SAINTS PETER & PAUL
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

THE MESSENGER

A Message from Father Rick

Father Richard Demetrius Andrews

Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

I returned to the office on *Tuesday November 17* from my three-month ***sabbatical***. *Presvytera Jane* and I were truly blessed with a once in a lifetime experience to travel the Rocky Mountains from Montana to Arizona for two months. In between two separate trips West, we travelled to Europe, specifically Italy and France for a month. I thank *Metropolitan Nathanael* for the blessing, the Archdiocese Presbyters Council for the grant, our parish of SSPP for your support, and all of you for your prayers. Specifically, I would like to **thank *Fr. Peter*** for leading the parish in my absence, *George Seletos* and the parish council in stewardship of our community, the ministry staff, the office staff, ministry leaders and all our volunteers for meeting the pastoral and spiritual needs of our people. Thank you to all of them!

I am still processing this experience and retracing our journeys through the thousands of photos. Every place has a special memory as we appreciated the beauty of God's creation as well as mankind's creations to access and reflect God's beauty.

Parish Council elections will take place on *December 6*. We have nine candidates, six of whom are incumbents. I would like to thank *Steve Koulogeorge and Dean Matsas* for their service on the parish council. They have chosen not to run for re-election, but we are very appreciative of their dedication, commitment and hard work on the parish council and in our community.

Coming up in December is the annual Philopotochos Holiday Fair (Dec.5), St Nicholas Feast Day and Metropolis Holiday Open House (Dec.6), Blood Drive (Dec.8), Hellenic Foundation Awards (Dec.9), St. Spyridon Feast Day (Dec.12), St Dionysios & Agape Liturgy (Dec.17), Philoptochos Advent Brunch and Sanctuary Cleaning (Dec.19), Children's Christmas Pageant (Dec.20), St Anastasia Feast Day—her relics are in our holy altar table (Dec.22)

Nativity Services – *Tues. Dec.24* Royal Hours 9-11am--we encourage children to participate in the readings, Vesperal Divine Liturgy 5:00pm followed by the brief concert of carols by our choir; *Wed. Dec.25*Orthros 8:30am and Divine Liturgy 9:30am.

In addition, we can preserve the spirit of the season through quiet contemplation. This is challenging with the holiday shopping season, holiday parties, and end of year deadlines. We should strive not to pre-celebrate Christmas. The Orthodox Church celebrates with the fast-free, joyful ***Twelve (12) Days of Christmas*** (*December 25 to January 6*, for Theophany/Epiphany). Please be intentional about how and where we will spend our time and energy during Advent.

The month of ***December is also our biggest*** for ***stewardship*** revenue. You should receive a statement dated around *Nov.30* that reflects your giving so far this year. For 2026, we expect to receive close to $250K by the end of the year to meet our stewardship goal. At this time, we ask three things: 1) if you made a stewardship pledge, be sure to fulfill it; 2) if you have not pledged, be sure to make a stewardship contribution; and 3) no matter if you pledged or did not, consider how God has blessed you and ***give generously even beyond your planned stewardship contributions.*** We appreciate monthly gifts. https://onrealm.org/ssppglenview/-/form/give/now

Our 2027 Archdiocese ***Stewardship*** Theme will continue last year's: "***Rise Up and Build: Building Up the Body of Christ***." The words of the prophet Nehemiah to the Jewish people when he saw the crumbling walls of Jerusalem "Rise up and build" (Neh.2:19), apply to us today. We must continually rise up and build up the Body of Christ. We the people together form the Body of Christ—to care out His ministry in our modern time. We are called to build up the walls of our parish temples, and at the same time, tear down the walls/barriers in and around our parish that prevent people from experience the love, mercy and forgiveness of Christ. We do this by building up our worship and ministries. Receiving the Body of Christ in the Eucharist means little if we are not building up each other, carrying one another's burdens and fulfilling the law of Christ (Galatians 6:2).

God's guideline for giving is the tithe (10%). He gives us everything but only asks for ten percent in return. That's a

CONTACTS

1401 Wagner Road Glenview, IL 60025
Phone: (847) 729-2235
Email: office@ssppglenview.org
Website: ssppglenview.org

Rev. Dr. Fr. Richard Demetrius Andrews, Protopresbyter, frrick@ssppglenview.org

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
parishadmin@ssppglenview.org
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
Myrrhbearers: myrrhbearers@ssppglenview.org
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 7 (pp.128-135)

ARTICLE FROM FATHER RICK ANDREWS

Chapter 3: Christian Formation, Stewardship and Governance--Persecution and Martyrdom (p.128).

