

THE MESSENGER

OCTOBER 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 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.

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.

Sunday Church School classes began on **September 13**. 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. I wish to thank our teachers and staff, especially the new ones, who are leading the charge this ministry year: **N3- Georgene Shanley, Mia Papadopoulos, Renee Arzoumanides, N4- Kim Angelos (D), Tina Katsamakidis (new), K- Pam Nicolopoulos &**

Stella Kaiser (new), 1- Julie & Maria Mantice, 3 Allison Lima & Christina Ryan, 3- John & Christine Mackris, 4- Nick & Kery Obradovich, 5- John Moustoukas (D), 6- Heather Butz, Alexis Douglas (D), 7- Dino Tsitsis, Angela Bicos, 8- Anastasia Lazarou, HS- Steven Thell, Nick Assimos (new); Directors indicated with a (D) & admin/ comms- Krystina Jovic

The annual Church Music Sunday is October 4 to recognize and thank our choir members and chanters. Here is a list with their years of service. **Frank Andreou 6, *Chris Atsaves 29, *John Colis 27, Selma Contos 30, Anastasia Gonzalez 5, Maria Kardasis 3, Carolyn Kolbaba 17, Elaine Mitsakopoulos 39, Helen Mariano 58, Paula Mueller 8, Socrates Bud Photopulos 78, Nancie Poulos 11, Presbyteria Mary Scoulas 46, Therese Speropoulos 50, Gayle Stellas 15, Gia Xenakis 47, Patty Zubay 39, Kwaku Adonteng 2, Ted Kardasis 1, *John Kiriklasis 2.** An asterisk (*) indicates a chanter along with **Nick Mechales (26 years).**

Our **Divorce Rebuilders** ministry offers support, guidance and hope to those who are separated and divorced. Meetings will begin this Fall on **Mondays, 7-8:30 p.m.** 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 is **Maria Harduvel Boyle**, who has a Masters in Counseling from Northwestern University. To enroll in this

program, please email:

mariaharduvel4@gmail.com or 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."**

Our 2026 Archdiocese **Stewardship Theme: "Rise Up and Build: Building Up the Body of Christ."** The words of the prophet Nehemiah to the Jewish people when he saw the crumbling walls of Jerusalem "Rise up and build" (Neh.2:19), apply to us today. We must continually rise up and build up the Body of Christ. We the people together form the Body of Christ—to 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

CONTACTS

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Phone: (847) 729-2235

Email: office@sspbglenview.org

Website: sspbglenview.org

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

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

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@sspbglenview.org

Administrative Assistant: Tina O'Donnell

office@sspbglenview.org

Youth Director: Steven Thell

youthdirector@sspbglenview.org

Communications Coordinator: Amanda Sideris

amanda@sspbglenview.org

Bookkeeper: Diane Bravos

diane@sspbglenview.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

Maryann Ramussen

Tracy Ronstadt

Jim Santos

PARISH MINISTRIES

Agape Preschool: Julie Mantice, agape@sspbglenview.org

Acolytes: Steven Thell, acolytes@sspbglenview.org

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

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

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

Building Maintenance: John Vranas, john@vranas.com

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

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

Chanters: Chris Atsaves, chanters@sspbglenview.org

Choir Director: Therese Speropoulos

choir@sspbglenview.org

Church School: Alexis Douglas and Krystina Jovic

churchschool@sspbglenview.org

Coffee Connection: Doreen DeSent,

coffeconnection@sspbglenview.org

Divorce Rebuilders: Maria Boyle

divorcerebuilders@sspbglenview.org

Dynamis Group: Joanne Trahanas, dynamis@sspbglenview.org

Georgia Photopulos Cancer Support Group:

Bud Photopulos, cancersupport@sspbglenview.org

GOYAlumni: Ana Arzoumandis and Niki Alexis

goyalumni@sspbglenview.org

Greek Dance: Anna Andrews, dance@sspbglenview.org

Greek School: Stella Theoharopoulos,

greeksschool@sspbglenview.org

Grief Support: Tracy Ronstadt, griefsupport@sspbglenview.org

Myrrhbearers: myrrhbearers@sspbglenview.org

Orthodox Couples Club: occ@sspbglenview.org

Philoptochos: Julie Anastos, philoptochos@sspbglenview.org

Prison Outreach: Zach Alukos

prisonoutreach@sspbglenview.org

Prospora: Tracy Ronstadt, prospora@sspbglenview.org

Readers: Sophia Castleberry, readers@sspbglenview.org

Saint Basil's Philanthropy: Christy Gouletas

philanthropy@sspbglenview.org

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

mensgroup@sspbglenview.org

Stewardship: George Karagianis, stewardship@sspbglenview.org

Sunday Coffee Fellowship: Carolyn Kolbaba

fellowship@sspbglenview.org

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

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

Young Adult League (YAL): Maria Mantice,

yal@sspbglenview.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.

