santos
Promotion:	Elaine Buscaglia, Anna Andrews, Tru Bazianos, Suzanne Santos, Pam Paradies, Angie Katsamakis
Loyola Parking & Shuttles:	Presbytera Jane Andrews
Valet Parking:	Teddy Andrews
Security:	Teddy Andrews
Signage:	Elaine Buscaglia, Anna Andrews
Set-up/Food Prep:	Christy Gouletas, Chris Batrich, George Poulos
Decoration:	Presbytera Jane Andrews, Georgene Shanley
Book Store/Discover Orthodoxy:	Tina O'Donnell, Doreen DeSent
Dinners:	Scott & Maria Gordon
Drinks:	Teddy Andrews
First Aid:	Tracy Ronstadt
Frappe/Ice Cream:	James Gordon, Anna Gordon
Grilling:	Chris Atsaves
Gyros:	Mark Lucas
Kids Zone:	Steven Thell
Kitchen:	Adam Peterson, Robert Morse, Tim Peterson
Loukoumades:	Vanessa Adinamis
Mezze:	Joe & Patti Zubay, Patty Stec
Mezze Grill:	Adam Peterson
Music:	Anna Andrews
Pastries:	Paula Mueller
Runners/Culinary Logistics:	George Poulos, Chris Batrich
Welcome Tables:	Doreen DeSent, Tracy Ronstadt

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OUR LIFE TOGETHER

Please Welcome our new members to your beautiful parish!

Markellos and Amelia Venetos



We would like to wish our students and teachers a great 2026-27 School Year.



Honoring our Project Mexico participants and thanked them for sharing their time, talents, and treasures to build a home for a family in need in the Tijuana area.



We thank Mr. Dennis Demos (not pictured) for donating the Life-Giving Fountain Theotokos icon in memory of his daughter, Maria. Holding the icon are her children, Chris & Mary Batrich. May Maria's memory be eternal!



On Sunday August 9th we welcomed Orthodox Christian missionary Dr Kristina Mantasavili of the Metropolis of Buenos Aires, Argentina and South America.



On Aug 2nd we honored Fr. Peter & Pres Maria Sarolas for one year of service to our parish community! Thank you for all you do!

SAINTS PETER AND PAUL

GOLF

Outing



**JOIN
US!**

REGISTER NOW



For more information :

Chris Atsaves
847-942-8389
chris.atsaves@ubs.com



WHERE:

Saturday October 3rd
Glenview Park Golf Club
800 Shermer Rd.

MINISTRY UPDATES

Discover the Beauty of Faith – Visit Your Book and Icon Store

Bring the light of Orthodox tradition into your home with our carefully curated collection of spiritual books, hand-painted icons, prayer ropes, incense, and liturgical items. Deepen Your Faith – Explore writings from the Church Fathers, saints' lives, and Orthodox theology. Sacred Art – Adorn your space with authentic Byzantine-style icons crafted by skilled iconographers. Gifts of Grace – Perfect for baptisms, weddings, name days, and feast days. We are located at the base of the stairs, just outside Fellowship Hall and open every Sunday immediately following Divine Liturgy or by appointment during the week. bookstore@ssppglenview.org Best wishes & blessings for the Liturgical New Year. Hope to see you soon!

Fall Catechism Course

The Fall 2026 "Introduction to Orthodox Christianity" course will begin September 15th on Tuesday evenings. It is open to everyone (both non-Orthodox and Orthodox) but is required for anyone intending to join the Orthodox Church through baptism and/or chrismation. Register through the link provided in the syllabus/flyer. For any questions, catechism@ssppglenview.org

Parish Vitality Survey Launching in September!

As we continue to grow and strengthen our parish it is important that we hear from you. We are asking every parishioner to take a few minutes to complete our parish survey. Whether you have been part of our parish for decades or are relatively new, your perspective is valuable! Thank you for taking the time to participate and for your continued commitment to our parish. Together we can build a vibrant, welcoming, and faithful Orthodox Christian community. Starting in September, look for your link to the survey by email, on the parish website or social media, or at the Meet and Greet Table Sundays during Coffee Fellowship. The survey will be open from September 1 to October 1.