Early Christian communities trained for their own quasi-eucharistic sacrifice of martyrdom and expected it. This possibility provided both inspiration and guidance in formation. The historian Eusebius noted the difference between those who stood fast, holding their faith and those who did not was prior training. They were not disheartened by torture and death but by those who failed to stand firm. Those who contested for the faith were seen as athletes of God, who had trained and were able to endure with patience and joy. (p.129)

In the early third century, persecutions lessened and peace prevailed. This led to a relaxing of standards for Christian formation. However, severe persecutions resumed under Emperor Decius (250-250AD) and many Christians lapsed offering sacrifice to the pagan gods. The scale of apostasy was much greater than ever before and Cyprian of North Africa stated that many betrayed their faith in Christ because they were "conquered before the battle" by laxity. This presented a great challenge to the Church because previously the penance for apostasy was permanent excommunication (p.130).

As a result of the persecution, the Church was wracked by division and struggled with serious pastoral challenges. Mass apostasy under this persecution demonstrated the deficiencies of Christian formation during periods of rapid growth and favorable external circumstances. What followed was the last, longest and most severe of all persecutions to the point under Emperor Diocletian (ruled 284-305AD). Official persecution of the Church was finally ended with by the Edict of Toleration at Milan in 313AD and fully implemented when Emperor Constantine defeated Licinius in 324AD.

Christian Formation and Imperial Christianity (p.131)

The end of persecution and imperial favor resulted in large numbers of people seeking baptism and entry into the Church. The lowering of formation standards continued to fall during this time of peace and growth. The early (1st-3rd centuries) catechumenate sought to screen out the unworthy from baptism. However, now there was an opportunity to cast a much wider net and make all of society Christian. Third century Christian authors wrote exhortations to martyrdom. Now, in the fourth century, they were exhorting people to baptism. Thus, the Church developed a more formal process of catechism. St Cyril of Jerusalem (+386) wrote a set of catechetical lectures. Other catechists avoided teaching behaviors and focused of thinking and beliefs.

This is also when infant baptism became common and thus church architecture shifted from adult to infant size baptismal fonts (p.132). For some, infant baptism meant being raised and formed in Christian homes and families. However, for others it meant an assumption of identity with little or no active cultivation of their life in Christ. St John Chrysostom (+407) saw this laxity and often wrote about it complaining about too-rare attendance and wealth being taken for granted. He and his contemporary bishops stated that too much luxury was their problem (p.133).

For these people, despite being baptized as infants, did not receive instruction at home, did not participate in organized catechism and did not regularly attend church nor hear any sermons. The Emperor Constantine saw the problem and took measures to promote flourishing of the Church by exempting clergy from taxation, ordering a day of rest for workers on Sundays (the Lord's Day), making plentiful provisions for the poor, and support for construction of church temples (p.134).

However, in the fourth and fifth centuries, the Church still moved from transformation to doctrinal information in Christian formation. There was little moral teaching in curriculum and more focus on liturgical knowledge. This led to the growth of monasticism, and it became an influential witness to the distinctive Christian lifestyle. Thousands of men and women turned to the desert to focus on an authentic Christian habitus (lifestyle). They strived for martyrdom through extreme ascetical effort. These monks and nuns fulfilled a prophetic and eschatological ministry in the life of the Church. They reminded Christians that the Kingdom of God is not of this world (p.135).

PASTORAL MESSAGE

FROM FATHER RICK cont.

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

Looking forward I pray that everyone has a fruitful and blessed Advent in preparing to receive our Lord Jesus Christ born in the flesh at His Nativity, as well may He be born in our hearts, minds, words and actions to bring the Gospel to those who hunger for truth, meaning in purpose.

I also look forward to the New Year by celebrating the great feast of Theophany as we renew our commitments to the Lord and His Church and our parish. As we heard our patron Apostle Paul say in the Epistle reading for Sunday *November 22nd*.

I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, ***beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,*** *2* ***with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love,*** *3* ***endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*** *4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism; 6 one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. 7 But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. 8 Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men."* (Ephesians 4:1-7). Amen!

Blessed Advent!
+Fr. Rick



SAINTS PETER & PAUL
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

PASTORAL MESSAGE
FROM FATHER PETER

A Message from Father Peter

Fasting during the Nativity Fast.

On the fifteenth of November, I mentioned after the Divine Liturgy that we were beginning the Advent or Christmas/Nativity Fast. I stated that of the forty-day Christmas/Nativity Fast there are these interesting facts regarding what is allowed to eat and how many days. For example, there are twenty-one days of Fish consumption (12 days in Nov & 9 in Dec). There are eleven days that Oil and Wine are allowed (2 days in Nov & 9 in Dec). There are eight days of Strict Fast (2 days in Nov & 6 in Dec). If you add the days, 21+11+8= 40 days.

The difference between the Christmas/Nativity Fast is that Fish, Oil and Wine are allowed compared to the Great and Holy Lenten Fast, which is stricter. Meaning that the only two (2) times that Fish is allowed is March 25th (Annunciation Day) and Palm Sunday (the date changes year to year). Also, the consumption or use of Oil and Wine are allowed during the Great and Holy Fast on certain days but the majority is a strict fasting period.

