

# THE CHAMPION

A Monthly Publication of Saint Athanasios Greek Orthodox Church

APRIL 2025



## MESSAGE FROM FR. PANAGIOTIS

The passion and Resurrection of our Lord is upon us. It lies, not in the distant past as a memory, but before us as a promise and fulfillment. In the services of Holy Week, we experience the events of Christ's entry into Jerusalem, Crucifixion, and Resurrection as witnesses mystically present as they unfold. St. Gregory the Theologian reiterates this when he asks each of us to identify with those present at the events of Holy Week and to join them in their works.

"If you are Simon of Cyrene, take up the cross and follow. If you are crucified with him as the thief, come to know God as kindhearted...and if you are Joseph of Arimathea, ask for the body from the crucifier...and if you are Nicodemos, bury him with scented ointments. And if you are a certain Mary or another Mary or Salome or Joanna, weep and daybreak. Be the first to see the stone removed...become Peter or John; hasten to the tomb, running against each other, running together." (On Great and Holy Pascha, ch 24)

Echoing in the same voice, I invite all to live the events of Holy Week through the divine services; to enter Jerusalem with Him, to weep at the foot of His Cross, and to rejoice outside the Tomb as we hear the proclamation of His resurrection.

Most importantly, it is our prayer that throughout the entirety of the week, as many as are able will share in all of these acts together. The Resurrection of our Lord is a gift to all of mankind. Together, we rejoice as we follow the Lord. Together, we find the strength to bear His Crucifixion. Together, we rejoice as He is raised from the dead.

May we together embrace and experience the path of the Lord from beginning to end.

Blessed Pascha. Blessed Resurrection. Christ is Risen!

Καλό Πάσχα. Καλή Ανάσταση. Χριστός Ανέστη!



1965-2025

## MEMORIALS

John Franze (7 years)

Georgia Beligratis (5 years)

Catherine Patsavas (1 year)

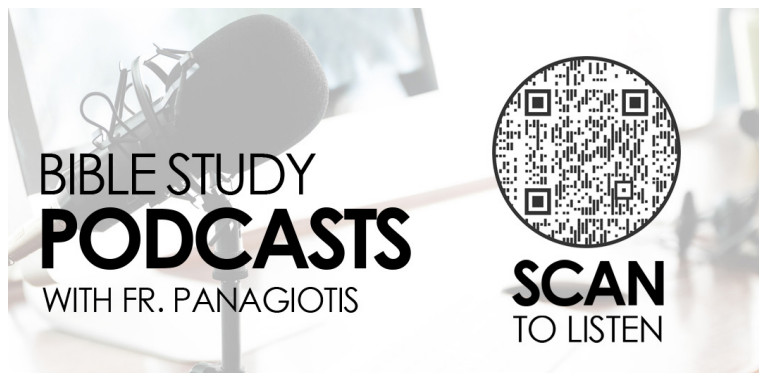
William Plattos (2 years)

## FUNERALS

MaryAnn Andrews

## WEDDINGS

Evangelia Cucuras & Andrew Gonedes





# PARISH COUNCIL

## Usher Ministry:

St. Athanasios has launched the new usher ministry. Thank you to Frank Demas for heading up this ministry and to all of the ushers that have volunteered. Serving as an usher is a rewarding experience that helps foster a welcoming and orderly environment for worship. Please contact Frank Demas or the parish office if you are interested in serving in the usher ministry.

## Lenten Services and Holy Week:

We invite all to come and seek the salvation that comes through the true knowledge of Christ and oneself.

Join us as we continue in worship for the Monday, Wednesday, Friday Lenten Services. These services will continue through April 9th. Be sure to join us for the Lenten meals and lectures after the Presanctified Liturgy Service on Wednesday evenings.

Please join us for the beautiful services during Holy Week beginning with the Saturday of Lazarus on April 12th. We will continue to use St. Mathew Hall as an overflow once the main church is at capacity. Please follow the guidance of our ushers and parish council members. You can find dates and times for all services in the weekly bulletins, monthly Champion, and the parish calendar on our website.

