

Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral of Chicago

# THE MESSENGER

Fall

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

2015



Today marks the crowning of our salvation and the revelation of the mystery before all ages. For the Son of God becomes the son of the Virgin, and Gabriel proclaims the grace. Wherefore, we also cry out with him, "Hail, O full of grace, the Lord is with you."

*~Apolytikion of the Annunciation*

*The Messenger*  
is the official publication of  
Annunciation Greek Orthodox  
Cathedral of Chicago

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annunciationcathedralchicago.org

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Sunday Services:  
Orthros 8:15 a.m. and Divine Liturgy follows

**CLERGY**

His Eminence Metropolitan Iakovos of Chicago  
His Grace Bishop Demetrios of Mokissos  
Fr. Stamatios G. Sfikas.....Cathedral Dean  
Nicholas Nikokavouras.....Dean Emeritus

**PARISH COUNCIL OFFICERS**

Nicholas Hlis.....President  
Dean Alonistiotis.....Vice-President  
George Alonistiotis.....Secretary  
Johnathon Bacon.....Treasurer

**AUXILIARY OFFICES**

Demetra Knoch.....Ladies Philoptochos  
Ellen Best Zrazik, Faye Peoponis & Connie Marina-  
kis .....Stewardship Committee  
Taso Devetzis.....Internet & Technology Director

**STAFF**

Demetrios Chingas.....Head Chanter  
Nicholas Gavaris.....Chanter  
Pangratis Papacostas.....Chanter  
Demetri Damaskus.. .....Chanter  
Myron Chornomaz.....Chanter  
George George.....Choir Director  
Debbie Demolaris.....Organist  
Kim (Ourania) Kontopoulos.....Parish Administrator  
Panagiotis Rogaris.....Neokoros

**PROGRAMS**

Fr. Stamatios Sfikas.....Altar Boy's  
Polyxeni Kapsalis.....Sunday School Director  
Fr. Stamatios Sfikas .....Adult Religious Education  
Pres. Katerina Sfikas.....Mommy and Me  
Rea Nicolaou.....Young Adults  
Georgia Gavaris.....Feed the Hungry

Beloved Stewards and Friends of the Cathedral,

I pray that this new publication for our Cathedral Family will serve as an edifying source of both practical and spiritual information of the happenings at our beloved Annunciation Cathedral.

It is my hope that you will take the time to read the information that is found in this publication. Through the efforts of our devoted staff and parishioners, it is our hope to print this publication and have it sent to the homes of our paid stewards 4 times a year. "The Messenger" will serve as a source of information of what is taking place at the Cathedral both Liturgically and Socially. Through spreading the information to each of you it is our wish to have as many of our faithful attend the various events so that we may continue to further become a closer spiritual family.

If you wish to see something added to these publications or if you wish to submit something of significance to our community publication please do not hesitate to email us and all reasonable requests will be taken into consideration by our Editors.

Looking forward to many more issues to come!

Enjoy!

***BREAKFAST WITH JESUS***

One of saints of the Church has written concerning the reading of God's word:

"Those who have been walking in a beautiful garden do not leave it willingly without taking away with them four or five flowers, in order to inhale their perfume and carry them about during the day."

Canon 27 says that one should read the Scriptures at home at dawn. Jesus said to His disciples one morning as He appeared to them after the Resurrection, "Come, let us have breakfast" (John 21). We can have breakfast each morning with Jesus Who is the Bread of Life, through His word. "To sense the presence of God in the Bible, one must learn to be present to God in the Bible," said Abraham Heschel.

Have you had breakfast with Jesus this morning?

***~Daily Vitamins for Spiritual Growth, Vol 1***

## FROM THE DESK OF FR. STAMATI



I pray that your summer has been spiritually uplifting and refreshing!

Many of us have visited the Chicago Botanic Gardens and know it to be a place of ever-changing beauty. Every time I have visited the garden I have come away enriched with the splendor of the color and the variety of plants and blooming flowers. Seeing these areas make Presbyteria Katerina and I eager to rush to our local nursery, buy beautiful plants, and enjoy a ready-made garden at our own home.

As I think of this beauty many questions come to my mind. Why is it that we can't have a ready-made Christian life? Why can't we buy the fruit of God's Spirit somewhere? "I'd like two flats of joy, and all the goodness that's in bloom, please. And while you're at it, throw in a sack of patience too." We can laugh at such a thought, knowing full well that the elements necessary for a joyful Christian life can't be packaged or bought. They must be grown and cultivated on our own. I recall seeing an army of men and women working in the gardens, weeding, feeding and watering. When asked how much time is devoted to these plants, I was told it depends on the plant itself. It became clear to me that the results in the nursery did not happen by chance but rather the result of careful planning and human effort to accomplish the goal.