Why am I bringing this up now. To be honest with you, I have heard people make comments to me like "what is the point of eating vegan food where I can have the real thing!". Or I hear "What is the point of doing that? Why eat the vegan cookies or vegan desert or vegan (plant based) food where I can go out and have a cookie from …. or a nice piece of pie/ cake; or eat something that is not vegan/ plant based?"

Did you ever stop and see the other person's view? Let me explain, there are individuals that follow the Christmas/ Nativity Fast and the Great and Holy Fast which require the "protein" consumption, therefore they eat something like a plant-based burger because of the protein aspect that the plant-based burger gives them.

Another viewpoint is that there are some people that have an egg or a milk allergy? OR there are people that are 100% vegan all the time? So, it is also a way of life for these people. Think about what life was like even twenty years ago or longer? They did not have these food options to partake of. I do have family members and have some very close friends that are either vegan and/or have an egg or milk allergy.

So, for me I see all sides. However, the reality is it is not what we put into our mouths solely, when we fast, BUT, more importantly, it is what comes out of them. What is the point of fasting from either the Christmas/Nativity Fast or the Great and Holy Lenten Fast IF we are devouring our brothers and sisters, or if we are not praying and are being judgmental? You see, we should look inward and focus on what we do and not on what others do. IF you do not want to fast, that is up to you. Do not sit on the sidelines and play the General Manager of someone's life and dictate on what they choose to do. We should be respectful of what each of us is called to do. In the words of our late Metropolitan Iakovos of blessed memory, "IF you are eating and drinking these items (the vegan milks and food) for a healthier option then that is fine, however IF you are replacing them just for the sake of replacing regular milk and food for a vegan milk and plant base food you are defeating the purpose."

You should fast because you want to and not by replacing these food items with vegan options. You see my brothers and sisters in Christ, fasting is a personal journey that one takes. They choose to be strict or not. When we fast, we become less dependent on the meats, dairy products, eggs or what the case may be and we replace them with other options such as more fruits and vegetables because we have the options to do so now than we did fifty or even twenty years ago. Let us stop focusing on what we are eating and focus on prayer and almsgiving and more importantly what is coming out of our mouths. And we need to remember that Jesus is the reason first and foremost!

May you and your loved ones have a blessed Nativity/Christmas, May our Lord's birth bring you all joy, happiness and good health.

Christ Is Born….Glorify Him

Merry Christmas
Fr. Peter Sarolas, Economos



Your nativity, O Christ our God, has caused the light of knowledge to rise upon the world. For therein the worshippers of the stars were by a star instructed to worship You, the Sun of Righteousness, and to know You as Orient from on high. Glory to You, O Lord.

Ἡ Γέννησίς σου Χριστὲ ὁ Θεὸς ἡμῶν, ἀνέτειλε τῷ κόσμῳ, τὸ φῶς τὸ τῆς γνώσεως· ἐν αὐτῇ γὰρ οἱ τοῖς ἄστροις λατρεύοντες, ὑπὸ ἀστέρος ἐδιδάσκοντο, σὲ προσκυνεῖν, τὸν Ἥλιον τῆς δικαιοσύνης, καὶ σὲ γινώσκειν ἐξ ὕψους ἀνατολήν. Κύριε δόξα σοι.

OUR LIFE TOGETHER





Inaugural ALL IN awareness Sunday ministry - November 1



We hosted the IOCC Board of Directors - November 6



SSPP attendees at the Hellenic College and Holy Cross School of Theology fundraiser at the Empress Banquet - November 5



Welcome Paul Aletto who was baptised and chrismated on November 7. Congrats to parents Braden and Eleni Aletto and Nouna Alexandra Priola.

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

Please Welcome our new members to your beautiful parish!

Braden and Eleni Aletto, Marie Engel & John and Niki Rogaris



Lukas Kourvetaris spoke about the "No Children Without" charity - November 8



Welcome George Katsoulis who was baptised and chrismated on November 7. Congrats to parents Michael and Georgette Katsoulis and godparents Louie and Colby Polychronos



Annual Veterans Day recognition - November 15



Jr. & Sr. Goya "Bake Off" - November 20

MY EXPERIENCE ON PILGRIMAGE OF DISCOVERY







My name is Maria Mantice, and I had the honor of participating in the Pilgrimage of Discovery program in August 2026. The Pilgrimage of Discovery is a transformational religious and educational journey to Constantinople, offering young Greek Orthodox Americans the opportunity to deepen their faith while exploring the rich history, traditions, and spiritual heritage of the Orthodox Church.

