

# THE WONDERWORKER

SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER 2025

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## *Called to be Disciples*

Fr. Luke Melackrinos

As I write this, the summer is winding down, and I recall the various celebrations that we shared over the last couple of months. We had a short fast in preparation for the Feast of the Apostles, and the celebration of this feast reminds us that Jesus chose simple men whom the Holy Spirit would anoint and empower. Jesus knew that He would need some dedicated people to spread His message around the world. And so, He chose twelve men. These men were not graduates of rabbinical schools. They weren't well known. They weren't rich. They were all rather ordinary. Peter, Andrew, James and John were fishermen. We know that St. Peter denied Christ. Saint Paul was a persecutor of Christians before his conversion. Matthew was a tax collector (tax collectors were dishonest and were loathed by the people of the day). So, here we have not only people who were somewhat ordinary, but people who had some serious flaws that became Christ's disciples, His inner circle.

Later on, God's grace enabled these men to become leaders of the church, amazing orators and writers, and through them, the message of the Gospel was spread throughout the world. The lessons of the disciples are three: First, ordinary people can become extraordinary through the grace of God. Working with God, through their faith, they accepted God's grace and used it to do extraordinary things. So, it was their faith combined with God's grace that allowed these ordinary people to do extraordinary things.

The second lesson of the disciples is this: Every saint has a past. Every sinner has a future. It's not how you start, but how you end up that is important to the Lord. If your life isn't going particularly well right now, if it isn't going in a particularly Christ-centered direction, you have the power to change that.

There is no one who is alive who has to feel like they are doomed. God's grace is accessible to everyone. And so is the path to salvation. The path is different for each person, but there is a path to salvation for everyone. The paths of Peter and Paul and Matthew took them through egregious sins, to monumental repentance to extraordinary contribution to the life of the Church. Our paths can do the same for us. All of us have the capability to repent. All of us have been given some gift by God by which we can contribute to the furthering of the message of the Gospel.

The third lesson of the disciples is that God needs some dedicated people today, just as He did two thousand years ago, to spread the Christian message. He needs some men to step forward to be priests. But this isn't all that is needed. Not every disciple has to be a priest. Not every disciple has to pick up all of his or her possessions and go to a faraway land to spread the Gospel. The twelve men that Jesus chose, yes, they up and followed. However, this is not needed by every disciple today. We can model Christian behavior at work, in our neighborhoods, in our local grocery store, pretty much anywhere.

We are all called to be disciples. We are all called to act like the disciples. Use your talents to heal the lost and embrace the lonely. Model love and you'll spread the message. Use your faith in concert with God's grace and your life can have the same effect on others that the original twelve had on the world.

We certainly have done so this year with great events like our Festival. I express thanks on behalf of the entire community and those who visited and partook in this wonderful event. You truly lived up to your Apostolic calling and were amazing disciples.

As people come to our community, let's remember our calling to love and bring people to Christ. Every saint has a past. Every sinner has a future. Whatever may be in your past, start your future today.

# Message from the Parish Council President

Greetings fellow St. Nicholas Stewards and Friends,

We wish you a blessed Ecclesiastical New Year. Today we celebrate the beginning of our Church's New Year calendar and the reminder to more fully commit ourselves to the life of our Orthodox Church in Christ.

We are in September already and reluctantly our summertime activities are waning and time to shift our thoughts and plans towards the fall season, especially when it comes to a new school year.

This summer we hosted our first Summer Church Camp for our youth. What a great and fun learning experience our children had learning all about the life and feast days of our Theotokos. They were all engaged and excited about everything they learned about Panagia. They are now experts in telling us about the important dates in her life. We were thrilled to have them come to the solea and loudly and enthusiastically sing a special song they learned about our Theotokos: "Mary, Mary, Mary the mother of God!" We adults can learn from our children. Thank you to everyone who worked so tirelessly in organizing this event. We look forward to next year's Camp with even greater participation.

We thank Drs. Peter & Christopher Savas for once again chairing our Annual Golf Outing. As usual, it was a fun day of golfing and dining in a relaxed and casual atmosphere. Many thanks go to all our sponsors, raffle donors and participants. We look forward to it again next year.

Our Church calendar is beginning to fill with dates of upcoming events and we encourage all of our Stewards to support them. On Saturday, September 6th, at noon, Father will be hosting our Annual Blessing of the Pets in front of the church. These little creatures of God bring us much joy in our lives and deserve a special blessing. The following day, Sunday, September 7th, our Sunday Church School is hosting their Back to School Breakfast, which is also the first day of our Sunday Church School. Please enroll your children in this great religious school program. We cannot reclaim this opportunity in the future if we neglect it now. Please support this program and join us for breakfast. By the way, it is also National Grandparents Day, so invite them and honor them for all they do for our families.

Mark your calendars for Sunday, October 5th, when we will have our Fall Parish Assembly. We encourage you to attend this most important meeting as we discuss many topics of importance in maintaining our parish's strength, both physically and spiritually. In order to participate, you must be a member in Good Standing and this begins by having pledged your 2025 Stewardship. If you are not pledged yet, please do it soon. We will advise you of the upcoming agenda and voting requirements per the Archdiocese's Uniform Parish Regulations.

