



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

the Forerunner

November/December 2017

2017 National Conference of Orthodox Schools held at St. John's this past summer

DES PLAINES, IL: On Friday and Saturday, August 11 and 12, 2017, St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church and Guardian Angel Orthodox Day School, both of Des Plaines, hosted the 4th Annual National Conference on Orthodox Christian Schools.

Over 100 participants from 27 schools located in 11 states in the United States and the nations of Albania and Estonia gathered with the hope that each would leave the conference not only with practical knowledge and skills, but additionally with new energy to continue the challenging but blessed work of building up Orthodox Christian schools. The title of the conference, 'FIRST THINGS FIRST: THE PRIORITY OF ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN EDUCATION' was inspired by the recommendation of the Chancellor of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago, Bishop Demetrios of Mokissos, to use the following quote from St John Chrysostom to guide their efforts:

“With us everything should be secondary compared to our concern with children and their upbringing in the instruction and teaching of the LORD.”

After Divine Liturgy on Friday, the conference began with an Opening Prayer by His Eminence Metropolitan Nicolae of the Americas of the Romanian

Orthodox Church and His Grace Bishop Demetrios of Mokissos of the Greek Orthodox Church. Parish Priest Fr John Rallis of the host St John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church gave a welcoming statement followed by the Keynote Address “The Orthodox Faith Incarnate in Schools” by Bryan Smith of Texas.

In his opening statement, Bryan Smith introduced

himself as having “been in education now for about 30 years. Originally as a teacher, then in a variety of administrative roles, and then as a headmaster. Most of my career has been in private Christian schools- until most recently when I join the group I’m now with which operates charter schools in two states.”

Bryan Smith envisioned “We wish to see multiple Orthodox schools in every major city of this nation that will support the life of Ortho-

dox Christians, bring the faith to new generations, and engage our culture in all its most profound assumptions. Orthodox schools working together from their own theological roots and according to best practices will assume a prominent position in the field of education—as the best schools academically and culturally for students of any background.”

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theForerunner

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a parish of the Greek
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of Chicago

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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 theForerunner can be sent to

forerunner@stjohnthebaptistgoc.org

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“We have an opportunity to become the new school option for Americans seeking solid academics, character formation, and traditional Christianity. From such a position we have the real potential to transform our society by sending countless thousands into the professions and vocations of our society who have been nurtured for years in the rich soil of the Orthodox faith.” Bryan Smith continued.

He proclaimed “We hold something precious to pass on to another generation of American Christians. We have something true, unchanging, and life-giving to impart to a nation rich with goodwill but impoverished by materialism and narcissism. Schools are one of the ways that we can leaven the lump of our society. We all hope to incline our students toward Christ, to prepare them to live well in this world, and to share our faith with a generation looking for stability in the shifting sands of the American cultural landscape.”

Bryan Smith concluded his address with “Let us find our way—together—to preserve the treasures God has placed in our hands—the treasures of truth, and the treasures of those darling persons—or children.”

The original article can be found at:

<http://chicago.goarch.org/news/2017/8/14/conference-on-orthodox-christian-schools>





Anger

By Jim Kandilas

“ For unless you forgive people their trespasses, your Father will not forgive yours.” (Matthew 6,15)
Forgive the sins of others with all your heart.
Forgiveness, then, will be given to you for the effort on your part.”

“ Thus, you will become children of your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5,45)
If you never become angry nor do any harm to others.”
By the grace of God you gain self-control.
And restore peace in your heart and soul.

Our Lord, Jesus Christ, carried out everything He taught.
All saints returned good to their persecutors instead of evil.
Let your turbulent lives become a constant prayer.
And all conflicts and trespasses will become small barrier.

“ Love of God and hatred of any manner, are absolutely incompatible with one another.” writes St Maximos the Confessor.
Anger harms your soul even if it is not heard or not expressed.
Pray to our Lord for the person that provokes you to be blessed.

Say, “ Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God , have mercy on me a sinner.”
The demons will be cast out and the angels will come back.
The anger caused by life’s overwhelming pressure.
Will abate before expressing it by a speech or gesture.