## Upcoming Events:

Please mark your calendars and save the dates. There are also other events and services that may not be listed here so be sure to review the parish calendar for more information.

- Parish Oratorical Festival April 2nd at St. Athanasios
- Palm Folding April 11th
- Sunday School Good Friday Retreat April 18th
- Metropolis Oratorical Festival April 26th at Assumption Greek Orthodox Church in Chicago

Wishing everyone a blessed Easter!

**Brian McAnally**

Parish Council President

# GOOD FRIDAY RETREAT

Calling ALL Sunday School Students (Kindergarten to 12th grade)! Join us for our Good Friday Retreat on Friday, April 18th, from 9 AM to 3 PM. This year's theme, "Darkness to Light," will guide us in exploring the profound journey from Christ's crucifixion to His resurrection. A light breakfast and lunch will be provided. School excuse letters are available for registrants. The registration fee is \$12 per attendee.



# Community Palm Folding Pot Luck

**April 11, 2025**

**6:00PM**

**Saint Matthew Hall**

No Experience Necessary. ALL Are Welcome.



**SIGN UP HERE**



# HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

## SATURDAY OF LAZARUS

8:30 am Orthros & 9:30 am Divine Liturgy

## PALM SUNDAY

8:30 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy  
Bridegroom Service 7:00 pm

## HOLY MONDAY

Bridegroom Service 7:00 pm

## HOLY TUESDAY

Bridegroom Service 7:00 pm

## HOLY WEDNESDAY

Holy Unction 3:00 pm  
Last Supper Service with  
Holy Unction 7:00 pm

## HOLY THURSDAY

Vespers Liturgy 6:30 am  
12 Gospels 7:00 pm

## HOLY FRIDAY

Great Hours 9:00 am  
Apokathelosis 3:00 pm  
Lamentations 7:00 pm

## HOLY SATURDAY

Proti Anastasi 9:00 am  
Anastasi Orthros 11:30 pm  
Resurrection Service Midnight

## PASCHA

Agape Service 11:00 am

## LENTEN DINNERS & LECTURES



Join us each Wednesday evening of Lent for a Meal hosted by one of our parish ministries and Lenten Lecture following the Presanctified Divine Liturgy.

- 4/2 - Parish Oratorical Festival
- 4/9 - The Life and Legacy of St. Olga of Alaska (Deno Saclarides)

## LENTEN CONFESSION SCHEDULE



Sign up here for the sacrament of Holy Confession. If you are unavailable during any of the scheduled slots, or they are all full, please reach out to [office@saintathanasios.com](mailto:office@saintathanasios.com) to find an alternative date and time.



**SCAN FOR  
APPOINTMENT**



# PARISH CALENDAR

All services are live streamed on our YouTube Channel.

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

## Wednesday, April 2

11 am Bible Study  
3pm Hessed House Prep & Deliver  
6 pm Presanctified Liturgy  
7:30 pm Lenten Dinner & Lectures: Oratorical Festival

## Friday, April 4

7 pm Akathist Hymn

## Saturday, April 5

10 am Choir Rehearsal

## Sunday, April 6

Divine Liturgy - Sunday of St Mary of Egypt

## Monday, April 7

6 pm Great Compline

## Wednesday, April 9

6 pm Presanctified Liturgy  
7:30 pm Lenten Dinner & Lectures: "The Life and Legacy of St Olga of Alaska" (Deno Saclarides)

## Thursday, April 10

6pm Men's Small Group

## Friday, April 11

6pm Palm Folding

## Saturday, April 12

Divine Liturgy - Saturday of Lazarus

## Sunday, April 13

Divine Liturgy - Palm Sunday  
No Sunday School  
11:30 am Philoptochos Palm Sunday Bake Sale  
7 pm Bridegroom Service

## Monday, April 14

7 pm Bridegroom Service

## Tuesday, April 15

7 pm Bridegroom Service

## Wednesday, April 16

3pm Holy Unction  
7 pm Mystical Supper

## Thursday, April 17

6:30 am Vespers Liturgy  
7pm Passion of the Lord

## Friday, April 18

9am Great Hours  
9 am Good Friday Retreat  
3pm Un-nailing Vespers  
7pm Lamentations