Looking a bit more ahead, we will be celebrating our St. Nicholas Parish's 100th Anniversary in 2027. We have come a long way from that small church in Chicago to what we have today. Dedication, love, commitment and sacrifice produces great works and those great works have been entrusted to us to preserve and enhance for the generations to follow. As we look forward to celebrating this milestone anniversary, we ask for your continued enthusiastic support and love for the glory of God's house and St. Nicholas

Georgia Christakes,  
Parish Council President





# LITURGICAL CALENDAR

## **Sunday, September 7**

8 am Orthros, 9:15 am Divine Liturgy, Fall of Constantinople Memorial

## **Monday, September 8**

8:30 - 10:30 am, Orthros & Divine Liturgy, Nativity of the Theotokos

## **Saturday, September 13**

3:00 pm, Wedding

## **Sunday, September 14**

8 am Orthros, 9:15 am Divine Liturgy, The Feast of the Holy Cross

## **Wednesday, September 17**

8:30 - 10:30am, Orthros & Divine Liturgy, Sts. Sophia, Faith, Hope, and Love

## **Sunday, September 21**

8 am Orthros, 9:15 am Divine Liturgy

1:00 pm, Baptism

## **Saturday, September 27**

11:00 am, Baptism

## **Sunday, September 28**

8 am Orthros, 9:15 am Divine Liturgy

# LITURGICAL CALENDAR

## **Sunday, October 5**

8 am Orthros, 9:15 am Divine Liturgy, 20 year Memorial Mary Kass & 7 year Memorial George Kass

## **Sunday, October 12**

8 am Orthros, 9:15 am Divine Liturgy

## **Saturday, October 18**

8:30 - 10:30am, Orthros & Divine Liturgy, St. Luke

## **Sunday, October 19**

8 am Orthros, 9:15 am Divine Liturgy

1:00 pm, Two Baptisms

## **Sunday, October 26**

8 am Orthros, 9:15 am Divine Liturgy

12:00 pm, Baptism

## **Tuesday, October 28**

8:30 - 10:30am, Orthros & Divine Liturgy, The Holy Protection of the Theotokos

# Parish Registry

## July

### Memorials

One Year - Kulla Vranas

Two Year - Steve Vranas

30 Year - John Vranas

5 Year - Stephen Kamberos

10 Year - Elaine Kamberos

27 Year Anthony Kamberos

### Funerals

Peter G. Kioussis

### Baptisms

Maria Tsapaliaris

Hanna Carney

Trinity Jane Larson



\*\*\*\*\*

## August



### Memorials

40 Day - Metropolitan Athenagoras of Vize

4 Year - Mary Georgakopoulos

20 Year - George Georgakopoulos

9 Year - Vasiliki Danos

40 Day - Peter Kioussis

2 Year - Theresa Kubiak

6 Year - Ifiyenia Zaroyiannis

1 Year - Gus D. Demetracopoulos

9 Year - Elsie Sotiros

15 Year - Nicholas Sotiros

1 Year - Georgia Antonopoulos

5 Year - John Biesiada

11 Year - Raymond Kubiak

### Weddings

Grant Anderson & Melanie Coderre

### Baptisms

Zoe Veneta Quinn

Athena Anastopoulos

Nicholas Galatis

# LEARN ABOUT YOUR FAITH

## INTRO TO ORTHODOXY AND BIBLE STUDY



**THURSDAYS**

**8:00 PM**

All classes offered via Zoom

[stnicholasil.org](http://stnicholasil.org)



## **Vacation Church Camp 2025: “Full of Grace The Feasts of the Theotokos and Virgin Mary”**

From July 21–25, 2025, our parish joyfully hosted its first annual Vacation Church Camp, welcoming children for a faith-filled week themed “Full of Grace – The Feasts of the Theotokos and Virgin Mary.” Through daily lessons, crafts, games, songs, and movement, our young participants explored the beauty and significance of the major feasts of the Virgin Mary and deepened their love and understanding of her unique role in salvation history.

Each day focused on a different feast of the Theotokos, helping children encounter the life of Mary in a way that was accessible, engaging, and meaningful. The camp was filled with joyful energy, prayer, and creativity as our youth connected their faith to hands-on experiences.

### **Monday – The Nativity of the Theotokos (September 8)**

We began the week by celebrating the birth of the Virgin Mary, a moment of joy and hope for all creation. Children learned how Saints Joachim and Anna, her parents, prayed fervently for a child and were blessed with the Theotokos. The start of our daily movement with a game called True or False started. We asked them questions and they had to run to one side of the gym if the answer was true and the other side of the gym if it was false. Crafts included making icons of the Nativity of Mary and celebrated her birthday by singing Happy Birthday to Mary with cupcakes!

### **Tuesday – The Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple (November 21)**

On the second day, campers learned about Mary’s offering to God at the temple as a young child. This theme of dedication and preparation led to meaningful discussions about offering ourselves to God through prayer, kindness, and obedience. We created an icon of the Entrance of Mary as their craft to take home.

### **Wednesday – The Annunciation (March 25)**

Midweek brought the powerful moment when the Archangel Gabriel announced to Mary that she would become the Mother of God. The children reflected on Mary’s “Yes” – her faithful response, “Let it be to me according to Your word.” The children decorated their angel cookie as their craft and started painting the rocks for the garden.

### **Thursday – The Dormition of the Theotokos (August 15)**

On Thursday, we honored the Dormition (or Falling Asleep) of the Theotokos. Though a more solemn theme, the day was filled with hope and beauty, as children learned that Mary was taken into heaven and remains close to us as our intercessor. Crafts included creating a garden with a standing votive in the back area of the church that has our prostinitarion which hold icons and is a perfect place to pray anytime. They also planted flowers to take home. They painted rocks for the garden as well.

## Vacation Church Camp 2025:

### Friday – Review of the week

We closed the week with a review of VCC and our love for the Theotokos. Our craft today was a windsock with the icons of the feasts for our homes. We practiced our song for Sunday to present what we learned

Sunday Participation – Sharing the Light of the Theotokos

The joy and learning of Vacation Church Camp continued into Sunday, July 27, during and after the Divine Liturgy. Dressed in their camp t-shirts and full of enthusiasm, the children gathered in front of the congregation to share what they had learned.

Fr. Luke warmly engaged the children by asking questions about the feast days they had studied. With smiles and excitement, the children eagerly responded—when asked, “Who was late to Mary’s funeral?” they all cheerfully exclaimed, “Thomas!”, recalling the story of the Apostle arriving late to the Dormition. Their joyful participation showed how deeply they had absorbed the stories and teachings of the week.