Ευγένεια

Δημήτρης Κάνδηλας

Στην Β Επιστολή προς τον Τιμοθεο απο την φυλακή στη Ρώμη,
Ο Απόστολος Παύλος γράφει, οτι αυτός έζησε την διαγωγή του.
Και αντεληφθη τις εσωτατες του προθέσεις.
Έτσι δείχνοντας οτι διατήρησε τις ευγενικές του διαθέσεις .

Η ευγένεια ευρισκεται στην καλλιεργημένη ψυχή.
Και αντικαθρεπτιζει την εσωτερική ομορφιά.
Η υψηλή καταγωγή δεν υπόσχηται ακμαίες κοινωνικές σχέσεις.
Η αλαζονεία, υπεροψία, ματαιοδοξία, και περιφρωνιση είναι μάταιες σκέψεις.

Αναζητησε την ευγένεια στην διακριτικότητα και αγαπη.
Ειναι στολισμένη με το ένδυμα της πραοτητας και ανοικτής καρδιάς.
Συμπεριφέρεται ανιδιοτελώς και ανεπηρέαστα σε μικρούς και μεγάλους.
Γίνεται αξιοθαύμαστη, αξιοζήλευτη, και γεμάτη απερίγραπτου καλλους.

“ Τύπος γίνου των πιστών, εν λόγω, εν αναστροφή.”
Ο Απόστολος Παύλος προτρέπει εις την Α προς τον Τιμοθεο Επιστολή.
Διατήρησε την ευγένεια στη δημόσια και ιδιωτική ζωή.
Η ειλικρίνεια και η ευγνωμοσύνη θα γλυκαίνουν την αναπνοή.

“ Απόκτησε χείλη γλυκά, και όλους φίλους θα τους έχεις.”
Γράφει ο Άγιος Ισαακ ο Συριος.
Απομάκρυνε την παρακμή στις ανθρώπινες κοινωνικές σχέσεις.
Και αγκάλιασε την φιλοξενεια και αγαπη σ’ολες τις πνευματικές σκέψεις.

Δημήτρης. Κανδηλας



CHRISTMAS CARD ART CONTEST



DRAW OR PAINT AN ORIGINAL PICTURE OF CHRIST'S NATIVITY

The winning picture will be chosen as the cover for the parish Christmas greeting card, and will be mailed to the entire parish in December. The winner will also receive a parish bookstore gift card.

- Use watercolors, acrylics, pencils, crayons or any medium you want.
- The maximum recommended size is 8 ½" x 11".
- Put your name, phone # and e-mail address on the back of your artwork and submit to the church office by Sunday, December 3.
- Open to St. John the Baptist stewards of all ages.
- More than one entry per person may be submitted.

Sponsored by
St. John the Baptist
Philoptochos



Questions?
Call Cathy Tshilds at
847.909.4157

Guardian Angel Orthodox Day School
presents



Follow
THE *Star*

Friday, December 15, 2017

6:30 pm Refreshments

7:00 pm Performance



St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church
Great Hall



Letter to the Parish

Dear Parents:

The new Ecclesiastical Year is in full swing. All three schools - our Guardian Orthodox Day School (GOADS), the Pythagoras Greek School, and our Sunday School - are in full session. As you prepare your children each day, I urge you to pay particular attention to safety, specifically the safety of our children.

Safety is really everyone's responsibility, which is why I am personally asking for your involvement to help champion a parish-wide initiative specifically directed towards keeping our children safe at church. What is specifically required? Parental Supervision.

Our Building and Maintenance Committee and I have identified certain areas of our facilities which can pose as a safety risk and require parental supervision at all times. In addition, because of the lack of supervision in the past, these areas have been vandalized and have resulted in high repair costs. Thus, a few areas will be restricted only to authorized individuals of our building and maintenance committee.

Parental Supervision required at:

- Narthex
- Parking Lot
- Kitchen
- Stage
- Balcony

Restricted:

- Mezzanine above Stage
- Area above Custodian Offices (Second Level)
- Roof Access Points

We ask that you abide by our request and thank you in advance for doing so. We look forward to a spiritually fruitful and safe new year!

In Christ,

Jerry Pavlatos
Parish Council President

Jim Pelegris
Building & Maintenance Committee Chairman

In honor of John Gatsis and in loving memory of Mary Gatsis

On Sunday, November 5, 2017, Guardian Angel Orthodox Day School honored John and +Mary Gatsis at the school's annual Gala. Surrounded by the more than 500 guests at the Gala, including John and Mary's four children and many other family members, John Gatsis was presented with an icon depicting the Lord saying "Let the children come to me." Mr. & Mrs. Gatsis were honored for their lives of service, aspiring to the ideals of our Orthodox Christian Faith and Hellenism and with gratitude for their love for children and investment in the next generation of Orthodox Christians.