I was reminded of our Savior's words recorded in John 15, which we could call the "gardener's chapter" of the Bible. Jesus makes an acute observation about how to grow in your Christian life. He says you've got to be attached to the Source. "I am the The Vine," He says, "you are the branches; he who abides in Me, and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing" (John 15:5). For your life to bloom and bear fruit of the Spirit, you must cultivate your relationship with your Father. The flowers and harvest are evidence of His work in your life. Because Jesus was part of a predominantly agrarian society, it shouldn't surprise that Jesus uses agricultural examples when He taught. In fact, gardening is a fairly significant theme throughout Scripture. King Solomon in his wise writings bequeathed to all the simple knowledge of growth in our faith. In Ecclesiastes 3:1, he writes: "To everything there is a season, A time for every purpose under heaven. A time to be born, And a time to die; A time to plant, and a time to pluck what is planted."

September marks the beginning of a new ecclesiastical year. A new church year means renewed efforts towards living and celebrating the events of Christ's life, the lives of the saints and other feast days that mark time spent as God's people. Growing is a tough process...that is why we need to celebrate every bit of spiritual growth we experience. Growth in the garden of your Christian life depends on one main principle: how attached you stay to the Source.

During the beginning of a new ecclesiastical calendar, the Church invites us to become reconnected to the Source of Life. Attendance and participation in Holy Communion is vital to our growth as well as instruction in our Faith. Register your children in our Sunday school, and as parents renew your commitment to learning. Participate in our Adult Religious Studies Program, join the Mom and Tot Program. Get involved! The Church offers so many opportunities for growth. Let's bring a spade and dig to discover the treasure that awaits us concerning the eternal truths of God and His divine plan for us.

Is the garden in church perfect? No, but neither is the world in which we live a perfect place. The cultivation of a spirit of worship will enable you to produce a life filled with the fruit of the Spirit. Christ is working through you to lift his Church to a plentiful harvest. Plants are not able to exist without God and neither can we.

A blessed and fruitful Ecclesiastical New Year to all!

# *STEWARDSHIP...WHAT IS IT ALL ABOUT.....*

Orthodox Christian Stewardship is a way of life, which acknowledges accountability, reverence, and responsibility before God. A primary goal of Stewardship is to promote spiritual growth and strengthen faith. Becoming a Steward begins when we believe in God, to whom we give our love, loyalty and trust and act on those beliefs. As Stewards, we affirm that every aspect of our lives comes as a gift from Him. Stewardship calls on the faithful to cheerfully offer back to God a portion of the gifts with which they have been blessed.

An Orthodox Christian Steward is an active participant in the life of the Church. The parish encourages all who accept the Orthodox Faith to become practicing Stewards. Each year the Steward is expected to carefully review his or her personal circumstances and make a commitment of time, talent, and treasure to support the Parish and her Ministries, which in turn support the National Ministries of our Archdiocese, Metropolises, and institutions.

Effective stewardship ministry is not a single event or project. Rather, it is going out to our people wherever they are in their walk with Christ, listening to their concerns, helping them to realize their importance as branches of the True Vine and encouraging them to offer their gifts in His service. We use various resources to support our efforts, but unless we meet with our people personally, sincerely listen to their ideas and concerns, and share a vision for the future of the parish, our efforts will not reach their full potential.

In *Oriented Leadership* their book on Orthodox Christian leadership, Williams and McKibben define stewardship as the call of the faithful to share willingly the gifts that God has bestowed on them, including sharing these gifts for God's work. Stewardship is devotion and service to God and His Church as persons, as families, as a Parish, as a Metropolis, as a National Church, and as the Church Universal. Stewardship is our active commitment to use ALL our time, talent and treasure for the benefit of humankind in grateful acknowledgement of Christ's redeeming love.

Stewardship is caring for the needs of others.

Stewardship is offering one's self to God as He offered Himself to us.

Stewardship is what a person does after saying "I believe..." as proof of that belief.

*- Williams and McKibben in Oriented Leadership*

In the words of the late Fr. William Chiganos of Holy Apostles Church in Westchester, Illinois, "...people don't give to need; they give to vision.... Church people don't stretch their giving because of need to meet the budget; they give more because they are able to see a vision of people being reached and God's purposes being accomplished in the life of the church and its ministry." Parishes with successful Orthodox Christian Stewardship Programs have found that incredible support is unleashed from Stewards who unselfishly and joyfully offer their time, talent and treasures, which in turn enhances the spirituality and ministry of the local parish.

