

THE CHAMPION

A Monthly Publication of Saint Athanasios Greek Orthodox Church

JUNE 2023



MESSAGE FROM FR. PANAGIOTIS

Pentecost

***"When the day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance."* (Acts 2:1-4)**

At the Feast of Pentecost, celebrated on June 4th this year, very little attention is paid to the "one place" where Jesus' followers were gathered. Rightly so we focus on the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and the grace given on this holy day. Maybe just this once, let's take some time to talk about where they were gathered. St. Luke refers to the place as the "Upper Room" (Acts 1:13), this is the same "Upper Room" that Christ directs His disciples to prepare for the Mystical Supper (Mark 14:15). For lack of better words, this Upper Room was the central meeting place for Christ and His disciples during their stay in Jerusalem. As such it was the setting for the Mystical Supper, when Christ washed His Disciples' feet and instituted the Eucharist. It is where He appeared to His Disciples and Thomas after His Resurrection. In this room the Disciples met to elect a replacement for Judas, and lastly it is the place where Christ's followers received the grace of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost.

This one location housed all of these events, and it is one of our stops on our upcoming parish pilgrimage to the Holy Land in February of 2024. I hope that in this one brief example you see the great concentration of God's presence in the Holy Land. Our trip will be an overwhelming opportunity to walk where Jesus walked, to see what Jesus saw, and to pray where Jesus prayed. The sites we will visit range from the Mediterranean to the Sea of Galilee and the Jordan river. We will travel through the Jordan desert and see where St. Joseph and the Theotokos journey to escape Herod. We will ascend to the tops of Mount Tabor, Mount Carmel, The Mount of Olives, Mount Zion, and the Mount of Temptation. We will pray in the caves of Christ's birth and burial, and many other holy sites.

Let the Upper Room of Pentecost be an example of the rich experience of God that is present in the Holy Land. If you are interested in joining the pilgrimage, please use the link below to learn more information and to sign up. I pray that those who are able to join will bring the beauty and depth of the pilgrimage back to all in our parish.

Fr. Panagiotis

MEMORIALS

Gust Kappos (40 Days)
Aspasia Koulos (6 Month)
Deen Chetupally (1 Year)
Ioannis Ugaste (2 Year)
Stamos Papasideris (3 Year)
Vasilki Danos (3 Year)

BAPTISMS

Oliver & Amelia Sherwin (June 17)
(Children of Zoe and Skyler Sherwin)

WEDDINGS

Alexi Bollwerk & Tess McAnnally (June 3)
Trevor Nyland & Eliana Ladas (June 24)

PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE



Aurora Greek Fest: I would like to take this time to thank all parishioners that participated and helped at the Aurora Greek Fest. It was a wonderful time, filled with fun and getting to know one another while we are raising funds for our Church. Thank you to all the ladies that assisted with making all the desserts and bringing desserts to the festival. To the Pastichio crew for making a very delicious pastichio. To all the parishioners that assisted and came during the week to help get ready for the festival and all the parishioners that came to volunteer during the festival, thank you!!

Thank you to my amazing committee which include, Alex Pagonis, Louie Lambrou, Mike & Annette Tsimouris and Brian McNally, for all their hard work and dedication. Mark your calendar for our Fall Festival in September! Save the date and join us at the festival. September 22-24

Upcoming Events: Our annual Golf Outing is taking place on June 12th. Have you already signed up to play some golf? Have you got a foursome to play or placed a donation for a hole sponsorship? If you haven't, please do so. As always it is a fun day filled with fellowship and golf!

Our Men's Group is doing their Hellenic College Holy Cross Fundraiser on June 22nd at the Empress Banquets. Please reserve your seat today!

Jr. Olympics: During Memorial Day weekend, our youth participate in the Jr. Olympics. Thank you to Maria Lambrou for coordinating the Jr. Olympics and all the coaches that volunteered. It is wonderful to see our youth participate in the sports they love in a Metropolis setting.

Wishing you all a wonderful, healthy, and safe Summer!