Throughout the pilgrimage, we visited many significant historical and religious sites, including St. Irene, Hagia Sophia, Zoodochos Pigis at Balukli, Kariye Mosque, Panayias ton Vlahernon Church, Agios Demetrios of Kurucesme, Panayia Koumariotisa, Halki Seminary, and St. George Church at the Phanar. One of the most meaningful highlights was the opportunity to meet with His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew.

During my audience with His All-Holiness, I had the special honor of presenting him with a letter from the children participating in the Saints Peter and Paul Sunday School Program. It was incredibly meaningful to bring a message from our youngest members of the parish and share a small piece of our community with the spiritual leader of the Orthodox Christian world. Knowing that I was representing Saints Peter and Paul made the experience even more humbling and memorable.

This pilgrimage was truly an amazing spiritual experience. Being able to walk through Constantinople, experience its sacred churches, witness the beauty of our traditions, and connect with the history of our faith gave me a deeper appreciation for our Orthodox heritage. I returned home with lasting memories, a renewed sense of faith, and an even greater appreciation for the importance of passing our traditions on to future generations. Thank you to the Archons for not only supporting the program but creating this wonderful journey to Constantinople.

Would you like to learn more about the Pilgrimage of Discovery or know a young adult who might be interested in applying? I encourage you to visit www.pilgrimageofdiscovery.org to learn more about this incredible opportunity.

Applications open December 1st, 2026!

YOUTH UPDATE

Hello All,

We are heading into December, and the year has flown by. This month we had our GOYA potluck and vespers. Our FLJ kids had a great Q&A with Fr. Peter.

Our highlight this month was our GOYA Retreat at the Saint Iakovos Retreat Center. 35 kids joined us for the weekend to grow in their faith and spend time together. Our theme was "God is Bigger Than." We discussed how God is bigger than any tribulation, problem, or stress we have in this world. We discussed that we can, and should, turn to Him when we are faced with hardships.

The example we used was Peter walking on water. Peter was able to walk on the water when he was looking at Christ, but as soon as he took his focus off of Christ, he began to sink. But even when Peter began to sink, Christ immediately reached out and saved him. This reminds us that keeping our eyes on Christ doesn't mean we won't face hardships, but that we can face them with faith, humility, and hope. This is true in our own lives when we take our focus off of God and become consumed by the world around us. Throughout the weekend, we enjoyed plenty of fun-filled activities, including pumpkin bowling, relay races, musical chairs, and the song game, just to name a few. It was also a great opportunity for our older and younger GOYAns to spend time together, build friendships, and get to know one another better. It was a great weekend. I want to thank Fr. Peter, Rosie Kyriakopoulos, Despina Minetos, Nicky Assimnos, Peter Kokkinias, and Chris Batrich for giving their time to help make the retreat a success.

Coming up, we have our Christmas parties for our respective youth groups as well as a visit to the Greek American Nursing home. I hope you all finish the month on a high note.

Have a blessed day,
Steven Thell
Youth Director



Bozno Bowl Winners 11/14/26



GOYA Group Photo at the Retreat 11/14/26

PHILOPTOCHOS

A Season of Giving, Gratitude, and Fellowship and a Letter from Our President!

Dear Parish Family,
As we enter the beautiful month of December, our hearts are filled with gratitude and the joy of the Christmas season. December is an especially meaningful time for Philoptochos, as we come together in the spirit of fellowship, generosity, and service to others.

This month, we look forward to two very special events. Our Annual Holiday Faire, our largest fundraiser of the year, is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the season while supporting the many charitable efforts of Philoptochos. We hope you will join us on Saturday, December 5 from 10am until 5pm and enjoy all the festive traditions that make this event so special!

We will also gather for our Advent Brunch on Saturday, December 19 at 11 am at Sunset Ridge Country Club, a cherished tradition that allows us to pause during the busy holiday season, enjoy one another's company, and prepare our hearts for the celebration of Christmas. As part of this gathering, we invite everyone to bring bags of food for donation, sharing the blessings of the season with those in need. Reservations can be made on our website sspp-philo.org.

As 2026 comes to a close, I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to our entire parish community for your generosity, enthusiasm, and support throughout the year. Whether you volunteered your time, attended an event, made a donation, or simply offered encouragement, you have helped make our work possible. We are truly grateful!

We are already looking forward to 2027 and another wonderful year filled with opportunities to serve, connect, and have fun together! I encourage you to visit our website, sspp-philo.org, to learn about upcoming events, discover ways you can lend a helping hand, and enjoy photos of the many friendships, smiles, and special moments we share along the way.

Wishing you and your families a blessed Christmas and a New Year filled with peace, love, good health, and happiness!

With warmest wishes,
Julie Anastos
Philoptochos President



PARISH COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Presidents - Parish Council Year-End Address

December 2026

As we approach year-end, I would like to take a few moments to reflect on our parish's accomplishments in 2026 and look ahead to 2027.

First, I would like to extend a very warm welcome back to Father Rick and Presbytera Jane! We're delighted to have you both back with us.