Following the Q&A, the children sang “The Feasts of Mary” by Gigi Baba Shadid, a song that captured the heart of the week’s lessons through joyful music and movement. Their voices lifted in praise filled the church with a palpable sense of JOY. This moment became more than just a performance—it became a witness. The presence and participation of our youngest parishioners opened the hearts and eyes of the entire community to a renewed understanding of the faith. The feast days of the Theotokos were no longer just dates on a calendar—they came alive, revealing their deep significance in the life of the Church and in our own lives.

Throughout the week, the children not only learned about the feasts of the Theotokos but also grew in faith, friendship, and love for Mary, our heavenly mother. We are grateful to our dedicated volunteers, parents, and clergy who made this week possible through their planning, prayers, and presence.

May the Theotokos continue to guide and protect our parish children as they grow in the grace and love of Christ!







# VCC 2022

The  
Feasts of  
Mary







Great Pickleball matches on July 20!

Look for announcements for dates to join us after Divine Liturgy and for the announcement of the date for the 2nd Annual Saint Nicholas - **Fr. Steve Memorial Pickleball Tournament!**



**BACKPACK BLESSING  
AFTER LITURGY  
ON AUGUST 17!**



**BACK  
TO  
SCHOOL**





**WE HAD A BEAUTIFUL DAY AT THE SAINT NICHOLAS ANNUAL GOLF OUTING!**  
**THANK YOU TO OUR GOLFERS, SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS OF SAINT NICHOLAS!**  
**THANK YOU TO THE SAVAS FAMILY FOR CHAIRING THIS EVENT AND TO THE COMMITTEE WHO HELPED.**



**St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church  
invites you and your pets to:**

# **The Blessing of the Animals**

**Saturday, September 6, 2025  
12:00 pm**

A brief prayer service and blessing will be offered by Fr. Luke in front of the church doors.

All parishioners, friends, and neighbors are invited to attend and bring their pets!

Please have all pets leashed or in carriers...

<https://www.stnicholasil.org/>



10301 S. Kolmar Ave.  
Oak Lawn, IL, 60453  
708-636-5460  
[saintnicholasoffice@gmail.com](mailto:saintnicholasoffice@gmail.com)





**YOU'RE INVITED!**

# *Family Fall Fun Fest*

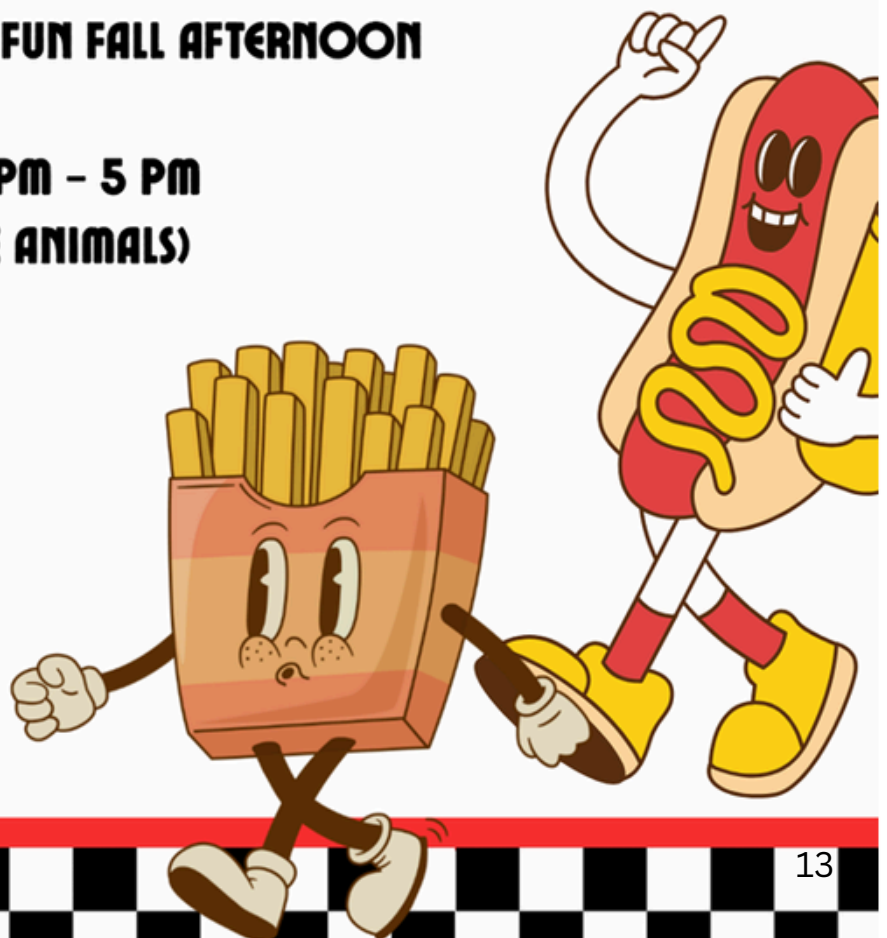
**EVERYONE IS INVITED TO A FUN FALL AFTERNOON**

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1 PM - 5 PM  
(AFTER THE BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS)**

**FOOD!**

**FUN AND GAMES FOR KIDS!**

Saint Nicholas  
Oak Lawn



# Saint Nicholas Sunday Church School

## St. Nicholas Sunday School Begins September 7th

As the summer draws to a close, we are excited to welcome our children back into the classrooms of St. Nicholas for another year of faith, learning, and fellowship. Sunday School classes will begin on **Sunday, September 7, 2025**, and will meet each week **following Holy Communion**.

