SAINTS PETER & PAUL
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

THE MESSENGER

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.

However, we have another important feast on *Nov.1* of the Holy Unmercenary Healers *Kosmas and Damianos*. Also, on this same day is the feast of ***St. James/ Iakovos of Kastoria***. He was tonsured at Docheiariou Monastery on Mount Athos. By God's grace, Saint James was able to perceive the mysteries of human hearts, and the secret thoughts of those who came to him. He was also found worthy of the gift of performing miracles. The Turkish authorities fabricated false charges against the Saint, accusing him of fomenting rebellion. In this manner, they tried to force Saint James into renouncing Orthodoxy. Saint James and both of his disciples, Deacon James and the Monk Dionysios, endured the most severe torments for seventeen days, receiving the crown of martyrdom on *November 1, 1520*. St James-Iakovos is important to our parish because our holy altar table contain a portion of his holy relics, which were deposited therein when our temple was consecrated on *November 19, 1978*. Let us honor him and ask for his intercessions on our behalf.

We remind everyone that the children's' sermon is right after the gospel and the adult sermon is right before or after holy communion. It is extremely important for both adults and kids to ***be on-time*** for Divine Liturgy which starts at 9:30am. If we are not for the children's sermon, that means we are also missing the antiphons, the trisagion hymn, the epistle and gospel reading. Why? Because ***the Word of God is just as important as the Eucharist!*** The Body of Christ (both as Holy Communion and a communion of the members) is constituted around the Logos/Word of Truth. For our bodies to be enlightened, our mind, heart and soul must be illumined with words of our Lord and His Apostles.

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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Rev. Fr. Peter Sarolas, Economos, Associate Preist frpeter@ssppglenview.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
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Administrative Assistant: Tina O'Donnell
office@sspplenview.org
Youth Director: Steven Thell
youthdirector@ssppglenview.org
Communications Coordinator: Amanda Sideris
amanda@ssppglenview.org
Bookkeeper: Diane Bravos
diane@ssppglenview.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 Rassmussen
Tracy Ronstadt
Jim Santos

PARISH MINISTRIES

Agape Preschool: Julie Mantice, agape@ssppglenview.org
Acolytes: Steven Thell, acolytes@ssppglenview.org
Athletics: Steve Conway & Chris Batrich, athletics@ssppglenview.org
Bible Study: Dr. Helen Theodoropoulos, biblestudy@ssppglenview.org
Book & Icon Store: Tina O'Donnell, bookstore@ssppglenview.org
Building Maintenance: John Vranas, john@vranas.com
Care for Creation: John Kiriklakis, careforcreation@ssppglenview.org
Catechism: Fr. Richard Andrews, catechism@ssppglenview.org
Chanters: Chris Atsaves, chanters@ssppglenview.org
Choir Director: Therese Speropoulos
choir@ssppglenview.org
Church School: Alexis Douglas and Krystina Jovic
churchschool@ssppglenview.org
Coffee Connection: Doreen DeSent,
coffeeconnection@ssppglenview.org
Divorce Rebuilders: Maria Boyle
divorcerebuilders@ssppglenview.org
Dynamis Group: Joanne Trahanas, dynamis@ssppglenview.org
Georgia Photopulos Cancer Support Group:
Bud Photopulos, cancersupport@ssppglenview.org
GOYAlumni: Ana Arzoumandis and Niki Alexis
goyalumni@ssppglenview.org
Greek Dance: Anna Andrews, dance@ssppglenview.org
Greek School: Stella Theoharopoulos,
greekschool@ssppglenview.org
Grief Support: Tracy Ronstadt, griefsupport@ssppglenview.org
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Orthodox Couples Club: occ@ssppglenview.org
Philoptochos: Julie Anastos, philoptochos@ssppglenview.org
Prison Outreach: Zach Alukos
prisonoutreach@ssppglenview.org
Prosphora: Tracy Ronstadt, prosphora@ssppglenview.org
Readers: readers@ssppglenview.org
Saint Basil's Philanthropy: Christy Gouletas
philanthropy@ssppglenview.org
Saint Stephen Men's Group: Joe Kolbaba and Dean Matsas
mensgroup@ssppglenview.org
Stewardship: George Karagianis, stewardship@ssppglenview.org
Sunday Coffee Fellowship: Carolyn Kolbaba
fellowship@ssppglenview.org
Ushers/Greeters: Bo LaMotte, ushers@ssppglenview.org
Welcome: Keith Anderson,Sylvia Creatura, welcome@ssppglenview.org
Young Adult League (YAL): Maria Mantice,
yal@ssppglenview.org

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

LOCAL EUCHARIST COMMUNITIES
by Nathan Hoppe - PART 6
Christian Formation in the New Testament Epistles, p.123

ARTICLE FROM FATHER RICK ANDREWS

Unfortunately, there is not a detailed record, but the Apostle Peter writes one of the most extended reflections.