Foti Georgopoulos
Parish Council President



Presented by
Saint Athanasios Church

Monday, June 12, 2023

Location	Event Details	What's Included
 <p>21200 S Carillon Dr, Plainfield, IL 60544 (815) 886-2132 www.carillongolf.com</p>	<p>Registration & Lunch: 11:30-12:15 PM</p> <p>Tee Off: 12:30 PM Shotgun-Scamble</p> <p>On course contests for players of all abilities</p> <p>Dress Code: Golf Attire</p> <p>Dinner: 5:30 PM</p> <p>Raffle & Auctions</p>	<p>Golfers: \$175 Juniors (18 & Under): \$125</p> <p>Golf/Cart/Range Balls Lunch (Dogs/Burgers/Sand) Prime Rib & Chicken Dinner On-Course Games & Prizes Duffers Kits/1st Tee Gift</p> <p>Non-Golfers Dinner Adults \$50 Kids (12 & Under): \$15</p>

All Proceeds Go to St. Athanasios Ministries



How Do We Sign up?

- Sign up and pay on church website: saintathanasios.com/golf
- Sunday's after service in church hall
- Call church office: **630-851-6106**

Questions?

Contact Frank Demas at 224.805.6920 or Pete Nassos at panassos@gmail.com

Sponsorship Opportunities Available

Saint Athanasios Bible Boot Camp

JUNE 13-16, 2023 (9:00 AM - NOON)

Calling all Kindergarten through 5th grade students, join us for this year's summer camp: Saint Athanasios Bible Boot Camp!! This 4 day spiritual boot camp will be filled with games, crafts, music time, and more! Children will learn how to "put on the full armor of God" by participating in discussions, playing games, making "armor," praying and studying parts of the Bible. This is a great opportunity for students to learn all about how to be warriors for Christ! Join us for the camp and better prepare yourself to be privates in Christ's army!



**Register for
Camp**



**Volunteer
Sign Up**

Saint Athanasios

Bible Boot Camp

Summer Camp 2023



KINDERGARTEN TO 5TH GRADE STUDENTS!



JUNE 13 - JUNE 16, 2023 | 9:00AM - NOON



SAINT ATHANASIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH



\$40 PER ATTENDEE



Register Here

**6TH - 12TH
GRADERS! We need
volunteers! Sign
up here!**




STUMP THE PRIEST

I have heard that the Orthodox use a different version of the Bible than other Christians. Is that true?

Now people might hear this question and think that it is focused on which English translation of the Bible do we use ie New King James, Revised Standard Version, New International Version, etc. When it comes to the Bible, the difference between the Orthodox Church and most Christian groups is not so much the translation as it is, what is underneath that is being translated, and this difference only pertains to the Old Testament.

The Orthodox Church uses a version of the Old Testament which is known as the Septuagint. By the third and second centuries BC the Jews living in the different parts of the Roman Empire had adopted the local language, Aramaic in the Middle East, and Greek in rest of the Mediterranean world. This led the Jews to translate their scriptures into the local language of their communities. The Septuagint is the Greek translation of the Old Testament that was originally produced for the Hebrew community in Alexandria. This translation was divinely inspired, as the Alexandrian official who commissioned the translation assigned 72 translators (6 from each of the 12 tribes) to produce their translation in complete isolation. When the translations were presented, all 72 matched perfectly. This Greek translation became known as the Translation of the 70, Septuagint meaning 70 in Latin. Additionally, the Jewish community continued to receive and record scriptures from the Lord even after Hebrew had fallen out of use. These books were written in Greek, not needing a translation, and were included together with the other books in the Septuagint.

The Septuagint spread to all Hebrew communities, and became the most commonly used scriptures. This was the text of the Old Testament that was used by the earliest Christian communities. We know that because when the New Testament authors quote the Old Testament, the quotes come directly from the Septuagint version.

Even St. Matthew who wrote his Gospel to be read within a community of former Jews, still uses the Septuagint when he quotes prophecy. So the Orthodox Church has retained continuity with the earliest Christians by utilizing the Septuagint as the text for the Old Testament.

Now that we have that background we can talk about where the difference with most other Christian groups originates. In the ninth century AD, a group of Jewish scholars called the Masoretes compiled what would become the standard Hebrew language canon of Judaism. The Masoretes gave complete preference to the Hebrew language and threw out all the Greek language books of the Old Testament that did not have a Hebrew original. Additionally in the nine centuries between Christ and the time the Masoretes began codifying the Jewish canon, many of the Hebrew language scriptures had been edited by the Jewish communities to de-Christianize the text. So what you are left with is a shorter canon of scripture, which is missing many key parts.