SPONSORS & GODPARENTS

ARTICLE FROM FATHER RICK ANDREWS

The tradition and practice of sponsors/godparents originated not in infant baptism but in the custom that required that an adult pagan seeking the rite should be accompanied by a Christian known to the [bishop](#)—a Christian who could vouch for the applicant and undertake his or her supervision. The Greek word for the person undertaking this function was *anadochos*. The word *sponsor* in this [ecclesiastical](#) sense occurred for the first time in [Tertullian's](#) 2nd-century [treatise](#) *De baptismo*.

When infant baptism became the norm in the fourth to eighth centuries, godparents made a profession of faith for the person being baptized (the godchild) and assumed an obligation to serve as [proxies](#) for the parents if the parents either are unable or neglect to provide for the religious training of the child, in fulfillment of baptismal promises. Even when the parents provide their child with a religious upbringing, a godparent serves to encourage the child's spiritual growth over time and stands as an example of another adult with maturity in the faith. In churches [mandating](#) a sponsor, only one godparent is required

Early on for infants being baptized, sponsors may have been the actual parents, and even in the 5th century it was not felt to be inappropriate that they should be so; [St. Augustine](#) in one passage appears to speak of it as a matter of course that parents should bring their children and answer for them. However, during the sixth through the ninth centuries, non-biological parents as sponsors became the norm. Why? Probably because the parents themselves were not able to fulfill the requirements suitable for serving as a faithful, committed, spiritual Christian sponsor.

In the current practice with the Greek Orthodox Church, *sponsors/godparents*

for baptisms, chrismations and weddings must fulfill the following minimum requirements:

A parishioner in good standing: (Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, Uniform Parish Regulations 2025, Article 18, Section 1, p.31)

- is baptized and/or chrismated according to the rites of the Orthodox Church.

- practices all the religious, moral and duties as described in regulations.

apply the tenets of the Orthodox Faith to his/her life and to:

adhere to and live according to the tenets of the Orthodox faith;

faithfully attend the Divine Liturgy and other worship services;

participate regularly in the holy sacraments;

respect all ecclesiastical authority and all governing bodies of the Church;

be obedient in matters of the Faith, practice and ecclesiastical order;

contribute towards the progress of the Church's sacred mission; and be

an effective witness and example of the Orthodox Faith and Traditions to all people.

- is eighteen years of age or over.

- is current in his or her stewardship and other financial obligations to the Parish.

- abides by all Archdiocese regulations and Parish Bylaws.

- cooperates in every way towards the welfare and well-being of the Parish.

- Stewardship is recommended to be ten percent (10%) of one's annual income as stated in Holy Scripture to help meet the financial obligations of the Parish, the Metropolis and the Archdiocese.

In addition, in order to a parishioner in good-standing, if the person is married, he or she must be married in the Orthodox Church. If not married, he or

she may not be cohabitating. There is only one main sponsor of record for a sacrament although an additional person may participate in certain sacramental duties.

I also strongly encourage the following: Sponsors should be selected from outside blood relatives of the family. The primary purpose is to expand the spiritual family within the community of faith. Selecting sponsors from blood relatives tends to create isolated family units that are less strongly connected to other members of the parish. Blood relatives typically already have a close relationship to the person being baptized, chrismated or married.

Sponsors serving as godparents for a baptism or a chrismation should preferably be of the same sex especially if the catechumen is older (teenage or above) for modesty sake and practical considerations.

It is most helpful to consult the priest before selecting and asking a potential sponsor to serve for a sacrament. This will help to avoid an uncomfortable situation if the person cannot serve as a sponsor because they do not fulfill the requirements outlined above. If anyone has any questions about the information above, please contact me.

God bless you!
+Fr. Rick

YOUTH UPDATE

An Article from Steven Thell

Hello All,

We kicked off September with a bang! We had our FLJ kickoff with a carnival in the gym, complete with a bounce house and plenty of fun activities for everyone.