## Saturday, April 19

9am Proti-Anastasi Service  
11:30pm Anastasi with Paschal Orthros & Liturgy

## Sunday, April 20

PASCHA  
11am Agape Vespers

## Wednesday, April 23

Divine Liturgy - St George

## Thursday, April 24

7 pm Jr GOYA meeting

## Sunday, April 27

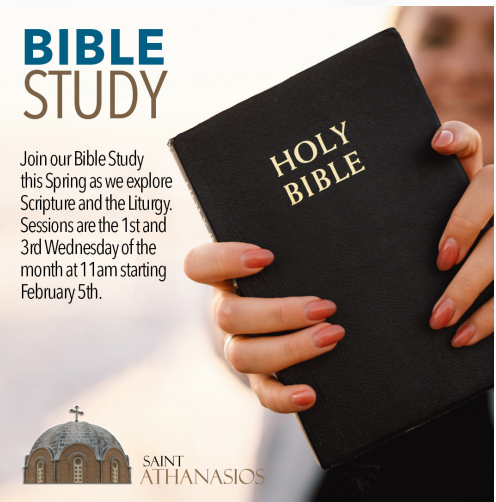
Divine Liturgy - Thomas Sunday  
11:30am Philoptochos General Meeting

## Tuesday, April 29

7pm Parent University

## Wednesday, April 30

4pm Blood Drive



# COFFEE HOUR

Help to promote fellowship, community, and friendship following the Divine Liturgy by hosting Coffee-hour. Consider hosting Coffee Hour for occasions such as Memorials, Namedays, Birthdays, 40-day Blessings, etc - or no occasion needed! For more information and to sign up to host a Coffee Hour, please call the office.

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 to everyone who generously donated food to our Pantry! Your contributions make a real difference in the lives of our community members who need it most. We are so grateful for your kindness & support.  
2024 total - 691lbs of Food!

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:

**Oatmeal, Cream of Wheat, Pancake Mix & Healthy Whole Grain Cereals (e.g. Cheerios, Rice Krispies, Corn Flakes, Raisin Bran)**

Please contact Betty Roussos at [bettyroussos@yahoo.com](mailto:bettyroussos@yahoo.com) with any questions.



# PHILOPTOCHOS

March was a busy month. We had a general meeting on March 16th. Elli Koulos and Helen Halkias have volunteered to head a reimagined Sunshine Committee. I am sure they will come up with great ideas to help everyone feel more connected!

We hosted the Lenten dinner after the presanctified Liturgy on March 19th. Thank you to everyone who brought a dish to share! The fellowship and presentation are an important part of our Lenten journey.

We will be selling tsoureki and egg dye after Liturgy on Palm Sunday. Tsoureki will be \$10 and dye will be \$4. We will sell until we run out!

We are looking to identify a project for Operation Classroom this summer. Our project for 2024 was to replenish the Beauty Bar at West Aurora High School. In 2023 we helped establish a Care Closet at Bartlett High School. If you have an idea, please contact me.

Board elections will take place at the end of April. Please join us at our general meeting on April 27th to vote.

Sue Manos  
Philoptochos President

## AURORA GREEK FEST

**St. Athanasios Spring Greek Festival will be MAY 16-18 this year!  
PLEASE SAVE THE DATE!**

For those who haven't heard, your new festival co-chairs have surfaced! Frank Demas and myself, Tracey Collins, have accepted the roles to oversee our community's Greek Festival in May. With that said, please reach out to either of us with any questions, willingness to help or ways to participate!

As new festival co-chairs, we'd first like to extend a big thank you to our former festival chairman, Foti Georgopoulos, who has served in this role for countless years! Thank you, Foti!

Next, we'd like to highlight a few new things to anticipate in our upcoming festival:

- A portion of the spring festival funds will go to help local veterans.
- Daily raffles will be given away during the festival weekend.
- \$25 fest gift cards are available for purchase NOW!
- New sponsorship opportunities are available with increased exposure throughout the year!