3 as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, 4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. 5 But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, 6 to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, 7 to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. 8 For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither [e] barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. 10 Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things, you will never stumble; 11 for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. (2Peter 1:3-11)

In this formation, there is an ongoing tension between the work of God and the work of human persons. There is an effort to be exerted in the development of eight qualities of Christian life, beginning with faith and ending with love. It is a continuous process of growth. The Apostle Paul articulates a similar progression.

1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. 3 And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; 4 and perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us. (Romans 5:1-5) And again in…

1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. (Rom.12:1-2)

Trajectory of Christian Formation in 2nd and 3rd centuries, p.125

Before Emperor Constantine, Christian formation occurred on a level deeper than mere acquisition of knowledge or teaching of a moral code. One scholar termed this transformation as 'habitus' which is a lived, experiential change in mind and body. Learning was reinforced by story and behaviors were modeled by example of parents, peers and role models. Habitus is formed by repetition.

Habitus does not begin with abstract philosophical frameworks but with story that fits very well with athletic language that the Apostle Paul uses: (p.126)

24 Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. 25 And everyone who competes for the prize [j] is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. 26 Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. 27 But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified. (1Corinthians 9:24-27)

This is not a metaphor. St Paul is speaking of real, physical self-discipline in a process of training the body to live in Christ. St Polycarp picks up the same theme: "*Stand firm like an anvil under the hammer. A great boxer will take a beating and yet with through. We ought to put us with anything especially for the sake of God, so that He will put up with us. Become more zealous even than you are*." Muscle memory requires thousands of repetitions.

The Church required a much more extended process of Christian formation before baptism. According to the Apostolic Tradition, catechumens would hear the word for three years. It says in effect, "*We believe that people live their way into a new kind of thinking. If we admit them as they engage in idolatry, immorality and killing, the will be unable to 'hear the world' and they will change the church, fatally compromising its distinctiveness, which is the basis of our witness*." (p.127)

The Didache provides a glimpse into the process of early Christian habitus formation. The first five chapters, which are often called the 'two ways.' One passage reads as follows:

"*My son, flee from all wickedness and from everything like it. Do not become angry, for anger leads to murder. Do not become jealous or quarrelsome or irritable, for from all these murders come. My child do not give way to evil desire, for it leads to fornication. And do not use obscene language, or let your eye wander, for from all these come adulteries. My child do not be an observer of omens, for this leads to idolatry; or engage in witchcraft, astrology, or ritual ablutions. Do not even desire to see the things (or hear them), for from all these idolatry is born. My child do not be a liar, because a lie leads to theft; be not greedy of money or empty glory, for from them all this comes thefts. My child, dot not become a grumbler, because it leads to blasphemy, do not be proud or malicious, for from them all these arise blasphemies*."

Though the Didache contains many rules, its tone is not legalistic. At the close of the 'two ways' section it says: "*If you are able to carry the full yoke of the Lord, you will be perfect; but if you are not able, do whatever you can*." (p.128)

The Church experienced substantial growth in the second and third centuries, which was a great blessing but also brought new challenges. One scholar notes that those seeking baptism were no longer associated with Jewish communities. Thus, their preparation required a far more elementary and thorough training in Jewish-Christian traditions. Despite their enthusiasm, their integration was far more difficult.

YOUTH UPDATE

An Article from Steven Thell

Hello All,

We had a fantastic October filled with youth events! The FLJ hosted a movie night where we watched Toy Story 5 in the atrium. The kids brought their stuffed animals and blankets, enjoying popcorn and pizza for a fun evening. At the same time, the parents had their own "Parent Night" at Cupital in Old Orchard. We plan to continue organizing these Parent Nights in association with youth events, as it's a great way for new parents to meet other families from Saints Peter and Paul.

The Junior GOYA explored our church and learned about its significance, as well as the many miracles witnessed in the Orthodox Faith. They even built an Orthodox church out of marshmallows and toothpicks!