John Gatsis was born on April 9, 1925, in Chicago to Ourania and George Gatsis. From the time he was a young boy, he has been inspired by his mother's unshakeable faith in God. She was born in Acadia, Greece, and came to the US at age 17. George Gatsis came to the US in his twenties. Both of John's parents had been previously married to spouses that died in the flu epidemic. They each brought a child into the marriage and had two children together. John was their last child.

John entered the Army Air Force after high school and completed officer training as a lieutenant; he became a navigator and saw action in World War II. He maintained contact with the crew for decades after the war. With one of his close friends, George Anos, John started the Greek veterans' group, which he still leads today, meeting monthly though their numbers have dwindled significantly. After his service, the GI Bill enabled John to enter The Illinois Institute of Technology where he studied chemistry.

John and Mary met at a church dance. Mary was born in Chicago on November 10, 1925, to immigrant

Greek parents, George and Katherine Seletos. She attended Socrates School, and after graduating high school worked as a secretary. John and Mary used the same EL line—she to go to work and he to go to school, and Mary often skipped her train to meet up with John. John told Mary that he would date a woman only 3 times, so when he asked her out for a fourth time...They were engaged for four years, until John finished school.

John and Mary married at the Assumption Church on February 12, 1951. John became a research chemist at Universal Oil Products (UOP) in Des Plaines. Mary became a homemaker. They had 4 children: Renee, Karen, Diane, and George, all of whom were baptized at the Assumption Church. John and Mary continued living in Chicago and were closely aligned to the Assumption Church. Besides attending church with their family every Sunday, John served on the school board of Plato School adjacent to the church, and their two eldest children attended Plato.

In 1962, the Gatsis family moved to Des Plaines so that John could be closer to his work and began attending St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church. There John and Mary joined the choir. Mary had a beautiful voice, and although John did not consider himself a singer, he joined to share the experience with Mary. Over the years, they joined several other choirs, all religious, including the Pan-Orthodox Choir. Besides improving John's singing, the choir involvement provided opportunities to travel to Greece and the Holy Land.

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*Father John, John Gatsis, Irene Robaidek and
at the GAODS Gala on November 5, 2017*



*John and Mary Gatsis at their 60th wedding anniversary
celebration.*



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP 2017-2018



WITH YOUR SUPPORT, PHILOPTOCHOS CAN CONTINUE TO:

- **HELP THOSE IN NEED**...Pay utility bills for local residents threatened with shut-off, and provide rental assistance
- **SUPPORT OUR PARISH**...Currently fundraising for a new walk-in cooler
- **PURCHASE GROCERIES**...Ongoing purchase and delivery of groceries to 'Avenues', a home for mentally challenged adults in Park Ridge
- **CONTRIBUTE TO OUR METROPOLIS**...Donated proceeds from our last 'Have A Heart' event to Philoxenia House
- **OUTREACH TO PRISONERS**...Send monthly mailings to prisoners, providing spiritual encouragement
- **NURSING HOME VISITS**...Monthly visits to Greek American Nursing Home, bringing cheer and treats

If you don't have time for hands-on activity, you can help by simply filling out the form below to be a supporting member. Our goal is that **every woman** in our parish will join the Philoptochos Society.



St. John the Baptist Ladies Philoptochos Society 2017/2018 MEMBERSHIP SIGN-UP FORM

Member Name: _____

Spouse Name: _____

Address: _____

Home #: _____ **Cell #:** _____

Email Address: _____

Philoptochos annual membership donation:

_____ \$35 _____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ \$250 _____ Other Amount

Please make checks payable to St. John the Baptist Philoptochos Society

Mail this form and your membership donation to:

St. John the Baptist Philoptochos Society
2350 E. Dempster Street, Des Plaines, IL 60016

In honor of John Gatsis and in loving memory of Mary Gatsis (cont from page 7)

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When Fr. John Chakos came to St. John the Baptist in the 1970's, his bible study classes had a profound effect on John and Mary, and they became more devout and more involved. They were instrumental in the outreach programs at the church, especially WINGS. John still shops for and delivers food for Christmas meals for WINGS participants. Mary ran the bookstore, and John, as a Parish Council member, became (and still is) passionate about stewardship, believing that parishioners should support the church without fundraisers. John headed the Stewardship Committee for many years.