We also had our GOYA kickoff this month. We enjoyed a BBQ, had a water fight outside, and introduced our theme for the year: "Cherish the Moment." This year, we want to encourage our kids to be more intentional and present in their everyday lives. These years go by quickly, and we want them to make the most of the time they have together, build relationships, make memories, and grow together in Christ.

We have plenty of fun events and gatherings coming up for all of our youth groups, as well as opportunities for parents and families to get involved. If you are not already receiving our youth emails, please reach out to youthdirector@ssppglenview.org to be added to our email list.

Coming Up...

Bears vs. Packers Watch Party October 11th

We have a Bears vs. Packers Watch Party coming up at SSPP! We'll have appetizers, drinks, and a fun night of football and fellowship. Bring your family, kids, neighbors, and friends! This is a free event hosted by GOYA, so come hang out, socialize, and enjoy the game with us.

We'll also be selling football squares, with all proceeds going toward our summer pilgrimage.

November 13–15 GOYA Retreat

Our GOYA Retreat at Saint Iakovos Retreat Center is November 13–15. This retreat has become a highlight of the youth year for many of our kids. It is a great weekend for them to step away from technology, spend time together, learn more about their faith, attend services, and build friendships.

We are looking forward to another great month and a great year for our youth!

Have a blessed day,
Steven Thell
Youth Director



Our Acolytes and Myrrhbearers preparing to go out for an entrance 9/13/26



Fr. Peter joining the kids in the bounce house 9/11/26



GOYA Kick Off 9/13/26

PASTORAL MESSAGE

FROM FATHER PETER

A Message from Father Peter

What do we know about St. Nestor? Did you know that both St. Demetrios and St. Nestor share the same Apolytikion? All the world has you, its mighty champion, * fortifying us in times of danger, * and defeating our foes, O Victorious One. * So, as you humbled Lyaaios's arrogance * by giving courage to Nestor in the stadium, * thus, O holy Great-martyr Demetrios, * to Christ our God pray fervently, * beseeching Him to grant us His great mercy. ἐν τῷ σταδίῳ θαρρύνας τὸν Νέστορα, οὕτως Ἄγιε, Μεγαλομάρτυς Δημήτριε, Χριστὸν τὸν Θεὸν ἱκέτευε, δωρήσασθαι ἡμῖν τὸ μέγα ἔλεος. (Digital Chant Stand). The reason why both St. Demetrios and St. Nestor share the same apolytikion is because they are intertwined by their belief in God.

St. Nestor's feast day is the 27th of October the day after St. Demetrios' on October 26th, and St. Nestor is a martyr, as St. Demetrios is a Great-martyr. The reason why St. Demetrios is a "great-martyr" because of his reputation as a Christian soldier who brought many pagans to become Christians. St. Nestor on the other hand defeated Lyaaios and by that simple act of faith was martyred. A martyr is a martyr regardless of if they are a "Great-Martyr or not. The definition of a martyr (Gr. "witness"). One who willingly suffered death for the faith. (Goarch.org definition). What does it really mean to "willingly" give up your life for death based on your belief in Christ? To be put between two choices of life and death because of your faith is really an understatement and an incredible act of faith and belief in God.

Let us take a look at St. Nestor and see how he became a martyr because of St. Demetrios. What is really fascinating about St. Nestor, is he did not like that the Emperor Maximian took pride when the Christians fought Lyaaios. (There is no proof that a person existed during

the time of Emperor Maximian's rule – there is speculation that Lyaaios was a stage and that is why we really do not know his real name). St. Nestor had the courage to go to St. Demetrios and ask for the great martyred Saint to pray for him so that he could defeat Lyaaios. We know how the story ends. St. Demetrios blessed St. Nestor with the sign of the cross and told him that he would be victorious. When St. Nestor was in the area with Lyaaios. With a confident voice said, "Help me God of Demetrios" and after that he defeated Nestor.

I wonder what set off Nestor to have the courage to go St. Demetrios and ask him to pray over him so that he would be able to defeat Lyaaios. Was it that Emperor Maximian mocked the Christians? Was it Lyaaios beating the Christians to a pulp and taking their limp bodies and throwing the bodies off the platform and the bodies landed on the spears that were placed below? We really do not know the exact reason why. What we do know is that St. Nestor had the courage to go fight Lyaaios with the mind that the God of St. Demetrios would be able to help him defeat this barbarian called Lyaaios. This reminds me of how St. Constantine the Great Emperor was ready to fight in a battle and saw in the sky the words of ΙΣ ΧΣ ΝΙΚΑ (translates from Greek as: Jesus Christ Conquers). Having that great unshakable faith is what led St. Constantine to victory and also St. Nestor to defeating Lyaaios.