When the Protestant Reformation began, Martin Luther used the Jewish Masoretic Text as the basis for the Old Testament for his German Language translation of the Bible. As a result, the Masoretic Text has become the standard version used by most Christian groups since that time. The Orthodox, however, have continued to use the Septuagint, which is the Old Testament used by the earliest Christian communities and lacks the de-Christian editorializing of the Masoretes. The Orthodox Old Testament contains 49 books and the Masoretic Text contains 39.



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)

Saturday, June 3rd

Divine Liturgy - Saturday of the Souls

Sunday, June 4th

Divine Liturgy - Pentecost

Monday, June 5th

Divine Liturgy - Monday of the Holy Spirit

Wednesday, June 7th

6pm Philoptochos End of Year Party

Saturday, June 10th

7pm Vespers - Met. Nathanael Feastday
Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral
1017 N LaSalle Dr., Chicago, IL 60610

Sunday, June 11th

Divine Liturgy - Sunday of all Saints

Monday, June 12th

11:30am OPA Open Golf Outing

Tuesday, June 13th

9am Summer Camp

Wednesday, June 14th

9am Summer Camp

Thursday, June 15th

9am Summer Camp

Friday, June 16th

9am Summer Camp

Sunday, June 18th

Divine Liturgy - 2nd Sunday of Matthew

Thursday, June 22nd

6pm - Hellenic College/Holy Cross
Fundraiser
The Empress, Addison, IL 60101

Sunday, June 25th

Divine Liturgy - 3rd Sunday of Matthew

Wednesday, June 28th

7pm Vespers - Saints Peter & Paul
Saints Peter & Paul Greek Orthodox Church
1401 Wagner Rd, Glenview, IL 60025

Thursday June 29th

Divine Liturgy - Saints Peter & Paul
6pm College Ministry at Hesed House
7pm Vespers - Synaxis of the Holy Apostles
Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church
2501 S Wolf Rd, Westchester, IL 60154

Friday, June 30th

Divine Liturgy - Synaxis of the Holy Apostles

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



On behalf of the ministry Food Pantry, we wanted to thank all our parishioners for continuing to support our initiative and providing food to those in need. We are in need of volunteers to assist with drop off, please see below for details. When dropping off, please remember to ask for a weight and submit to the church office or Christina Valavanidis. We are grateful for your support! This month we are asking for

Snack Bars/Peanut Butter

Please contact Christina Valavanidis at christina.valavanidis@gmail.com with any questions.

PHILOPTOCHOS

Philoptochos was pleased to be able to make some exciting philanthropic donations this spring. We had a speaker come from the Greek American Rehab Center and were able to gift them \$3000 from the proceeds of the Glendi we held back in February. We were also happy to donate \$1000 to Loaves and Fishes from the sales of our Easter bread and dye.

This year marks the end of our 2021-2023 Board Term. I would like to take a brief minute to thank the ladies who are retiring for their dedication and devotion to Philoptochos during their tenure.

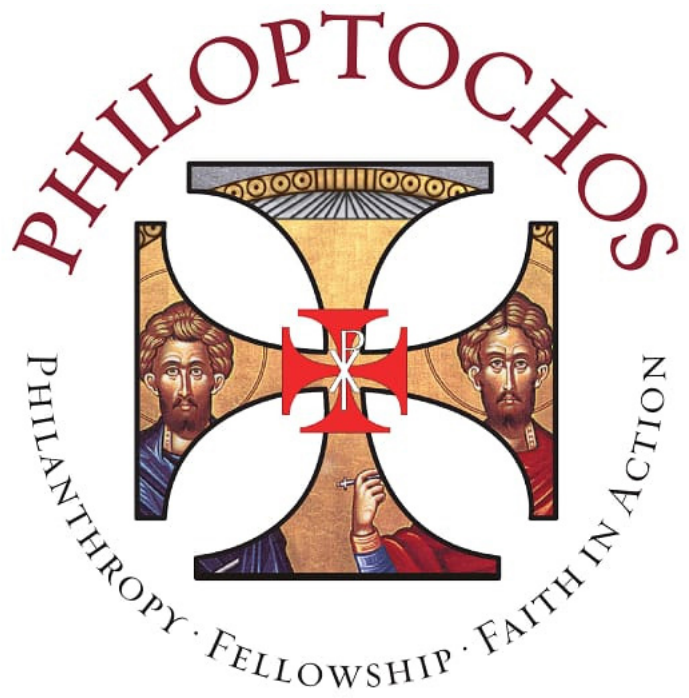
- **Val DiGiovanni:** Board member for the past four years
- **Sherry Haralambopoulos:** Board member for 8 years, 1st VP
- **Stacy Kunc:** Board member for 12 years, Recording Secretary, Membership Chair
- **Rose Pagonis:** Board member for the past four years, acting Corresponding secretary