Second, let's look at stewardship and our financial progress.

Through October, we have received $676,000 in stewardship donations. This puts us 3% ahead of budget and represents 71% of our total annual budget.

If we achieve our goals for the remainder of the year, including our historically strong December, we anticipate finishing 2026 with approximately $970,000 in donations. This is an accomplishment we can be proud of. It reflects the generosity, faith, and commitment of our parishioners and their continued support of our parish and its ministries.

We currently have 460 donor families, which is in line with where we stood at this time last year. We anticipate finishing the year with just under 600 donor families.

Thank you for your continued generosity and for helping sustain the life and mission of our parish.

Third, I want to recognize the success of our summer Festival.

A heartfelt thank-you to our Festival Committee and all the volunteers who worked tirelessly to make this year's Festival such a success. Beyond the financial results, the festival provided a wonderful opportunity to welcome people from our surrounding parishes and communities.

Fourth, I am very encouraged by the growth of our Fall Catechism Program.

We currently have 38 people registered, significantly more than in previous years. Even more encouraging, many are attending services and joining us for coffee hour after Sunday Liturgy.

I encourage everyone to introduce yourself, offer a warm welcome, and take the time to get to know those who are exploring our faith. Sometimes, a simple conversation or a friendly invitation can make a lasting difference in someone's spiritual journey.

Fifth, thank you to everyone who participated in our Parish Vitality Pulse Survey.

We had 168 responses, which was slightly below participation in previous surveys but nonetheless provided valuable, measurable feedback.

Please know that the Parish Council values your feedback and will use your input to identify opportunities to strengthen engagement and enhance parish life in the coming year.

As we look toward 2027, I encourage each of you to consider sharing your time and talents to help sustain, strengthen, and grow our parish ministries.

We are called to offer our time—time in prayer, time in worship, and time in service to others.

We are also called to offer our talents. God has blessed each of us with unique gifts and abilities. When we put those gifts to work through ministry, hospitality, teaching, organizing, or simply encouraging one another, we help build up and strengthen the Body of Christ.

Through your participation, we strengthen our parish community and help ensure that Saints Peter & Paul continues to be a place where people encounter Christ and experience His love, mercy, and forgiveness.

With this in mind, the Parish Council will be evaluating how we can expand ministries in ways that we can help people in need in a larger way. You will hear more about this as we move into 2027.

Finally, I want to express our sincere appreciation to Father Peter for his faithful leadership and service while Father Rick has been away on sabbatical. Father Peter, your presence and leadership have been felt throughout our parish and across our ministries, and we are truly grateful for all you have done.

As we look ahead to 2027, let us build upon the progress we have made together. Let us remain focused on our mission to proclaim the Gospel through Orthodox Christian worship, fellowship, service, and witness. And let us each consider how we can become more engaged in the life of our parish.

I wish you and families a blessed, joyful and peaceful Christmas.

Thank you

SS PETER & PAUL

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Connecting with God and Each Other

MINISTRY UPDATES

Visit Your Book and Icon Store

🎄 Start Your Christmas Shopping at the Saints Peter & Paul Book & Icon Store! The Christmas season is the perfect time to share the gift of faith! Visit the Saints Peter & Paul Book and Icon Store, where you'll find a wonderful selection of books, icons, and spiritual gifts for Christians of all ages. Whether you're shopping for family, friends, or the special people in your life, we have something meaningful for everyone. Gift certificates are available in any dollar amount and make wonderful stocking stuffers! Give someone the opportunity to choose a special book, icon, or spiritual gift of their own. We'll also be at the Holiday Faire on December 5th! Stop by our table, conveniently located right next to the Discover Orthodoxy table, and browse our selection of gifts just in time for Christmas! The Book & Icon Store is open every Sunday immediately following Divine Liturgy or by appointment during the week. For questions or to schedule an appointment, contact us at bookstore@ssppglenview.org. Give the gift of faith this Christmas!

Coffee Connection

Please join us for our December Coffee Connection session on December 13th in the youth room. Our theme is “The Saints that Surround Us” We will discuss Abraham and Sarah – Married Life in the Church by asking the questions: What challenges did Abraham and Sarah face? How do we navigate the challenges of married life?

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!

Coffee Fellowship with the Winter Saints

Do you or your family celebrate a name day in December, January, or February? If so, join us in hosting Coffee Fellowship on Sunday, December 6th, after Divine Liturgy. Please consider donating Advent Lenten refreshments, sharing an icon of your patron saint for the table and/or serving coffee on this day. Let’s celebrate together while honoring our saints! For more information, call, text or email: Carrie Colis at 847.921.4736 or carriekaterina@gmail.com or Annette Vranas at 847.987.2797 or amvranas@yahoo.com. SSPP Welcome Committee members will be on hand for support. We are excited to create this ongoing opportunity to continue learning more about each other while we grow closer to our saints!