How can we incorporate that into our life outside of the church? What do I mean, St. Nestor used the "Help me God of Demetrios" to be victorious. Would it be possible for us to use that same line in our workplace, with family situations? Do we pray to the God of St. Demetrios and ask for guidance, clarity, intercessions or whatever the case may be. The God of St. Demetrios is the same God that we all pray to. He is the one that sent His only Son to the world so that we all can be

saved and come to the knowledge of truth. If St. Nestor did it many years ago, then so can we. All we need to do is to pray.



St. Demetrios praying over St. Nestor



St. Nestor

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

Please Welcome our new members to your beautiful parish!
Jeannette Eliopoulos, Christos and Alexandra Karadis and Bill Kirkos



Fr. Peter at the Glenbrook South (Youth of Saints Peter & Paul) soccer game at Glenbard West High School.



Book Store Helpers showing off their Church School projects!



Fr. Peter, Steve Thell, High School Boys Coaches and Glenbrook South Football players



Sept 20 Ministry Sunday

OUR LIFE TOGETHER



Sunday Sept. 13 - blessing/prayer for Sunday School teachers and students



Sunday Sept. 13 - blessing/prayer for Sunday School teachers and students



We would like to congratulate K. Stella Theoharopoulos' 30 year of Service to Teaching Greek School at Saints Peter and Paul.



On September 14th our SSPP Greek School had their first session of the school year. Father Peter blessed the students with Holy Water and gave them "βασίλικό (Vasiliko) Basil from this morning's Divine Liturgy.



Fr. Peter kid's sermon to the Sunday school students



September 22nd at SS. Peter and Paul we had our Sr. Goya meeting where the Sr. Goyans talked about "Cherishing the moment" of what they did this weekend

MINISTRY UPDATES

Visit Your Book and Icon Store

Visit your Book & Icon Store and discover a beautiful selection of Orthodox books and spiritual gifts for every occasion. Find books celebrating and honoring your patron saint, meaningful gifts for birthdays, baptisms, weddings, anniversaries, and other special occasions, as well as resources and blessings for your home. Whether you are looking to deepen your faith, honor a loved one, or find a thoughtful Orthodox gift, our store has something special for everyone. We are located at the bottom of the stairs, just outside Fellowship Hall and open every Sunday immediately following Divine Liturgy or by appointment during the week. We look forward to seeing you or hearing from you soon! bookstore@ssppglenview.org.

SSPP 2026/2027 Basketball Season is Kicking Off!

Registration for the upcoming SSPP basketball season is now open! Please complete an online registration form for each child participating to help us plan team assignments, jersey sizes, and practice schedules at: <https://tinyurl.com/ymd4m8ba> Season Start: Practices will begin mid-to-late October (60–90 minutes, once a week). First Games: Tentatively scheduled for early November ahead of the Thanksgiving tournament. Volunteer Coaches Needed: We are seeking volunteer coaches, especially for 3rd–6th grade girls. Co-coaching with another parent is encouraged! Once registered, you will receive follow-up details regarding team assignments, practice schedules, games, and QuickScores registration. Questions? Please reach out to Chris Batrich (cbatrich2@gmail.com) or Steven Conway (saconway82@gmail.com)

Divorce Rebuilders

Saints 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

Please join us for our first 2 sessions of Coffee Connection in this new Ecclesiastical Year on October 11th and October 18th following Holy Communion in the Youth Room! We start with coffee and fellowship and move on to discussions related to our Theme this year, which 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 1 Corinthians. So, this year in Coffee Connection, we will discuss ways to connect our everyday lives of flaws and challenges with the Saints – also real people with similar flaws and challenges. October 11 - Introduction to The Saints Who Surround Us + Prophet Moses Why do we care about the Saints? What can we learn from them? How does the Prophet Moses show us growth in Theosis? October 18 - St. Romanos – Music in the Worship of the Church Do we consider the liturgy a presentation or participation? How does the human voice connect us to prayer and worship?

On November 8th, Coffee Connection will be putting together Fall College Care Packages to send to our parish students near and far. If you have a student in college and would like them to receive a care package, please send their name and collegiate address to youthdirector@ssppglenview.org OR office@ssppglenview.org by October 30th.

