

THE CHAMPION

A Monthly Publication of Saint Athanasios Greek Orthodox Church

NOVEMBER 2024



MESSAGE FROM FR. PANAGIOTIS

Calling to mind St. Paul's admonition "in everything give thanks" (1 Thess 5:18), St. John Chrysostom offered these final words as he ended his life: "Glory to God for all things!" We might expect a great saint of the Church to end his life in this way, with a reflection and thanksgiving for all the blessings he has received. However, the circumstances around St. John Chrysostom's falling asleep make this utterance even more powerful than they seem at first glance.

St. John was born in Antioch in the mid 4th century. There he became a priest and most prominent preacher in the city, gaining fame throughout the Byzantine Empire. He was particularly loved by the common people and the poor. When the episcopacy of Constantinople became vacant, he was brought to the capital of the empire and made Archbishop of Constantinople. There he continued to preach rousing sermons that supported the poor and needy and called the ruling elite of the capital to care for their neighbors.

No one was excluded from St. John's messages of simplicity and humility, even the empress. When Empress Eudoxia had silver statues of herself installed around the city, St. John was critical. This criticism led to St. John being exiled, then called back from exile, before finally being exiled one last time. On his second exile, St. John, who was already physically frail, was subjected to a death march from Constantinople to the eastern edge of the Black Sea. Reaching the end of his strength, St. John uttered his famous words: "Glory to God for all things!" and reposed.

Seeing how St. John Chrysostom ended his life with an outpouring of gratitude even in the midst of suffering, it is beautiful providence that we celebrate his falling asleep on November 13th, so close to the National Holiday of Thanksgiving. The example he lays down for us is that regardless of our circumstances, the glory of God never wanes. It is always appropriate to offer thanks to the Lord.

This is a lesson that was learned well in the early years of Soviet Russia. Metropolitan Tyrphon of Turkestan was a bishop residing in Moscow during some of the worst state sanctioned persecution against the Church. As he watched hundreds of thousands of Churches being confiscated or destroyed, and clergy and lay members of the Church being executed or sent off to concentrations camps, he composed a long series of hymns. He gave this new service the title -An Akathist of Thanksgiving: Glory to God for all things! Obviously through this title, Metropolitan Tryphon was hoping to invoke the spirit of St. John's gratitude. This service was unknown for many years, until it was discovered in the personal effects of Fr. Gregory Petroff, a priest who died in 1940 in a Soviet prison camp.

**BIBLE STUDY
PODCASTS**
WITH FR. PANAGIOTIS

**SCAN
TO LISTEN**

While the Akathist of Thanksgiving: Glory to God for All Things may have an association with perseverance in times of extreme persecution, it is replete with joy. A spirit of gratitude, awe, and wonder prevail throughout the hymn. I can think of no other piece of hymnology that so completely articulates the gratitude that God's creatures have for all that He provides.

This year in anticipation of our national day of Thanksgiving, we will be gathering as a community on Tuesday, November 26th to sing the Akathist of Thanksgiving and to render Glory to God for all things.

MEMORIALS

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| John Kapetaneas (40 day) | Nicholas Spinthourakis (30 Years) |
| Athanasios Vogiatzis (2 years) | Demetrios & Despoina |
| Anna Baroukas (2 years) | Papadimitriou (6 years) |
| Athena Digrindakis (3 years) | John Digrindakis (10 years) |

BAPTISMS

- Sophia Papacostas (Daughter of Dimitrios & Shan Papacostas)
- Lily Koutsos (Daughter of Thomas & Chiszenric Koutsos)
- Zoe Cynthia Saxen (Daughter of Daniel & Marisa Saxen)
- Anthony Paul Madden (Son of Jerry & Katrina Madden)
- Joseph Lawlor (Son of Alexis and Joseph Lawlor)

WEDDINGS

- Matt Calhoun & Elena Danos
- Alex Marion & Preethi Marion

PARISH COUNCIL

"That all should be saved and come to the knowledge of truth."