Divorce Rebuilders

SS. Peter and Paul's Divorce Rebuilders offers support, guidance and hope to those who are separated and divorced. Meetings will begin this Fall starting Monday, October 12 through November 16, 2026, 7-8:30 p.m. CT, for six consecutive weeks in the church library. ZOOM will be available for those who cannot attend in person. This group provides a place where you can learn, heal and rebuild from the hurt of divorce. New insights and perspectives will help you create new understandings towards developing new personal, relational and spiritual goals in your life. Discussion, feedback and support are integral components of this program. In addition, our group participates in ongoing social activities. Leader: Maria Harduvel Boyle, Counseling MA, Northwestern University. To enroll in this program, please email: divorcerebuilders@ssppglenview.org and please note in the subject heading: Divorce Rebuilders. There is no cost for this program. "No Christian should walk through the pain of divorce alone."

Coffee Connection

Coffee Connection Begins on Sunday, October 11th. Coffee Connection is an educational ministry that is open to all adults connecting in Faith and Fellowship. We meet in the youth room on bi-monthly Sundays following Holy Communion. This year our theme is, "The Saints That Surround Us". Do we ever really look around the church and see all the Saints looking back at us? - in the stained glass windows, in the dome, on the walls, in the altar... They were placed in our church to remind us of "the great cloud of witnesses" that St. Paul talks about in Hebrews 12:1. So, this year, Coffee Connection will be the place to not only make connections with friends and new people, but we will discuss ways to connect our everyday lives of flaws and challenges with the Saints – also real people with similar flaws and challenges. Come and See how we connect with each other and our faith!

Saint Stephan Men's Ministry

What does it mean to be a man of faith today? At Saint Stephen Men's Ministry, we're figuring that out together — through Orthodox Christian fellowship, hands-on philanthropy, and real conversation that challenges us to grow. Join the mailing list by sending an email to Dean Matsas and Joe Kolbaba at: mensgroup@ssppglenview.org Don't miss what's next. Sign up to stay in the loop on gatherings, service projects, and study opportunities. All adult men are welcome — Orthodox or not, from Saints Peter and Paul or beyond. Bring a friend. Thursday Morning Study Group — via Zoom. Starting September 10th, 7:00 AM - 8:00 AM via Zoom. This September, we're climbing...and quite literally — through one of the most transformative works in Orthodox spirituality. We will be studying the first 10 steps (one chapter per week) of *Thirty Steps to Heaven: The Ladder of Divine Ascent for All Walks of Life* by Vassilios Papavassiliou. St. John Climacus wrote *The Ladder of Divine Ascent* as a roadmap for the soul — and for centuries it's been considered one of Christianity's deepest guides to spiritual growth. Now, Vassilios breaks it open for everyday Christians, keeping every bit of its depth and beauty intact. Whether you're early in your faith journey or looking to go further, this is a chance to grow — one rung at a time. Available at the SSPP Book & Icon Store and our first session is September 10th, 7:00 AM - 8:00 AM in person and/or Zoom. Come as you are. Bring your questions.

WE CONTINUE TO RISE AND BUILD

Rebuilding Our Lords Home

Thanks to all of our stewards for your continued financial support of our facilities as we continue the work this summer. Glory to God! The ceilings in the Church and Narthex are being painted after years of candle soot and water damage.



The Church Sacristy has also been refreshed with a new coat of paint. After completing the last phase of resurfacing of the parking lot, the first two phases of the lot were seal coated and striped to extend the life of the asphalt.



PHILOPTOCHOS

A Letter from Our President!

Dear Parish Family,

As we begin the new ecclesiastical year, the Philoptochos Society wants to express our deepest gratitude for your past support. Your generosity and dedication allow us to serve those in need, and we are excited to walk together in faith and service once again.

On August 18 we hosted the Senior Luncheon chaired by Pat Nassos and Ida Harris with the help of our many member volunteers. It was a beautiful afternoon that featured delicious food, fun fellowship and musical entertainment by our very own Gayle Stellas and John Vranas.

Thank you to everyone that participated in making it a truly memorable event. We warmly invite your participation in our upcoming fall events and ministries.

Mark Your Calendars

- September 15: General Meeting & AI Presentation
Join us for our first meeting of the year, featuring a special, timely presentation on Artificial Intelligence (AI).
- September 18 & October 1: Baking Dates We need hands to help prepare spanakopites and tiropites for Holiday Faire.

How You Can Participate

- Attend the meeting on September 15 to learn, connect, and share your ideas.
- Volunteer to bake on September 18, October 1, or both dates.
- No experience is needed for baking; we will guide you through every step.

Thank you for your continuous love, prayers, and hands-on help that keep our Philoptochos chapter thriving. Please contact me with your thoughts and ideas at philoptochos@sspplglview.org.