As Frank and I are veterans, with 38 years of combined service to our country, we are joining all of our veterans in our community and will be dedicating a portion of the spring's festival proceeds to our local veterans organization. We are also offering daily raffle prizes (over the festival weekend), in addition to the standard festival raffle. Sponsorship opportunities are also a little different, whereas, in addition to spring fest exposure, sponsors will also receive advertising for the summer golf outing, fall Greek festival and our fall 60th anniversary dinner! WHOA!! Lastly, we are pre-selling \$25 Festival gift cards, starting NOW! Yay!! The gift cards are a wonderful way to support the festival and also treat a friend, family member, teacher, coach, etc.

In advance, we'd like to thank you for your financial support and for the many hours of volunteering required to run our church festival. It's an incredible opportunity to serve in our Lord's house, welcome our neighbors and community, and get to know each other a little better! So, thank you, THANK YOU! Looking forward to working together!

Tracey Collins [AuroraGreekFest@saintathanasios.com](mailto:AuroraGreekFest@saintathanasios.com); 630.643.0023

Frank Demas [AuroraGreekFest@saintathanasios.com](mailto:AuroraGreekFest@saintathanasios.com); 224.805.6920



**MAY 16-18**

**LOCATION**  
SAINT ATHANASIOS  
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH  
1855 EAST FIFTH AVE  
AURORA IL

**CARRY OUT  
CATERING**  
630.851.6106

**FEST TIMES**  
NOON TO 9 PM  
(FRIDAY & SATURDAY)

NOON TO 7 PM  
(SUNDAY)

[www.auroragreekfest.com](http://www.auroragreekfest.com)





# STEWARDSHIP

## Stewardship During Lent

As we reach the midpoint of Holy Lent, we are reminded that fasting, prayer, and almsgiving are not just personal disciplines, but also acts of Stewardship. This season calls us to reflect on how we use the gifts God has entrusted to use our time, talents, and treasures for His glory. Just as we prepare our hearts for the joy of Pascha, we must also renew our commitment to Christ's work in our parish and community.

Are you using your Time, Talents and Treasures as you know you can? As an example, we use our Treasures to pay the "bills", and that allows us to have a place to worship and partake in the Body and Blood of Christ. Our Treasures also allow us to help those within our church community and the surrounding Aurora communities. Finally, our Time and Talents help us participate in and address the operational needs of our parish and while doing so, we connect to our Parish community and grow spiritually. True stewardship is an expression of faith, aligning our priorities with God's will.

With Holy Easter just three weeks away, now is the time to act. Complete your 2025 stewardship pledge, offer your Time in parish ministries, and support those in need. By embracing these acts of faith, we prepare ourselves to fully experience the Resurrection with renewed hearts and dedication to Christ's Church.

In His Service,

**Elli Koulos and Pete Nassos**

Monday, June 9, 2025

# OPA OPEN

Presented by  
Saint Athanasios Church

### Location



**THE LINKS**  
- AT CARILLON -

21200 S Carillon Dr,  
Plainfield, IL 60544  
(815) 886-2132  
[www.carillongolf.com](http://www.carillongolf.com)

### Event Details

Registration  
& Lunch: **11:30-12:15 PM**

Tee Off: **12:30 PM**  
Shotgun-Scamble

On course contests for  
players of all abilities

Dress Code: Golf Attire

Dinner: **5:30 PM**

Raffle & Auctions

### More Details to Follow Soon



### How Do We Sign up?

Call church office: 630-851-6106  
Web: [saintathanasios.com/golf](http://saintathanasios.com/golf)

### Questions?

Contact Frank Demas at  
224.805.6920 OR Pete Nassos at  
[panassos@gmail.com](mailto:panassos@gmail.com)

Sponsorship Opportunities Available

# BOOK STORE

There is still time at the start of April to prepare for your Pascha spiritual needs by browsing in our Bookstore for a book to still your thoughts, an icon for prayer and veneration, a CD to listen to soothing liturgical music, a gift of jewelry or other religious trinkets for yourself or loved ones, or beautifully designed and decorated candles/lambathes for the midnight or Agape services. Don't forget about our Free Will Donation cart at the entrance where you can check the gently used materials to take home.