**Our Dedicated Sunday School Staff** We are blessed with a team of faithful teachers who lovingly guide our children in their Orthodox Christian education:

**2- & 3-Year-Olds** – Presvytera Pearlann Bithos & Meg Antonopoulos

**Pre-K** – Roseann Kondellas

**Kindergarten & 1st Grade** – Millie Molesky

**2nd–3rd Grade** – Paula George

**4th–5th & 6th Grade** – Helen Apostolopoulos

**7th–11th Grade** – Dan Biesiada & George Antonopoulos

**12th Grade** – Dr. Peter A. Patsavas

## Registration & Support

We kindly remind all parents to **register their children** for Sunday School. Registration is free—there is no cost for the year. In addition, our Sunday School staff has created a **wish list of classroom needs**. Parents, grandparents, and parishioners who wish to assist in supporting our program are encouraged to help fulfill these requests.

## Family Fun Fest Kickoff

To celebrate the start of the new year, we invite everyone to join us for our **Family Fun Fest on Saturday, September 6th**. This joyful parish gathering will help us begin the year in fellowship and fun as we prepare to officially start classes the following day. Please join us for a Back-to-School Breakfast following Divine Liturgy and Sunday School.

## Questions & Contact

If you have any questions, thoughts, or concerns, please reach out to **Fr. Luke, Dr. Peter, Helen, or Presvytera Pearlann**.

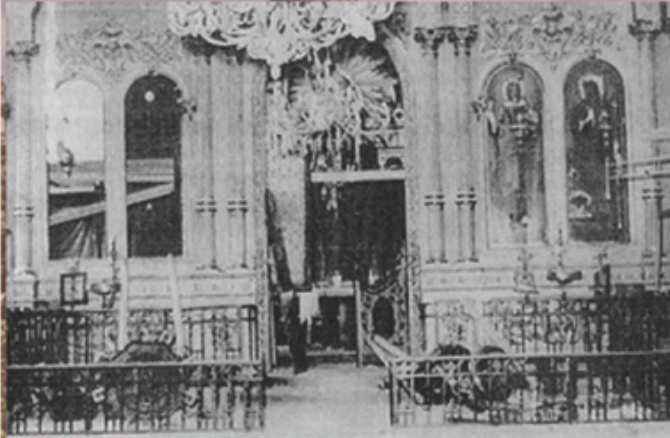
We are grateful for your support of this vital ministry and look forward to another blessed year of growing together in Christ. We can't wait to see our children fill the classrooms once again—**see you on September 7th!**



With the blessing of His Eminence Metropolitan Nathanael,  
the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the  
Hellenic Society of Constantinople present the

# 44<sup>th</sup> annual Commemoration of the Fall of Constantinople

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**Alexander Billinis,**

attorney and lecturer at  
Clemson University, South Carolina  
and regular contributor to  
*The National Herald* in New York, and  
*Neos Kosmos* in Melbourne Australia,  
will present

## SEPTEMBER DAYS AND THE DEMOGRAPHIC FALL OF CONSTANTINOPLE

A Remembrance of the  
Pogrom of September 1955

### September 7, 2025

Immediately following liturgy & the parish breakfast

**St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church**

10301 Kolmar Ave, Oak Lawn, IL

A Q&A session and trisagion will follow the  
presentation. Light refreshments will be offered  
by the St. Nicholas Philoptochos.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT [METROPOLISCHICAGOARCHONS@GMAIL.COM](mailto:METROPOLISCHICAGOARCHONS@GMAIL.COM)



Do you ever think about making prosphoro? Do you want to learn? Petroula & Sophia are great bakers AND great teachers! Let's learn together and give the gift of prosphoro to the church. The gift becomes the precious gift for all. Keep watch for updates!!



FIRST DAY OF  
SUNDAY SCHOOL  
AND

*Welcome Back*  
**BREAKFAST**

OPEN GYM - BRING YOUR SHOES!

SEPTEMBER 7

EVERYONE IS INVITED!!!



# Focus on Philoptochos



Philoptochos wishes everyone a Happy and Healthy New Ecclesiastical Year.

It gives me great pleasure to introduce the new Philoptochos Board members for 2025-2027.

I wish them all much success in their endeavors.

President--Georgia Sarlas

1st Vice President--Amanda Djikas

2nd Vice President--Christina Skopec-Kelly

Recording Secretary--Elaine Besbekos

Corresponding Secretary-- Cherie Cachampis

Treasurer--Christine Anagnostopoulos

Assistant Treasurer--Sue Smith

Adviser--Millie Molesky

## **Board Members**

Voula Demos

Mina Karagas

Fay Kopanitsanos

Janet Loukos

Marina Pitsoulakis

Zoe Skopec

Minerva Zerlentes

Thank you to Millie Molesky on two successful years as our immediate Past President.

We are announcing that we will reinstate our "How To" Classes in the evening to fulfill a request to teach "How To" make our popular treats. They will begin at 6:30 P.M. on Thursday, September 11th. They will last about 1 1/2 hours of socializing and learning. Please consider joining in the fun and reserving a space by calling 708-528-2585.

Hope to see you all at our annual fall event on October 18th & 19th. Come hungry and enjoy.

*Georgia Sarlas, President*





The Metropolis of Chicago Philoptochos  
Presents

The Annual September Luncheon

*Spirit of Hope*

*Soaring through God's Strength*

**Saturday, September 20, 2025**

**Concorde Banquets ~ Kildeer, IL**

**Fellowship Hour 11am ~ Lunch 12pm**

*With Guest Speaker Katrina Markoff,  
Entrepreneur and Chocolatier*

*Proceeds Benefiting:*

*Guardian Angel Community Services*

*Metropolis of Chicago Philoptochos*

*St. Iakovos Retreat Center*

*Wings of Hope*

The Metropolis of Chicago Philoptochos	
<b>Annual September Luncheon</b>	
<i>Spirit of Hope</i>	
<b>Soaring through God's Strength</b>	
	