John worked as a research chemist at UOP until he was 72. He loved his job and created over 100 patents (inventions) for work in oil and coal that are still applicable today. After retiring, John and Mary devoted more time to the church culminating in their each receiving the Medal of Saint Paul, the

highest honor bestowed by the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.

Mary died in November, 2011, and the family wished to honor her memory in a special way. Fr. John Rallis suggested scholarships for the Guardian Angel preschool, which later extended to students in preschool through sixth grade. John felt this was an apt tribute to his wife's memory because of her love of children. The scholarships would provide children with the opportunity to have the Christian values taught in their homes reinforced at school, as well.

As the youngest of his family, John is the only surviving member, but along with his four children and their spouses, he has 8 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. He is also considered the patriarch of Mary's family and is fondly referred to as "Father" John, the spiritual leader of the family. He gives the Easter prayer and "sermon" every year at the big family gathering. John often speaks of the importance of agape, of family, and of faith in God.

John and Mary Gatsis on their wedding day.



THE GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF CHICAGO
The Family Synaxis Ministry and the
St. Iakovos Retreat Center invite you to a

COUPLES RETREAT

*"Renewed Day by Day:
Enlivening our Marriage Commitment"*

All married couples are invited to participate! Please join us
as we spend a weekend together in Faith and fellowship!

**Friday, January 26th -
Sunday, January 28th 2018**

Keynote Speaker: Fr. Alex Goussietis

Cost per couple: \$398
(Includes all meals, lodging, and materials)

Register by January 10th: www.gosirc.org
(The registration form is located directly on the home page)

For additional information,
please contact the St. Iakovos
Retreat Center at:

events@gosirc.org

St. Iakovos Retreat Center
920 224th Avenue
Kansasville, WI 53139
Office Phone: (262) 864-9090
Website: www.GoSIRC.org

St. John Philoptochos

Our Philoptochos has started the year on a busy note! We kicked off the year on Thursday, September 21, with a beautiful membership breakfast meeting. We were honored to have Dr. Antonia Koulis-Antonakos, one of our own stewards and past president as guest speaker.

Dr. Antonakos is currently on the Metropolis board. She spoke to us about the importance of being a Philoptochos member, what inspired her to get involved and join, and her experiences as president and now as a Metropolis board member. Her speech is included on page 15 of this newsletter.

In September, we held a clothing drive to help the Hurricane Harvey victims in Corpus Christi, Texas, who were in urgent need of children's clothing. Donations of baby formula, diapers and baby wipes were also collected. Sixty-seven boxes were sent directly to St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in Corpus Christi. We want to thank everyone who contributed these much-needed items. May God bless you for your contributions!

On Saturday, October 14 we held a prosphoro and artoclasia lesson. The lesson was given by Georgia Woulas. We learned about the importance of offering a prosphoro to Christ, the proper way it should be made in prayer, and how to make artoclasia. More than 30 ladies attended the event. God willing, we are planning to have another lesson next year.

Other events we're already had this year:

- Sunday, October 21: Souvlaki, gyros and loukoumades sale - all proceeds of which will go towards a new walk-in cooler for our Church
- Sunday, October 29: Artoclasia after Divine Liturgy, in honor of our patron Saints Cosmas and Damianos;
- Philoptochos sponsored coffee hour during a presentation by Eva Economy about IOCC.
- Sunday, November 12: Inclusion Awareness; Christmas Card Contest kick off; Pastichio Sale
- Thursday, November 23: Philoptochos Thanksgiving Coat Drive

We would love for all women to become members of Philoptochos! Please feel free to contact Anthoula Tsiampas at Atsiampa@hotmail.com or (847) 275-7415 with any questions or comments.