Thank you for being leaders and for sharing your Time, Talents, and Treasures to help our ministry be successful. I appreciate you all very much.

Our election meeting will be on May 15th where we will vote in the 2023-2025 board.

Please join us for our **End-of-the-Year Party** at the home of Sherry Haralambopoulos on Wednesday, June 7th at 6:30 pm. All women of St Athanasios are invited to attend as we celebrate a successful year of philanthropy. Dinner will be served!

Please RSVP to Sherry at marina.h14grk@gmail.com



BOOKSTORE

June marks the beginning of Summer which is a good time to continue the renewal from our Easter season to refresh our homes. Stop in our Bookstore for icons in various styles, sizes, and shapes, spiritual wall hangings, and religious ornaments that can be displayed all year long. To keep children busy during the Summer month when out of school, try several of the many prayerful and thoughtful books that are organized by age level to select the best content. Summer also provides an opportunity for adults to relax and enhance devotional enlightenment by reading one of many books about the Saints, Bible verses, or how to deal with various issues that we may be faced with by using the guidance of authors of our Orthodox faith. Stop in soon!



STEWARDSHIP

In May, we reviewed Time & Talents. This month we would like to focus on the 3rd aspect of Stewardship ... Treasures. First of all, we would like to say **THANK YOU** to the Stewards that have made their 2023 commitment.

In December 2022, we heard a beautiful testimonial by Jim Kuncl on Treasures. You can view his testimonial and read a summary of it under the Stewardship tab in the St. Athanasios website. In his talk, Jim introduced the powerful concept of **Stewardship Independence**, which is fully supported by the Chicago Metropolis.

The Metropolis presents the following vision that all Parishes should strive to meet:

- The Metropolis encourages all Parishes to initiate good faith efforts to increase Stewardship and begin developing budgets that do not require income from transactional events, such as festivals, to cover operating expenses

They also support the concept that revenues from festivals or other transactional events, can be used for philanthropy, including helping other Parishes.

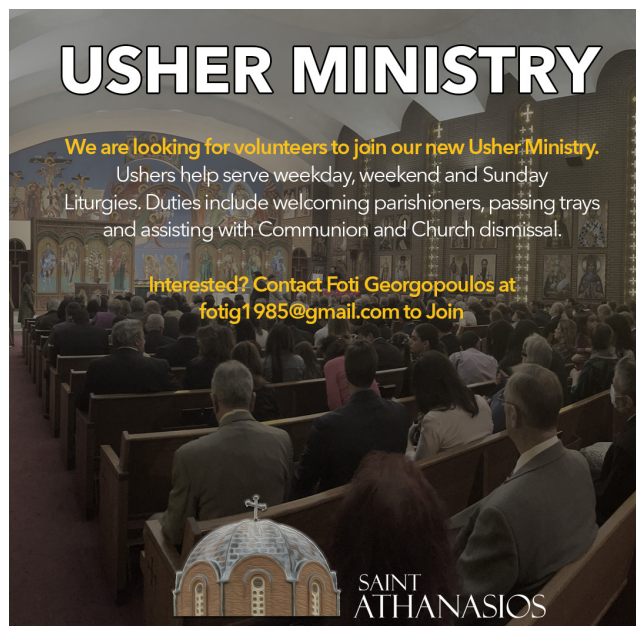
To make this vision a reality, we need to begin thoughtful planning by engaging our Parishioners, their generosity and giving of Time, Talent and Treasure from their heart, in Christian love and according to the Bible.