**With gratitude,
Julie Anastos - President, Saints Peter & Paul Philoptochos**



We start baking now to have a fabulous bake sale this holiday season!

JOIN US @ THESE UPCOMING EVENTS!

General Meeting and Presentation – Tues, Sept 15th

“Discover the World of Artificial Intelligence (AI): From ChatGPT to Deepfakes”

Join us for a fabulous presentation on artificial intelligence by DePaul University Professor Marco Chou, who will make AI understandable, engaging, and relevant to everyday life. The presentation will be preceded by a brief general meeting and socializing/refreshments. Join us for this fascinating presentation!

6:30pm Social and Refreshments

7:00pm General Meeting

7:30pm AI Program

Philoptochos Metropolis Luncheon – Saturday, Sept 26th 11am

It's that time of year! The Metropolis of Chicago Philoptochos is hosting their annual September Luncheon on Saturday, September 26th at 11am at Empress Banquet in Addison, IL. Come join us to celebrate sisterly love. Please RSVP by September 5th to Eleni Soukoulis (elenisoukoulis@hotmail.com)

Luncheon Proceeds will benefit:

~Bear Necessities Pediatric Cancer Foundation

~St. Iakovos Retreat Center

~The Philanthropic Endeavors of Philoptochos of the Metropolis of Chicago

Baking Dates – Sept 18th and Oct 1st

Please come help us bake for Holiday Faire bake sale! On Friday, September 18 we will be making spanakopites and on Thursday, October 1 we will be making tiropites. We need a lot of help so come for both dates and spend whatever time you have! We will begin at 9:30am, serve a light lunch, and work until 3:00pm. For more information, please reach out to Nancie Poulos nepoulos@hotmail.com.

Breast Cancer Walk – Saturday, Oct 17th 8am

Join us in Making Strides Against Breast Cancer on Saturday, October 17th, at 8am, at Soldier Field in Chicago. Battling cancer is very personal to us, that's why our Philoptochos chapter partnered with the American Cancer Society in raising funds and awareness about this illness. Start pulling your pink wardrobe together and become part of our team - we promise that you will have a great time working towards our ultimate goal, ending cancer as we know it. (Monetary donations will also be gratefully accepted.) Come join us! Contact Julie Mantice (juliamantice1@gmail.com) to find out how to be involved.

PHILOPTOCHOS

Membership Kick-Off Reception – Tuesday, October 20th 6:30pm

Please join us for our sure-to-be-fabulous Membership Reception on Tuesday, October 20th, at 6:30 pm in the SSPP Atrium. We have a fabulous evening planned, featuring a multimedia presentation by author and Beatles expert Gregory Alexander—better known professionally as “Professor Moptop”—on the fascinating history of the Beatles and their surprising Greek connection. Professor Moptop will take us back to the 1960s to share stories, music, photos, and little-known Beatles history—including some very interesting Greek connections you may never have heard before. Enjoy dinner, drinks, door prizes, fellowship, a brief meeting, and fun!

Please RSVP by October 10th to Patty Damisch (Greekmom3@gmail.com) or Tina Riemer (Tinarmr@gmail.com). Walk-ins are welcome!



PREVIOUS MONTH'S HIGHLIGHTS Senior Luncheon – Aug 18th

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



We even celebrated Sophia App's 100th birthday! Many thanks to Pat Nassos (pictured left) and Ida Harris for co-chairing this beloved event. And Happy Birthday, Sophia (pictured right)!



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

PHILOPTOCHOS

CHARITY SPOTLIGHT

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

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

Gerry's Cafe in Arlington Heights, Illinois

Changing lives—one cup at a time! Gerry's Café in Arlington Heights is a nonprofit café with a wonderful mission: creating meaningful employment opportunities for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Team members prepare and serve specialty coffee, baked goods, breakfast and lunch while gaining valuable job and life skills, earning a paycheck, building confidence, and connecting with their community. Today, Gerry's employs more than 30 adults with disabilities and hopes to create even more opportunities in the future.

Named in honor of co-founder Amy Philpott's beloved Aunt Gerry, who was born with Down syndrome, the café was created as a place where people of all abilities can feel valued, included, and empowered. It's a beautiful example of what can happen when a community focuses not on disability, but on ability.



Save these Dates!