My Journey to Philoptochos and why it is Vital to Join

by *Dr. Antonia Koulis-Antonakos*

As a full time working mother and an immigrant to this country, my mom really didn't have much time to fully and actively participate in Philoptochos. As a matter of fact, other than a few desserts I helped her prepare, I really didn't know what this ministry was all about. Fast forward, now, some 30 plus years, and another young working mother - myself - was also trying to provide a better future for her family. New to the parish of St. John, with few friends and acquaintances here, I jumped at the opportunity to join Philoptochos when my dear friend Renee asked me to join. What could be the downside? I would be with other Greek Orthodox women, especially my friends, make new friends, have fun, and maybe bake a few desserts. Boy was I wrong! This one casual decision actually changed my life because it led to a lifelong passion, commitment and dedication that transcended the social aspect of Philoptochos and, along with the church, helped define me as a Christian woman, mother and "sister". Of course, I enjoyed being with my friends, but I realized this ministry was more than just a social hour. We had a very important purpose and mission. A lot of people were relying on us to give them money for basic needs, medical attention, and overcoming natural disasters. In addition, our funds were used to support seminarians, retired clergy, as well as our own church and schools. However, all this takes a lot of hard work and many hands. Unlike other church ministries, Philoptochos is funded solely by the monies it earns through its own fundraising efforts. It was a lot of hard work.

Were there times I wanted to quit? Many times of course. I had a lot of excuses not to stay; young kids, full -time job, family obligations, and a multitude of other responsibilities that come with everyday life and managing your own business. None of these were good enough though. I realized then, and I continue to remind myself now (when those same thoughts creep up in my mind), that as a Christian I HAVE to make time to give back, not only to the community but to the Lord Himself. I felt compelled to thank the Lord for all the blessings and spiritual comforts He provided for me and my family during happy and tragic

times, and wanted to show my gratitude with the only way I knew how. As a Christian Orthodox mother, I wanted to serve as an example to my daughters. It was so important to me to show them how our faith comes alive and prove to them that by working with others in the church you not only can have fun but be productive as well. It was for this reason, I brought (or as they would say at times, dragged) them to most meetings and events and had them help, despite their sometimes vehement protestations. As for myself, Philoptochos taught me many things as well, among them, tolerance, patience, and humility. Dealing with so many different personalities can often be challenging, especially when they belong to a group of strong headed women. And so I survived, and learned, and I continue to learn and comprehend, that despite all seeming differences, Philoptochos works because we all made and continue to make it work. We all understand and continue to know in our hearts, that in the end, despite all our different approaches to situations, we were and are laboring for a noble cause whose fruits from our efforts were well worth it and much needed.

In conclusion, I urge all women to become an active member of Philoptochos. While a check ensuring your membership is truly and deeply appreciated, your physical help and presence are equally and extremely important and necessary. As the largest women's Christian ministry in the U.S., we as incoming members don't need to reinvent the wheel. That template has already been created for us by previous dedicated generations. We have a responsibility, though, as Orthodox women and as the dedicated right hand of the Church to perpetuate and make sure that this wheel continues to roll well. It is vital that as some members depart, others step up and take their places. Whether old or young, seasoned with experience or enthusiastic with fresh new ideas, everyone has something to contribute. Finally, when we combine all these talents with faith, in an atmosphere of humility, devoid of pride and ego, our seamless cooperation with each other, can only lead to works that will not only be successful and fruitful but a true testament to the Glory of God for the benefit of others. Please, then, don't hesitate! Come and join us now!

IOCC Celebrates 25 Years

Inspired by Faith, Driven by Purpose

On March 10, 1992, Orthodox Christian leaders came together to form International Christian Charities (IOCC) to be a hand of compassion reaching out to those in need in times of war, civil unrest, natural disaster, and economic hardship. IOCC is the official humanitarian relief agency of the Assembly of Canonical Bishops of the United States of America. Since their first airlift to Russia in 1992, IOCC has grown into a professional relief and development agency serving people in more than 60 countries by providing over \$600 million in program services.

Please consider participating in the 11th Annual 5K Walk/Run to support IOCC's global humanitarian relief programs, to be held at Saint Andrew's Greek Orthodox Church on Saturday, October 7, 2017. Register at: iocc.org/chicago or contact Eva Economy at econoe2@aol.com.

IOCC, in the spirit of Christ's love, offers emergency relief and development programs to those in need worldwide, without discrimination and strengthens the capacity of the Orthodox Church to so respond.