ENCLOSED PLEASE FIND MY CHECK FOR THE FOLLOWING:	
RESERVATION(S) _____ @ \$60.00	\$ _____
RAFFLE TICKETS (\$10 OR 3 FOR \$25)	\$ _____
PLEASE ACCEPT MY DONATION	\$ _____
CHECK PAYABLE TO: METROPOLIS OF CHICAGO PHILOPTOCHOS	TOTAL \$ _____
NAME _____	
CONTACT PHONE NUMBER _____	
CHURCH & CITY _____	
<i>Please use the back of this card to list any seating preferences</i>	



# TREASURER'S REPORT - as of July 31, 2025

Pledges Received	\$ 153,827.50
Candles	\$ 35,125.52
Church Ministries	\$ 18,888.36
Other	<u>\$ 256,107.16</u>
Total Revenue	\$ 463,948.54
Expenses thru July 31, 2025	<u>\$ 429,505.12</u>
Revenue in Excess thru July 31, 2025	\$ 34,443.42

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## Festival Report

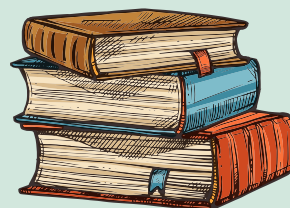
Proceeds	\$ 170,126.20
Expenses	\$ 93,242.18
Net Proceeds	\$ 76,884.02

We thank everyone: workers, sponsors and supporters who contributed to the success of our Annual GreekFest. We thank God for blessing us with good weather and strength in serving his Church.



Please stop in and browse our beautiful icons and variety of religious books and other items for the home. I can order icons or books that we don't currently have in stock.

I'm always looking for book recommendations too. Don't hesitate to stop in or you may contact me at [Diapits@ameritech.net](mailto:Diapits@ameritech.net)  
Dianne Pitsoulakis



# ANNUAL CHICAGO METROPOLIS BLESSING OF LAKE MICHIGAN, DIVE FOR THE HOLY CROSS, AND BBQ



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2025  
10:30AM - 1:30PM

MEET AT THE CHAPEL OF THE HOLY CROSS  
@ ST. ANDREW'S GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

**5649 N. SHERIDAN ROAD, CHICAGO, IL 60660**

USE THIS QR  
CODE TO RSVP  
YOUR KIDS!



ST. ANDREW'S  
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH



*We welcome you to our 15<sup>th</sup> annual*  
***Christianiki Philoxenia Luncheon***

***On Tuesday, September 23, 2025***

***At Saints Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church***  
11025 S Roberts Rd, Palos Hills, IL 60465

**Divine Liturgy at 9:30 AM**  
**Followed by Luncheon & Fellowship**  
*\*Hosted by St. Helen Women's Philoptochos for you at "no charge"*

***Please call our church office for reservations***

***by September 16, 2025***

***Telephone: (708) 974-3400***

*Christianiki Philoxenia is about Christian Love, Fellowship, and Hospitality  
dedicated to our seniors as part of our "Senior Ministries".*

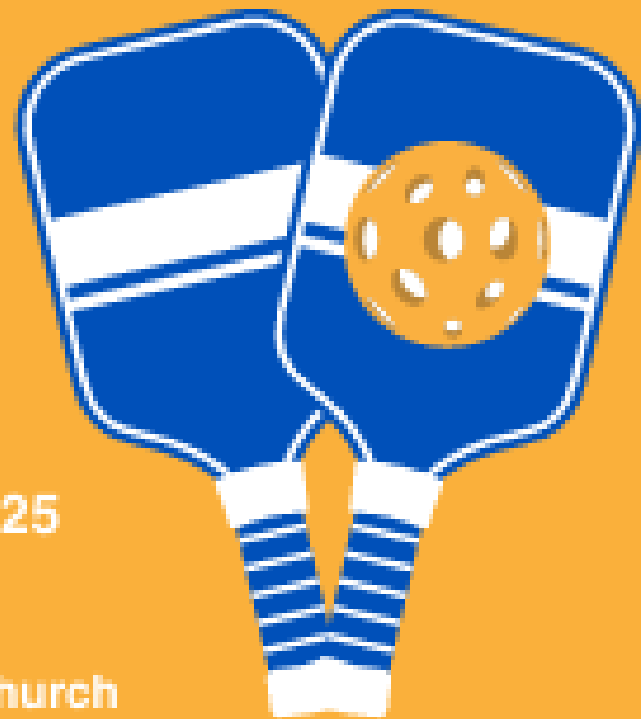
*Sts. Constantine & Helen, Palos Hills / St. Nicholas, Oak Lawn / Holy Cross, Justice /  
Assumption, Homer Glen / St. Spyridon, Palos Heights / All Saints, Joliet / Assumption, Kankakee*







# 2ND ANNUAL FATHER STEVE MEMORIAL PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT



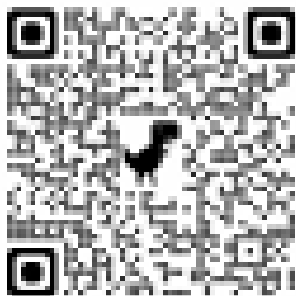
Sunday, September 28, 2025  
12pm start



St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church  
10301 South Kolmar, Oak Lawn

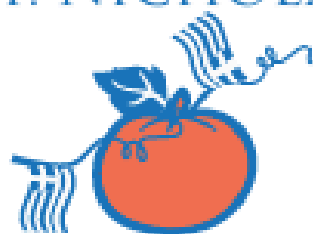


Scan to register your team before  
September 21st!

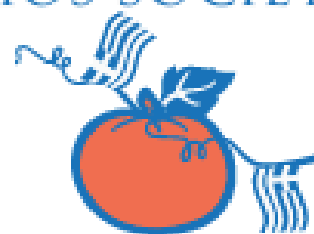


Grab a partner & have some fun!  
All levels & ages welcome  
Registration fee \$50 (includes t-shirt)

ST. NICHOLAS LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY



— **52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Fall** —



# **Greek Food Pastry Fair**

Enjoy your favorite Greek food and pastries

Watch live demonstrations

Annual Raffle— don't miss out, exiting new prizes!