We will have our Fall Parish Assembly on November 3rd. Please join us in St. Mathew Hall after the Divine Liturgy for coffee hour and the assembly. The 2025 budget will be presented along with other important topics about the administration and spiritual life of our parish.

Parish council elections will be held on Nov 17th. Thank you to all of those that filled out the application for the election.

The ministries are all up and running. There is something for everyone to benefit from. Here is a list of the many ministries that St. Athanasios has to offer: Sunday School, Joy, Jr. Goya, GOYA, College Ministry, Choir, Men's Group, Soul Sisters, Philoptochos, Parish Council, Bible Study, AGAPE Ministry, Coffee Hour, Welcoming Committee, Altar Boys, Chanters, Discover Orthodoxy, and Bookstore. Please reach out to us if you are interested and would like more information on our ministries.

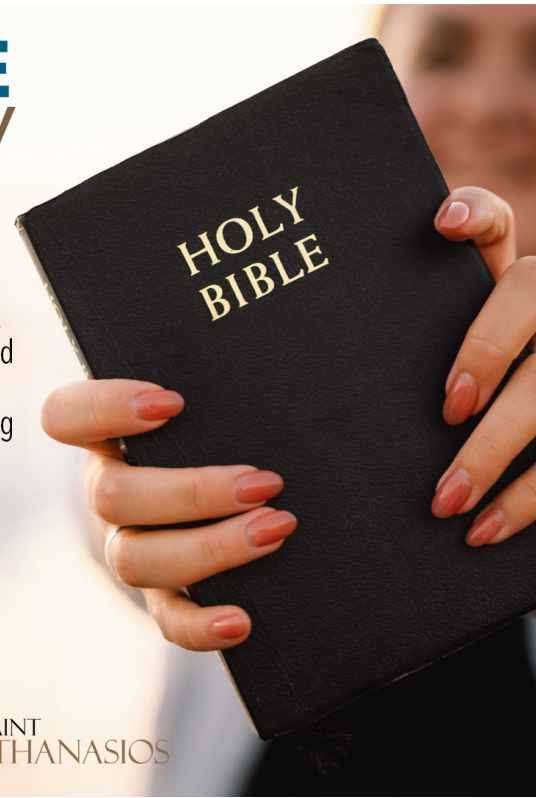
Thank you for your generous giving towards stewardship and the capital campaign. Your time, talents, and treasures are making a difference within and outside of the parish. 2024 is now coming to an end. If you haven't already done so, please fulfill your 2024 commitment. The 2025 campaigns will be launching soon so be on the lookout for more information and pledge cards.

Have a Blessed Month!

Brian McAnally
Parish Council President

BIBLE STUDY

Join our Bible Study this Fall as we explore Creation (Genesis 1-3). Sessions are the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month at 11am starting September 18th.



SAINT
ATHANASIOS

PARENT UNIVERSITY

Join us for Parent University, where we'll explore the challenges facing today's youth and how to navigate them as Orthodox Christian parents. Enjoy light refreshments, engaging discussions, and insights from knowledgeable guest speakers.

OCTOBER 29, 2024: DIRECTION OF YOUTH MINISTRIES

JANUARY 21, 2025: AN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN HOUSEHOLD

APRIL 29, 2025: TACKLING CHALLENGES IN TODAY'S ORTHODOX YOUTH

Classes begin at 7:00 PM.
Scan QR Code to Register.



YOUTH MINISTRIES

JOY MEETING



November 15, 2024 | 6:00 PM

Calling all Kindergarten to 5th grade students, join us for our November JOY meeting where we will discuss stewardship and the Entrance of the Theotokos! Please RSVP in the Remind App:



JR GOYA MEETING



November 21, 2024 | 7:00 PM

Calling all 6th to 8th grade students, join us for our Jr. GOYA Meeting and Fireside! We'll play a game related to salvation and plan our next volunteer project. RSVP in the Remind App:



GOYA MEETING

November 12, 2024 | 6:00 PM

GOYA will partner with Philoptochos to pack sack lunches for Hessed House on Tuesday, Nov. 12th. We will meet at church at 6 pm. Text @stagoya to 81010 for text updates about all of our events.



CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

DECEMBER 15

The planning stages for the beloved Saint Athanasios Christmas Pageant are underway! The Christmas Pageant will be Sunday, December 15th immediately following Divine Liturgy. More information and rehearsal dates to be announced. Please consider sharing your love for this beautiful story with our Church Parish by signing your kiddo up for the pageant! If your child is interested in a role in the Christmas Pageant, please sign him/her up using the link below. Speaking and non-speaking roles are available!

For more information or to sign your child up scan the QR Code.



PARISH CALENDAR

All services are live streamed on our Facebook Page & YouTube Channel.

Orthros begins at 8:30am with Divine Liturgy following at 9:30am (unless otherwise noted below)

Friday, November 1st

Divine Liturgy - SS Cosmas & Damianos

Saturday, November 2nd

6pm Trivia Night

Sunday November 3rd

Divine Liturgy - 5th Sunday of Luke
11am Parish Fall Assembly

Tuesday, November 5th

6:30 pm Parish Fall Assembly back up date

Wednesday, November 6th

11am Bible Study
1pm Blood Drive

Thursday, November 7th

7pm Vespers - Synaxis of the Archangels
Holy Taxiarchai & St Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church
7373 N Caldwell Ave, Niles, IL 60714

Friday, November 8th

Divine Liturgy - Synaxis of the Holy Archangels
7pm Vespers - St Nektarios
St Nektarios Greek Orthodox Church
133 S Roselle Rd, Palatine, IL 60067

Saturday, November 9th

Divine Liturgy - St Nektarios

Sunday, November 10th

Divine Liturgy - 8th Sunday of Luke
11am Choir Rehearsal for Akathist of Thanksgiving
12pm Sunday School Christmas Pageant
Rehearsal #1

Tuesday, November 12th

6pm Philotochos: Pack lunches for Hesus House
6pm GOYA Meeting
7pm Discover Orthodoxy

Wednesday, November 13th

Divine Liturgy - Saint John Chrysostom

Thursday, November 14th

Agape Ministry Meeting at Hellenic Museum
6:30pm HCHC Fundraiser
7pm Spiritual Committee: Soul Sisters

Friday, November 15th

6pm - JOY Meeting

Saturday, November 16th

Divine Liturgy - St Matthew the Apostle and
Evangelist

Sunday, November 17th

Divine Liturgy - 9th Sunday of Luke
Philotochos Sunday
11am - Parish Council Elections

Tuesday, November 19th

7pm Discover Orthodoxy

Wednesday, November 20th

11am Bible Study

Thursday, November 21st

Divine Liturgy - Entrance of the Theotokos Liturgy
7pm JrGOYA Meeting

Sunday, November 24th

Divine Liturgy - 13th Sunday of Luke

Monday, November 25th

Divine Liturgy - St Katherine

Tuesday, November 26th

7pm Akathist of Thanksgiving

Friday, November 29th

7pm Vespers - St Andrew
Saint Andrew Greek Orthodox Church
5649 N Sheridan Rd, Chicago, IL 60660

Saturday, November 30th

Divine Liturgy - St Andrew the Apostle
11:30am College Ministry Lunch

COFFEE HOUR

Coffee-hour host(s) are needed! Please help us promote fellowship, community, and friendship following the Divine Liturgy by hosting Coffee-hour. There are several open dates. Please call the church office to sign-up today!

We are looking to expand our Coffee Hour Ministry. If you are interested in joining, please reach out to the office.



FOOD PANTRY



Thank you for your support!

Please donate food that is Healing to the Hungry - Lean Proteins (Saturated Fats), No Sodium, Low Sugar Fruits, Whole Grain Items. No dented cans or open packaged foods. Expired food can not be accepted. This month's request is:

Spices, Seasoning Packets, Herbs & Bouillon Cubes

Please contact Betty Roussos at bettyroussos@yahoo.com with any questions.