Stop in soon! Your Bookstore Team





# MEN'S GROUP

Thank you all for your support and participation in this ministry in 2024! We hope to continue our successful ministry in 2025 with your help.

## March Madness – March 22

Another successful outing of our annual March Madness viewing party at Poor Boy's Pub. Thank you all for attending.

## Lenten Dinner Meal – April 9

The Men's Group will once again provide dinner after Presanctified Liturgy. Last year we served soup, spanakorizo, gigantes, veggie tray, salad, fruit, just to name a few.

## Men's Workshop - Busyness & Stillness – April 10

Our last workshop will be on Thursday, April 10. Come join our last session!

## Blood Drive – April 30

Please consider donating blood as it can help save up to three lives! Walks in are welcome. Thank you Mickey Koulos for leading this important event.

## Food Pantry

Each month, our church collection of donated food must be delivered to local food pantries. We need volunteers to transport our donations using your own vehicle. If you are interested, please contact us for more information.

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 (bcto@sbcglobal.net) or Nick Dagiantis (ndagiantis@gmail.com).

## BLOOD DRIVE

Hope springs  
eternal

DONATE  
BLOOD

WEDNESDAY  
APRIL

30

4:00PM - 8:00PM

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

PHOTO ID IS REQUIRED.

Call (630) 723-2589 with  
eligibility questions.

## 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](http://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!



# SPIRITUAL GROWTH CORNER

## "And When You Pray"

Prayer is a gift from God that allows us to build a transformative relationship with Him. The prayers we learn through liturgical services, hymns, Scripture, prayer books, and Psalter help us understand who God is and His will for us, rather than relying on our own.

Fr. Thomas Hopko offers 55 maxims for the Christian life, including those focused on prayer:

- Pray as you can, not as you think you must
- Have a disciplined, keepable prayer rule
- Say the Lord's Prayer often
- Repeat a short prayer when the mind is not occupied
- Make prostrations when praying
- As St. Nektarios of Aegina reminds us, "God hears all prayers and answers in ways we may not understand."

When presenting requests to God, always pray, "Thy will be done."







## JOY

**APRIL 11, 2025 | 6:00 PM**

JOY Students, join us for PALM FOLDING on **April 11 at 6pm.**

More information and RSVP in Remind.



## JR GOYA

**APRIL 24, 2025 | 7:00 PM**

Jr. GOYAns, join us for our April meeting on **Thursday, April 24th**, from 7:00–8:30 PM.

More information and RSVP in Remind.



## SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School Families: Just a reminder that there will be **\*\*no Sunday School on April 13th** (Palm Sunday) and **April 20th** (Pascha). We hope you have a blessed Holy Week and a joyous Pascha! Sunday School will resume on April 27th. Wishing you a blessed Lent and Pascha! - Sunday School Team

## ORATORICAL FESTIVAL

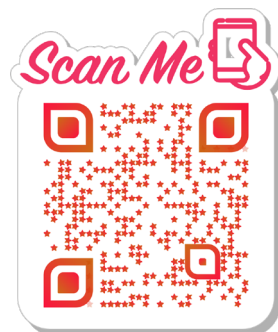
Calling all 7th - 12 grade students: Participate in the Oratorical Festival! The St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival is a nationwide program of the Department of Religious Education (DRE) of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, where Orthodox youth present speeches discussing the Greek Orthodox faith and the Church. The Oratorical Festival is divided into the Senior Division (grades 10-12) and Junior Division (grades 7-9). Youth get to explore and deepen their faith and hone their speech writing and public speaking skills. Participants start at the Parish level, then proceed to the District or Metropolis level. And then, two finalists representing each Metropolis of the Archdiocese advance to the National Finals. All participants at the National Finals receive awards ranging from \$1,500 to \$7,000. Finalists at all levels are eligible to receive the Chrysostom Scholarship to Hellenic College ranging from \$2,500 to \$30,000 per year, to receive a credit for the pursuit of one undergraduate degree. Our high school classes will be incorporating the topics of the Oratorical Festival to prepare our students for this competition.