Agape Minted Fundraiser



AGAPE SCHOOL UPDATE

Agape School Happenings

It's been a wonderful fall season at Agape, filled with learning, laughter, and special celebrations! Our annual Trunk or Treat was a tremendous success, with students enjoying their costumes, collecting treats, and celebrating with friends and family. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who decorated their trunks, donated treats, and helped make this event so memorable!

We also enjoyed a cozy Pajama Day with a special visit from the Glenview Public Library! Our students came dressed in their favorite pajamas and gathered for a delightful storytime. A special thank you to the Glenview Public Library for sharing the joy of reading with our students and helping foster a love of books and literacy.

In the spirit of gratitude, our students celebrated Thanksgiving with a wonderful feast shared among classmates and teachers. It was a special opportunity to reflect on our blessings, celebrate friendship, and give thanks for the many people who make Agape such a loving and nurturing school community.

Save the date for GLENDI 2027! We invite our parish families and friends to join us on Saturday, February 20, 2027, at 5:00 PM at Concorde Banquets for an evening of celebration, fellowship, and support for Agape. Tickets are $95 for adults and $35 for children under 12, with the opportunity to sponsor a teacher for $95. To purchase tickets, please visit https://ssppglenview.org/glendi/.

Silent Auction Donations Needed! As we prepare for GLENDI, we welcome donations from our parish community for our silent auction! Popular items include sporting event tickets, restaurant gift certificates, vacation stays, entertainment experiences, spa packages, gift baskets, and other unique items or services. If you or your business would like to contribute, please contact seong@ssppglenview.org. Your generosity helps make this important fundraiser a success, and we are grateful for your support! As you prepare for the holidays, please remember that you can support Agape through our Minted fundraiser! Shop for holiday cards, personalized gifts, stationery, and more using our fundraising code FUNDRAISEAGAPE. Thank you for supporting our school!

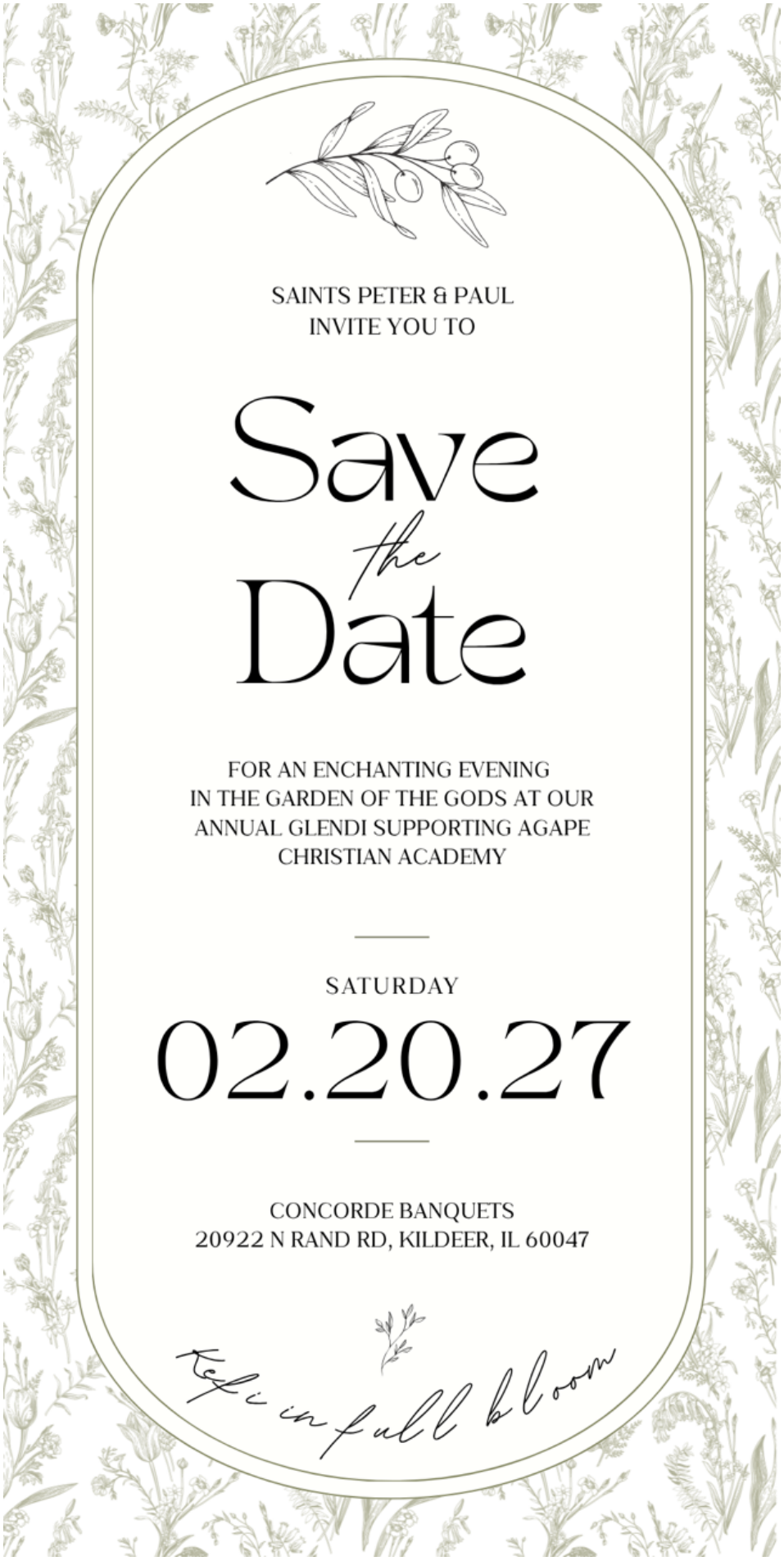
As we celebrate the joyous Christmas season, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to our Agape families, dedicated teachers, and the entire Saints Peter and Paul parish community for their continued love, prayers, and support. May the celebration of Christ's birth bring peace, love, and joy to your homes.