PHILOPTOCHOS

We have lots going on in November! By the time you read this, we will have had our Trivia Night. Proceeds from this fundraiser will be directed to the IOCC Hurricane Relief Fund and Radical Love in Geneva.

This is our second year partnering with Radical Love as our designated local philanthropy. We currently are working on our New Neighbor fund. Radical Love has provided a list of 50 items to help a family set up in an apartment. To make a donation to purchase one of these items, contact Leah Fanning at leah_fanning@yahoo.com.

We will be partnering with GOYA to pack sack lunches for Hesus House on Tuesday, Nov. 12th. We will meet at church at 6 pm to help our high schoolers. We will need a volunteer to deliver the lunches to Hesus House on Wednesday, Nov 13th. If you're available please contact me at philoptochos@saintathanasios.com.

Philoptochos Sunday is on Nov. 17th. We will have a memorial and artoclasia during liturgy, and are also hosting coffee hour. Please keep in mind it is a lenten period so everything should be lenten/vegan. If you have any questions, contact Mary Kyes at mkyes11@comcast.net.

It is time to renew your membership for the 2024-25 year. You can Zelle your dues to philoptochos@saintathanasios.com (Thanea Walter is the registered recipient). If paying by Zelle, please note "membership" with your payment. Any membership questions can be directed to Samantha Dulles at ssdulles@yahoo.com.

Our Angel Tree will be up in St. Matthew Hall in early November. This is a long-standing parish tradition that we are happy to continue this year. Please take a tag and make a child's Christmas a little brighter! Questions can be directed to Connie Patsavas-Romios at cpats64@msn.com.

Finally, our Christmas party will take place Thursday, Dec. 5th at 6:30 at the home of Kristin Standish. We will be collecting grocery store gift cards for Father Panagiotis to distribute to those in need. We hope to see you there!

Sue Manos
Philoptochos President

SOUL SISTERS

All women of St. Athanasios ages 18 and above are invited to participate and explore the theme for this ecclesiastical year: "Stillness and Prayer as a Cure for our Busy Lives"

Soul Sisters will meet monthly on Thursday evenings in St. Matthew Hall from 7-8:30 pm. Whole group fellowship followed by small group discussions.

Mark your calendars for the second Thursday: Nov. 14, Dec 12, Jan. 9, Feb 13.

Questions? Contact Maria Lambrou:
makokoslambrou@yahoo.com or 708-269-9991



WE ARE PHILOPTOCHOS JOIN US!

OUR MISSION

To be a sisterhood of belonging for all women to experience love and support. We do this by sharing the joy of purposeful service and inviting others to participate. We invite all women of St. Athanasios to become Philoptochos members.

2024 CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS

We sent **\$1000** to Radical Love from our Bingo Night.

We donated **\$3000** to OCF from our Glendi.

We supported the Maui Fire Relief Fund with a **\$1000** donation.

We awarded a **\$1500** scholarship to a High School senior.

We provided **\$2000** in assistance to members of our community.



SPIRITUAL GROWTH CORNER

"I am very grateful for being given the opportunity to be a part of the group visiting Assumption Greek Orthodox Church last Month. We witnessed the evidence of God working in the world in the form of fragrant oil streaming from some of the Icons in the church. Being in the presence of this miracle deeply humbled me and filled me with a profound reverence so powerful in those moments standing before the Icons, and will be with me for the rest of my life. The experience has left me humbled, and strengthened my faith in and love for God and all his glory".

Darin Northern

STEWARDSHIP

Thank You for your Generous Giving

On October 13th, the Stewardship Committee sponsored the coffee hour to recognize your Generosity and thank you for your generous giving of your Time, Talents, and Treasures to your beloved St. Athanasios. Your giving is visible in every aspect of our church life. It helps those within and outside our Church Community, and is core to our beliefs.