Food and Pastry Sampling

## **Saturday**

October 18th

9:00 AM TO 4:00 PM

Food service opens at 11am

### **Pastry and Food Sampling**

11am-12pm

### **Featured Demonstration**

1pm

## **Sunday**

October 19th

11:00 AM TO 3:00 PM

Food service opens at 11am

### **Pastry and Food Sampling**

11am-12pm

### **Raffle Drawing**

2:30 pm

*Plenty of Free Parking Available!*

**10301 S. Kolmar  
Oak Lawn  
708-636-7874**





SS. CONSTANTINE AND HELEN  
ST. SPYRIDON ST. NICHOLAS  
HOLY CROSS ASSUMPTION



CHRISTIANIKI PHILOXENIA

# Christianiki Philo Xenia

HOLY CROSS PHILOPTOCHOS IS VERY PLEASED TO  
INVITE YOU TO OUR SR. PHILOXENIA LUNCHEON

THURSDAY OCTOBER  
23<sup>RD</sup>, 2025

FEAST DAY OF ST. IAKOVOS  
ORTHROS 9:00 A.M., DIVINE LITURGY 10A.M.  
FOLLOWED BY LUNCHEON & FELLOWSHIP

PLEASE CALL 708-594-2040 FOR RESERVATIONS

HOLY CROSS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH  
7560 S. ACHER ROAD, JUSTICE, ILLINOIS 60458



Christianiki Philoxenia "Christian Love,  
Fellowship, Hospitality" is a "free of charge"  
event for the ministry dedicated to our Senior  
Citizens established & hosted by five Chicago  
South Side Greek Orthodox Parishes:  
Ss. Constantine & Helen, St. Nicholas, Holy  
Cross, Assumption, St. Spyridon

# Information

NAME

NAME OF SPOUSE (IF MARRIED)

STREET ADDRESS

CITY / STATE / ZIP CODE

HOME PHONE

MOBILE PHONE

EMAIL ADDRESS

EMAIL ADDRESS OF SPOUSE (IF MARRIED)

Dependent Children's names and birthdates:

May we add you to our parish email list?

☐ yes ☐ no

## Planned Giving

☐ " \_\_\_\_ I would like to speak with someone about how to remember the church in my will, trust, or estate plan."



## Treasure

In gratitude for God's blessings, I/We commit to Christ and His Church the following amount:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ for the year 2025.

The recommended stewardship commitment level for 2025 is 2.5% of your household income.

Yearly Income	2.5% Commitment
\$ 50,000	\$ 1,250
\$ 69,352	\$ 1,734
\$75,000	\$ 1,875
\$ 100,000	\$ 2,500

We enter our spiritual home not to be entertained, but to be a part of a community of believers. We receive Jesus Christ in Holy Communion. As we pray, worship and serve together, we become His Body. To be truly a member of the Church as Body of Christ requires our presence and our engagement with one another -- in worship, study and service to others. We grow spiritually as a family. We give sacrificially as we acknowledge that all we have comes from God.



# Papagalos



Happy Birthday to our sisters who celebrate in **September**. They are Rosemary DeSanto, Pauline Kallas, Amanda Djikas, Angie Danos, Maria McGuire and Tina Repking.

**Love, The St. Nicholas Philoptochos**

\*\*\*\*

Happy Birthday to our sisters who celebrate in **October**. They are Johanna Abend, Sylvia Buonaiuto, Margo Toscas, Evmorfia Gatsinos, Frances Shizas, Melanie Chionis, Fay Kopanitsanos, Irene Syrigas, Kim Isberg, Emily Lautenbach, Maria Stamas, Elizabeth Sagris and Alison Sinadinou.

With much love and good wishes,

**The St. Nicholas Philoptochos**

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We wish Fr. Luke Chronia Polla for his name day on October 18th. God's many blessing on him.

**Love from your St. Nicholas Choir Members.**

**Our St. Nicholas choir members** wish our most talented organist, Rosemary DeSanto, Happy Birthday to You!!

\*\*\*\*

We wish our grandson, Luke Repking, and son-in-law, Rick (Demetrios) Repking, a blessed name day in October.

Wishing our grandson, Luke Repking, a very Happy 15th Birthday and also our daughter, Tina Repking, a very Happy Birthday.

**Love, Yiayia & Pappou,**

**Mom & Dad - Anna & Nick Paramboukas**

\*\*\*\*

Happy Names Day to my nephew and first godson, Dimitri Kontos and Happy 14th birthday to my second godson, Elias (Lou) Kamberos. May God's blessings abound you both. **Love, Nouna Kathy Roupas**

\*\*\*\*

Happy 30th Birthday to our son Adam Smith, October 25!! Thank you for all you do for us, Rosie, and St. Nicholas.

**Love you, Mom and Dad**

\*\*\*\*

Happy Birthday to Lou Kamberos. Hope your day is filled with much happiness.

We love you very much!! **Mom, Gus and Ato**

\*\*\*\*

**God's Guidance:** Just as **GPS** provides direction, God directs believers in their lives, helping them find their way and fulfill their purpose.

**God's Positioning System** - If we get off track, He will direct us to make a U-turn and get back on His path.



*Papagalos chats should be short and signed. No anonymous chats will be published. Submit by first week of the previous month. There are TWO ways to submit your Papagalos chats: Email Kathy Roupas at [chicagokathy@msn.com](mailto:chicagokathy@msn.com) (please put "Papagalos" in the subject line) or give a handwritten copy to Kathy at Church*







# Community News

**Reminder:** Don't forget to send in your pledge for the 2025 year. Let's make this a banner year.

**Our Fall Parish Assembly** is scheduled for October 5, 2025. As a reminder, the General Assembly is a meeting of all members in good standing. A member in good standing is defined by the Uniform Parish Regulations of the Archdiocese as any person eighteen years of age or older who was baptized according to the rites of the Orthodox Church, or was received in the Orthodox Church by Chrismation, who lives according to the faith and canons of the Orthodox Church, who has met or paid 68% of his or her stewardship obligations for 2025 at least 10 days prior to the Fall General Assembly, and abides by the Uniform Parish Regulations of the Archdiocese and the by-laws of the Parish. Members in good standing in attendance constitute a quorum of the General Assembly.