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year! With love and gratitude,
The Agape School Team








SAINTS PETER & PAUL
INVITE YOU TO
Save
the
Date
FOR AN ENCHANTING EVENING
IN THE GARDEN OF THE GODS AT OUR
ANNUAL GLENDI SUPPORTING AGAPE
CHRISTIAN ACADEMY
SATURDAY
02.20.27
CONCORDE BANQUETS
20922 N RAND RD, KILDEER, IL 60047
Keep it in full bloom

DECEMBER 2026

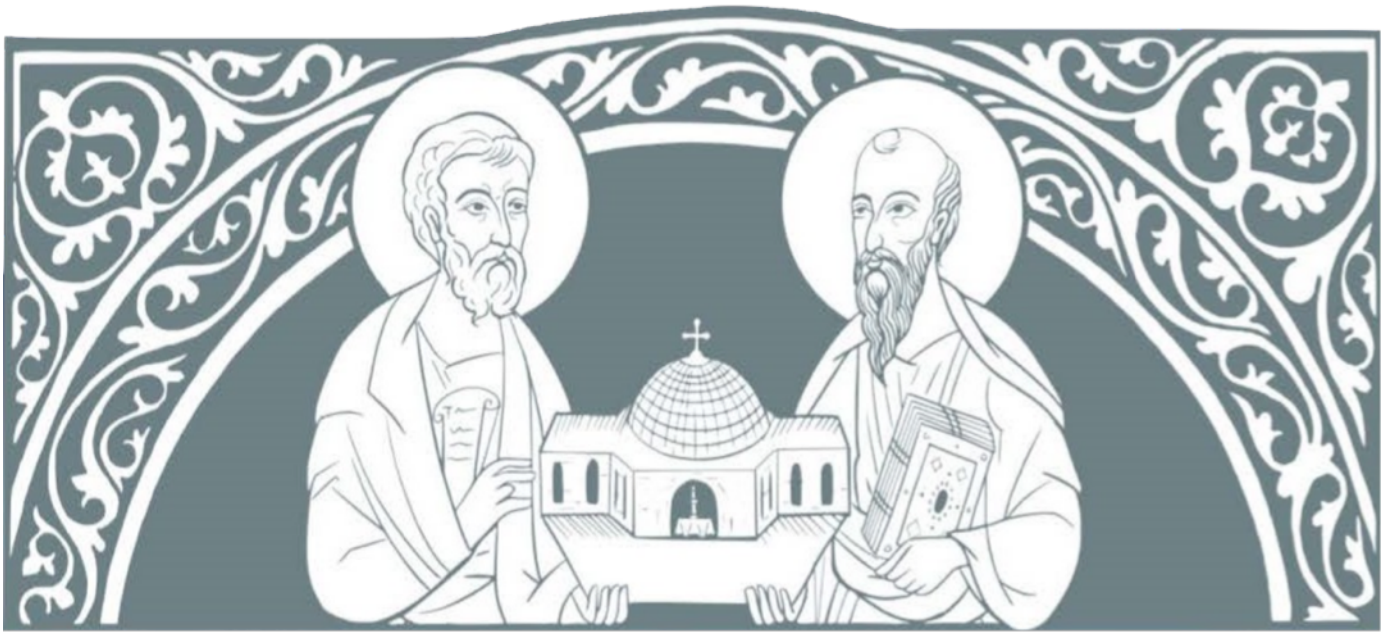
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
REMINDER: **+ADVENT-NATIVITY FAST+** Started Nov 15 Ends Dec 24		1 +PROPHET NAHUM 6:30pm Greek Dance Workshop 6:30pm Philoptochos Board Mtg 7pm Catechism Class 7pm Sn. GOYA Gathering	2 +PROPHET HABBAKUK +Fr. George Phillipas reposed 2008 10:30am Bible Study 7pm Choir Rehearsal	3 +PROPHET ZEPHANIAH 7am Men's Study Group 10am Dynamis "Kali Parea" Breakfast at Georgie V's in Northbrook 6:30pm Jr. GOYA Gathering	4 +STS BARBARA & JOHN DAMASCUS 6pm FLJ Gathering- Off Campus	5 +ST SAVVAS THE SANCTIFIED 10am Philoptochos Holiday Faire 5pm VESPERS 7pm GREAT VESPERS at St. Nicholas GOC in Oak Lawn IL
6 +10TH SUNDAY OF LUKE +ST. NICHOLAS 8:15am ORTHROS-MATINS 9:30am DIVINE LITURGY 11am Parish Council Elections 11:30am Coffe Fellowship with the Winter Saints 4pm Metropolis Christmas Celebration at Carlisle Banquets	7 +ST AMBROSE OF MILAN 7pm Welcome Committee - Advent Reading	8 1:30pm Blood Drive at SSPP 7pm Catechism Class 7pm Cancer Support-Zoom Only	9 8:30am ORTHROS-MATINS 9:30am DIVINE LITURGY 10:30am Bible Study 6pm Hellenic Foundation Grant Award 7pm Choir Rehearsal 7pm Sn. GOYA Gathering	10 7am Men's Study Group 10am Dynamis "Kali Parea" Breakfast at Georgie V's in Northbrook 7pm PC Exec Mtg	11 6:30pm Jr. GOYA Gathering 7pm GREAT VESPERS at St. Spyridon Greek Orthodox Church in Palos Heights	12 +ST. SPYRIDON 8:30am ORTHROS-MATINS 9:30am DIVINE LITURGY 5pm VESPERS