The Senior GOYA had a busy month as well. We discussed ways we feel God's presence in our lives, learned about various Protestant religions, and enjoyed a fun evening at Iron Age, where we had all-you-can-eat Korean BBQ. Coming up, we will have a discussion about Saint Nectarios and will also be anointed with his myrrh.

Upcoming Event: GOYA Retreat (Nov. 13–15): 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. This year's theme is 'God is Bigger Than…'

Have a blessed day,
Steven Thell
Youth Director



Kids watching Toy Story 5. 10/2/26



Fr. Peter leading a discussion in the church. 9/25/26



Senior GOYA at Iron Age 10/20/26.



Senior GOYA at Iron Age 10/20/26.

PASTORAL MESSAGE
FROM FATHER PETER

A Message from Father Peter

Agne Parthene (O Virgin Pure) A Poem to the Theotokos By St. Nectarios of Aegina.

When I began my studies at Hellenic College and Holy Cross School of Theology, I was in the college where I received several cassette tapes with blue paper and black writing with Greek letters on them. It was from a monastery on Mount Athos called Simonopetra or Simonos Petra that my spiritual father and parish priest gave me when he had returned from a trip to Greece and Mount Athos.I remember playing the cassette tapes that I was playing on my Panasonic dual cassette player that had an AM/FM radio. Fast forward to around 1992ish and the hymn of Agne Parthene was being played all over the campus of Hellenic College/Holy Cross on Compact Disk. Looking back I thought that having a dual-cassette tape player with an AM/FM compact radio or whatever it was called back then was cool. In comparison to the year 2025, my kids informed me that it is not so cool.

I also remember the Byzantine Choir of Hellenic College/Holy Cross that held practice days where Agne Parthene was one of the hymns that we would practice. Yes, back at seminary, we had a Byzantine Choir that would perform at various events around the Boston Area as well as at church events such as a vespers or Divine Liturgy whether in NYC or the New England area. I remember chanting Agne Parthene at St. George in Clifton NJ, where they had a Shrine of St. Nectarios the Wonderworker. During my Senior trip to Greece and Constantinople, we would often chant the hymn of Agne Parthene at various church services and events. So what is so special about Agne Parthene? For me personally this is one of my favorite hymns and a family favorite as well. So I ask the question: what is so special about Agne Parthene? At the time I did not know that it was a poem that St. Nectarios had written to the Theotokos. I came to find out a few years ago that Agne Parthene (O Virgin Pure) was published in a book called "A small Theotokarion in 1905". A Theotokarion is a specialized liturgical book that contains a collection of hymns, odes and canons dedicated to the Theokotos. There is a reason St. Nectarios created the poem to the Theotokos; from a young child he held the Theotokos in high regard. When he left his parents and went to live on his own from a young age, he would often write letters to the Theotokos. The tradition was passed down at the monastery of the Holy Trinity, in Aegina, Greece, was that the Lady herself appeared before him and requested that he record on paper a particular hymn the Angelic Choirs were about to sing. This hymn was the "Agne Parthene". The original script can still be viewed on his prayer table in his bedroom at this monastery. In his room you will find a big icon of the Theotokos that he had commissioned after the monastery was established.

Agne Parthene has been translated into many languages, at least eleven, if not more. To be totally honest with you – there is no official count on how many languages Agne Parthene has been translated. The text is in twenty four stanzas or invocations, each followed by the refrain Χαῖρε νύμφη ἀνύμφευτε "Hail, bride unwedded ". The twenty four stanzas are arranged into four strophes, each strophe consisting of three tunes iterated twice over. The first three strophes describe attributes of the Theotokos, while the fourth consists of a prayer for intercession.

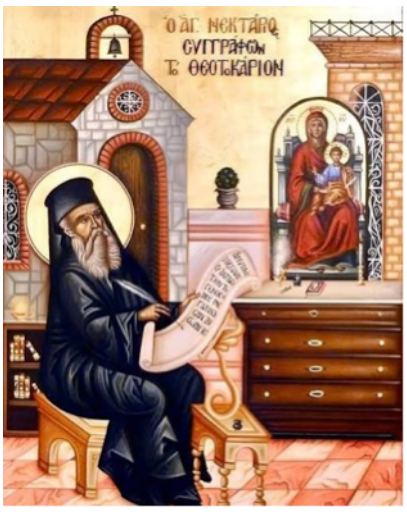
Truly the poem that St. Nectarios wrote dedicated to the Theotokos is a hymn that I personally at times get emotional when I hear it. It is my humble belief that this hymn is truly a prayer for all of us to ask for the Theotokos to intercede in our lives" Assist me and deliver me, protect me from the enemy, Rejoice, O Bride Unwedded!"