# 2015 STEWARDS OF THE CATHEDRAL

Mr. Adam Adams  
Mrs. Kay Adams  
Mr. & Mrs. Agamemnon & Athanasia Alonistiotis  
Mr. George Alonistiotis  
Mr. & Mrs. Konstantine & Lia Alonistiotis  
Ms. Betty Angelos  
Mr. & Mrs. Peter & Kathy Apostal  
Mr & Mrs. Nicholas & Anna Apostolopoulos  
Mr. James Ascot  
Ms. Lucille Ashford  
Ms. Anastasia Assimakopoulos  
Mr. & Mrs. Leo & Elaine Athas  
Mr. Constantine Bacil  
Mr. Jonathan Bacon  
Mrs. Eleni Badounas  
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Balourdos  
Mrs. Maria Balourdos  
Mrs. Sophia Balourdos  
Mr. Peter Best  
Mr. & Mrs. Matthew Brown  
Mr. Brian Bullard  
Mrs. Bertha Capulos  
Mr. & Mrs. Anastasios & Alexandra Chatzakis  
Mr. & Mrs. James & Stella Chingas  
Mr. Myron Chornomaz  
Mrs. Rita Christie  
Mr. & Mrs. Angelos & Maria Christopoulos  
Mr. Peter Cotseones  
Ms. Evangeline Dallas  
Mr. & Mrs. Angelos & Debbie Damolaris  
Mr. and Mrs. George & Christina Daratzis  
Mr. & Mrs. William & Maria Davlantes Loesch  
Ms. Patricia Davlantes  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert & Rose Decker  
Ms. Elizabeth Deligiannis  
Mr. Taso Devetzis  
Mr. Anthony Difulgio  
Messrs. Tom and Gust Dimoulias  
Mr. Nicholas Doulas  
Mrs. Frances Douros  
Ms. Daisy Farmakis  
Mr. & Mrs. Nick & Rea Festos  
Mr. Markus Fimpel & Mrs. Marina Provatas  
Mr. & Mrs. Spiros & Mary Gabriel  
Ms. Dimitra Galanis Knoch  
Ms. Georgia Gavaris  
Mr. Nicholas Gavaris  
Ms. Panagiota Gavaris  
Mr. & Mrs. Frank & Anastasia Glapa  
Mr. & Mrs. John & Tula Gogolak

Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Gouletas  
Ms. Harriet Gulis  
Ms. Kay Haldes  
Ms. Cathy Hareas  
Mr. Michael Hlis  
Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas & Denisse Hlis  
Ms. Susan Homan  
Mr. & Mrs. Gregory & Paula Kachoris  
Mrs. Anastasia Kakis  
Mr. & Mrs. Evan & Elaine Kakis  
Ms. Georgia Kakis  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul & Monica Kalaitzidis  
Ms. Patricia Kamberos  
Mrs. Anne Kangles  
Mr. & Mrs. Bill & Amy Kapsalis  
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Kapsalis  
Mr. Thomas Kapsalis  
Mr. Anastasios Karahalios  
Mr. Konstantinos Karahalios  
Mr. & Mrs. Nikitas & Vasiliki Karahalios  
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy & Elizabeth Karalis  
Mr. & Mrs. Peter & Magdalene Karampelas  
Mr. & Mrs. Sophocles & Elena Karapas  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert & Diana Karis  
Mrs. Mia Kasimos  
Mrs. Beatrice Kay  
Mr. & Mrs. Constantine & Angeline Kiamos  
Ms. Nectaria Kidonakis  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard & Linda Kirby  
Mr. Nicholas Koclanis  
Mr. & Mrs. Louis & Irene Kocsis  
Mr. Evangel Kokkino  
Ms. Angela Kolettis  
Mr. & Mrs. Christos & Anastasia Komissopoulos  
Mrs. Chrysanthe Kondos  
Mr. Paul Kontogiorgis  
Mr. & Mrs. Pantelis Kotsiopoulos & Mrs. Marina Mavidis  
Mr. & Mrs. John & Joanne Koudounis  
Mrs. Marietta Kuchuris Feldman & Dr. Edwin Feldman  
Mrs. Penelope Kyriakopoulos  
Mr. James Lemonides  
Ms. Elena Limbert  
Mrs. Sylvia Litsos  
Mr. Angelo Loukas  
Ms. Georgia Loukas  
Ms. Anastasia Marakis  
Mr. Peter Margetis  
Mr. & Mrs. Christ & Constance Marinakis  
Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Marlowe