Thurs, Sept 15th – General Meeting and Program on AI @ 6:30 – 8:30pm

Sat, Sept 26th – Metropolis Philoptochos Luncheon @ Empress Banquet in Addison, IL 11am – 2pm

Sat, Oct 3rd – IOCC 5K Walk/Run @ St. Andrews Greek Orthodox Church, Chicago 8am

Sat, Oct 10th – Metropolis Dress A Girl @ St. Basil in Chicago 10am-2pm

Sat, Oct 17th – Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk in Chicago, Soldier Field 8am – 10am

Tues, Oct 20th – Membership Meeting and Program 6:30pm – 8:30pm

Sun, Nov 1st – Philoptochos Sunday - Artoclasia & Coffee Hour (Names of the Living Given)

Fri, Nov 13th - HOPE Bagging Day 6-8pm

Sat, Dec 6th – Holiday Faire

Sat, Dec 19th – Advent Brunch @ Sunset Ridge Country Club in Northfield, IL

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 2026						
		1 +INDICTION ECCLESIASTICAL NEW YEAR 8:30am ORTHROS-MATINS 9:30am DIVINE LITURGY	2 10:30am SSPP Bible Study 8:30pm Bball Men over 40 (pickup)	3 10am Dynamis "Kali Pareia" Breakfast at Georgie V's in Northbrook 6pm Communications Mtg	4 6pm Open Gym	5
6 +14TH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW 8:15am ORTHROS-MATINS 9:30am DIVINE LITURGY	7 LABOR DAY OFFICE CLOSED	8 +NATIVITY OF THEOTOKOS 8:30am ORTHROS-MATINS 9:30am DIVINE LITURGY 6:30pm Philoptochos Board Mtg 7pm Cancer Support-Zoom Only	9 +SS PHOTIOS & ANIKETOS 10:30am SSPP Bible Study 7pm Choir Rehearsal 8:30pm Bball Men over 40 (pickup)	10 7am Men's Study Group In Person & on Zoom 10am Dynamis "Kali Pareia" Breakfast at Georgie V's in Northbrook 7pm Grief-Loss Support	11 6pm FLJ Youth Kickoff	12 9:30am First Day of Saturday Greek School
13 +SUNDAY BEFORE THE CROSS 8:15am ORTHROS-MATINS 9:30am DIVINE LITURGY 11am First Day of Church School 12pm Parish Picnic 1pm Fall Youth Kickoff 7pm GREAT VESPERS at Holy Cross in Justice IL	14 +EXALTATION OF HOLY CROSS Fast Day 8:30am ORTHROS-MATINS 9:30am DIVINE LITURGY 4:30pm First Day of Monday Greek School	15 6:30pm Philoptochos General Mtg 7pm Catechism Class	16 +ST EUPHEMIA 10:30am SSPP Bible Study 7pm GREAT VESPERS at St. Sophia in Elgin IL 7pm Choir Rehearsal 8:30pm Bball Men over 40 (pickup)	17 +ST SOPHIA OCAMPR Conference 8:30am ORTHROS-MATINS 9:30am DIVINE LITURGY 10am Dynamis "Kali Pareia" Breakfast at Georgie V's in Northbrook 7pm Parish Council Exec Mtg	18	19
20 +ST EUSTATHIOS +SUNDAY AFTER CROSS 8:15am ORTHROS-MATINS 9:30am DIVINE LITURGY 11:30am Ministry Fair	21 8pm Stewardship Mtg	22 6:30pm Greek Fest Meeting 7pm Catechism Class 7pm Sn. GOYA Gathering	23 +CONCEPTION OF FORERUNNER 10:30am SSPP Bible Study 4pm Soup Kitchen 6pm FLJ Gathering 8:30pm Bball Men over 40 (pickup)	24 +ST PHANOURIOS MARTYR 7am Men's Study Group 10am Dynamis "Kali Pareia" Breakfast at Georgie V's in Northbrook 7pm Parish Council Mtg	25 6:30pm Jr. GOYA Gathering	26 +DORMITION OF ST JOHN EVANGELIST 8:30am ORTHROS 9:30am DIVINE LITURGY 5pm VESPERS
27 +1ST SUN LUKE +17TH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW 8:15am ORTHROS-MATINS 9:30am DIVINE LITURGY 11am Church School Open House	28	29 7pm Catechism Class	30 10:30am SSPP Bible Study 7pm Sn. GOYA Gathering 8:30pm Bball Men over 40 (pickup)	COMING IN OCTOBER 3 SSPP Golf-Outing 4 Church Music Sunday 5 Metropolis Golf Outing 19-22 Clergy Leadership Accelerator 26 ST. DEMETRIOS 28 PROTECTION OF THEOTOKOS & Oxi Day 29 AGAPE & FLJ Trunk or Treat		

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