O Virgin pure – lyrics in English

O Virgin pure, immaculate, O Lady Theotokos,
Rejoice, O Bride Unwedded!
O Virgin Mother, Queen of all, and fleece which is all dewy,
Rejoice, O Bride Unwedded!
More radiant than the rays of sun, and higher than the heavens,
Rejoice, O Bride Unwedded!
Delight of virgin choruses, superior to Angels,
Rejoice, O Bride Unwedded!
Much brighter than the firmament, and purer than the sun's light,
Rejoice, O Bride Unwedded!

Greek with Phonetics:

Ἁγνὴ Παρθένε Δέσποινα, ἄχραντε Θεοτόκε, (Agní Parthéne Déspina, Áhrante Theotóke)
Χαῖρε νύμφη ἀνύμφευτε! (Hére Nímfi Anímfefte.)
Παρθὲνε μὴτηρ ἄνασσα, πανένδροσέ τε πόκε, (Parthéne Mítir Ánassa, Panéndrose te póke.)
Χαῖρε νύμφη ἀνύμφευτε! (Hére Nímfi Anímfefte.)
Ὑψηλοτέρα οὐρανῶν ἀκτίνων λαμπροτέρα, (Ipsilotéra Uranón, aktínon lamprotéra,)
Χαῖρε νύμφη ἀνύμφευτε! (Hére Nímfi Anímfefte.)



OUR LIFE TOGETHER

Please Welcome our new members to your beautiful parish!

Panagiotis & Eleni Giannakopoulos and Kally Honahan



On October 18, following Divine Liturgy at SS. Peter and Paul, two parish campers shared their Camp Fanari experiences and discussed the Jr. & Sr. GOYA Retreat at SIRC. Parishioners also connected with volunteers to ask questions and learn more.



40 Day Churching for Georgia Nellesen and baby Sophia on October 18th. Congratulations to both, and to dad Alex and big brothers Luke and Noah and grandparents!



On October 17, our Ladies Philoptochos joined Fr. Peter and his son Yanni at Soldier Field for the Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk. Thank you to everyone who donated, helped organize, and participated in this meaningful event!



On October 11, SS. Peter and Paul welcomed the Hellenic Bar Association for a memorial service and Artoklasia. The association also honored Mr. Dean Maragos with an icon of St. Dionysios the Areopagite.

OUR LIFE TOGETHER



On October 15, our Jr. GOYAns at SS. Peter and Paul discussed the church and built their own churches using sweet treats! We also celebrated a Jr. GOYAn's birthday.



On October 2nd, the parents of FLJ (Faith, Love, & Joy) were at Cupitol and they had a nice social gathering. We thank the parents of FLJ for a wonderful evening.



Welcome to the newly baptized and chrismated servant of God, Katerina Panagiota on October 10th. Congratulations to godparent Nouno Peter Korbos and to parents Eleni & Panagiotis



On October 4th at SS. Peter & Paul we honored our Choir and Chanters We thank all of our Choir and Chanters for time Time, Talents, and Treasures.



On Oct 3rd we had our SSPP Golf Outing

LET'S BAG TOGETHER



Volunteers

Adults and children are welcome —make it a family event!

&

Donations

Needed

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2026

Saints Peter and Paul Fellowship Hall

6:00-8:00pm

All groceries will be donated to the Garfield Park Food Pantry and North Side Men's Shelter.

Please drop off shelf stable /non-perishable foods or make a donation using the QR code below. Each bag of grocery averages $30 a bag

Project Hope boxes in Atrium lobby and Fellowship Hall - outside of book store

HOPE

AGAPE FUNDRAISER



PHILOPTOCHOS

A Letter from Our President!

Dear Parish Family,

We are excited to introduce our Philoptochos website, www.sspp-philo.org, your new go-to resource for everything Philoptochos! Our website is designed to keep you informed and connected with all that is happening in our organization. From upcoming events and meetings to charitable initiatives, fundraising activities, and volunteer opportunities, you'll find it all in one convenient place.

Philoptochos is about so much more than fundraising. It is about faith, friendship, fellowship, and philanthropy. Through our shared commitment to helping others, we strengthen our parish community and make a meaningful difference in the lives of those in need. I encourage everyone to visit www.sspp-philo.org, bookmark the site, and check back often for the latest news and updates. Whether you are a longtime member or simply interested in getting involved, there is always a place for you in Philoptochos!