IOCC continues praying for the safety and well-being of those affected by Hurricane Harvey and its aftermath. IOCC's Frontliners, highly trained clergy and laity, have deployed and are providing emotional and spiritual care to people affected by the storm. After the waters recede, IOCC's work to clean and rebuild homes will continue into the weeks and months following the storm's devastation.



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: Eudoxia, Paraskevi, Maria, Panagiotis, Hristos, Ioannis

For guidance: Ekaterini, Renee, John, Angela

For comfort: Vasiliki

For high blood pressure: Theodora

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, Thomay, Pappoulas, Ioannis

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, Maria

For faith and hope: Evagelia, Maria

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, Carole

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

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, Theodora, 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, Panagiota

For employment and spiritual strength: Mariam

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



2017 Christmas Drive

11/12/17 thru 12/03/17

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 and families in need.

This year, we will once again be supporting FOCUS North America. FOCUS is an Orthodox Christian charity that serves the working poor and homeless in the United States by providing jobs, housing, and other sustainable programs that lift Americans out of poverty. To learn more about this organization, feel free to visit their website at www.focusnorthamerica.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 12th. We will provide you with the necessary information you will need to support FOCUS North America. You will have the option to either choose an ornament with specific items listed, or you can make a direct donation to the organization.

Please feel free to email Dimitra Karadimas (bkaradimas@sbcglobal.net) with any questions regarding this wonderful cause.



Baptisms

June 17th: Theofania

Parents: Anthony & Georgia
Giannopoulos

Sponsors: Konstantinos & Kaliopi
Apostolopoulos

June 17th: Demetra

Parents: Jacob & Heather Drakakis
Sponsors: Antonios & Vicky
Adamopoulos

June 18th: Anna

Parents: Chris & Anastasia Dagiantis
Sponsors: Konstantinos & Sara Svakis

June 24th: John (Spiro)

Parents: Tom & Elizabeth Vaggelatos
Sponsor: Angela Vaggelatos

July 1st: Vasilios

Parents: George & Sofia Passia
Sponsor: John Mau &
Constantine Mau

July 8th: Cosmas

Parents: Peter & Abby Vlahos
Sponsors: Presvytera Nikolia Hasiakos

July 23rd: Anastasia (Nikoletta)

Parents: Peter & Sophia Siatas
Sponsors: Nick & Rosa Lolos

July 23rd: Fotini (Spyridoula)

Parents: Peter & Sophia Siatas
Sponsor: Margarita Samiotis

August 26th: Kiriaki

Parents: Tom & Stavroula Loukas
Sponsor: Dimitra Drosos

September 23rd: Marinos

Parents: Anthony & Georgia
Taxakis
Sponsors: Dean & Marika
Christopher

September 24th: Penelope

Parents: George & Gloria
Marinakos

Sponsors: Dimitri Kandalepas &
Angela Koumi

October 8th: Georgia Sotiria
Parents: Lukas & Patty Poulidakis
Sponsor: Sotiria Colamussi

October 14th: Stavroula

Parents: Agathoklis & Angela Bebonis
Sponsors: Louie & Eleni Regakis

October 14th: Constantine (Emanuel)

Parents: Matthew & Christina Moore
Sponsors: Peter & Ashley Samaras

October 14th: Emanuel

Parents: Nicholas & Terrah Gavrilos
Sponsor: Jenny Macias

October 14th: Elias (Lars Toli)