Welcome Committee

The Welcome Committee is inviting the Parish to read through the Gospels of Matthew and Luke during the coming Nativity Fast (Advent). Welcoming the Christ Child as a Parish Family!" Join in the daily reading of Holy Scripture as we travel through the Gospels of Matthew and Luke this Advent Season! We will begin on the first day of the Nativity Fast (Advent), November 15! (More details info to follow)

- Welcome Committee, Contant Carrie Colis for more information (847-921-4736)

AGAPE SCHOOL UPDATE

Agape is in full swing!

Agape is in full swing, and our students are settling beautifully into their classrooms, daily routines, and another joyful school year together!

We were blessed to welcome Fr. Peter into our classrooms to perform the Agiasmos service and bless our students, teachers, and school for the year ahead. Our children also attended their first Divine Liturgy of the school year in celebration of the Elevation of the Holy Cross, led by Fr. Peter.

Our students have already been busy learning and creating! During Art with Ms. Gail, they learned about artist Georges Seurat and explored his technique of pointillism while painting colorful apples. In Cooking with Ms. Kat, our little chefs continued the apple theme by making and enjoying delicious apple popsicles and apple cupcakes.

We are also looking forward to one of our favorite fall traditions, Grandparents' Day on October 7! We are excited to welcome our special yayias and papous to Agape to spend time with their grandchildren.

🍊 Agape, along with SSPP Youth Ministries, is excited to host our annual Trunk or Treat on October 29 from 5-7p.m.! Families can look forward to an evening filled with festive trunks, costumes, treats, and plenty of fall fun. Bring the whole family and join us for this special community tradition. All are welcome!

We are grateful for a wonderful start to the school year and look forward to all the learning, faith, friendship, and fun still to come at Agape!





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DEAN MARAGOS TO RECEIVE THE ST. DIONYSIOS AREOPAGITES DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

JOIN US ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2026

On Sunday, October 11, 2026, the HBA will host the 6th Annual Celebration of the feast day of St. Dionysios Areopagites, patron saint of judges and lawyers. The HBA will present the St. Dionysios Areopagites Distinguished Service Award to Dean Maragos.

This award honors those who have provided extraordinary legal service to the Hellenic Orthodox community and expanded access to justice to the underserved.

Please join us at 9:30 A.M. for Divine Liturgy, and for the presentation of the award immediately following, at Sts. Peter & Paul Greek Orthodox Church, 1401 Wagner Rd, Glenview, IL 60025.

The HBA is also sponsoring the coffee hour reception. We look forward to celebrating with you!

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ABOUT DEAN MARAGOS

Dean Theodore Maragos is an Attorney and an Accountant who specializes in Municipal Law and Zoning and Licensing. He formed the law firm of Maragos & Maragos, Chtd. in 1995 with his father the late Honorable Samuel C. Maragos who was a State Senator, State Representative and Circuit Court Judge. Dean is an Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate appointed in 2024.

He is the General Counsel for the Jesse White Foundation, the Motor Vehicle Review Board of the Secretary of State and the Greektown Special Service Area Tax Commission #16. He is also the Labor Counsel for the Cook County Public Administrator's Office. He is a member of Sts. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church, Sts. Peter and Paul Greek Orthodox Church and St. George Greek Orthodox Church. He is also General Counsel to St. George and on the Parish Council of Sts. Peter and Paul.

He has been married to his wife Toni for 33 years and they have one beautiful daughter Anastasia.



Trunk or Treat



October 29 | 5-7 pm
SSPP Parking Lot

Car decorating will begin at 4:45pm



Food Truck - Treats - Fellowship



Hosted by SSPP Youth Ministries &
Agape Christian Academy



PHILOPTOCHOS

A Letter from Our President!

Dear Parish Family,

October is here, bringing with it pumpkins, spice, crisp autumn days—and an opportunity to come together for fellowship, fun, and charitable giving.

This month, we proudly recognize National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. We invite everyone to join us for the Breast Cancer Walk on October 17 as we come together to show our support, raise awareness, and honor those whose lives have been touched by breast cancer.

Then, on October 20, join us for our exciting Membership Event celebrating the Beatles! It will be a wonderful opportunity to learn about great music, share some laughs, and spend time with fellow parishioners and friends.