Stay informed, stay connected, and join us as we continue to put our faith into action!

With warmest regards,
Julie Anastos - Philoptochos President



CARING FOR GOD'S HOUSE

We Continue to Care for God's House!

Thank you stewards for your continued financial support as we continue our work this summer in updating and maintaining our beautiful facilities. Glory to God!



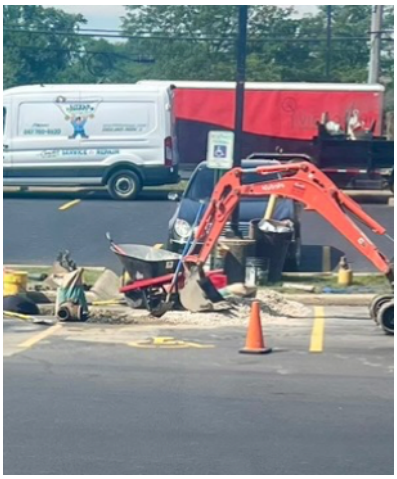


The HVAC units serving the spaces under the gym that had exceeded their useful life and needing several replacement parts, were replaced with new high efficiency units. The two new condensers, previously located in the middle of the Agape playground, were wall mounted.

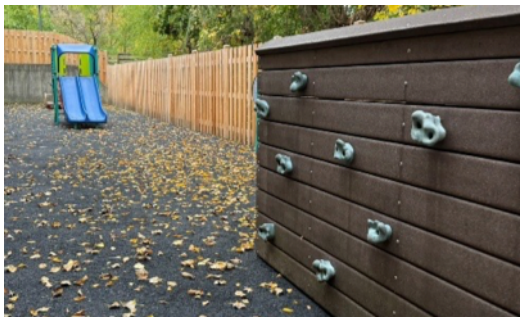


The hot water heater serving the Church building, including the kitchen for many years, started to leak and was replaced with a new unit that will provide many years of service.





Two separate underground drain lines, one handling all the Church roof drains, the other in the parking lot, collapsed and were dug up and repaired. The children watched in amazement as their updated playground took shape. Look for photos of the finished project in the next issue.





Look for updates on the Latto Center bathrooms, scheduled for next summer.



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. The holiday season is just around the corner! Now is a wonderful time to get a head start on your Christmas shopping and find meaningful gifts for family and friends that share the beauty and richness of our Orthodox faith. As we prepare for the Nativity Fast, beginning November 15, consider choosing spiritual books and resources to help you and your family prepare your hearts and homes for the celebration of Christ's birth. From books about the saints to icons, crosses, prayer ropes, and other spiritual treasures, you'll find thoughtful gifts that inspire faith and bring joy throughout the year. We are located at the bottom of the stairs, just outside Fellowship Hall, and are open every Sunday immediately following Divine Liturgy or by appointment during the week. We look forward to seeing you or hearing from you soon! Questions or appointments? Contact us at bookstore@ssppglenview.org.

Coffee Connection

Please join us for the next 2 Coffee Connection sessions in November as we continue our discussion about "The Saints That Surround Us"! **November 8 -** St. Nectarios and SS. Cosmas and Damian – The Healers - How can we be present to one another as healers just like the Saints? How do we face our sickness and the sickness of loved ones? How do we understand intercessory prayers for healing November 8 is also our College Care Package Day : Please plan to stay after our session to help fill the College Care Packages for our parish students. Lastly, **November 15 -** St. Anastasia – The Deliverer from Potions/Addiction: What can we learn from the life of St. Anastasia on compassion for those suffering from addiction?

Blood Donation - December 8th

Join us for our blood drive from 2:30–6:00 PM! Helping others is one of the most meaningful ways we can do God's work, and a single donation can make a life-changing difference. We welcome new donors and are so grateful for our loyal, returning donors! Every donation matters. 🙏 To reserve your spot, please contact Christy at 847-989-3382. We hope to see you there!

Saint Stephen 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 schedule:
Thursday, 11/5, 11/12 at 7:00 AM - 8:00 AM via Zoom
Thursday, 11/19 at 7:00 AM - 8:00 AM via Zoom or in person
Thursday, 11/26 no meeting

This November, we are continuing our climb through one of the most transformative works in Orthodox spirituality. We are moving through the final chapters of our focus on the first 10 steps 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 are jumping in for the first time this month or have been climbing with us since September, this is a perfect opportunity to connect and grow — one rung at a time. Books are available at the SSPP Book and Icon Store. Come as you are. Bring your questions.