During the liturgy, Fr. Panagiotis connected the daily Gospel (Luke 8:5-15) to our acts of Stewardship and Generosity during his sermon (Sowing and Stewardship).

At the completion of liturgy, three short talks were given by the following individuals in support of our Stewardship program and provided examples of your generous giving:

- Brian McAnally – Parish Council President
- Voula Ortega – Youth Director
- Pete Nassos – Stewardship Co-Chairman

Brian and Pete focused on the concepts of Stewardship and Generosity, while Voula presented a new Youth Stewardship program that will be deployed in 2025 (Stewardship Series - October 13, 2024).

During the talks, the definitions of Stewardship and Generosity were provided:

- **Stewardship** is our grateful and loving response to God's love, grace and gifts to us. It is our personal commitment to God and His Church to ensure its vitality and continuous growth by joyfully and sacrificially offering of our talents, time and treasures that we have received from Him. Stewardship puts our faith in action and demonstrates our trust in God.
- **Generosity** reflects the gratitude we have to God for the gifts He has given us. It is not just about money; it is the generosity of volunteerism, dedicating time and talents, as well.

These definitions and Father's sermon were all aligned with the core principle that our Generosity shows our gratitude to God for the gifts he has given us.

Thank you again for your generosity which is endless.

In His Service,
Elli Koulos and Pete Nassos

SPIRITUAL GROWTH



PILGRIMAGE: Holy Trinity Orthodox Cathedral in Chicago, IL (a spiritual and architectural icon). Saturday, December 7, 2024

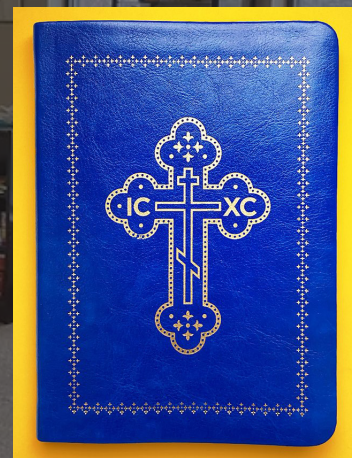
- St. John Kochurov of Chicago, was the builder of the church and the first clergy martyr of the Russian Revolution.
- St. Tikhon of Moscow consecrated the church in 1903, and later became Patriarch of Moscow.
- Louis Henry Sullivan designed the cathedral and parish structures.

We will serve as volunteers for Cathedral's Kitchen (CK) - a service-based ministry that helps feed those in need and connects them with valuable resources and services to assist them on their journey. Afterwards, we will do a tour noting the spiritual and historical significance of the cathedral.

Contact Spiro J. Deligiannis (630-677-5014) if interested in participating and/or if you have any questions.

BOOK STORE

Hadi Poulakidas recommends, *The Encounter Prayer Book: The Common Prayer Discipline of St. Philip the Evangelist*, to nurture your prayer life as a fundamental goal. During times of need when we seek fulfillment, our relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ can always be our safety net. This beautifully done book is filled with Daily Prayers, Prayers for Intercession, Hymns to the Mother of God, the Psalms, Prayers of Preparation for Holy Communion, and more. Stop in our Bookstore to purchase this valuable book in time for the grateful season of Thanksgiving.



MEN'S GROUP

Thank you all for your support and participation in this ministry!

Men's Workshop - Busyness & Stillness

Fr. Panagiotis is leading a four-part workshop on busyness and stillness. Our first workshop was October 3. Please join our next workshop on **Monday, December 9.**

IOCC Annual Walk the Walk

Thank you to the Men who participated in the International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) event on October 5 that raised money to support their humanitarian work.

Hesed House Dinner

Thank you for your participation in the Hesed House dinner service on Thursday, October 23. The Hesed House ministry, led by Bill Collins, will now be the lead for future dinners. We plan to work with Bill and the team to continue this successful and rewarding event.

Blood Drive - Wednesday November 6

The Men's Group will sponsor a blood drive on Wednesday, November 6, 1:00pm-5:00pm. Every donor will save up to 3 lives!

Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology Fundraising Event – Thursday, November 14

Holy Cross is a graduate school of theology that educates and forms Orthodox Christian men and women for service to the Church and society. Whether preparing for the holy priesthood or for lay vocations in which they can put their faith into action, HCHC students make up a vibrant community engaged in pursuing the eternal truths of Christ's message of salvation for all the world. Join us to help raise funds for Chicago Metropolis Seminarians attending Hellenic College/Holy Cross School of Theology.

You can like and follow our Facebook page by searching for "Men's Group of St Athanasios Greek Orthodox Church"

If anyone is interested in learning more about the Men's Group, please contact Spiro Hountalas (naperspike@aol.com), Peter Metrou (pnmetrou@gmail.com), Bill Collins (bctc@sbcglobal.net) or Nick Dagiantis (ndagiantis@gmail.com).

DISCOVER ORTHODOXY



Join us to learn more about the Orthodox Church. Discover Orthodoxy teaches the basics and foundations of Orthodox Christianity, our theology, worship, spirituality, and practices. The class is intended both for those who are preparing to join the Orthodox Church and for Orthodox Christians who wish to deepen their understanding of the faith. Classes start at 7pm on the following dates:

11/12	1/14
11/19	1/28
12/10	2/11
12/17	2/25

AGAPE MINISTRY

The Agape ministry met last month in St Matthew Hall for lunch and a discussion about how to avoid online scams. After we enjoyed some intense games of BINGO! We had a great afternoon of fellowship and fun.

Next month we are headed downtown!! Please join us on November 14th as we tour the Hellenic Museum. We will be meeting at the church at 9:30am and taking a bus together. After the museum, we will have lunch in Greek town. There is limited space so please call or email Samantha if you want to go. Agape@saintathanasios.com or 312.504.4448. Cost is for lunch only.



BLOOD DRIVE

Stronger Together

Donate
Blood

WEDNESDAY
NOVEMBER

6

1:00PM -5:00PM

Helpful tip:
Make sure to eat a healthy
meal and drink plenty of
water before donating.

PHOTO ID REQUIRED.

SAINT ATHANASIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH BLOOD DRIVE

Sponsored by the Men's Group

Located in St. Matthew Hall
at 1855 E 5th Ave, Aurora

Appointments appreciated; walk-ins welcome!

To schedule, go to www.versiti.org/IL, load the
Versiti Donor app, call (800) 7TO-GIVE, or scan the
QR code below.

EVERY DONOR WILL SAVE UP TO 3 LIVES!



Call (630) 723-2589 with
eligibility questions.





METROPOLIS
OF CHICAGO

Fundraiser

CHICAGO METROPOLIS
SEMINARIANS ATTENDING
HELLENIC COLLEGE/
HOLY CROSS SCHOOL
OF THEOLOGY

NOV 14

EMPRESS BANQUET HALL

ADDISON, IL

6:30 PM COCKTAILS

7:30 PM DINNER

**Join us to help raise funds for
Chicago Metropolis Seminarians
attending Hellenic College/Holy
Cross School of Theology**

Holy Cross is a graduate school of theology that educates and forms Orthodox Christian men and women for service to the Church and society. Whether preparing for the holy priesthood or for lay vocations in which they can put their faith into action, HCHC students make up a vibrant community engaged in pursuing the eternal truths of Christ's message of salvation for all the world.

Proceeds for this event will directly benefit the current and future seminarians attending Holy Cross and will be the future leaders of our Orthodox faith.

TICKETS \$125 (PERSON) | \$1,250 (TABLE)

**KEYNOTE
SPEAKER**



**DR.
DEMETRIOS
KATOS**

President, Hellenic
College Holy Cross
Greek Orthodox
School of Theology



RSVP BY NOV 7

SCAN QR CODE

OR CALL 630.851.6106



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NOVEMBER 2024



St. John
Chrysostom



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THE CHAMPION



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