We are also busy planning for our Annual Holiday Faire, including our much-loved baking activities. There are many ways to lend a hand, whether you enjoy baking, helping with preparations, or simply joining in the festivities.

We invite you to come and be part of the fun and excitement throughout October and beyond by becoming a member. Your participation helps strengthen our Philoptochos Chapter and supports the many charitable activities and good works we undertake together.

Bring a friend, share your talents, and enjoy the spirit of community that makes Philoptochos special. We look forward to seeing you at these wonderful events!

With gratitude and love,
Julie Anastos
President, Philoptochos Society

JOIN US @ THESE UPCOMING EVENTS!

Membership Kick-Off Reception – Tuesday, October 20th

Please join us for our Annual Membership Reception on Tuesday, *October 20th*, in the SSPP Atrium.

6:00pm Social and Refreshments

7:00pm (Short) General Meeting

7:30pm Beatles Program by Gregory Alexander

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 at our new website! Walk-ins welcome! Questions? Contact Patty Damisch (Greekmom3@gmail.com) or Tina Riemer (Tinarmr@gmail.com).



Come Bake With Us! – October 1st

Please come help us bake for the Holiday Faire bake sale! On October 1st we will be making tiropites. We need a lot of help so come for 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.



Thank you to all the wonderful hands who folded spanakopites during our Sept. baking day! From left: Connie Anagnost, Nancie Poulos (Bakery Co-Chair), and Kris Tsitsis (Philanthropy Co-Chair).

PHILOPTOCHOS

Breast Cancer Walk – Saturday, Oct 17th 8:00am (7:00am bus from SSPP)

On Saturday, October 17th, the Philoptochos will participate in the Making Strides Walk at Soldier Field to raise money for breast cancer research and community programs. We plan on gathering in the Saints Peter and Paul parking lot at 7:00am to take the bus to Soldier Field. The race begins at 8:00am at Soldier Field. Whether you join for the walk or can support fundraising efforts through a donation, participation is invaluable to help fight against breast cancer! Donate and Join Now! Questions? Contact Julie Mantice at juliemantice1@gmail.com.



PREVIOUS MONTH'S HIGHLIGHTS

“Discovering AI” & General Meeting – Tues, Sept 15th

We had one of the largest crowds ever attend our September “Discovering AI” and General Meeting. Marco Chou previously worked for Allstate in IT. He now speaks to different groups on AI and teaches classes as an adjunct professor at DePaul and Oakton Community College on Brain Fitness. His presentation was invigorating, stimulating, informative, and educational. From the history of AI, to accessibility, to deepfakes, to scans and future concerns, he covered it all. Thanks to all who attended!



Some of our team members on a beautiful fall day at our 2025 Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Event.



Professor Marco Chou and Event Chair Annette Vranas welcoming our members.



We had a packed house at our first meeting in the ecclesiastical new year

PHILOPTOCHOS

CHARITY SPOTLIGHT

Guided by faith and a spirit of service, our Philoptochos members provide charitable aid and support causes locally, nationally, and around the world.

Each month, we spotlight one of our charity recipients:



Philoxenia Charities – Rochester, MN

For patients facing a serious illness, traveling far from home for medical care can add another layer of worry during an already difficult time. **Philoxenia Charities** offers a place of comfort and refuge, **providing free temporary housing to Mayo Clinic patients and their families while they receive treatment in Rochester.**

Rooted in the Greek tradition of *philoxenia*—“love of the stranger”—the organization welcomes guests from across the United States and around the world, offering a safe and caring home away from home during times of illness, hardship, and uncertainty.

Save these Dates!

Thurs, Oct 1st – Making tiropites 9:30 – 3:00pm (come for whatever time you have)

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 8:00am – 10:00am (bus leaving SSPP parking lot at 7am)

Tues, Oct 20th – Feed the Hungry 10:45am – 1:00pm, Annunciation Church

Tues, Oct 20th – Membership Meeting and Program 6:00pm – 8:30pm

Thurs, Oct 22 – Lawrence Hall Halloween Party 4:00pm – 6:00pm

Sat, Oct 24th – Metropolis Chapter Connect, All Saints, Joliet 9:00am – 1:00pm

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

Fri, Nov 13th - HOPE Bagging Day 6:00pm-8:00pm

Tues, Nov 17 – General Meeting and Holiday Fashions presented by Nordstrom 6:30pm – 8:30pm

Sat, Dec 5th – Holiday Faire 11am – 3pm

Sun, Dec 6 – Metropolis Christmas Open House, Carlisle Banquets, Lombard 4:00pm – 7:00pm