**SCAN**  
TO LEARN MORE

## JR OLYMPICS

It is almost time for the Junior Olympics! The 2025 Junior Olympics will be held May 22nd-24th at Saints Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church, Stagg High School, and Moraine Valley Community College. It is a weekend event that brings together all churches of the Chicago Metropolis to compete in athletic competition and participate in fellowship. Please scan the QR Code to fill out the interest form. \*\*\*Please note that this is an interest form and will not guarantee a spot for team sports.





# Lenten Donations

2025

CONTACT THE OFFICE TO DONATE  
630-851-6106  
OFFICE@SAINTATHANASIOS.COM

\*prices listed are suggested for covering costs

## SALUTATIONS ICON FLOWERS

1st Salutation March 7	\$125
2nd Salutation March 14	\$125
3rd Salutation March 21	\$125
4th Salutation March 28	\$125
Akathist Hymn April 4	\$125

## PALM SUNDAY

Feastal Icon Flowers	\$125
Palm Strips for Crosses	\$100
Palm Fronds	\$300
Bay Branches	\$350

## BRIDEGROOM ICON FLOWERS

1st Bridegroom(Palm Sunday)	\$150
2nd Bridegroom(Holy Monday)	\$150
3rd Bridegroom(Holy Tuesday)	\$150

## HOLY WEDNESDAY

Flour	5LB
Olive Oil	1 bottle
Mystical Supper Icon Flowers	\$125

## HOLY THURSDAY

Crucifixion Icon Flowers	\$125
Crucifix Floral Wreath	\$300

## GOOD FRIDAY

Kouvouklion Flowers	\$1500
Kouvouklion Carnations	\$300
Rose Petals for Epitaphios	\$25

## PASCHA/MISC

Pascha Icon Flowers	\$150
Rose Water	\$30
Lamp Oil	\$30
Red Eggs	



**Weddings  
Baptisms  
Christmas  
Easter**



**dahlia**  
weddings and baptisms  
**dahliawb.com**  
630.596.6826

# SUMMER CAMP



Calling all Kindergarten through 5th grade students! Join us on June 10-13 for this year's Saint Athanasios Summer Camp titled "With the Mother of Light: A Summer with the Theotokos", where we will journey through the life of the Theotokos and learn how she can guide us closer to Christ! This four-day faith-filled adventure will include games, crafts, music, and more! Children will explore the life of the Virgin Mary—from her early years and her faithful "yes" to God, to her role as the Mother of Christ and her continued prayers for us today. Through engaging activities, storytelling, and prayer, students will discover how to follow her example of faith, obedience, and love for God. Don't miss this special opportunity to grow in faith and friendship!

Scan QR Code to Sign up  
and for More Information



# 2025 PILGRIMAGES

## Tuesday, June 24

Holy Transfiguration, Harvard, IL. Nativity of St.. John the Baptist. Liturgy, followed by workshop

## Saturday, July 19

St. John Christostomos, Pleasant Prairie, WI. Translation of the Holy Relics of St. Seraphim. Outdoor work opportunity, followed by Vespers.

## Sunday, August 10

St. Sava & New Gracanica, Lake County, IL. After feast of the Transfiguration, veneration of incorrupt relics of St.Mardarije.

## October 9-13

Columbus Day weekend Helene College/Holy Cross Seminary and St. Nicholas Shrine, Boston and New York City

Dates are tentative, yet all destinations are confirmed, with details forthcoming. Expression of interest, contact Spiro J. Deligiannis (630-677-5014)





**PHASE I:** Purchased Fifth Avenue property (1978). Groundbreaking of Community Center (November 5, 1978). Congregation entered Community Center with a temporary Church Sanctuary in place (November 25, 1979).  
by Penny Panayiota Deligiannis

During the Fall 1978, Peter and Angie Condos visited Saint Athanasios Greek Orthodox Church twice after learning from John Digrindakis that a new parish even existed in Aurora accepting his invitation to take them to Divine Liturgy. Angie exclaimed "Everyone talked to us! Parishioners were so friendly! Previously, we attended an unfriendly parish for two years where no one spoke to us."