AGAPE SCHOOL UPDATE

Agape School Happenings

It's been a wonderful and busy fall at Agape! Our classrooms have been filled with creativity, learning, and special celebrations as we continue to enjoy our school year together!

On October 7, Agape welcomed grandparents and special guests for our annual Grandparents' Day celebration! Our classrooms were filled with smiles, laughter, and special memories as students shared a glimpse of their school day with their loved ones. It was a heartwarming morning celebrating the important role our special yiayias, papous, grandparents, and extended family members play in the lives of our children. We are grateful to everyone who joined us and helped make the day so memorable!

Our students also enjoyed a wonderful fall field trip to Wagner Farm in Glenview! On a beautiful, warm and sunny day, the children explored the farm, visited the chicken coop where they fed and gently touched the chickens, met the cows and horses, and strolled through the sensory garden. One of the highlights was learning to churn butter and enjoying their freshly made butter with graham crackers! It was a fun-filled morning of hands-on learning, exploration, and making special memories together. A big thank you to our parents and chaperones who helped make this experience possible!

Our young artists have also been busy exploring the world of famous artists during Art with Ms. Gail! This month, students learned about Andy Warhol and his iconic pop art style. Inspired by his bold and colorful artwork, the children experimented with mixed media, using colored pencils, crayons, and markers to create their very own vibrant pumpkin pop art masterpieces! These hands-on experiences encourage creativity, self-expression, and an appreciation for the arts.

Please support Agape through our Minted Fundraiser! As the holiday season approaches, Agape is excited to partner with Minted for a special fundraising opportunity. Church and community members can support our school while shopping for Christmas cards, personalized stationery, and unique gifts. Simply visit www.minted.com and use promo code FUNDRAISEAGAPE to receive 20% off your purchase, while 10% of your purchase goes back to Agape! This special fundraiser runs through Christmas, and we appreciate your support!

We are grateful for the continued love and support of our church community and look forward to many more wonderful moments of faith, friendship, learning, and growth at Agape. Wishing everyone a beautiful fall season filled with joy, blessings, and special moments with loved ones!







COFFEE CONNECTION OUTREACH MINISTRY

Tanzania Well Project Continues!

Providing Lifesaving Fresh Water for Remote African Communities

$30,000	3 New	5 Wells
TOTAL RAISED	WELLS BUILT	REPAIRED & RESTORED

1. A Little History

In November 2024, as part of Coffee Connection's outreach ministry as a Local Eucharistic Community, we committed to assist two Greek Orthodox Churches in California (**St. Barbara in Santa Barbara** and **St. Paul in Irvine**) with their wonderful ministry of providing fresh water for remote villages in Tanzania, Africa through building, repairing, and maintaining wells.

We dedicated a fund for this project and welcomed the whole parish to join us. **And we were not disappointed!** Your generous donations totaling **$30,000** far exceeded our goal, allowing us to build 3 new wells and repair 5 wells by May 2026.



2. What Does Coffee Connection Do Now?

At our last session in May, we decided as a group to launch a **sustaining effort** to continue supporting this lifesaving ministry on an ongoing basis.

YEARLY ONGOING GOAL

$5,000

Each time we reach this $5,000 milestone, funds are sent directly to St. Paul's Church in Irvine to construct or repair a well.

3. How Can SSPP Help?

If this is a charity to which you would like to give, support us in two simple ways:

- **Scan the QR Code:** Use your phone camera to scan directly.
- **Visit Website:** Go to **ssppglenview.org** → *Donate*→ *Mission Tanzania*

GLORY TO GOD!

"We praise God for His gifts that He blesses us to share!"