Parents: Timothy & Lisa Loucopoulos
Sponsors: Louis & Patricia Eliopoulos

October 21st: John

Parents: John & Jennifer Barnett
Sponsor: Constantine Pantazis

October 22nd: Nathaniel

Parents: Anthony & Andriana Grippio
Sponsor: Patty Fabian



Funerals

June 2nd: Evanthia Talidis Dernis

June 2nd: Constance E. Gekas

June 3rd: Catherine Michalopoulos

June 20th: Dimitra Trakas

June 26th: Phoebos Apollon Miltiades Bolaris

June 27th: Nicholas Zampetis

June 29th: James P. Rempas

July 1st: Peter M. Coorlas

July 3rd: Sophia Bolos

August 19th: John Nikitas

October 9th: William C. Tsenekos

October 13th: John Kretekos

October 17th: Vasili Antonopoulos

October 18th: Louis G. Korolis

October 28th: Kalliope S. Perry



Weddings

June 3rd

Levan Mgelashvili &
Adriana Romero Dey
Sponsor: Sopico Badagaze

June 10th

Nicholas Nastos & Ioanna Chiotis
Sponsors: Tom & Petroulas
Poulos

June 17th

Alexandros Giannos &
Kaitlin O'Shanna
Sponsors: Spiros & Georgia
Giannos

July 2nd

James John Caronis &
Erika Maria Pares Alonso
Sponsors: George & Tina
Kotsionis

July 9th

Theofanis Sarantopoulos &
Isaia Tselengidis
Sponsor: Chrysanthy Tiggas

July 23rd

Paul Minetos & Demitra Lalli
Sponsors: John & Diana
Moustoukas

July 29th

Constantinos Someris &
Sarah Fleming
Sponsor: George Someris

October 15th

Bronil Benjamin & Vasi Tsoronis
Sponsor: Theodora Bitsas

Six Week Calendar • November 19 - December 30, 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
November 19 8:30am Orthros & Divine Liturgy (Main Church) 9:15am Sunday School Stewardship Sunday 9th Sunday of Luke Prophet Obadiah	November 20 9:00am 40-day Divine Liturgy 6:00pm Basketball Practice 7:00pm MHDF Dance Meeting St. Gregory, the Righteous of Decapolis	November 21 8:00am Orthros & Divine Liturgy 6:00pm Thanksgiving Coat Setup 7:00pm Jr. GOYA Presentation of the Theotokos	November 22 9:00am 40-day Divine Liturgy Holy Martyr Cecilia St. Kallistos Xanthopoulos	November 23 8:00am 40-day Divine Liturgy 11:00am Feed My Neighbor St. Amphilochius, Bishop of Iconium St. Gregory, Bishop of Agrigentum	November 24 9:00am 40-day Divine Liturgy Pope Clement of Rome St. Peter, Archbishop of Alexandria	November 25 8:00am Orthros & Divine Liturgy 6:00pm Great Vespers Apodosis of the Presentation St. Catherine the Great
November 26 8:30am Orthros & Divine Liturgy (Main Church) 9:15am Sunday School Stewardship Sunday 13th Sunday of Luke St. Stylianos	November 27 9:00am Orthros & Divine Liturgy 6:00pm Basketball Practice Martyr James the Persian St. Nathaniel St. Arsenios	November 28 7:00am 40-day Divine Liturgy 9:00am HOPE 6:00pm Philoptochos Board Meeting 7:00pm Parish Council Meeting 7:00pm Metropolis Camp Meeting St Auxentius & 16 Martyrs	November 29 9:00am 40-day Divine Liturgy 9:45am Mary & Martha Women's Bible Study 5:00pm GSL 6:00pm Basketball Practice 7:20pm Adult Greek Intro Class Martyrs Paramonos & Philumenos	November 30 8:00am 40-day Divine Liturgy 6:30pm GAODS Visitors Night 7:00pm Paraklesis & "Gladsome Light" 8:30pm Men's B-ball Practices Apostle Andrew	December 1 9:00am 40-day Divine Liturgy 8:00pm GOYA Bubble Soccer St. Theocletus the Wonderworker St. Philaret	December 2 8:00am Orthros & Divine Liturgy 9:00am Greek School 1:30pm Adult Greek Advanced Class 5:00pm Great Vespers 6:30pm Pan-Orthodox Christmas Concert St Porphyrios St. Myrope of Chios
