



# ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX

*An Orthodox Christian community striving to glorify God in all things, to embody the True Faith in our lives, to grow together as a parish family, and to serve our neighbor in love.*

## SUNDAY BULLETIN

DECEMBER 21, 2025

*Today we commemorate:*

- ♦ *Sunday before Nativity*
- ♦ *Julianna & 630 Companions,*  
*Themistocles Martyr of Myra*



### Today's Memorials

*ΑΙΩΝΙΑ Η ΜΝΗΜΗ ΑΥΤΩΝ!*  
*May their memory be eternal!*

40-day: Eleftherios Halkias

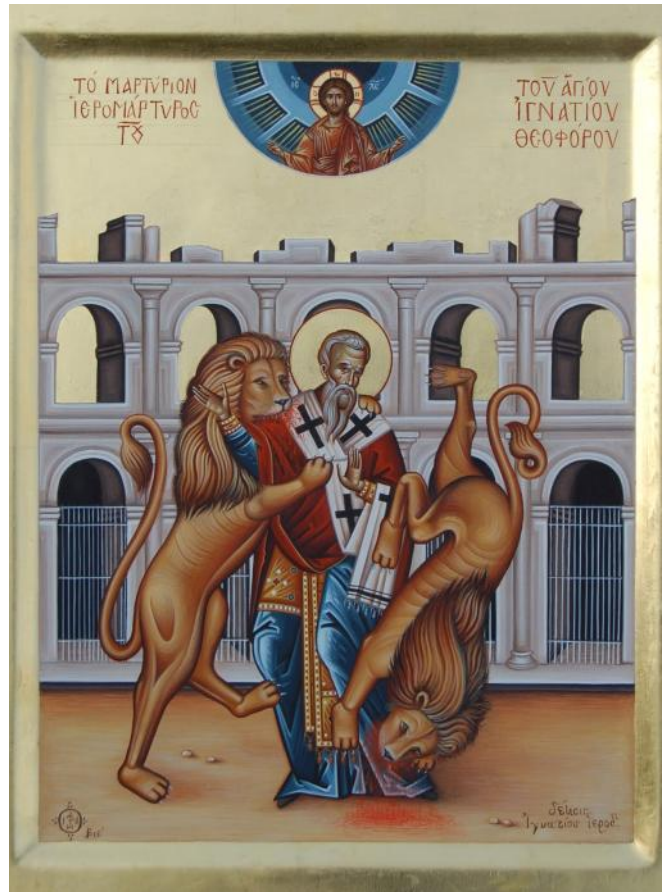
40-day: Maria Kalavritinou-Ganas

10-yr: Georgios Kokkinis

*On duty this Sunday:*

**Pangari:** Team B (St. Andrew)

**Acolytes:** Team B (Gabriel)



## COME AND SEE THE RISEN LORD!

Join us each Sunday morning for  
Orthros/Matins conducted  
in Greek & English.

- ♦ Orthros Binders are in the narthex with service text
- ♦ Proper attire is required during church services.

### SUNDAY SERVICES

Matins/Orthros ..... 8:30am

Divine Liturgy ..... 9:45am

### WEEKDAY SERVICES

Matins/Orthros ..... 8:00am

Divine Liturgy ..... 9:00am

[WWW.STJOHNTHEBAPTISTGOC.ORG](http://WWW.STJOHNTHEBAPTISTGOC.ORG)

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STJOHNBAPTISTGOC

SJBGREEKORTHODOX



## ENTRANCE HYMN

Δεῦτε προσκυνήσωμεν καὶ  
προσπέσωμεν Χριστῷ. Σῶσον ἡμᾶς Υἱὲ  
Θεοῦ, ὁ ἀναστὰς ἐκ νεκρῶν, ψάλλοντάς  
σοι, Ἀλληλούϊα.

Come let us worship and bow down  
before Christ. Son of God, who rose  
from the dead, save us who sing to  
Thee, Alleluia.

## RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION

### 3<sup>ND</sup> TONE

Εὐφραινέσθω τὰ οὐράνια, ἀγαλλιášθω  
τὰ ἐπίγεια, ὅτι ἐποίησε κράτος ἐν  
βραχίονι αὐτοῦ, ὁ Κύριος· ἐπάτησε τῷ  
θανάτῳ τὸν θάνατον· πρωτότοκος τῶν  
νεκρῶν ἐγένετο· ἐκ κοιλίας ᾄδου  
ἐρρύσατο ἡμᾶς, καὶ παρέσχε τῷ κόσμῳ  
τὸ μέγα ἔλεος.

Let the heavens be glad. Let the earth  
rejoice exceedingly. For the Lord has  
shown strength with his arm. He  
trampled death by death. He became  
the first-born of the dead. Out of the  
belly of Hades, He has rescued us, and  
to the world He has granted the great  
mercy.

## APOLYTIKION FOR THE FOREFEAST

### 4<sup>TH</sup> TONE

Ἑτοιμάζου Βηθλεέμ· ἥνοικται πᾶσιν ἡ  
Ἑδέμ. Εὐτρεπίζου Ἐφραθᾶ, ὅτι τὸ  
ξύλον τῆς ζωῆς, ἐν τῷ Σπηλαίῳ  
ἐξήνθησεν ἐκ τῆς Παρθένου.  
Παράδεισος καὶ γάρ, ἡ ἐκείνης γαστήρ,  
ἐδείχθη νοητός, ἐν ᾧ τὸ θεῖον φυτόν· ἐξ  
οὗ φαγόντες ζήσομεν, οὐχὶ δὲ ὡς ὁ  
Ἀδὰμ τεθνηξόμεθα. Χριστὸς γεννᾶται,  
τὴν πρὶν πεσοῦσαν, ἀναστήσων εἰκόνα.

O Bethlehem, prepare, Eden is  
opened unto all. And be ready,  
Ephrata, for the Tree of life has in the  
grotto blossomed forth from the  
Virgin. Indeed her womb is shown to  
be spiritually a Paradise, in which is  
found the God-planted Tree. And if we  
eat from it we shall live, and shall not  
die, as did Adam of old. Christ is born,  
so that He might raise up the formerly  
fallen image.

## APOLYTIKION FOR THE FOREFATHERS

### 2<sup>ND</sup> TONE

Μεγάλα τὰ τῆς πίστεως κατορθώματα!  
Ἐν τῇ πηγῇ τῆς φλογός, ὡς ἐπὶ ὕδατος  
ἀναπαύσεως, οἱ ἅγιοι τρεῖς Παῖδες  
ἠγάλλοντο· καὶ ὁ Προφήτης Δανιήλ,  
λεόντων ποιμήν, ὡς προβάτων  
ἐδείκνυτο. Ταῖς αὐτῶν ἱκεσίαις Χριστὲ ὁ  
Θεός, σῶσον τὰς ψυχὰς ἡμῶν.

Magnificent are the accomplishments  
of faith! The holy Three Servants  
greatly rejoiced, as they stood in the  
fountain of fire, as if beside the still  
waters; and the Prophet Daniel  
appeared to be a shepherd of lions, as  
if they were sheep. At their entreaties,  
O Christ God, save our souls

## MEMORIAL APOLYTIKION

### PLAGAL OF THE 4<sup>TH</sup> TONE

**Μ**νήσθητι, Κύριε, ὡς ἀγαθὸς τῶν  
δούλων σου, καὶ εἴ τι ἐν βίῳ, ἥμαρτον  
συγχώρησον· οὐδεὶς γὰρ ἀναμάρτητος,  
εἰμὴ σὺ ὁ δυνάμενος, καὶ τοῖς  
μεταστᾶσι, δοῦναι τὴν ἀνάπαυσιν.

**R**emember Your servants, O Lord,  
since You are good, and forgive them  
for all their sins in life; for no one is  
without sin except for You who are  
able to give rest to those who have  
passed away.

## APOLYTIKION OF THE PARISH - ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

### 2<sup>ND</sup> TONE

**Μ**νήμη Δικαίου μέτ' ἐγκωμίων, σοὶ δὲ  
ἀρκέσει ἡ μαρτυρία τοῦ Κυρίου  
Πρόδρομε· ἀνεδείχθης γὰρ ὄντως καὶ  
Προφητῶν σεβασμιώτερος, ὅτι καὶ ἐν  
ρείθροις βαπτίσει κατηξιώθης τὸν  
κηρυττόμενον. Ὅθεν τῆς ἀληθείας  
ὑπεραθλήσας, χαίρων εὐηγγελίσω καὶ  
τοῖς ἐν Ἄδῃ, Θεὸν φανερωθέντα ἐν  
σαρκί, τὸν αἴροντα τὴν ἀμαρτίαν τοῦ  
κόσμου, καὶ παρέχοντα ἡμῖν τὸ μέγα  
ἔλεος.

**T**he memory of the just is observed with  
hymns of praise; for you suffices the  
testimony of the Lord, O Forerunner.  
You have proved to be truly more  
ven'erable than the Prophets, since you  
were granted to baptize in the river the  
One whom they proclaimed. Therefore,  
when for the truth you had contested,  
rejoicing, to those in Hades you preached  
the Gospel, that God was manifested in  
the flesh, and takes away the sin of the  
world, and grants to us great mercy.

## KONTAKION OF THE NATIVITY

### 3<sup>RD</sup> TONE

**Ἡ** Παρθένος σήμερον, τὸν προαιώνιον  
Λόγον, ἐν Σπηλαίῳ ἔρχεται, ἀποτεκεῖν  
ἀπορρήτως. Χόρευε, ἡ οἰκουμένη  
ἀκουτισθεῖσα, δόξασον, μετὰ Ἀγγέλων  
καὶ τῶν Ποιμένων, βουληθέντα  
ἐποφθῆναι, Παιδίον νέον, τὸν πρὸ  
αἰώνων Θεόν.

**T**oday the Virgin comes to the cave to  
give birth in an ineffable manner to  
the Word before the ages. Rejoice,  
therefore, O universe, when you hear,  
and glorify with the angels and  
shepherds him who shall appear by his  
own will as a new babe, being God  
before the ages.







## THE EPISTLE— HEBREWS 11:9-10; 32-40

Με πίστη εγκαταστάθηκε στη γη που του είχε υποσχεθεί ο Θεός, ξένος σε άγνωστη χώρα, ζώντας σε σκηνές με τον Ισαάκ και τον Ιακώβ, που κι αυτοί ήταν κληρονόμοι της ίδιας υποσχέσεως. Κι αυτό, γιατί περίμενε την πόλη που θα είχε στέρεα θεμέλια και που αρχιτέκτονας και δημιουργός της θα ήταν ο Θεός. Χρειάζεται να συνεχίσω; Δε θα με πάρει ο χρόνος να διηγηθώ για το Γεδεών, το Βαράκ, το Σαμψών, τον Ιεφθάε, το Δαβίδ, το Σαμουήλ και τους προφήτες. Με την πίστη κατατρόπωσαν βασιλεια, επέβαλαν το δίκαιο, πέτυχαν την πραγματοποίηση των υποσχέσεων του Θεού, έφραξαν στόματα λεόντων· έσβησαν τη δύναμη της φωτιάς, διέφυγαν τη σφαγή, έγιναν από αδύνατοι ισχυροί, αναδείχτηκαν ήρωες στον πόλεμο, έτρεψαν σε φυγή εχθρικά στρατεύματα· γυναίκες ξαναπήραν πίσω στη ζωή τούς ανθρώπους τους, κι άλλοι βασανίστηκαν ως το θάνατο, χωρίς να δεχτούν την απελευθέρωσή τους, γιατί πίστευαν ότι μπορούσαν ν' αναστηθούν σε μια καλύτερη ζωή. Άλλοι δοκίμασαν εξευτελισμούς και μαστιγώσεις, ακόμη και δεσμά και φυλακίσεις. Λιθοβολήθηκαν, πριονίστηκαν, πέρασαν δοκιμασίες, θανατώθηκαν με μαχαίρι, περιπλανήθηκαν ντυμένοι με προβιές και κατσικίσια δέρματα, έζησαν σε στερήσεις, υπέφεραν καταπιέσεις, θλίψεις και κακουχίες —ο κόσμος δεν ήταν άξιος να 'χει τέτοιους ανθρώπους— πλανήθηκαν σε ερημιές και βουνά, σε σπηλιές και σε τρύπες της γης. Όλοι οι παραπάνω, παρά την καλή μαρτυρία της πίστης τους, δεν πήραν ό,τι τους υποσχέθηκε ο Θεός. Αυτός είχε προβλέψει κάτι καλύτερο για μας, έτσι ώστε να μη φτάσουν εκείνοι στην τελειότητα χωρίς εμάς.

By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated, of whom the world was not worthy, wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

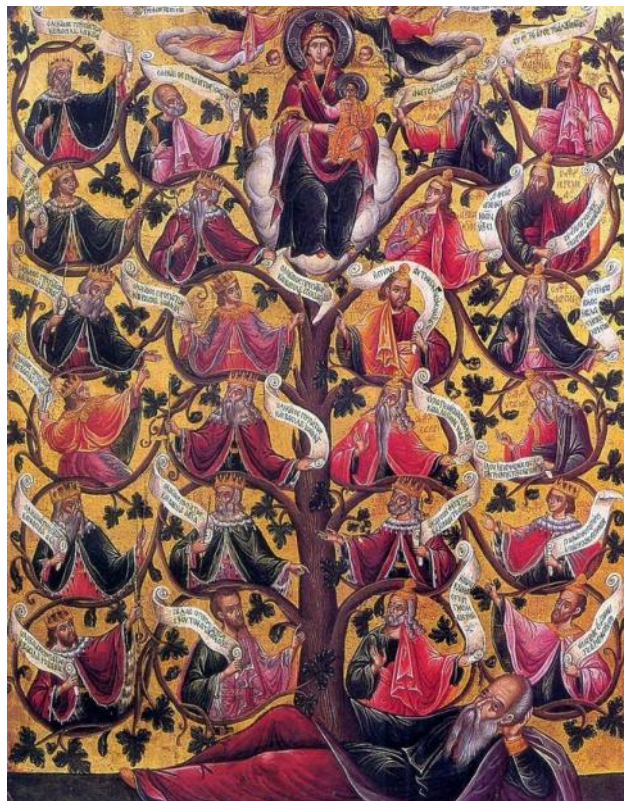




## THE HOLY GOSPEL - MATTHEW 1:1-25

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram, and Ram the father of Ammin'adab, and Ammin'adab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Bo'az by Rahab, and Bo'az the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the king. And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uri'ah, and Solomon the father of Rehobo'am, and Rehobo'am the father of Abi'jah, and Abi'jah the father of Asa, and Asa the father of Jehosh'aphat, and Jehosh'aphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzzi'ah, and Uzzi'ah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezeki'ah, and Hezeki'ah the father of Manas'seh, and Manas'seh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josi'ah, and Josi'ah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon. And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoni'ah was the father of Sheal'tiel, and Sheal'tiel the father of Zerub'babel, and Zerub'babel the father of Abi'ud, and Abi'ud the father of Eli'akim, and Eli'akim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and

Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eli'ud, and Eli'ud the father of Elea'zar, and Elea'zar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ. So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations. Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel" (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called his name Jesus.



## **This Week at St. John the Baptist**

### **Sunday, December 21**

- **8:30am Orthros 9:45am Divine Liturgy (MC)**
- 9:15am Sunday School
- Philoptochos Bake Sale after Divine Liturgy
- Presentation on the Pilgrimage of Discovery in the Great Hall
- Coffee hour sponsored by: The family of Mara Kalavritinou-Ganas in her memory

### **Monday, December 22**

- **9am 40-day Divine Liturgy St. ANASTASIA (GACV)**
- **11am Visitation 11:30am Funeral: Helen Bolos**

### **Tuesday, December 23**

- **9am 40-day Divine Liturgy (GAC)**
- *7pm YAL Bowling at Pinstripes, Northbrook*

### **Wednesday, December 24**

- **7:30am Royal Hours of the Nativity (MC)**
- **9am Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom: St. EUGENIA (MC)**
- **6pm Vespers Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great & Christmas Caroling (MC)**

### **Thursday, December 25**

- **8:30am Orthros 9:45am Hierarchical Divine Liturgy with His Grace Bishop Anthony of Sinada NATIVITY OF OUR LORD GOD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST (MC)**

### **Friday, December 26**

- **8am Orthros 9am Divine Liturgy: SYNAXIS OF THEOTOKOS (MC)**

### **Saturday, December 27**

- **8am Orthros 9am 40-day Divine Liturgy: St. STEPHEN THE FIRST MARTYR AND ARCHDEACON**
- 11am BAPTISM of: Artemios Konstantinos  
Parents: Matthew & Sassa Sarantopoulos  
Godparent: Nicholas Nashi
- **5pm Great Vespers (MC)**

### **Sunday, December 28**

- **8:30am Orthros 9:45am Divine Liturgy (MC)**



## Community Focus

*Find more info on these events on the church website.*



**Bookstore Sale:** Everything in the bookstore is 25% until Christmas.

**IOCC Giving Tree:** Located outside of the church office and consider taking a paper ornament and envelope. Each ornament addresses a specific need and when fulfilled continues the life-giving work of International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC). Questions? Contact Eva Economy @ econoe2@aol.com.

**Blankets of Love: The Giving Tree of Warmth and Love!** Spread the warmth this holiday season and donate to the purchase of a new blanket or for the purchase of essentials for nursing home residents at the Greek American Rehab & Care Center.

**YAL Bowling Night:** Tue 12/23 at Pinstripes, Northbrook.

**Special Coffee Hour:** The friends and family of Anna Sarantopoulos are hosting a special coffee hour next Sunday 12/28 in honor of her 25 years of service at St. John the Baptist. Instead of a plaque and a lapel pin, what better way to honor Anna than to break bread together after Liturgy! If you'd like to help host, email Angela at angelike@stjohnthebaptistgoc.org.

**Philoptochos:** Our membership New Year's dinner will be on January 15 at Moretti's in Morton Grove. Cost: \$50/person. RSVP to Youla at 773-510-8628. There is still time to make a donation towards the Blankets of Love -, Giving Tree for Greek American nursing home via the link or contact Pat Kladis at 847-632-3951. Also, save the date: Parish vasilopita will be on January 11.

**Pan-Orthodox Christmas Concert:** December 28, 6pm at Holy Nativity Romanian Orthodox Church, 5825 N. Mozart in Chicago. Interested in singing? Call Gordana at 773-619-8755.

**Metropolis Vasilopita Celebration:** Thursday, January 8 at 6:30pm at St. Andrew.

**AHEPA Scholarship:** Applications due by 3/15/26. For HS seniors with a minimum GPA of B.

**Pan-Hellenic Scholarship Foundation:** Applications due by 1/31/26.

**CrossRoad:** Apply now! What began in 2004 as a transformative summer program for high school juniors and seniors has now grown into a whole ecosystem of educational offerings. Our programs are rooted in the rich theological and spiritual tradition of Orthodox Christianity, and we are dedicated to helping young people deepen their understanding of their Orthodox Christian identity.

**ADMISSIONS OPEN for 2026**  
DECEMBER 2, 2025

**Enroll Now!** **PRESCHOOL-GRADE 8**

- † Orthodox Christian Spiritual Formation
- † Greek, Romanian or Russian Languages Offered
- † Academic Rigor
- † Development of Critical Thinking and Creativity
- † Nurturing Environment
- † Before and After School Programs

† LOVE OF GOD † LOVE OF NEIGHBOR † LOVE OF LEARNING

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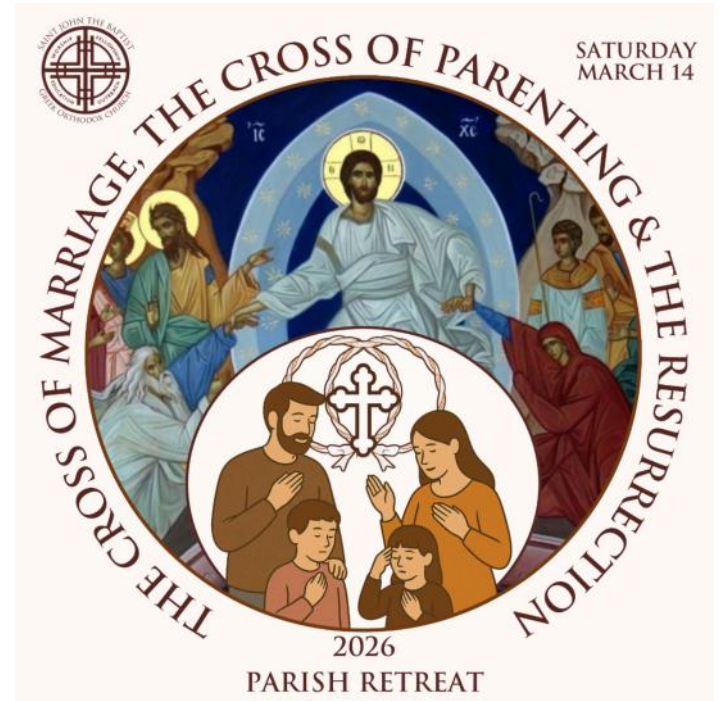
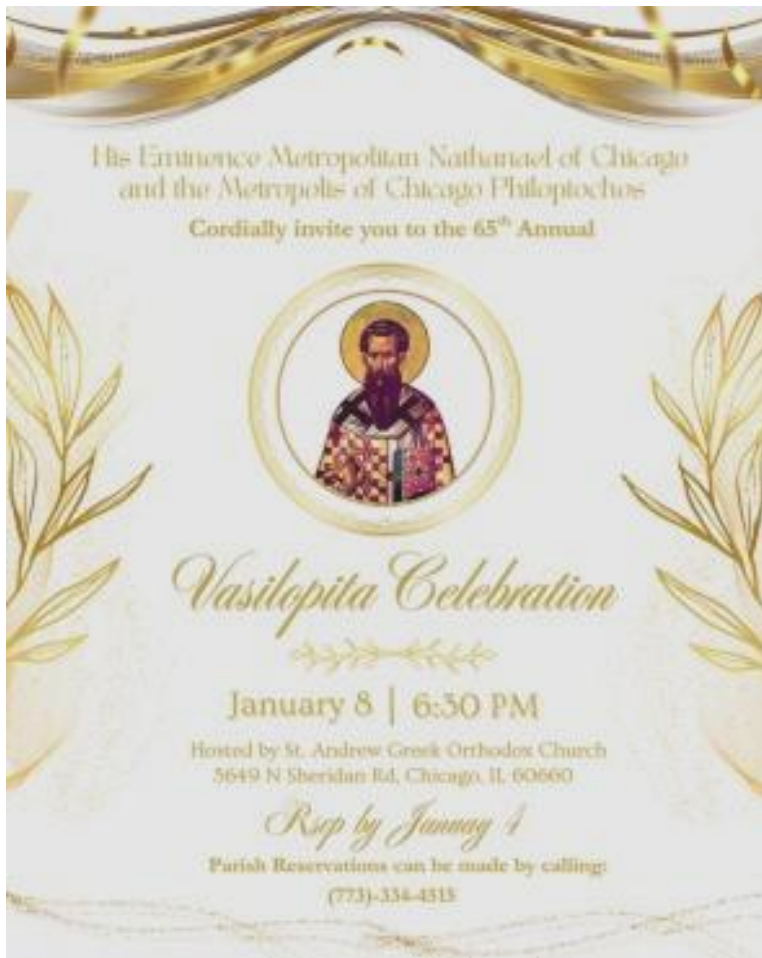
### A Message about Stewardship

*"Now it should be clear what the spiritual life consists of, in contrast to the life of the soul and body. The spiritual life consists of satisfying the needs of the spirit, and the needs of the spirit consist of a person's striving towards God, seeking for living communion with Him, and the desire to live according to God's will."*

By Archbishop Averky (Taushev)







## SAINTS COMMEMORATED THIS WEEK

December	Mon, 22	Tues, 23	Wed, 24	Thurs, 25	Fri, 26	Sat, 27
	Anastasia the Great Martyr, Chrysogonos the Martyr	Ten Martyrs of Crete, Consecration of Hagia Sophia	Eve of the Nativity of Christ, Eugenia the Nun-martyr of Rome	Holy Nativity	Synaxis of the Theotokos, Euthemios Bishop of Sardis	Stephen First Martyr, Theodore the Confessor