Ms. Sophie Maroulis  
Mrs. Marina McCarthy & Mr. Nicholas Jaworsky  
Ms. Angeline McDermed  
Mr. & Mrs. Tim & Tiffany McQuillen  
Mr. Constantine Megremis  
Ms. Stephanie Meletis  
Mr. & Mrs. Stamatis Memmos  
Mrs. Georgia Menegas  
Mrs. Margaret Merikas  
Mr. & Mrs. Demetrios Metropoulos  
Ms. Pauline Michael  
Mrs. Gerry Mihas  
Mr. & Mrs. Ranko & Georgia Miocinovic  
Mrs. Bessie Miologos  
Mr. Jack Mitsakopoulos  
Ms. Rea Nicolaou  
Mr. & Mrs. Iraklis & Debbie Nikokavouras  
Rev. Fr. and Presbytera Nicholas & Kalliope Nikokavouras  
Mr. & Mrs. Anastasios & Ginnie Nikolaou  
Mr. & Mrs. Keith Olsen  
Ms. Georgia Page  
Mr. & Mrs. Louis & Lisa Palerias  
Mr. & Mrs. Louis & Lisa Palivos  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael & Helen Panagos  
Dr. Irene Panayotou  
Mrs. Janice Pantazelos Tavlos  
Mr. Pangratis Papacosta  
Ms. Elizabeth Papadakos  
Mr. Nick Papadopoulos  
Mr. Bill Papagiannopoulos  
Mr. & Mrs. Tasso & Angelica Papagiannopoulos  
Ms. Mary Pappas  
Mr. Ted Pappas  
Ms. Joanne Paris  
Mr. & Mrs. Sean & Sofia Patton  
Mr. Gus Pavlopoulos  
Mr. Arthur H Peponis, II  
Mr. & Mrs. Harold & Faye Peponis  
Mr. & Mrs. James & Melissa Peterson  
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony & Rebecca Petropoulos  
Mrs. Marina Phelps  
Mr. & Mrs. Nick Pipikios  
Mr. & Mrs. George & Jean Polous  
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony & Elena Poulos  
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph & Brit Poulos  
Mr. & Mrs. Nick & Georgia Poulos  
Mr. Peter Poulos  
Mr. & Mrs. Evangelos & Anna Proimos  
Mr. Andrew Roman & Dr. Evangelia Fotopoulos  
Mrs. Zoe Rummel  
Mr. & Mrs. Stavros & Katerina Salapatas

Mr. & Mrs. John & Mary Secares  
Rev. Fr. and Presbytera Stamatios G. Sfikas  
Mr. & Mrs. Dean & Joanne Stavrakas  
Mr. & Mrs. George Stavrakas  
Mr. Symeon Stavrakas  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul & Barbara Stavropoulos  
Ms. Margo Stellings  
Dr. & Mrs. Nicholas Svarnias  
Mr. & Mrs. Tony & Dorothy Theodosis  
Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas & Anastasia Therman  
Mr. & Mrs. George & Kathleen Thermos  
Mr. John Thomas  
Mr. Gregory Thorson  
Mr. Chris Tomaras  
Mrs. Artemis Trebellas  
Dr. & Mrs. George & Cynthia Tsatsos  
Mr. & Mrs. Bill & Maria Tsourapas  
Mr. William Tygielski & Mrs. Tonia Grafakos  
Mr. & Mrs. Isidoros & Jacqueline Brown Vardaros  
Mses. Themis and Theodora Vasils  
Ms. Esther Velis  
Ms. Melissa Weiner  
Mr. & Mrs. William & Maria Welch  
Ms. Peggy Zimmar  
Dr. Lynn Zoiopoulos  
Mr. & Mrs. Greg & Ellen Zrazik

**STEWARDSHIP STATISTICS AS OF**  
**SEP. 1st 2015**

**176 families have pledged**

**We have 390 families as registered stewards  
which means that 214 families of the Cathedral  
have not yet pledged for 2015**

**Total amount of Stewardship paid to date:  
\$84,425**

**Average pledge of the 176 families combined  
\$482**

***Please become a steward today!  
We cannot continue to minister and grow without your  
love and support! It is never too late to become a steward  
of the church!***

***Call the office today and make your contribution via credit  
card or mail your 2015 contribution today!***

# *Parish Registry*

## Baptisms

- ~ February 16 - Maria, daughter of Adam & Helen Lee, Steve Johnson, Godfather
- ~ March 7 - Eleni, daughter of Nikolaos & Vasiliki Doulas, Georgia & Dimitri Dimitrakopoulos, Godparents
- ~ April 14 - Markia Eleanora, daughter of Paul & Burcake Kontogiorgis, Gerasimos Kontogiorgis, Godfather
- ~ April 18 - John Nicholas, son of William & Maria Loesch, Patricia Davlantis, Godmother
- ~ April 19 - Christopher Nicholas, son of Nick & Anastasia Kladouris, Andrew & Trisa Rood, Godparents
- ~ May 16 - Isabella, daughter of Anthony & Niki Letsos, George & Maria Costopoulos, Godparents
- ~ May 23 - Theodore William, son of Joseph & Britt Poulos, Christos Markos, Godfather
- ~ May 24 - Phillip, son of Markos & Marina Fimpel, Alexia Provatas, Godmother
- ~ June 13 - William George, son of Bill & Amy Kapsalis, Nick DiCosola, Godfather
- ~ July 11 - Alexandra Maria, daughter of Sean & Sophia Patton, Eva Sypsisk & Alexia Katsaros, Godparents
- ~ September 5 - Georgia Elizabeth, daughter of Jimmy and Elizabeth Karalis, Theodore Vrehas, Godfather