We urge all of our members to attend since there are important issues being discussed. Please remember that a quorum consists of 10% of the total number of stewards.

**Bible Study via Zoom:** Keep a look out for an email for dates and times and information on how to sign in for Bible Study.

**Congratulations** to the newly elected officers and board members of Philoptochos. Please see Georgia Sarlas' article to see the names of these awesome members.

If you would like to join Philoptochos, please see any of the members after church in the Community Center.

**Save the Date:** Philoptochos is hosting their Greek Food and Pastry Fair, October 18 and 19. See flyer for times and ore information.

**Thank you** to all the people who helped with our back to school breakfast, lunches, the annual golf outing and so much more. Everyone, especially the children appreciate everything you do for them.

**Hey College Students!** Can you send us your school address? If you are home, send a message as well!

Name

College

College address

Email

Phone number:

Parents if they don't see this message, can you send it in for them! We want to stay in touch!!

Email us at: [saintnicholasoffice@gmail.com](mailto:saintnicholasoffice@gmail.com)

**Pledges:** If you have not pledged in 2025 or have not completed your pledge, we encourage you to send us your payment soon. We thank all of our committed Stewards for their love and support of our beloved St. Nicholas Parish.

We have also made on-line giving available on our church website.

<http://www.stnicholasil.org> for one-time and periodic giving.



# Stewardship list as of August 22, 2025

Fr. Luke & Presv. Marusia Melackrinos  
David & Sofia Adduce  
Michael & Elaine Alexander  
Constantine & Christine Anagnostopoulos  
Louis & Kiki Anast  
Nick & Christe Anastopoulos  
Katherine Angelos  
George & Katelyn Antonopoulos  
James & JoAnn Antonopoulos  
James R. & Megan Antonopoulos  
Constantine & Helen Apostolopoulos  
Bill Argiropoulos  
John Argiropoulos  
Dean & Ann Ashford  
Thomas & Jane Baffes  
Elaine Ballas  
Stella Ballas  
John & Sandra Beris  
Elaine Besbekos  
Katherine Biesiada  
Angeline Bithos  
Presv. Pearlann Bithos  
Dominic & Sophia Borrelli  
Zachary & Lanie Brosseau  
Theodore & Cheryl Cachampis  
Hanna Carney  
Constance Chionis  
Dr. Nicholas & Melanie Chionis  
Chris G. & Jeanette Christakes  
Georgia Christakes  
Michael & Inge Chronos  
Petroura Chronos  
Brian & Katie Coderre  
Madeline M. Coules  
Peter Jr. & Denise Coules  
George & Tasia Dakuras  
Peter & Kathleen Dakuras  
Nicholas & Amelia D'Andrea  
Dr. George & Angie Danos  
Constantina Davlantis

Demetri Delis  
Voula Demetracopoulos  
Voula Demos  
Donn & Rosemary DeSanto  
Theodore & Kristle Dimiropoulos  
Dimitri Dimizas  
Peter & Kalliroi Dimizas  
Charles & Marian Dinolfo  
Thomas & Amanda Djikas  
Costantin & Stavroula Economou  
Isaura Ellis  
John & Kristy Ellis  
Evan & Julie Fiffles  
Jerry & Martha Galatis  
Helen Gartelmann  
Demetrios & Evmorfia Gatsinos  
George S. Gavrilos  
Paul & Paula George  
Paul & Evdokia Georgiou  
Peter Gertos  
Dean & Pamela Gialamas  
Vasiliki Giannakopoulos  
Ellen Giaouris  
James & Patricia Gikas  
Dr. Eve Gushes  
Noel & Kanella Hastalis  
Kailey Hernandez  
James & Kyreakoula Hilliard  
Melanie Hillock  
Fani Hondros  
Marianna Hristakos  
Peter & Deborah Hristakos  
Michael & Christina Hunstad  
George Jovanes  
John Jovanes  
Pauline Kallas  
Alexander & Irene Kantas  
Lambrini Kaporis  
Mina Karagas  
Nicholas & Maria Karnavas

# Stewardship list as of August 22, 2025

Irene Karopulos\*  
Nicholas & Karrie Karopulos  
Dimitra Karountzos  
William Karountzos  
Nickoleta Kastros  
Anthony & Katherine Kavouris  
Patrick & Christina Skopec Kelly  
Eugenia & Peter\* Kioussis  
George & Litsa Kloris  
Theodore P. & Ann Kloris  
John & Kelly Koliopoulos  
Dr. Vasilios & Roseann Kondellas  
Antony & Diane Kontos  
Tina Kontos  
Frank & Zoe Kopanis  
Fay Kopanitsanos  
Sophia Kopanitsanos  
Kathy Kopitas  
Alexander J. Kornack  
Andrew J. Kornack  
Alexandros Koutras  
Frank & Stacy Koutsis  
Konstantinos & Angeline Koutsis  
Frank & Marina Kucera  
Layne Kuris  
Nicholas & Faye Lack  
Niki Lambros  
Nicholas C. Lamnatos  
Richard & Nicki Kastelliorizios Lee  
Peter & Daniella Les  
Janet Loukos  
Jacqueline Loupakos  
William & Roxanna Loupakos  
Connie Loutris  
Angelo N. Makropoulos  
Stavros & Monica Makropoulos  
Steven & Helen Makropoulos