December 3 8:30am Orthros & Divine Liturgy (Main Church) 9:15am Sunday School 5:30pm Basketball Practice 14th Sunday of Luke Prophet Sophonias St. John the Hesyacht	December 4 8:00am Orthros & Divine Liturgy 6:00pm Basketball Practice St. Barbara St. John of Damascus	December 5 8:00am Orthros & Divine Liturgy 10:30am HOPE (after Liturgy) 7:00pm Jr. GOYA St. Savas Holy Martyr Diogenes	December 6 8:00am Orthros & Divine Liturgy 9:45am Mary & Martha Women's Bible Study 5:00pm GSL 6:00pm Basketball Prac 7:00pm Sunday School Meeting 7:20pm Adult Greek Intro Class St. Nicholas	December 7 9:00am 40-day Divine Liturgy 10:30am Philoptochos Board Meeting 7:00pm Paraklesis & "Gladsome Light" 8:30pm Men's B-ball Practices St. Ambrose Martyr Athenadorus	December 8 9:00am 40-day Divine Liturgy 6:30pm JOY/Faith Christmas Caroling St. Patapius	December 9 8:00am Orthros & Divine Liturgy 9:00am Philoptochos 10:30am Ushers meeting 1:30pm Adult Greek Advanced Class 6:00pm Great Vespers Conception of St. Anna St. Hannah the Righteous
December 10 8:30am Orthros & Divine Liturgy (Main Church) 9:15am Sunday School 1:45pm Home Basketball Games Parish Council Elections 10th Sunday of Luke St. Menas & Companions	December 11 9:00am 40-day Divine Liturgy 6:00pm Basketball Prac St. Daniel the Stylite St. Luke the New Stylite	December 12 8:00am Orthros & Divine Liturgy 10:30am HOPE (after Liturgy) 7:00pm Greek School Board Meeting St. Spyridon St. Peter the Aleut	December 13 9:00am 40-day Divine Liturgy 9:45am Mary & Martha Women's Bible Study 5:00pm GSL 6:00pm Basketball Prac 7:00pm GAODS School Board Meeting 7:20pm Adult Greek Intro St. Herman of Alaska	December 14 9:00am 40-day Divine Liturgy 11:00am Golden Agers at Silver Stallion 7:00pm Paraklesis & "Gladsome Light" 8:30pm Men's B-ball Practices Martyrs Thyrsus & companions	December 15 8:00am Orthros & Divine Liturgy 7:00pm GAODS Christmas Program St. Eleutherios & Anthia St. Susannah the Deaconess	December 16 9:00am 40-day Divine Liturgy 9:00am Greek School 1:30pm Adult Greek Advanced Class 6:00pm Great Vespers St. Theophania St. Modestos, Bishop of Jerusalem
December 17 8:30am Orthros & Divine Liturgy (Main Church) 9:15am Sunday School 12:00pm Children's Day for Church Library 2:00pm YAL KrisKingle Market 2:30pm Home Basketball Philoptochos Bake Sale 11th Sunday of Luke Phophet Daniel	December 18 9:00am 40-day Divine Liturgy 6:00pm Basketball Prac Martyrs Sebastian & Companions St Michael the Confessor	December 19 7:00am 40-day Divine Liturgy 7:00pm Parish Council Meeting 7:00pm Jr. GOYA St. Gregentius, Bishop of Ethiopia St. Aglaia	December 20 9:00am 40-day Divine Liturgy 5:00 pm GSL 7:00 pm Sunday School Staff Meeting 8:00 pm Adult Basketball St. Ignatius the God-Bearer	December 21 9:00am 40-day Divine Liturgy Martyr Juliana of Nicomedia	December 22 7:30am Great Royal Hours 9:00am 40-day Divine Liturgy Great Martyr Anastasia of Rome	December 23 9:00am 40-day Divine Liturgy 6:00 pm Great Vespers 10 Martyrs of Crete
December 24 8:30am Orthros & Divine Liturgy (Main Church) 6:00pm Great Vespers & Christmas Caroling Eve of Nativity St. Eugenia	December 25 8:30am Orthros & Divine Liturgy Nativity of Our Lord Adoration of the Magi	December 26 8:00am Orthros & Divine Liturgy Synaxis of the Theotokos	December 27 8:00am Orthros & Divine Liturgy 9:45am Mary & Martha Women's Bible Study 6:00pm Basketball Practice 7:00pm Metropolis Camp Meeting St. Stephen St. Theodore the Confessor	December 28 8:30pm Men's B-ball Practices 20,000 Martyrs burned in Nicomedia	December 29 14,000 infants (Holy Innocents) slain by Herod in Bethlehem	December 30 6:00 pm Great Vespers Great Martyr Anysia St. Gideon the New

Strict Fast Days

Oil & Wine are permitted

Fish is permitted



St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church
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 www.stjohnthebaptistgoc.org



The Ellinomatheia awards ceremony was held on November 3, 2017. Pictured here are the students who passed the Ellinomatheia exam: Eleni Maratos, Georgina Tsiampas, Leila Skoulikaris, Maria Pavlatos, Christos Karageorgis, Demostheni Nikopoulos.

the Forerunner

November/December 2017

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