Weeks later, Angie's brother John and Terry Botsis visited Saint Athanasios. Terry reminisced "Parishioners gave us such a heartfelt greeting! Driving home after church, I told John this is the Orthodox Family we want to raise our family."

Peter (an Electrician) recalls, "Close friends with Saint Athanasios' priest Fr. John and Presbytera Alexandra Chakos, I was born and raised in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in the same apartment building as Alexandra's family. Digrindakis invited us to his home meeting his family and parishioners who immediately recruited me. I was climbing 20-foot ladders in the hall to place ceiling tiles and public address system speakers. Parishioners bought 10 X 10 ft. square ceiling tiles donating monies. We dragged pallets leveling the corn field, planting seeds, landscaping and cutting grass."

John revealed "United parishioners had ONE VISION AND GOAL and never fought each other. We were always scrimping for money! No waste! Everything donated! We couldn't afford to hire out so the contractors allowed us to work on site building the hallways and painting walls...determined to complete the Community Center. The roof and walls were already constructed. We didn't have money but saved money utilizing parishioners' talents. There weren't many of us. William Kontos put in the wall and beautiful iconostasis in the hall. Teaching, guiding and mentoring us, we looked up to catalysts Harry Kouvavas, Harry Kontos and Nick Metrou who knew how to fearlessly fundraise asking restaurateurs and businesses to donate monies and equipment they had. We had the education while ALL old-timers possessed passion -- an intense work ethic to build this church!"

Terry relayed "After finishing working their jobs, John and Peter went to church daily volunteering their skills, working side-by-side with Orthodox men, then arriving home to sleep. Angie and I spent evenings together taking care of our children. Frustrated that we hardly saw our husbands, we simultaneously understood they were doing a great thing. So proud of our husbands! Our Orthodox Church life, ethnicity and culture has enveloped us these years! We experienced everything together as a family."

Angie added "Terry and I had day jobs. At church volunteering with other parishioners, we cooked and cleaned in the kitchen for constant fundraisers and gatherings. Very warm atmosphere! Family! Saint Athanasios proved to be a great place to raise our kids. All children at church were always together!" Smiling, Peter remembers "Those early days, we were getting used to the building. No sewers. The basement was constantly flooding. Jim Lesiotis donated produce for countless fundraisers including first New Year Dance (1979, 100+ parishioners attended). The septic tank wasn't connected to City's system and overflowed. There weren't many parishioners then. Frequently, we mopped draining water cleaning hallway messes. This really nice parish has always had generous individuals in it."

**NON-STOP VOLUNTEERISM:** Peter Condos (2013-2015 Federation of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians (Chicago) President/30-year Board Member) and Angie (18-year Board Member) happily sing in our choir! Hard-working John, Terry and Botsis Family assist our Greek Food Festivals serving delicious Loukoumades and Coffees to an ecstatic public.



BOTSIS Family (Left to Right): Jimmy, John, Terry, DeeDee, Chrissy



Peter and Angie Condos





## MODERN STEAKHOUSE WITH A GREEK ACCENT.

Beyond our delicious line-up of Prime Steaks, Chops, and Seafood, we offer an authentic selection of Greek Specialties, including Whole Oven Roasted Branzino, Lamb Racks & Greek Potatoes, Classic Pastitsio, and much more. Check out the **Greek Classics** on our menu for all your favorite Mediterranean flavors.

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Reservations 630.718.1010  
[www.citygategrille.com](http://www.citygategrille.com)



CityGate Centre | Rte. 59 & Ferry Rd., Naperville | A Calamos Family Property



APRIL 2025



CHRIST IS RISEN!  
TRULY HE IS RISEN!



A Monthly Publication of Saint Athanasios Greek Orthodox Church

# THE CHAMPION



SAINT  
ATHANASIOS

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