## Chrismation

- ~ May 31 - Rachel Varvouletos, Pres. Katerina Sfikas, Sponsor

## Weddings

- ~ April 18 - Panagiotis Sikaras & Nectaria Kidonaki, Maria Fourniaris, Sponsor
- ~ April 25 - James Peterson & Melissa Wiener, Paul Peterson & Sara Pessimisis, Sponsors
- ~ May 23 - Peter Karampelas & Magdalene Marcyan, Anthony & Sandra Koutouvidis, Sponsors
- ~ May 23 - Mark Anthony Marlowe & Julia Dirks, Louie & Amanda Kantzavelos, Sponsors
- ~ June 20 - Panagiotis Proimos & Andrea Wallace, Andrew & Kleanthi Batistatos, Sponsors
- ~ July 11 - William Tygielski & Tonia Grafakos, Stethia Criner, Sponsor
- ~ July 12 - Andrew Roman & Evangelia Fotopoulos, Stephen Roman & Helen Fotopoulos, Sponsors
- ~ August 22 - Nicholas Jaworsky & Marina McCarthy, Sophia Litsas, Sponsor

## Funerals

- ~ January 19 + George Capulos
- ~ February 6 + Georgia Anagnost Paps
- ~ February 18 + Theodore Pappas
- ~ February 23 + Jerry S. Konstandatos Kondos
- ~ April 7 + Constance Page
- ~ April 8 + Georgina Rummel
- ~ July 29 + Ernest (Anastasios) Neokos

**Have you heard of the various ways you could stay informed about what's happening at the Cathedral?**



*Like us on our Facebook Page at  
Annunciation Greek Orthodox  
Cathedral of Chicago*



*Instagram*

*Follow us on Instagram*



*Contact the Cathedral office  
to be added to our email  
server*

# ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAMS

**NEW  
Revamped  
Program!**

### Sunday School

4 year olds - H.S.

*Sundays after  
Holy Communion*

### Catechism Classes

For those interested in  
becoming Orthodox  
Christians

*Time and date pending  
registrations*

### Studies of the Faith

For Orthodox adults  
interested in learning  
more about the faith

*Time and date pending  
registrations*



FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL:  
312-664-5485

The Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral has tirelessly spread and taught the word of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to the Faithful of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago. Our Religious Education Programs provide classes for children and adults alike. These programs under, the guidance of Fr. Stamati, allow for the advancement and better understanding of the Orthodox Faith.

To register for any of our Religious Education Programs or if you have any questions about the programs offered, please contact Fr. Stamati or the Cathedral office.

**These ministries are offered  
during the academic year:  
September - May**



# Gold Coast

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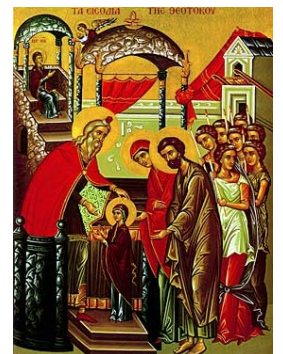
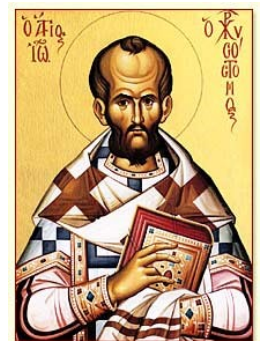
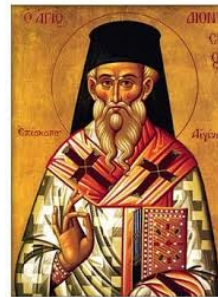
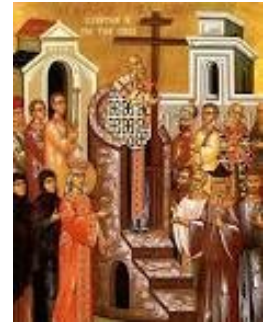
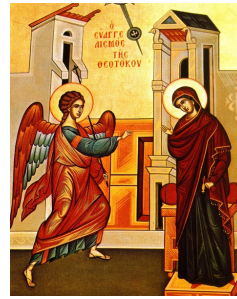


**A BIG THANK YOU** to our Chairmen, the members of the parish council all our volunteers, stewards and our many donors for making this years Fest a GREAT Success! See you for our 2016 Gold Coast Greek Fest!