THANK YOU again to those who have made their 2023 pledge ... your commitment to God and His Church is greatly appreciated.

For those who have not yet made their 2023 commitment, please take 10 minutes and complete your 2023 Stewardship pledge. As you make your 2023 commitment, please think beyond your Treasures commitment and also consider what Time and Talents you can commit to our beloved Saint Athanasios. Finally, please review this month's Champion to identify opportunities to volunteer your Time and Talents.

Next month we will explore what your Stewardship supports and provides to us and our surrounding communities.

Pete Nassos & Elli Koulos



GOYA

Our GOYA celebrated a great year of connection, service, and faith!

Rising 9th graders can join our Remind by texting @stagoya to 81010. See you in the fall!

Please contact Margarita Altidis at Margarita.altidis@gmail.com with any questions.



MEN'S GROUP

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

Upcoming Events:

- **Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology Fundraising Event**
The Men's Group is working on a dinner event to benefit the Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology in June. This will be a great opportunity to support future seminarians.
(See our ad on page 9)
- **Hesed House Dinner Service** – Thursday, June 29

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



SAINT ATHANASIOS UPCOMING PILGRIMAGES



SUMMER 2023

St. John Chrysostom Monastery
Wisconsin



FEBRUARY 2024

Holy Land
Israel



Junior Olympics

Thank you to all that came out to represent our parish to play and cheer on our athletes. Special thank you to Maria Lambrou for coordinating the Jr. Olympics and our coaches: Ted Dulles, Sophia Skoubis and Christian Kuncl. A fun weekend for all!

Congratulations to our Medalists:

- Dean Petmezas - Gold - 50m
- Eleni Colligan - 1 Gold, 2 Silver- Swimming





Fundraiser

HELLENIC COLLEGE/HOLY
CROSS GREEK ORTHODOX
SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

JUNE 22

EMPRESS BANQUET HALL

ADDISON, IL

6 TO 9 PM

Join Us to Help Raise Funds to Educate the Future Leaders of the Orthodox Church

Hellenic College is that rare undergraduate with a higher purpose: to foster the moral and spiritual as well as intellectual development of every student.

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.

TICKETS \$100 (PERSON) | \$1,000 (TABLE)

KEYNOTE
SPEAKER



**MIKE
EMANUEL**

Chief Washington
Correspondent
FOX News Channel



RSVP BY JUNE 15
SCAN QR CODE
OR CALL 630.851.6106

Hosted by
ST. ATHANASIOS MEN'S GROUP &
THE HCHC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

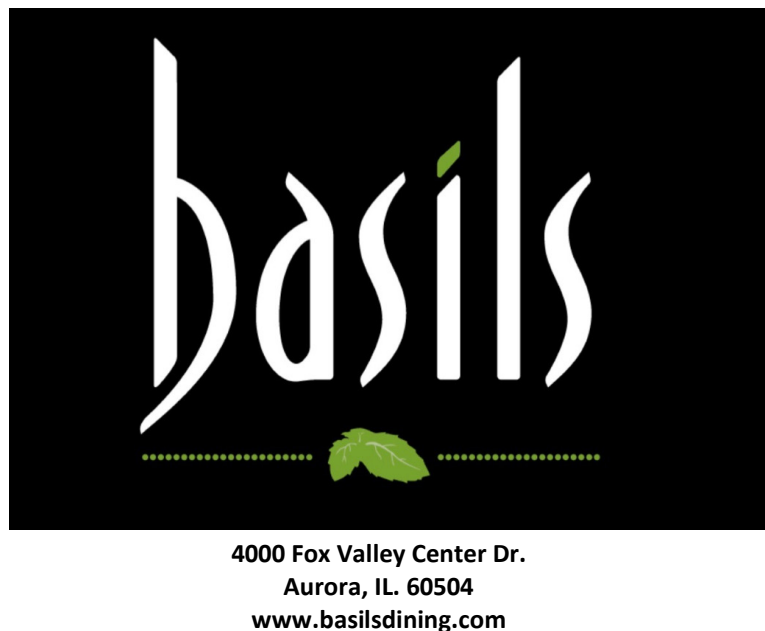


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ITALY TO TABLE



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PENTECOST

JUNE 2023



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THE CHAMPION



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