Louis C. Malevitis  
John & Panagiota Malfas  
George & Mary Manasses  
Tasia Manasses  
Elaine Maniatis  
Nicholas J. Maniatis  
Blaine & Melanie Manning  
Dr. Stavros & Cynthia Maragos  
Alexander Marchione  
Joseph & Dr. Christina Marchione  
Michael Marchione  
Christopher J. & Christina McBride  
Tess McDermott  
Michael & Mary McGill  
Richard & Maria McGuire  
Peter & Margaret Mehas  
Daniel & Demetra Katsianis Mendoza  
Alan & Millie Molesky  
Maria Monzures  
Kyle & Valerie Muersch  
Michael A. & Elaine Mulcahy  
Jeffrey & Tracey Nusko  
James Orphan  
James & Michele Otte  
Helen Paikos  
Theodore & Despina Panagiotaros  
Markos & Fane Panagiotopoulos  
George Panagopoulos  
Randy & Demitra Panagopoulos  
Sam Panagopoulos  
George Panou  
Katherine Pantazes  
Emanuel Papadopoulos  
Dimitrios & Oana Flamand Papapetrou  
Panagiotis & Anna Papasideris  
Jeffrey & Amanda Papp  
Bill G. & Fay Pappas  
George G. & Christine Pappas



# Stewardship list as of August 22, 2025

Gust J. & Dimitra G. Pappas  
Michael & Bernadette Pappas  
Nicolas J. Pappas  
Nikolaos & Antonia Pappas  
Nicholas & Anna Paramboulas  
Dr. Peter A. & Pamela M. Patsavas  
James & Carol Patsavas  
Nicole Pavlick  
Thomas & Dorothy Pavlick  
Louis & Angela Perakis  
Angelo P. Petros  
Betty Petros  
Leanna Pitsoulakis  
Marina Pitsoulakis  
Paul & Dianne Pitsoulakis  
Maria & Ernie Pudliner  
Robert & Stephanie Quinn  
Christine Rackos  
Woula Ralle  
Athena Ramsaran  
Rick & Tina Repking  
Anna Rogiokos  
George J. & Karen Rogiokos  
Kathy Roupas  
Michael & Vicky G. Sacha  
Dr Michael & Evangeline Samborski  
Georgia Sarlas  
Dr. Christopher P. & Staci Savas  
Dr. Peter & Nancy Savas  
Patrick & Alexandra Savas  
Dr. Keith & Dr. Anne Schiable  
John & Kathryn Schieber  
Dr. Michael & Leann Schied  
Gregory & Delorah Schillo  
Frances Shizas  
Kathy Skaltsas  
Frank & Christine Skiadopoulos  
Peter Skiadopoulos  
Marc & Zoe Skopec  
Christopher & Maria Skweres

Adam Smith  
Robert & Susan Smith  
Demetrios Sotirakos  
Maria Stamas  
Nikolaos & Eleni Stathopoulos  
Elaine Stefanos  
Michael Leo Stefanos  
Renee & Edward Steffan  
Scott & Christina Steiner  
Mark & Corin Stern  
Aaron Stocks  
Constantine & Georgia Stoes  
Carey & Elaine Sunderlage  
Tony & Effie Tablis  
Pricilla Tamosiunas  
Anna Toscas  
Hon. John Z. & Antoinette Toscas  
Hon. Mychal John Toscas  
Kathy Toscas  
Margo Toscas  
Pamela Toscas  
Zeno J. & Caitlin Toscas  
Robert & Nicolette Trobaugh  
Elias & Rachel Rogers Tsapaliaris  
Nikolaos & Colleen Tsapaliaris  
Constantine & Jazmin Tsoukatos  
Georgios & Jamie Vamvakas  
Nick & Donna Vamvakas  
Vasiliki Vamvakas  
Dimitra Vithoulkas  
Peter Vithoulkas  
George & Tara Vranas  
Helen Wilson  
Michael & Terri Winkler  
Charles Zabran  
Minerva Zerlentes  
Panagiotis Zervas  
Mark & Deborah Zuganelis

**233 Total Stewards**

• **Deceased**

# Church Staff



- Parish Priest/Editor: Fr. Luke Melackrinos
- Parish Council President: Georgia Christakes
- Vice President: George Vranas
- Treasurer: George Manasses
- Asst. Treasurer: Ted Dimiropoulos
- Secretary: Tracey Fiffles-Nusko
- Parish Administrator: Dr. Peter A. Patsavas
- Parish Council Members:
 

James Antonopoulos	James Patsavas
Tom Baffes	Tom Pavlick
Peter Coules	Paul Pitsoulakis
Joseph Marchione	Rick Repking
Nick Pappas	

- Philoptochos President: Georgia Sarlas
- Sunday School Directors: Dr. Peter A. Patsavas  
Presvytera Pearlann Bithos  
Helen Apostolopoulos
- Church Secretary: Presvytera Pearlann Bithos
- Chanter: Louis Anast
- Choir Director: George Panagopoulos
- Church Organist: Rosemary DeSanto
- Missions & Evangelism Director: Fr. Luke
- HOPE/JOY Advisor: Paula Giaouris George
- HOPE/JOY Advisor: Tina Repking
- S.O.N. Bookstore: Dianne Pitsoulakis
- Athletic Director: Leanna Pitsoulakis







## St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church

10301 South Kolmar, Oak Lawn, IL 60453

Phone: 708-636-5460

Fr. Luke Melackrinos, Parish Priest

**Email:** [saintnicholasoffice@gmail.com](mailto:saintnicholasoffice@gmail.com)

**Website:** <http://www.stnicholasil.org/>

Following are the names on **Social Media** for parishioners to follow:

**Facebook:** *Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church*

**Facebook:** *Saint Nicholas Oak Lawn Greekfest*  
(for all information/ updates on festival)

**Instagram:** *saintnicholasoaklawn*

**On Sundays:** You can download the app available for Android phones on Google Play or on the App Store for Apple phones

**Digital Chant Stand:** Of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.  
This has all the services in both English and Greek to follow along.