2015

# Liturgical Calendar

September 8	8:30 a.m. Orthros & Divine Liturgy +Nativity of the Theotokos
September 14	8:30 a.m. Orthros & Divine Liturgy +Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross <b>STRICT FAST DAY</b>
September 15	9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy +St. Nikitas the Great Martyr <i>2nd Anniversary of Ordination to Priesthood of Fr. Stamati</i>
September 26	8:30 a.m. Orthros & Divine Liturgy +Falling asleep of St. John the Theologian
October 3	8:30 a.m. Orthros & Divine Liturgy +St. Dionysios
October 20	8:30 a.m. Orthros & Divine Liturgy +St. Gerasimos of Cephalonia & St. Artemios
October 23	8:30 a.m. Liturgy of St. Iakovos +Feast Day of St. Iakovos Metropolitan Iakovos Nameday Celebration
October 26	8:30 a.m. Orthros & Hierarchical Divine Liturgy +St. Demetrios (Service at St. Demetrios of Chicago)
October 28	8:30 a.m. Orthros, Divine Liturgy & Doxology +Holy Protection of the Theotokos
November 9	8:30 a.m. Orthros & Divine Liturgy +St. Nektarios the Wonderworker
November 13	8:30 a.m. Orthros & Divine Liturgy +St. John Chrysostom
November 14	8:30 a.m. Orthros & Divine Liturgy +St. Phillip
November 15	<i>Christmas Fast Begins Fish is Permitted except on Wednesdays &amp; Fridays</i>
November 16	8:30 a.m. Orthros & Divine Liturgy +St. Matthew the Apostle
November 21	8:30 a.m. Orthros & Divine Liturgy +Entrance of the Theotokos to the Temple
November 30	8:30 a.m. Orthros & Divine Liturgy +St. Andrew the First Called (Service at St. Andrew's Chicago)





## Have you registered for Sunday school?

We invite all our youth ages 4 through High School to register!

We will kick off the new academic year with an Agiasmo and a Fall Family Luncheon following the Divine Liturgy

### Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup>

Don't miss out on a new year of revamped work in our newly updated classrooms!

We have been working to prepare for your arrival all summer!

Father Stamati will present a small gift to all students present.



Registration forms have been emailed, and can be found in the Cathedral office! Call us today and register!  
312-664-5485

## Join us for our First Annual Fall Family Sunday Luncheon

As we prepare to enter the season of fall and the new academic & ecclesiastical New Year we invite all of our Stewards and friends to join us for a Family Luncheon! Featuring a Grecian Chicken meal!

Orthros will begin at 8:15 a.m. and Divine Liturgy will follow with an Agiasmo Service - All of the youth present will receive a small gift for the school year from Fr. Stamati!

Where: **Annunciation Cathedral**

When: **Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup>**

Time: **After Divine Liturgy**

Donation: **\$10.00**



Make your Reservations today by contacting the church office at:  
312-664-5485  
Don't forget to register for Sunday School which begins this day as well!

## Mommy and Me



**Meets:**  
Monthly (starting September), Every 3rd Tuesday from 10:30am to 11:30am

**Mommy and Me** is a ministry of the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral. This program fosters a social and spiritual environment for moms and their tots, 40 days old to 4 years old. Each meeting will include mingling time for moms as well as activities for tots. For more information, please contact Fr. Stamati.

## Become an Altar Boy of the Cathedral!



All boys and young men are welcomed to join Fr. Stamati in the Holy Altar every Sunday morning for Divine Services.

If you wish to have your children or grandchildren become part of this ministry of our church please contact Fr. Stamati.

Social gatherings and Retreats will take place for all altar boys throughout the year! Join us!

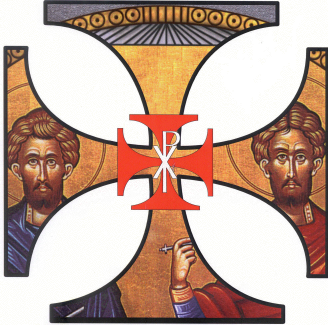
# Η Προσευχή Το οξυγόνο της ψυχής

Η Προσευχή δεν είναι τύπος, ούτε μηχανική απαγγελία λέξεων, που δεν αγγίζουν την ψυχή και δεν μεταμορφώνουν την ζωή μας. Η προσευχή είναι η δυναμική στάση της ψυχής, που υψώνεται πάνω από τις γήινες αδυναμίες στους φωτινούς κόσμους του άπειρου Θεού. Είναι η φυλική και συνειδητή συνομιλία του πλάσματος προς τον Πλάστη. Αλλά η προσευχή για να είναι πραγματική προσευχή χρειάζεται προϋποθέσεις. Χωρίς αυτές πέφτει στο κενό. Μερικές από αυτές τις βασικές και απολύτως απαραίτητες, δεν θα έπρεπε να λησμονούμε, όταν ακούμε το ιερό αυτό άθλημα.