13 +11TH SUN LUKE + HOLY FOREFATHERS 8:15am ORTHROS-MATINS 9:30am DIVINE LITURGY 11am COFFEE CONNECTION 11am Christmas Pageant Rehersal	14	15 +ST ELEFTHERIOS	16 10:30am Bible Study 5:45pm FLJ Chrismas Party 7pm Choir Rehearsal	17 +PROPHET DANIEL & 3 HOLY CHILDREN 8:30am ORTHROS-MATINS 9:30am DIVINE LITURGY 10:30am Agape: Christmas Pageant - Early Release immediately following 10am Dynamis "Kali Parea" Breakfast at Georgie V's in Northbrook 6:30pm Jr. GOYA Gathering	18 7pm Sn. GOYA Gathering	19 11am Philoptochos Advent Brunch at Sunset Ridge Country Club in Northfield IL 5pm VESPERS
20 +ST IGNATIOS GODBEARER +SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY 8:15am ORTHROS-MATINS 9:30am DIVINE LITURGY 11am Christmas Pagaent 2:30pm -7pm Bball Tournament at SSPP	21 +ST JULIANA 8pm Stewardship Mtg	22 +ST ANASTASIA PHARMOKALYTRIA 8:30am ORTHROS-MATINS 9:30am DIVINE LITURGY	23	24 +EVE/FOREFEAST OF NATIVITY OFFICE CLOSED - CHRISTMAS EVE 9am ROYAL HOURS 5pm VESPERAL LITURGY	25 +NATIVITY OF LORD OFFICE CLOSED - CHRISTMAS DAY 8:30am ORTHROS-MATINS 9:30am DIVINE LITURGY	26
27 +ST STEPHEN PROTOMARTYR OF LUKE +SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY NO CHURCH SCHOOL 8:15am ORTHROS-MATINS 9:30am DIVINE LITURGY	28	29 +HOLY INNOCENTS AND CHILDREN 5pm Clergy Family Gathering at St. Haralambos	30	31 +APODOSIS OF NATIVITY 7pm GREAT VESPERS at Saint Basil Greek Orthodox Church in Chicago, IL		

COMING IN JANUARY

1 ST BASIL- Chicago parish Feast Day (Dec.31 Vespers; Liturgy at SSPP Jan.1),
5-6 THEOPHANY-EPIPHANY
6-7 ST JOHN THE BAPTIST- Des Plaines parish feast day
10 Parish Vasilopita
11 Catechism classes begin (Monday evenings),
17 ST ATHANASIOS- Aurora parish feast day (Vespers Jan.17; Liturgy at SSPP Jan.18)
30 THREE HIERARCHS FEAST
31 Sanctity of Life service at St Peter & Paul Ukrainian Church, Palos Park

1401 Wagner Road
Glenview, IL 60025

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Bedford Park, IL
Overt Press



SAINTS PETER & PAUL
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH