



St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church -- Des Plaines, Illinois

the Forerunner

Fall 2018

“... So, we may become true icons of Christ”

*By Fr. John Rallis
Protopresbyter*

In recent weeks, our parish has made some very important decisions regarding the beautification of our parish. I humbly ask for your prayers as we embark on a multi-faceted project which includes the completion of the iconography and its consecration, the replacement of the floors and the writing of icons in the main church. Of course, all of the above are in addition to the continuous care and growth of our current ministries, with foremost attention being given to the education of our children in our three schools, as well as the spiritual well-being of our stewards. You may have heard me quote St. John Damascene, the defender of icons, more than once, saying “when thoughts are choking me like so many thorns, I enter the church, the hospital of souls. The beauty of the icons delights my vision like a verdant meadow, and without my noticing it, stirs my soul to praise God.”

Twenty years have passed since the last mosaic icon of the Mystical Supper was installed in the main church. Since then, we have built the education building and the chapel, adorning its walls with icons, but nothing major has been done in the main church. The beauty of its current icons and the edification we have received from them has inspired us to add to the existing icons in the main



church. In this way, we follow the words of St. Paul to the Ephesians, “to equip the Saints for the work of ministry... for building up the body of Christ.” (Eph 4:7-13)

Allow me to share with you ten reasons for writing icons in the main church.

1. To create reverence in worship;
2. To instruct those who are unable to read (does not imply illiterate people);
3. To serve as an existential link between the worshipper and God;
4. To enhance the beauty of a church by impressing holiness;
5. To remind us of the divine, that even though we live in this world, we are not of this world;
6. To lift us up to the prototypes, the holy persons whom the icons depict;
7. To imitate the virtues of these persons;
8. Icons speak a “new” language, the language of the Gospels and the Church’s liturgical life;

Continued on Page 2

theForerunner

is a publication of

St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church

a parish of the Greek
Orthodox Archdiocese of
America in the Metropolis
of Chicago

2350 East Dempster Street

Des Plaines, IL 60016

Phone: (847) 827-5510

Fax: (847) 824-3455

www.stjohnthebaptistgoc.org

Fr. John Rallis

Protopresbyter

frjohnr@stjohnthebaptistgoc.org

Fr. Athanasios Papagiannis

Associate Pastor

frathanasios@stjohnthebaptistgoc.org

Angela Sinzianu

Office Administrator

angelike@stjohnthebaptistgoc.org

Anna Sarantopoulos

Office Accountant

anastasia@stjohnthebaptistgoc.org

Schedule of Services

Saturday

Great Vespers 6:00 pm

Sunday

Orthros 8:30 am

Divine Liturgy

Main Church 9:45 am

Chapel 10:15 am

Weekday Liturgies

Orthros 8:00 am

Liturgy 9:00 am

All articles, ministry information, and
news for the Forerunner can be sent to

forerunner@stjohnthebaptistgoc.org

Continued from Page 1

9. It sanctifies the eyes of the beholder and raises their intellect to the knowledge of God;
10. They are a companion and comfort to the sorrowful, inspiration to the hymnographer, an illumination to the theologian, an aid in prayer able, to perform miracles, to fill the heart with peaceful joy.

Finally, I long for the day that you and I will stand in our church, walls and ceiling adorned with icons of Christ, Panagia and the Saints. We will not feel alone; we will experience the communion of the Saints; we will feel that we are members of this sanctified family of God. May the Lord fulfill such a longing in our lives. Please pray for this project and the iconographers and may we all become a true icon of Christ here on earth.





Help us help
moms and
babies in need!



Annual Benefit Dinner
for the
Martha and Mary Maternity House

Sunday, November 11, 2018

St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church
2350 East Dempster Street, Des Plaines, Illinois

6 pm Social Hour

7 pm..... Thanksgiving-Style Dinner

9 pm Silent Auction Concludes

R.S.V.P by November 4

Go to MarthaMaryChicago.org,

or call 317-709-0168





Icons

By Jim Kandilas

Icons become a “ Window to Heaven”
Our Fathers clearly and happily proclaim.
With deepening piety our thoughts ascend to heaven.
And the communion with God becomes our primary aim.

Through the eyes of our souls and hearts,
Our attention is directed to divine things.
With the inspiration of the Saint’s spiritual realities.
Great is the gladness that veneration of icons brings.

Icons are “ The books of the illiterate.”
They inspire astonishment and link the Saints with us.
They are the guiding light of our souls.
And their sacramental presence brings God close to us.

Praying and contemplating before an icon,
We will realize our state of brokenness.
A need for change of our spiritual life,
Will emerge and chase away troubles, despair, and loneliness.

“...It is no longer I who lives but Christ lives in me.”*
We will be ready to say when enter the state of joy.
God’s help and kindness will be for ever around us.
And we will walk not with sorrow but, with love and joy.

* Galatians. 2:20



Οι Εικόνες

Δημήτρης Κάνδηλας

Ο Μ. Βασίλειος χαρακτηρίζει την παράδοση της
Εκκλησίας
Για τις ιερές εικόνες “ Αποστολική”
Εικόνες υπήρχαν μέσα στους ναούς την εποχή των
Αποστόλων.
Και παρέμειναν σαν έγχρωμο Ευαγγέλιο όλων.

Οι εικόνες δεν είναι μόνον διδακτικό βιβλίο για τους
αγράμματους.
Η εικόνα κατά τον Άγιον Ιωάννη τον Δαμάσκηνο,
Μας παιδαγωγοί και μας μορφώνει.
Είναι σαν γέφυρα που τον άνθρωπο με τον Θεό ενώνει.

Η απόφαση της Έβδομου Οικουμενικής Συνόδου είναι,
“ Οι αγιογράφοι να αναπαριστούν το περιεχόμενο του
Ευαγγελίου”
Η γλώσσα των εικόνων είναι “ Θεολογία
εικονογραφημένη”
Που ο πιστός συνομιλεί με την υπόσταση την
εικονογραφημένη.

Μέσα στην εικόνα παραμένει η ενέργεια της Θείας
Χαριτος.
Η απεικόνιση του Χριστού και των Αγίων.
Μας παρακινούν και ενθαρρύνουν προς την αγιότητα.
Και ο αγιογράφος αποδίδει τα χαρακτηριστικά των Αγίων
με πιστότητα.

Ο Μ. Βασίλειος είπε, “ Η τιμή προς την εικόνα διαβαίνει
στο πρωτότυπο”.
Ο Άγιος Δοσιθεός βλέποντας την εικόνα της Κολάσεως
στους Αγίους Τόπους,
Με φόβον Θεού, κατάνυξη, άσκηση, και μετάνοια,
Άγίασε και κέρδισε ζωήν αιώνια.





Sufferings

By Jim Kandilas

“ In the world ye shall have tribulations.” (John. 16:33)
Holy Scripture and Holy Fathers speak of this truth
We are troubled and suffer often in our daily lives.
And left in darkness when a light goes out of our lives.

Saint Isaac the Syrian says, “ For it is impossible,
when we are traveling along the path of righteousness,
for us not to encounter gloom....”
Meeting our Lord in prayer will help our hopes to bloom.

We suffer because of the devil, other people, and
fallen human nature.
Suffering caused by the devil is very painful.
People attempt to keep Christ’s commandments , tell
us.
But the path that is best lies hidden beyond us.

Suffering caused by the other people slandering and
maligning.
And all the passions that exist in our heart.
Can pierce our troubled mind and weaken our soul.
Close , therefore, your eyes and pray that God will
restore peace in your soul.

We should accept sadness more than happiness.
Through pain a new world is opening up.
We discover the fullness of God’s love.
When we get out of darkness with a light from above.



Μήν Κρήνεις

Δημήτρης Κάνδηλας

Ο Άγιος Απόστολος Παύλος στην προς Ρωμαίους
επιστολή του
λέγει τα εξής, “ Διο αναπολογητος ει, ω άνθρωπε πας ο
κρίνων
εν ω γαρ κρίνεις τον έτερον, σε αυτόν κατακρίνεις.” *
Απομάκρυνε τις βδελυρες σκέψεις και βρες κάτι καλό να
προτείνεις.

Μην σπεύδεις να πεις στους άλλους τι είδες και τι
άκουσες.
Μην ξεχνάς οτι αν κρίνεις τον αδελφό σου, ο Θεος θα σε
κρίνει.
Το δικαίωμα να κρίνουμε τους άλλους, δεν ειναι δικό μας.
Η αγαπη προς τον πλησίον μας να ειναι το ιδανικό μας.

Η κακολογία και κατακρισις του αδελφού μας, ειναι οπως
λέγει
Ο Ψαλμωδος και Προφήτης Δαβιδ, “ Τάφος ανεωγμενος ο
λαρυνξ αυτών.”**
Πνευματικές δυσοσμιες ειναι οι των αδελφών μας
κατακρίσεις.
Όμοιες ακαθαρσίες, αν ανοίξεις ενα τάφο, θα αντικρυσεις.

Μην βλέπεις τι τρώει, τι πίνει, και τι αμαρτίες κάνει ο
αδελφός σου.
Γίνε κριτής του εαυτού σου και ξεχνα τα σφάλματα των
άλλων.
Σκέψου πως ο αδελφός σου μπορεί να μετανόησε και να
του αφέθηκε η αμαρτία.
Και συ να μείνεις αμέτοχος στην κατα της κακολογιας
εκστρατεία.

Δώσε σημασία στο καλό που υπάρχει στον πλησίον σου.
Ξερίζωσε τις ακάθαρτες σκέψεις απο το μυαλό σου.
Μην κρίνεις για να μην κριθείς.
Το καλό που υπάρχει στον πλησίον σου πάντα να
επιθυμείς.

* (Ρώμ. 2,,1-3)

** (Ψαλ. 5,10)



Philoptochos

Philoptochos is the largest Women's Ministry in the United States. We encourage all women and men to become members of Philoptochos! As quoted from Pam Argyris, our Metropolis president, our Lord said "I came to earth not to be served, but to serve you."

Let us all come together in Faith, Love and Humility to serve others just as Christ did for us!

2018-2019 PHILOPTOCHOS CALENDAR

September 2018

Sunday, Sept 9 Bone Marrow Drive for Baby Elias
~ Philoptochos Hosted Coffee Hour ~
Sunday, Sept 16 Pass a tray for Hellenic College/Holy Cross
Tuesday, Sept 18 Nursing Home Visit
Tuesday, Sept 18 Board Meeting 9am
Saturday, Sept 22 Metropolis Philoptochos Annual Luncheon
Sunday, Sept 23 Membership Brunch after Divine Liturgy
Speaker: Metropolis President Pam Argyris
Sunday, Sept 30 Membership Drive Table at Coffee Hour

October 2018

October, TBD Outing to Greek Museum and Lunch @ Artopolis
Saturday, Oct 6 Presidents Meeting @ St. Peter and Paul
Tuesday, Oct 9 Board Meeting 7pm
Tuesday, Oct 16 General Meeting 7pm
Sunday, Oct 21 Pastichio Sale to Benefit Good Samaritan Fund

November 2018

Nov TBD Visit St. Chrysostom Monastery/General Meeting
~ Discussion with Gerondissa Melanie ~
Nov TBD Nursing Home Visit
Sunday, Nov 4 Inclusion Awareness Sunday and
Greek Chicken Dinner - Fundraiser
Artoclasia after Divine Liturgy
In Honor of our Patron Saints Cosmas/Damianos
Friday, Nov 9 Board Meeting 11am after Divine Liturgy
Sunday, Nov 11 Christmas Card Design Contest
Martha & Mary House Benefit Dinner
Sunday, Nov 18 Philoptochos to Host Coffee Hour for IOCC
Thursday, Nov 22 Philoptochos Thanksgiving Coat Drive

December 2018

Sunday, Dec 9 Pan Orthodox Concert – Lenten Sale
Tuesday, Dec 11 Board Meeting 7pm
Sunday, Dec 30 60th Anniversary Brunch Kick off

January 2019

Sunday, Jan 6 THEOPHANY
Monday, Jan 7 ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST FEAST DAY
Sunday, Jan 13 Parish Vasilopita
Tuesday, Jan 22 New Year's Dinner General Meeting
6:30PM @ North Branch

February 2019

Sunday, Feb 3 Non event Event Fundraiser
Tuesday, Feb 5 Board Meeting 9am
Saturday, Feb 16 Metropolis Presidents Meeting – Location TBD

March 2019

Wednesday, Mar 20 Philoptochos-Sponsored Lenten
Pre-Sanctified Dinner
Saturday, Mar 23 Philoptochos Metropolis Retreat
~ Location to TBD

April 2019

Apr TBA Visit to St. John Chrysostom monastery
~Discussion with Gerondissa Melanie &
General Meeting
Sunday, Apr 21 Palm Sunday Bake Sale

May 2019

Friday, May 3 Bright Friday Dinner
Tuesday, May 7 Board Meeting 9am
Sunday, May 12 Mother's Day; Koliva and
Artoclasia after Divine Liturgy
Tuesday, May 14 Elections General Dinner Meeting
Saturday, May 18 Presidents Meeting at Iakovos Retreat Center

Mad Hatter 2018

St. John the Baptist Philoptochos hosted their Mad Hatter event on Saturday, May 5, 2018 at the Hilton in Rosemont. Our guest speaker was Peli Galiti, who spoke beautifully about Thanking God.

With the Glory of God, Philoptochos was able to organize a successful event, which allowed for record breaking proceeds. A portion of the proceeds from the fundraiser were distributed to two orphanages: the first to St. Innocent Orphanage for boys in Mexico; and the second to Center Filothei the Athenian, a girls orphanage in Athens, Greece.

We thank everyone whose generosity and support made this such a successful event!



Philoptochos Membership Brunch

On Sunday, September 23 once again St. John the Baptist Philoptochos kicked off their year with a beautiful Membership Brunch which was open to our whole Parish. We were honored to have Pam Argyris Metropolis president speak at our Brunch. Below is her speech, in its entirety.

Good morning, Rev. Father Athanasios, Presvytera Katherine, St. John the Baptist Philoptochos President Anthoula Tsiampos, Philoptochos sisters and guests. It is my pleasure to be here with you today and I thank you for the invitation to speak to you about Philoptochos.

At my first Philoptochos convention in Chicago in 1994 I remember distinctly hearing about a survey that had been taken regarding the perception of the Philoptochos members at that time. The average age of the members was 59! At that point, I was younger than that, and they were perceived as the ladies in the kitchen, with blue tinted hair and mink coats. When we look at Philoptochos today we can see that the perception has certainly changed!

Why do women serve Philoptochos for decades? Why do they pass that legacy on to their daughters and granddaughters? Today, why do women who have more demands on them than ever before volunteer their few free hours to this worthy cause?

We have learned that life's most urgent question is: What are you doing for others? To that, Philoptochos members can say, without hesitation or doubt, **"We Serve."**

Those words from our National President, Maria Logus, define the Philoptochos spirit. For over 85 years, Philoptochos stewards, embracing the teaching of our Lord to serve "the least of these thy Brethren," have faithfully served the underprivileged, the homeless, the ill, and the infirm, offering comfort and hope to the needy. Generations of dedicated women have touched and changed countless lives, answering the call repeatedly

Philoptochos' charitable work over the past 86 years is well documented. From January 2016 to June 5, 2018, the National Philoptochos Society disbursed on behalf of its 400+ chapters and more than 25,000 members a total of \$4,603,590 to its ministry

commitments, programs, projects and special appeals, including:

- St. Basil Academy
- Hellenic College and Holy Cross Seminary
- The Ecumenical Patriarchate
- Over \$100,00 in Emergency Fund relief to victims of the devastating floods in Houston, Florida, and Puerto Rico. An appeal has just gone out for additional aid for Hurricane Florence and the horrific fires in Greece, California and Colorado.

And the list goes on and on.

Philoptochos supports these causes annually. If you weren't aware of it, it is because we stay true to our mission, which calls upon us to perform our work with discretion, courtesy and kindness. We do not talk about the individuals we help.

Since 2002, we have disbursed over \$24 million, and this does not include charity and philanthropy performed in the nine Metropolises, nor the 400 + local chapters across the United States. Imagine what the number would be if we added those figures! The scope of our philanthropy is amazing! So, you may ask yourself, why are we the best kept secret?

But even more important that the charity we give away is the hands-on work we perform in our communities. **On a daily basis, we engage our minds, our hearts and our hands to answer a need, wherever and whenever it arises. This is our philanthropic mission.** With every baby hat we knit, every meal we serve, every emergency care package we send, every veteran we honor, every woman in crisis we rescue every sick child we aid, every homeless person we extend a hand to, and every dollar we give to someone who needs it, we are fulfilling that mission. Above all, it is in always striving to accomplish our purpose with generosity and love that we are truly successful.

Continued on Page 10



2018/2019 PHILOPTOCHOS MEMBERSHIP/STEWARDSHIP FORM

Full name (required): _____

Address: _____

Home #: _____ Cell #: _____ Email: _____

Donation:

One-time annual
stewardship donation
by check
enclosed:

or

Monthly automated electronic donation by ACH or debit/credit card:
\$ _____

If by ACH, enclose a voided check or
enter bank routing number: _____
and checking account number: _____

\$ _____

If by credit/debit card, enter number here:

Please help us apply this year's donations by ranking the following in order of importance to you 1 – 4.
(1 most important - 4 least important):

- _____ ❖ **Orthodox-affiliated organizations** – IOCC, OCF, OCMC, Hellenic College/Holy Cross, Philoxenia House, Martha and Mary House, U of I House, Greek American Nursing Home
- _____ ❖ **Our local neighbors** – direct assistance with food, clothing, shelter, sacraments, elder / child care and other critical needs for individuals and families
- _____ ❖ **Our facilities** – building and kitchen renovations
- _____ ❖ **Our students** – contribute to the education of our Sunday School, Greek School, Day School, college / university and other students, young or old
- _____ ❖ **No preference**

Please tell us what personal/family topics you would like to hear about this year:

Even if you can't participate or donate this year, please tell us what's important to you above. Our goal is to hear the voice of every woman in our parish, understand your priorities and give you the opportunity to receive the blessings that come with helping others.

How can you help this year? (select one or more):

____ Fundraising ____ Attend/help with activities ____ Plan/host activities Other: _____

What time of day can you attend meetings? ____ Weekdays ____ Evenings ____ Weekends

If you are able to give of your time or talents, please circle activities that you are interested in:

- Inclusion Awareness Sunday ▪ Bake sales ▪ Thanksgiving coat drive
- Nursing home visits ▪ Rummage sale (June) ▪ Community Christmas card
- Prisoner outreach ▪ Feed the Hungry (July) ▪ Fall membership luncheon
- Grocery purchase and delivery to the disabled ▪ Annual spring fundraising luncheon

Bring or mail this form with your donation (if by check) to:
St. John the Baptist Philoptochos Society, 2350 East Dempster Street, Des Plaines, IL 60016

Continued from Page 8

A few examples of Philoptochos outreach at the Metropolis level are:

- Our Feed the Hungry program, now in its 27th year, having fed thousands of hungry, often homeless people twice a month, every month at the Annunciation Cathedral in Chicago.
- Our Metropolis Dress-a-Girl programs at St. Basil and St. Demetrios, both in Chicago, have sent over a thousand dresses and hundreds of shirts to needy children in Africa and India.
- Our Quilt-a-Thons at SS. Constantine & Helen in Palos Hills and SS. Peter & Paul in Glenview have provided quilts for thousands of sick children throughout the Metropolis.

I know that most chapters have their own outreach programs in support of food banks, homeless shelters and inclusion ministries. In addition, here at St. John's you have your Good Samaritan Fund which assists with rent, food, utilities, tuition, medical needs and sacramental assistance. The accomplishments of your ministry are very impressive.

Our Philoptochos history is rich with examples of our commitment and "can do" spirit. We said "yes we can" when our current president Maria Logus launched the "Feed the Hungry" initiative and challenged our chapters across the country to feed 250,000 people within 18 months. Our response? An astounding 750,000 meals! As a result of this commendable work, in June 2016, the Feeding Children Everywhere organization honored National Philoptochos with its inaugural "Hunger Hero Award" in the *Outstanding Faith Based Organization* category.

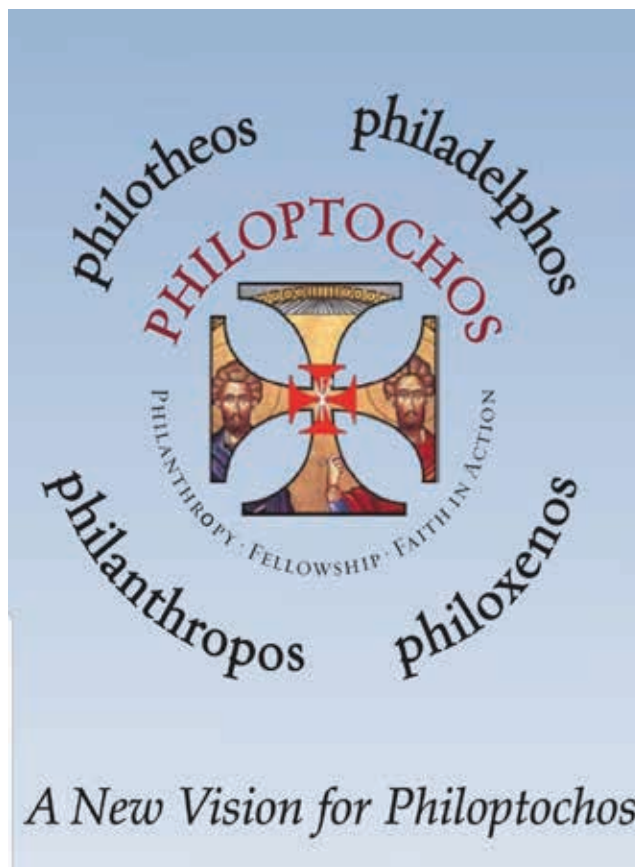
During the two years between 2016-2018, we embraced a new goal-to provide 1 million meals by the 2018 convention this past July. We surpassed that goal, serving over 1.3 million meals to those hungry and less fortunate. We CAN do more!

And now, as we face the 21st century and different challenges, Philoptochos is developing new programs to meet the needs of a changing society. We are initiating new, hands-on programs to serve our parish communities in these challenging times and engage the services of young women, who are happy to take on special projects but do not always have time to attend meetings. Philoptochos women today juggle many responsibilities. Is it the greatness of Philoptochos that despite their many obligations, they find a way to make time to serve their communities for the greater good.

Philoptochos is constantly adapting to the needs of our communities. We live our faith actively. As our world changes and evolves, we will develop new programs to meet new and unforeseen challenges in a modern world. As our president has so eloquently states, "Service to our church, our community and our world was our past, it is our present and it will be our future."

As the Lord said, "I came to earth not to be served, but to serve." This is the heart of Philoptochos. Won't you join us on this noble journey?

Thank you.





AIDONIA

By Andonis Platis

With the blessings of His Eminence Metropolitan Nathanael of Chicago, the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago held its 3rd Annual Midwest Hellenic Dance Festival, during this past Columbus Day weekend. This year's event included more than 120 participants and was instructed by Dean Avdalas (Anatoliki Romilia) and Joseph Graziosi (Zagoroxoria, Epirus). Under the direction of Katerina Rallis and Dino Alikakos, St. John's newest ministry, the "Aidonia" did a superb job demonstrating dances from Asvestathes, Thrace.

We want to thank the parish of St. John, especially the parents and dancers, who showed their unconditional support. It was truly remarkable to see our parish represented at this Metropolis-wide event. We look forward to the upcoming year, and in participating in our parish's 60th anniversary.



IOCC SUNDAY

Coffee Hour & Presentation

.....

Sunday, November 18, 2018

After Divine Liturgy in the Great Hall

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

2350 E. Dempster St. | Des Plaines, IL 60016

*Please join us for coffee hour and a brief overview of
IOCC's humanitarian work around the world,
including IOCC's recent response to the Greece
wildfires and hurricanes in the US.*

DONATIONS AT
iocc.org/desplaines



INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES

Prepare - Before it happens

September is National Preparedness Month, and it will be here before you know it. IOCC is encouraging everyone to take the time TODAY to create emergency supply kits, for both your family and your parish.

To assemble your kit, store items in airtight plastic bags, and put them all in one or two easy-to-carry containers. Be sure to include enough food, water, and medical supplies to last for at least 72 hours. And don't forget to include your furry friends in your plan!

Use our checklist to create your emergency supply kit today.

Don't Wait. Prepare Today.

Be ready for the next natural disaster by creating an emergency supply kit today.



 Water (one gallon per person per day for at least three days)	 Dust mask, plastic sheeting, and duct tape to keep a makeshift shelter in place
 A three-day supply of nonperishable food and can opener	 Whistle to signal for help
 Flashlight	 Wrench or pliers
 First aid kit	 Extra batteries
 Battery-powered or hand-crank radio and a NOAA weather Radio with tone alert	 Local maps
 Emergency communication plan	 Wet wipes, garbage bags, and plastic ties for personal sanitation



International Orthodox Christian Charities
110 West Rd. #360 Baltimore, MD 21204
www.iocc.org • 877.803.4622





St John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church Pythagoras Greek School

Certificate of Attainment in Greek (ELLINOMATHEIA) Preparation Groups

Program Details:

- Classes will be offered every Wednesday from 6:00pm- 8:0pm, from October 2018- May 2019, starting on 10/3/2018
- Emphasis is given on four language skills: listening, reading, speaking and writing
- Levels: A1 (A1 for children 8 to 12 years old and A1 for adolescents and adults), A2, B1, B2, C1 and C2
- The Ellinomatheia certificates provided by the Centre for the Greek Language are officially approved by the Illinois State Board of Education for the prestigious Seal of Biliteracy Program.
- Group classes are taught by experienced certified teachers
- Course book and material in accordance with the Common European Framework for Languages
- Our schools have a superior success rate (over 90%) on the most recent Ellinomatheia exams
- Students who obtain the Ellinomatheia Certification are recognized worldwide for their Greek Language qualifications

Additional information:

Phone #: 847-827-5519, Email: Georgia.katsis@gmail.com

First Day of School

Pythagoras Greek School



Guardian Angel Orthodox Day School



Please support those affected by the fires

Driven by unpredictable gale-force winds and fed by tinder-box conditions amid temperatures of over 100°F, wildfires blew through coastal communities in East Attica, Greece, at extremely high speeds on July 23. Over 70 people are confirmed dead, and hundreds are currently reported missing. These fires are the deadliest since 2007; Greece has declared a state of emergency and three days of mourning.

IOCC is supporting immediate basic needs like access to food. Through partner Apostoli, the humanitarian arm of the Archdiocese of Athens, IOCC will distribute prepaid grocery cards to families affected by the fires, allowing them to purchase essential items like Greek-grown produce, dairy, and meat, as well as personal hygiene items, including soap and shampoo. To help, please visit iocc.org/greecefires.



Marigoula and other families like hers with grocery cards they can use to purchase some basic supplies as they begin rebuilding their lives.

Meet Marigoula.

Marigoula is a single mother of five who works year-round at a campground near Mati, Greece.

The house where she and her family lived at the same camp was completely destroyed by the wildfires, and they're not sure what the next few months will bring.

Because of your support, and through local Church partner Apostoli, IOCC provided

Thank you for your support!





OCTOBER 31ST **4:30 TO 8PM** **FAMILY** **FALL** **FESTIVAL**

We ask all families to bring fuzzy socks to donate them for the Thanksgiving event. They will be used for the craft the kids will make at the festival.

Please bring a Lenten item to share.

If you would like to help volunteer at the fall festival event please include it with your RSVP.

Pasta dinner

5:00 pm

Vespers

5:30 pm

Discussion with

Fr. Athanasios

6:30 pm

Games and Craft

6:30-7:45 pm

OPEN TO ALL AGES!!!

RSVP BY
OCTOBER 30TH
TO
GEORGEVOULA
@SBCGLOBAL.NET

2018 Christmas Drive

— Nov 11 - Dec 9, 2018 —

As we prepare to celebrate the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, let us not forget those who are less fortunate. Please support our annual Christmas Drive, benefitting children & families in need.

This year, you can either make a monetary donation directly supporting FOCUS North America (for more information on this organization please visit www.focusnorthamerica.org), or you can purchase a gift for a child and support Bridge Communities. They are a local organization who assist homeless families in DuPage County with mentoring, housing and supportive services. For more information on Bridge Communities, feel free to check out their website at www.bridgecommunities.org.

There will be someone at Greek School on (2) Saturday mornings, as well as every Sunday at the coffee hour after church beginning on November 11th.



*"So let each one give as he purposes in his heart... for God loves a cheerful giver."
(2 Corinthians 9:7)*

Prayer List

For any prayer concern (salvation, health, employment, stress and anxieties, etc.) please send baptismal names only to

stjohn@stjohnthebaptistgoc.org

We may not be able to help others materially or medically, but God does hear our prayers and always asks us to pray for each other and so build up the Body of Christ (Eph. 4:11-16).

For health and stability in the work place:

Angelo, Chrysanthy and family, Chris, Helen, and family, Mary Ellen and family, James and family, Eudoxia, Paraskevi, Maria, Panagiotis, Hristos

For guidance: Ekaterini, Renee, John, Angela

For peace: Maria, Karen, Ropalo, Stavroula, Christoforos

To let go of anger: Petros, Ioannis, Angela, John, Angela, Georgia, Ioannis, Evagelia

For health: Christos, Penelope, Theofani, Basilios, Thanasios

For healing of an illness: Helen, Mary Ellen, Angeline, Mary, Bill, Katherine, George, Athanasios, Tom, Makrina, Eric, Scott, Veronika, Nicoletta, Nicholas, Helen, George, Judy, Elaine, Nicoletta, Anastasios, Aristidis, Mary Ellen, Mary, and Ioanna

For spiritual edification: Michael, James, Helen, Cynthia, Lillian.

For spiritual guidance: Veronika, Alexander, John, Ioannis, Evagelia

For faith and hope: Evagelia

For good health and recovery from illness: Christopher

For general well-being: Tom, Anne, Helen, Lillian, Katherine, Mary, Lillian, Carol, Angeline, Mary, Chris, Frank, Anna

For health and well-being: Dennis, Mary, Lilly, Philip, Carol, Judy, Anne, and Helen, Dimitri, Georgia, Christina, Emily

For heart health: Stiljan

For illness and surgery: Judy, Mary Ellen, Phillip, Carol, Johnny, Alexandra, Austin, Panayiota, Mary, Makrina, George, Judy, Mary, Joan
For health: Judy, Anne, Chrysanthy, Helen, Mary, Iosefia, Dean and Helen (cancer), Sophie, Stafford, Ekaterini

For illness and survival of world

circumstances: Mary Ellen, Jennie, Helen, George/family, Judy, Christ, Mary

For forgiveness: John, Angela, Ioannis, Evagelia

For battling cancer: Stavros, Dimitri

May their memory be eternal: Chiraca

For Non-Orthodox: Cole, Brian

Six Week Calendar • October 21 - December 1, 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
October 21 8:30am Orthros & Divine Liturgy Philoptochos Pastichio Sale 6th Sunday of Luke St. Hilarion St. Philotheus	October 22 5:30pm Basketball practice 6:00pm Inclusion Awareness Meeting 7:30pm Dance Practice St. Cecilia Seven Youths of Ephesus	October 23 8:00am Orthros & Divine Liturgy 9:30am HOPE 6:00pm Building & Maintenance Meeting 7:00pm Parish Council Meeting 7:00pm Jr. GOYA St. Iakovos	October 24 9:45am Martha & Mary Women's Bible Study 5:00pm GSL & OXI day 6:00pm Ellinomatheia 6:30pm Basketball Practice 6:30pm Adult Ellinomatheia 7:00pm Metropolis Camp Meeting 7:00pm 60th Committee Meeting Sts. Arethas & Syncletiki	October 25 8:00pm Men's Team Bball Practice St. Tabitha St. Chrysanthos Sts. Marcian & Maryrius	October 26 8:00am Orthros & Divine Liturgy 11:00am Philoptochos General Meeting 6:30pm JOY/Faith St. Demetrios	October 27 9:00am Greek School & OXI program 6:00pm Great Vespers St. Nestor St. Procla, wife of Pontius Pilate
October 28 8:30am Orthros & Divine Liturgy GAODS GALA 6th Sunday of Luke Holy Protection of the Theotokos	October 29 5:30pm Basketball practice 7:30pm Dance Practice St. Anastasia St. Abramius the Recluse	October 30 9:30am HOPE 5:30pm Basketball practice Sts. Cleopas & Artemas of the 70 Sts. Zenobius & Zenobia	October 31 9:45am Martha & Mary Women's Bible Study 4:30pm Family Fall Fest 5:00pm GSL 6:00pm Ellinomatheia 6:30pm Basketball Practice 6:30pm Adult Ellinomatheia Sts. Stachys & Companions of the 70 St. Epimachus	November 1 8:00am Orthros & Divine Liturgy 7:00pm Paraklesis & OCF 8:00pm Men's Team Bball Practice Sts. Cosmas & Damian & their mother Theodota	November 2 Jr. GOYA Retreat Martyrs Domnina, Domna & Kyriaki	November 3 Jr. GOYA Retreat 9:00am Greek School 6:00pm Great Vespers Bishop Raphael Hawaweeny of Brooklyn
November 4 8:30am Orthros & Divine Liturgy Inclusion Awareness Philoptochos' Chicken Sale 5th Sunday of Luke St. Nikandros	November 5 9:00am GAODS PTO 5:30pm Basketball practice 7:00pm GOYA w/ St. Haralambos 7:30pm Dance Practice Holy Apostles Hermes & Companions	November 6 9:30am HOPE 7:00pm Greek School Board Meeting St. Paul the Confessor, Patriarch of Constantinople	November 7 9:45am Martha & Mary Women's Bible Study 5:00pm GSL 6:00pm Ellinomatheia 6:00pm GSL Open House 6:30pm Adult Ellinomatheia 7:00pm Sunday School Meeting 7:15pm Basketball Practices St. Lazarus the Wonderworker	November 8 8:00am Orthros & Divine Liturgy 7:00pm Paraklesis & OCF 8:00pm Men's Team Bball Practice Holy Archangels	November 9 8:00am Orthros & Divine Liturgy 11:00am Philoptochos Board Meeting Parenting University Panel Discussion St. Nektarios	November 10 9:00am Greek School 6:00pm Great Vespers Holy Father Arsenius of Cappadocia
November 11 8:30am Orthros & Divine Liturgy 12pm General Assembly 6:00pm Martha & Mary House Event 8th Sunday of Luke Martyrs Victor and Stephanie	November 12 5:30pm Basketball practice 7:30pm Dance Practice Great Vespers at St. John Chrysostom St. John the Merciful S. Nilus the Ascetic	November 13 8:00am Orthros & Divine Liturgy at St. John Chrysostom 9:30am HOPE 7:00pm Jr. GOYA FMSC St. John Chrysostom, Archbishop of Constantinople	November 14 8:00am Orthros & Divine Liturgy 9:45am Martha & Mary Women's Bible Study 5:00pm GSL 6:00pm Ellinomatheia 6:30pm Adult Ellinomatheia 6:30pm Basketball Practices 7:00pm GAODS Board Meeting St. Phillip The Apostle	November 15 9:00am 40-day Divine Liturgy Begins 12:00pm Golden Agers at the Silver Stallion 7:00pm Paraklesis & OCF 8:00pm Men's Team Bball Practice St. Thomas-Archbishop of Constantinople	November 16 8:00am Orthros & Divine Liturgy 6:30pm JOY/Faith 7:00pm YAL at Fr. John's home St. Matthew the Apostle and Evangelist	November 17 9:00am 40-day Divine Liturgy 9:00am Greek School 6:00pm Great Vespers St. Gregory the Wonderworker
November 18 8:30am Orthros & Divine Liturgy IOCC Sunday Stewardship Sunday 9th Sunday of Luke Holy Martyr Romanos St. Anastasios, the New Martyr	November 19 9:00am 40-day Divine Liturgy 5:30pm Basketball practice 7:30pm Dance Practice Martyrs Barlaam of Caesarea & Heliodorus	November 20 7:00am 40-day Divine Liturgy 9:30am HOPE 7:00pm GOYA Thanksgiving Setup St. Gregory the Righteous of Decapolis	November 21 8:00am Orthros & Divine Liturgy 9:45am Martha & Mary Women's Bible Study No GSL 6:00pm Ellinomatheia 6:30pm Adult Ellinomatheia 6:30pm Basketball Practices Presentation of Virgin Mary	November 22 9:00am 40-day Divine Liturgy 7:00pm Paraklesis & OCF 8:00pm Men's Team Bball Practice Sts. Philemon & Archippus of the 70 St. Cecilia & Companions	November 23 9:00am 40-day Divine Liturgy St. Dionysios, Patriarch of Constantinople St. Amphilochius, Bishop of Iconium	November 24 9:00am 40-day Divine Liturgy No Greek School 6:00pm Great Vespers St. Hermogens Martyrs Philoumenos and Christopher
November 25 8:30am Orthros & Divine Liturgy 13th Sunday of Luke St. Catherine the Martyr	November 26 9:00am 40-day Divine Liturgy 5:30pm Basketball practice 6:00pm Jr. GOYA at St. Haralambos 7:30pm Dance Practice St. Stylianos St. George, New Martyr	November 27 7:00am 40-day Divine Liturgy 9:30am HOPE 7:00pm Parish Council Meeting St. James the Wonderworker St. Arsenios of Rhaxos	November 28 9:00am 40-day Divine Liturgy 9:45am Martha & Mary Women's Bible Study 5:00pm GSL 6:00pm Ellinomatheia 6:30pm Adult Ellinomatheia 6:30pm Basketball Practices 7:00pm Metropolis Camp Meeting St. Stephen the New	November 29 9:00am 40-day Divine Liturgy 7:00pm Paraklesis & OCF 8:00pm Men's Team Bball Practice St. Nicholas, Archbishop of Thessalonica	November 30 8:00am Orthros & Divine Liturgy 1:15pm GAODS Romanian Nat'l Day Assembly Apostle Andrew the 1st Called	December 1 9:00am 40-day Divine Liturgy 9:00am Greek School 6:00pm Great Vespers Prophet Nahum Philaret the Merciful

Strict Fast Days

Oil & Wine are permitted

Fish is permitted



St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church
2350 Dempster Avenue
Des Plaines, IL 60016
(847) 827-5510
www.stjohnthebaptistgoc.org



Above: Members of GOYA 1997-2001 and their children in GAODS preschool

the Forerunner

Fall 2018

What’s Inside

“So, we may become true icons of Christ”	1&2
Mary & Matha House Benefit ad.	3
Poetry by Jim Kandilas.	4-5
Philoptochos calendar	6
Mad Hatter Photos.	7
Philoptochos membership lunch speech	8, 10
Philoptochos Stewardship Form.	9
AIDONIA	10
IOCC.	12-13, 16
Info on Ellinomatheia	14
Photos from the 1st day of school.	15
Fall Festival ad	17
Prayer List	18
2018 Christmas Drive	18
Six week calendar.	19