Την πρώτη προϋπόθεση μας την παρουσιάζει ο απόστολος Παύλος. Το λείε καθαρά στους Ρωμαίους «Εμείς χωρίς την βοήθεια και το φωτισμό του Αγίου Πνεύματος δεν ξέρουμε πως να προσευχηθούμε και τι να ζητούμε με την προσευχή μας από τον Θεό. Χωρίς τον αγιασμό του δεν δημιουργείται μέσα μας το ανάλογο κλίμα, η κατάνυξη και η διάθεση για προσευχή. Χωρίς την παράκλησή του ο άνθρωπος απαγορεύεται, εύκολα απελπίζεται, η ψυχή αιμορραγεί ανίκανη να υψωθεί πνευματικά και να φθάση τον θρόνο της χάριτος, από όπου θα αντλήση **«εύκαιρον βοήθειαν»**.

Η βασική προϋπόθεση της προσευχής είναι η πλατειά αγάπη προς όλους ανεξαιρέτως τους ανθρώπους. Πώς αρχίζει το υπόδειγμα της Προσευχής μας; **«Πάτερ ημών»**. Πατέρα ονομάζου τον Θεό, την ιερή εκείνη ώρα που επικοινωνούμε μαζί Του. Συλλαμβάνουμε τη στιγμή αυτή το βαθύτερο νόημα των δύο αυτών λέξεων. Αφού ο Θεός είναι Πατέρας μας ( δεν λέμε Πατέρα μου, αλλά Πετέρα μας) άρα είμαστε αδελφια μεταξύ Μας. Και επομένως πρέπει όλους τους ανθρώπους να τους βλέπουμε ως αδελφούς μας, να τους αντιμετωμίζουμε ως αδελφούς μας, να τους αγαπάμε ως αδελφούς μας. Από τη στιγμή που κάνουμε στενόψυχες διακρίσεις και ταξινομούμε τους ανθρώπους ανάλογα με τις προκαταλήψεις μας, σε κατηγορίες και τους περιφρονούμε ή τους υποτιμούμε, αφαιρούμε εμείς οι ίδιοι το δικαίωμα να επικοινωνούμε με τον Θεό και να τον ονομάζουμε Πατέρα, Πατέρα μας. Μιά Τρίτη επίσης σπουδαία προϋπόθεση είναι η συγχωρητικότητα. Η συγγνώμη που οφείλομε σ' αυτούς που μας έφταιξαν, μας πίκραναν, μας έβλαψαν. Και η συγγνώμη αυτή πρέπει να επεκτείνεται και σ' αυτούς ακόμα τους εχθρούς μας και να μεταμορφώνεται σε ευεργεσία.

Στήν ίδια Προσευχή-την **Κυριακή Προσευχή**, λέμε στον Ουράνιο Πατέρα μας να συγχωρήση τα παραπτώματά μας, όπως κι εμείς συγχωρούμε τα φταιξίματα των άλλων. Καταλαβαίνουμε τι σημαίνει αυτό. Την ώρα εκείνη, την ιερή και επίσημη, δίνουμε στον Θεό μιά διαβεβαίωση. Τον βεβαιώνουμε πως εμείς δεν κρατάμε κακία, δεν βαστάμε παλιούς λογαριασμούς απο φταιξίματα των αδελφών μας. Δεν διατηρούμε στην καρδιά μας ανοιχτές πληγές. Η αντιπάθεια, η μνησικακία, η έχθρα έχουν εξοριστεί απο την καρδιά μας. Αυτή τη διαβεβαίωση δίνουμε στον Θεό όταν του λέμε πως **«ημείς αφίμεν τοις οφειλέταις ημών»**. Και με βάση αυτή τη διαβεβαίωση του ζητάμε να συγχωρήση και Εκείνος τα δικά μας πταίσματα και παραπτώματα. Άν όμως αυτά λέγονται μόνο χωρίς και να γίνονται, τότε η προσευχή καταντά κοροϊδία και εμπαιγμός. Ψευδόμεστε και εμπαιγνίζουμε το Θεό γιατί άλλα του λέμε και άλλα κάνουμε. Και θά είμαστε αφελείς αν περιμένουμε να εισακούση το αίτημά μας.



The Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society, Inc., is the duly accredited women's philanthropic society of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. The mission of the Society shall be:

- To aid the poor, the destitute, the hungry, the aged, the sick, the unemployed, the orphaned, the imprisoned, the widowed, the handicapped, the victims of disasters, to undertake the burial of impoverished persons and to offer assistance to anyone who may need the help of the Church through fund raising efforts; and
- To promote the charitable, benevolent, and philanthropic purposes of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, through instructional programs, presentations, lectures, seminars and other educational resources;
- To preserve and perpetuate Orthodox Christian concepts and the Orthodox Christian Family, and through them, to promote the Greek Orthodox Faith and traditions, in accordance with its doctrines, canons, discipline, divine worship, usages and customs;
- To promote participation in the activities of the Greek Orthodox community, with the cooperation of the Parish Priest and the Parish Council.

The charitable work of the Society shall be performed with discretion, courtesy and kindness.

## Annunciation Cathedral Philoptochos Board

- Dimitra Galanis Knoch.....President
- Cathy Harzas.....Vice-President
- Patricia Gavaris.....Treasurer
- Fran Douros.....Asst. Treasurer
- Esther Velis.....Recording Secretary

Stewardship Pledges to become a member of the Philoptochos are ongoing. If you have not yet become a steward of the Ladies Philoptochos group this year please do so!

The efforts of the Philoptochos society are endless and we are always looking for new ideas and innovative ways of helping our community! Please become a member today by seeing one of the Philoptochos Board Members! Anyone 18 years of age and older may be a part of this ministry of our parish!

Get involved today and see how rewarding it is to help those in need!

## Upcoming Philoptochos Events:

### Saturday, September 19th

Metropolis of Chicago Philoptochos Luncheon at Café La Cave. Proceeds to benefit the rebuilding of St. Nicholas at Ground Zero, St. Iakovos Retreat Center and the philanthropic endeavors of the Metropolis.

### Sunday, October 11th

Philoptochos Fall Fundraiser Luncheon hosted in our Cathedral Hall after Divine Liturgy.



## LaSalle Drive Entrance Update...

With great excitement we announce the renovation of our front steps has begun! While the construction is taking place please note that all visitors must enter from our side door which is just off of our parking lot!

We thank the many donors of our community and from other communities for their support in making this project a reality! If you have not yet donated to our Renovation of the steps please do so today! As work begins we will update our Facebook Page and send out emails to our list server so that you may follow the progress of this project!

### Cathedral Main Entrance Doors.....

As we begin our renovation of our Cathedral's entrance we are also going to change the four main doors on LaSalle Dr. The new doors will be made of solid wood and will feature the current stained glass window's of our current doors along with some wood detail and new hardware. Not only will the new doors be more secure and allow for a completely updated front entrance but they will also be more energy efficient not allowing heat and air to enter or escape. If you would like to donate towards the efforts of this project you may do so by contacting Fr. Stamati. The total estimate for installation and materials of this project will be \$35,000. Each door may be donated individually or in their entirety. Your donation can be made in

loving memory or in health and well being of a loved one or family and the names of the individuals will be commemorated at each liturgy at the Cathedral.



### Sanctuary Project Donations

Below is a list of donors who have contributed to the Sanctuary Fund of the Cathedral. The new altar coverings have been purchased and adorn the altar table and prothesi tables of the Cathedral.

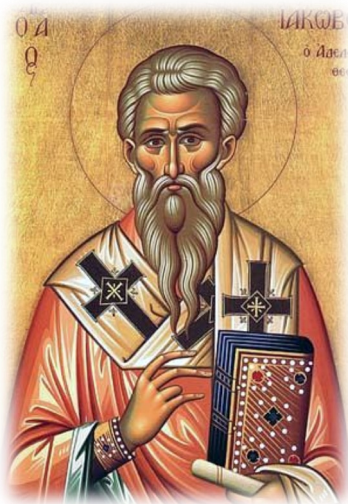
*We thank the following donors for their continued love and support....*

- Esther Velis
- Constantinos Kiamos
- Glapa Family
- The John C. Kulis Charitable Foundation
- Stavros Kapsalis Family
- Anonymous
- Anonymous
- Mr. & Mrs. Nick Gouletas
- In loving memory of Jerry Kondos

If you would like to make a donation towards the beautification of the Sanctuary/Altar to help offset the cost of the new coverings or any other item that is needed please contact Fr. Stamati.



Please join us as we celebrate the feast of St. Iakovos the brother of Christ at the Annunciation Cathedral.



His Eminence Metropolitan Iakovos along with the clergy, chanters, archons and faithful of the Holy Metropolis of Chicago will come together to celebrate the Liturgy of St. Iakovos

A reception will follow in the Cathedral hall for all in attendance as we honor our Spiritual Father and Shepherd, His Eminence Metropolitan Iakovos of Chicago as he celebrates his feast day.

#### WISDOM OF THE CHURCH FATHER

*Be ashamed when you sin, don't be ashamed when you repent. There two things: sin and repentance. Sin is the wound, repentance is the medicine. Sin is followed by shame; repentance is followed by boldness. Satan has overturned this order and given boldness to sin and shame to repentance.*

*~ Saint John Chrysostom*

*Have you enjoyed reading this issue of the Messenger?*

*This issue has been sent to all 390 families that have been stewards of the Cathedral.*

*The following issues will be sent to current stewards of the 2015 year only.*

*Please become a steward today to ensure that you receive The Messenger and all other information and mailings from the Cathedral!*

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Cathedral of Chicago  
The Messenger  
1017 North LaSalle Drive  
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