With love in Christ, — The CC Team

NOVEMBER 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 +5TH SUN LUKE + JAMES OF KASTORIA +STS KOSMAS & DAMIANOS PHILOPTOCHOS SUNDAY 8:15am ORTHROS-MATINS 9:30am DIVINE LITURGY 11am CS Christmas Pageant Music Practice Begins	2 +ST ELPIDOFOROS - ARCHBISHOP NAMEDAY 7pm Divorce Rebulilders 7pm Bball Practice 7-8 Grade Boys	3 6pm Catechism Meet & Greet 6:30pm Greek Dance Workshop 7pm Catechism Class 7pm Sn. GOYA Gathering	4 +Fr. George Phillipas reposed 2008 5pm Bball Practice 3-4 Grade Boys 6pm Bball Practice 3-6 Grade Girls 7pm Choir Rehearsal 7pm Bball Practice 7-12 Grade Girls 8:30pm Bball Men over 40 (pickup)	5 +HOLY PROTECTION OF THEOTOKOS 7am Men's Study Group 10am Dynamis "Kali Parea" Breakfast at Georgie V's in Northbrook 5pm Bball Practice 5-6 Grade Boys 6pm HCHC Seminary Fundraiser 6:30pm Jr. GOYA Gathering 7:45pm HS Basketball Practice	6 6pm FLJ Gathering	7 +ST DIONYSIOS AREOPAGITE 6pm YAL Friendsgiving 7pm GREAT VESPERS at Saint Haralambos in Niles
8 +7TH SUNDAY OF LUKE +ARCHANGELS 8:15am ORTHROS-MATINS 9:30am DIVINE LITURGY 7pm GREAT VESPERS at Saint Nectarios GOC in Palatine	9 +ST NECTARIOS 8:30am ORTHROS-MATINS 9:30am DIVINE LITURGY 9:30am Agape: Divine Liturgy - Feast Day of St. Nektarios 7pm Divorce Rebulilders 7pm Bball Practice 7-8 Grade Boys	10 +APOSTLE THOMAS 6:30pm Philoptochos Board Mtg 7pm Catechism Class 7pm Cancer Support-Zoom Only	11 +ST MENAS GREAT MARTYR 10:30am Bible Study 5pm Bball Practice 3-4 Grade Boys 6pm Bball Practice 3-6 Grade Girls 7pm Choir Rehearsal 7pm Bball Practice 7-12 Grade Girls 8:30pm Bball Men over 40 (pickup)	12 7am Men's Study Group 10am Dynamis "Kali Parea" Breakfast at Georgie V's in Northbrook 5pm Bball Practice 5-6 Grade Boys 7pm GREAT VESPERS at Saint John in Pleasant Prairie WI 7pm PC Exec Mtg 7:45pm HS Basketball Practice	13 +ST JOHN CHRYSOSTOM GOYA Fall Retreat @ Saint Iakovos Retreat Center 8:30am ORTHROS-MATINS 9:30am DIVINE LITURGY 6pm HOPE Bagging	14 +APOSTLE PHILIP
15 +8TH SUNDAY OF LUKE 1ST LITURGY @ SSPP 1964 Veterans & 1st Responder Sunday 8:15am ORTHROS-MATINS 9:30am DIVINE LITURGY 11am COFFEE CONNECTION 11am Soup Kitchen	16 +ST MATTHEW EVANGELIST 8:30am ORTHROS-MATINS 9:30am DIVINE LITURGY 6pm HOLY UNCTION ADVENT 7pm Divorce Rebulilders 7pm Bball Practice 7-8 Grade Boys 8pm Stewardship Mtg	17 6:30pm Philoptochos General Mtg 7pm Catechism Class	18 10:30am Bible Study 5pm Bball Practice 3-4 Grade Boys 6pm Bball Practice 3-6 Grade Girls 6pm FLJ Gathering 7pm Choir Rehearsal 7pm Bball Practice 7-12 Grade Girls 8:30pm Bball Men over 40 (pickup)	19 +PROPHET OBDIAH +CONSECRATION OF SSPP 1978 7am Men's Study Group-In Person & Zoom 10am Dynamis "Kali Parea" Breakfast at Georgie V's in Northbrook 5pm Bball Practice 5-6 Grade Boys 6:30pm Greek Dance Workshop 7pm Parish Council Mtg 7:45pm HS Basketball Practice	20 6pm JR. and SR. GOYA Vespers & PotLuck 6pm VESPERS	21 +ENTRANCE OF THEOTOKOS 8:30am ORTHROS-MATINS 9:30am DIVINE LITURGY 5pm VESPERS
22 +9TH SUNDAY OF LUKE +APOSTLE PHILEMON 8:15am ORTHROS-MATINS 9:30am DIVINE LITURGY 12pm Parish Assembly Mtg	23 7pm Bball Practice 7-8 Grade Boys	24 +ST CLEMENT OF ROME 7pm Vespers @ St Katherine Chapel at Assumption GOC in Chicago IL	25 +ST KATHERINE GREAT MARTYR OFFICE CLOSED 8:30am ORTHROS-MATINS 9:30am DIVINE LITURGY 10:30am Bible Study 5pm Bball Practice 3-4 Grade Boys 6pm Bball Practice 3-6 Grade Girls 7pm Bball Practice 7-12 Grade Girls 8:30pm Bball Men over 40 (pickup)	26 +ST STYLIANOS (CHILDREN) OFFICE CLOSED THANKSGIVING DAY	27 +ST IAKOVOS GREAT MARTYR PERSIAN OFFICE CLOSED	28 5pm VESPERS
29 +6TH SUNDAY OF LUKE 8:15am ORTHROS-MATINS 9:30am DIVINE LITURGY 7pm GREAT VESPERS Saint Andrews GOC in Chicago	30 +ST ANDREW APOSTLE 8:30am ORTHROS and DIVINE LITURGY Saint Andrews GOC in Chicago 7pm Bball Practice 7-8 Grade Boys		**REMINDER:** **+ADVENT-NATIVITY FAST+** NOVEMBER 15 - DECEMBER 24		**COMING IN DECEMBER** **1-24 Advent Fast** **5 Philoptochos Holiday Faire** **6 ST NICHOLAS & Parish Council Elections** **12 ST SPYRIDON** **17 ST DIONYSIOS & PROPHET DANIEL** **19 Philoptochos Advent Luncheon** **20 Children's Christmas Pageant** **22 ST ANASTASIA** **24-25 NATIVITY OF OUR LORD** **27 ST STEPHEN - PROTOMARTYR**	