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
OCTOBER 2026						
COMING IN NOVEMBER						
1 ST JAMES/IAKOVOS OF KASTORIA (relics in our altar) 1 Daylight Savings Time (Fall back 1 hour) 8 ST HARALAMBOS @ Niles 9 ST NEKTARIOS @ Palatine 11 Veterans' Day 13 ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM, Kenosha WI	5 8am Metropolis Golf Outing at The Club at Wynstone in North Barrington IL.	6 +APOSTLE THOMAS 8:30am ORTHROS-MATINS 9:30am DIVINE LITURGY 6:30pm Philoptochos Board Mtg 7pm Catechism Class 7pm Sn. GOYA Gathering	7 +SS PHOTIOS & ANIKETOS 9am Agape: Grandparents Day 10:30am Bible Study 7pm Choir Rehearsal 8:30pm Bball Men over 40 (pickup)	8 7am Men's Study Group In Person & on Zoom 10am Dynamis "Kali Pareia" Breakfast at Georgie V's in Northbrook 6:30pm Greek Dance Workshop 7pm PC Exec Mtg	9 +APOSTLE IAKOVOS ALPHAIOS 6:30pm Jr. GOYA Gathering	10 +ST DIONYSIOS AREOPAGITE 8am SSPP Golf Outing 8am IOCC Chicago 5K Run/Walk at Saint Andrews GOC in Chicago, IL 5pm VESPERS
11 +4TH SUNDAY OF LUKE +APOSTLE PHILIP THE DEACON 8:15am ORTHROS-MATINS 9:30am DIVINE LITURGY 11am COFFEE CONNECTION	12 12pm Agape: Wagner Farm Field Trip (Weather Permitting) 7pm Divorce Rebuilders	13 7pm Cancer Support-Zoom Only 7pm Catechism Class	14 +ST KOSMAS - HYMNOGRAPHER 10:30am Bible Study 7pm Choir Rehearsal 8:30pm Bball Men over 40 (pickup)	15 10am Dynamis "Kali Pareia" Breakfast at Georgie V's in Northbrook 6pm HCHC Seminary Fundraiser 6:30pm Jr. GOYA Gathering	16 7pm Sn. GOYA Gathering	17 +PROPHET HOSEA 7am American Society Cancer Walk 5pm VESPERS
18 +ST LUKE EVANGELIST 8:15am ORTHROS-MATINS 9:30am DIVINE LITURGY 11am COFFEE CONNECTION	19 +PROPHET JOEL 7pm Divorce Rebuilders 8pm Stewardship Meeting	20 +SS ARTEMIOS & GERASIMOS 6:30pm Philoptochos General Mtg 7pm Catechism Class 7pm Sn. GOYA Gathering	21 10:30am Bible Study 6pm FLJ Gathering 7pm Choir Rehearsal 8:30pm Bball Men over 40 (pickup)	22 +ST AVERKIOS 10am Dynamis "Kali Pareia" Breakfast at Georgie V's in Northbrook	23 +APOSTLE IAKOVOS BROTHER OF THE LORD 7pm Jr. GOYA Gathering	24 5pm VESPERS
25 +6TH SUNDAY OF LUKE 8:15am ORTHROS-MATINS 9:30am DIVINE LITURGY 11am Soup Kitchen 7pm GREAT VESPERS at Saint Demetrios of Elmhurst Saint Demetrios of Libertyville and Saint Demetrios of Chicago	26 +ST DEMETRIOS 8:30am MATINS-ORTHROS 9:30am DIVINE LITURGY 7pm Divorce Rebuilders	27 6pm Ministry Council Mtg 7pm Catechism Class 7:30pm YAL Chicago	28 8:30am MATINS-ORTHROS 9:30am DIVINE LITURGY 10:30am Bible Study 7pm Sn. GOYA Gathering 7pm Choir Rehearsal 8:30pm Bball Men over 40 (pickup)	29 +ST ANASTASIA OF ROME 7am Men's Study Group 10am Dynamis "Kali Pareia" Breakfast at Georgie V's in Northbrook 5pm FLJ and Agape: Trunk or Treat 6:30pm Greek Dance Workshop 7pm Parish Council Mtg	30 Agape: No School - Teacher Institute Day 11am Sack Lunch	31 Agape: No School - Teacher Institute Day 11am Sack Lunch

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