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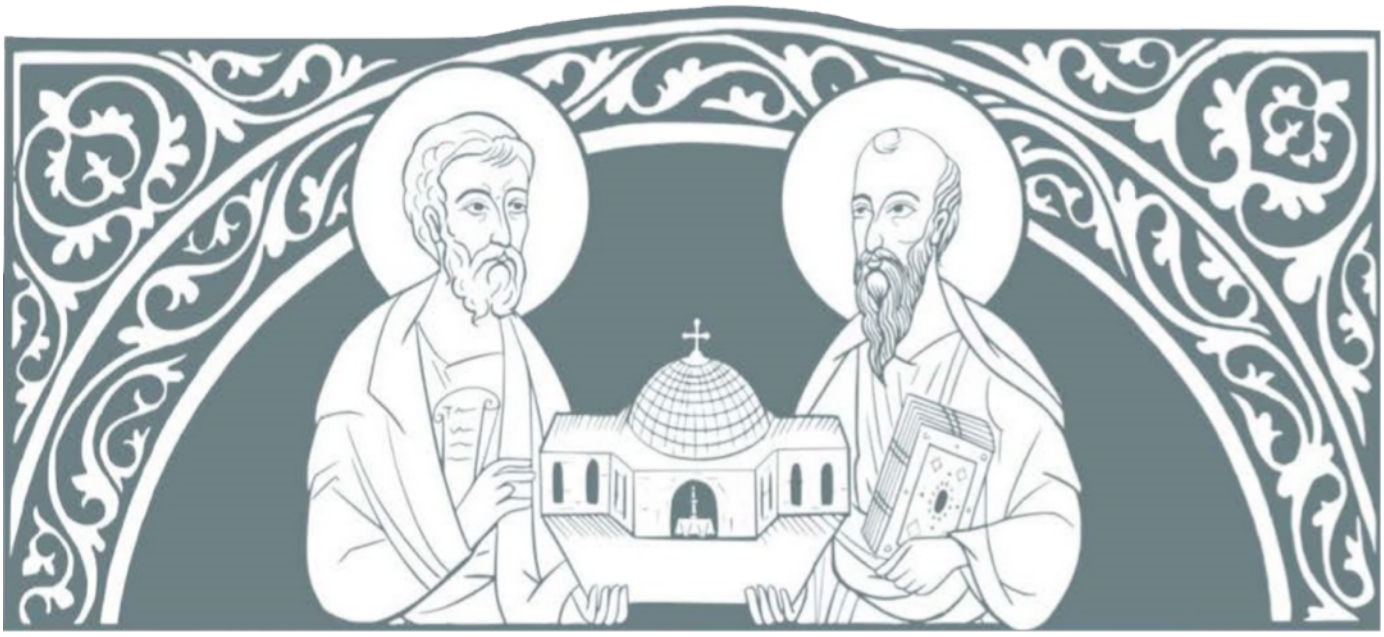

SAINTS PETER & PAUL
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH