

# THE CHAMPION

A Monthly Publication of Saint Athanasios Greek Orthodox Church

MAY 2025



## MESSAGE FROM FR. PANAGIOTIS

### Χριστός Ανέστη! Christ is Risen!

While we are still basking in the light of the Lord's resurrection, we at St. Athanasios have even more reason to joyfully celebrate. This year marks the 60th anniversary of the founding of our parish. In the years leading up to our founding many faithful in the Aurora area worked diligently to establish an Orthodox Church, among them a man affectionately known as Uncle Thanasi (Μπράμμα Θανάση). In recognition of Thanasi's contribution toward the establishment of an Orthodox Church in Aurora, it was decided that the parish would eventually be named, St. Athanasios, in honor of Thanasi's patron saint.

50 years after that founding, through the visionary work of Fr. Peter Spiro, our parish was blessed to receive a relic of St. Athanasios, bringing the physical presence of our patron saint into our midst. This would be the first of many saints that Fr. Peter would bring to our community through the presence of their relics. It should be noted that few, if any parishes in the United States, are blessed to worship with such a choir of saints physically present within our Church.

May 2nd marks a special feastday in the life of the Church. It is the feast of the Translation of the Relics of St. Athanasios. St. Athanasios fell asleep in the Lord on May 2, 373AD and eventually his holy relics were brought from Alexandria, where he was the bishop, to Constantinople. There, the faithful celebrated St. Athanasios and the presence of his relics each year on the day of his repose.

Therefore, we are fortunate here in our own times, through the efforts of previous generations, like Uncle Thanasi and Fr. Peter, to be able to celebrate this feast in much the same way as the faithful in centuries past. Here we worship in a Church dedicated to St. Athanasios, blessed by the presence of his holy relics. I pray that through out the year we remember the men and women who have come before us to deliver this holy faith and beautiful parish into our hands.



## MAY 16-18

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

**CARRY OUT  
CATERING**  
630.851.6106

**OPENING  
CEREMONY**  
FRIDAY 11:45 AM  
A portion of the proceeds  
will go to the **American Legion**  
Post 84 and **VFM Post 3873**



**PURCHASE  
RAFFLE TICKETS**  
Chance to win daily  
giveaways plus Sunday  
Grand prize **\$1,500**

**FEST TIMES**  
NOON TO 9 PM  
(FRIDAY & SATURDAY)  
NOON TO 7 PM  
(SUNDAY)

**LIVE  
MUSIC**  
STARTING @ 5PM  
SATURDAY  
PERFORMED BY APOLLO 3




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

## MEMORIALS

Demetrios Zafiroopoulos (2 years)


## BAPTISMS

Evangelos Anton



## BIBLE STUDY PODCASTS

WITH FR. PANAGIOTIS



**SCAN  
TO LISTEN**



# PARISH COUNCIL

## Christ Is Risen!

### Pascha:

Thank you to all of our parishioners and visitors during Holy Week and Pascha. Your prayers and attendance were much appreciated by our Beloved Saint Athanasios. Thank you to Fr. Panagiotis, Fr. Nick Anton, our chanters, altar boys, and our choir for all of the beautiful services and hymns. Thank you to the parish council, welcoming committee, our ushers, decorators, Philoptochos, and all of the volunteers for all of their work and dedication during Holy Week. It was beautiful to see everyone come together and give their time and talent to Holy Week and Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We also would like to thank Metropolitan Nathanael for his attendance on Holy Saturday and His Grace Bishop Timothy on Pascha. It was a blessing to have them with us.

### Upcoming Services/Events:

- **Spring Parish Assembly** on May 4th after liturgy. Please join us in St. Mathew Hall to participate in our annual meeting.
- May 16th 17th & 18th **Aurora Greek Fest.** Please be on the lookout for sponsorship information, gift cards, our donation list and gyro drive. For a successful festival, we also need volunteers. We have many areas that we need assistance in, so be on the lookout for our volunteer signup sheets. If you are interested in making a donation or volunteering or have any questions, please contact Tracey Collins, Frank Demas, or the church office.
- May 22-24 Metropolis of Chicago **Jr. Olympics**
- June 9th **OPA Golf Outing**

There are also other services and events along with these that will be posted in the calendar, weekly bulletins, website, and fliers.

Truly He Is Risen!

**Brian McAnally**  
Parish Council President

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



## Summer with the Theotokos

SAINT ATHANASIOS SUMMER CAMP 2025



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





# HOLY SATURDAY CHRISMATIONS & BAPTISMS

On Holy Saturday we welcomed 16 new members into the Orthodox Church. May the Lord bless them and all of us as the Gospel spreads throughout the community.



## BAPTISMS

Kevin Apacible  
Chris Scono  
Aleona Crystal Cole  
Landon Byron Weaver  
Layla Rose Jones  
Elias Matthew Zablocki

## CHRISMATIONS

Mark William Placery  
Caleb Lee Reinert  
Patrick Gerard Stepien  
Andrey Pavlovich Voropayev  
Collin Reece Uveges  
Gustavo Reyes  
McKayla Braid  
Gerardo Marroquin  
Aleksandras Rauckinas  
Catherine Koutselas





# 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)

## Thursday, May 1

7pm Vespers - Translation of the Relics of St Athanasios

## Friday, May 2

Divine Liturgy - Translation of the Relics of St Athanasios

## Sunday, May 4

Divine Liturgy - Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearing Women  
11am Parish Spring Assembly

## Friday, May 9

6pm JOY meeting

## Sunday, May 11

Divine Liturgy - Sunday of the Paralytic

## Wednesday, May 14

6pm JR GOYA meeting

## Thursday, May 15

11am Agape Ministry

## Friday, May 16

12 pm Aurora Greek Festival

## Saturday, May 17

12 pm Aurora Greek Festival

## Sunday, May 18

Divine Liturgy - Sunday of the Samaritan Woman  
12 pm Aurora Greek Festival  
Last day of Sunday School

## Tuesday, May 20

7pm Vespers - Saint Constantine & Helen  
Saint Constantine & Helen 108 N 5th St.  
Rockford, IL 61107

## Wednesday, May 21

Divine Liturgy - SS Constantine and Helen

## Friday, May 23

Metropolis of Chicago Junior Olympics

## Saturday, May 24

Metropolis of Chicago Junior Olympics

## Sunday, May 25

Divine Liturgy - Sunday of the Blind Man  
Metropolis of Chicago Junior Olympics

## Wednesday, May 28

6:30pm Vespers - Ascension  
Ascension of Our Lord Greek Orthodox Church  
1207 Riverwoods Rd.  
Lincolnshire, IL 60069

## Thursday, May 29

Divine Liturgy - Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord

## Saturday, May 31

11am Choir End of Year Meeting and Summer Kickoff

## 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)

## 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:

**Cooking oil, Salad Dressing and Condiments**

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



# PHILOPTOCHOS

Xristos Anesti! Philoptochos hosted a lovely Good Friday luncheon for the volunteers and all the Sunday School students at the retreat. Thank you to everyone who lent a hand and brought a dish to share. We held elections on April 27th and welcomed three new board members: Joanne Collins, Sherry Haralambopoulos and Pam Mossides. They fill open spots left by outgoing board members Stephanie Altidis, Elli Koulos and Connie Patsavas-Romios. Thank you ladies for your dedication to Philoptochos and the board.

We will be awarding a \$1500 scholarship to a high school senior at graduation Sunday, June 1st. If you have a senior, please encourage them to apply! The deadline for applications is May 17th.

We are partnering with Sunday School to fill 100 snack bags for Radical Love. Our children decorated bags at the Good Friday retreat and will help fill them during Summer Camp. We will have a list of food items we need to fill them with in the coming weeks. They will be delivered July 1st. It is an especially important time of year to provide these bags as school is out and many children do not have enough to eat at home. Thank you in advance for your support. Looking ahead—we are already working on our fall Operation Classroom outreach and will have details about that in the next month or so. We are also planning a Fall Promenade raffle fundraiser that will coincide with the fall Aurora Greek Fest, Sept. 19-21. Please contact me if you are able to help plan either activity. Thank you!

Our end of year party is set for Thursday, June 5th at the home of Elli Koulos.

Wishing you all a beautiful month!

Sue Manos

Philoptochos President

## AURORA GREEK FEST

**Our St. Athanasios Spring Greek Festival is Just Around the Corner — MAY 16-18!**

**Christ is Risen!** The festival chairs have been hard at work over the last couple of months and it's not too late to join the fun! With just a couple of preparation weeks remaining, we could use all hands on deck! In addition to time needed, we are looking for support for our gyros cone drive. **Please help us reach our goal of 37 donated gyros.** Gyros donations are \$150 per cone.

As your co-chairs, Frank Demas and I, Tracey Collins, are happy to report on new happenings, including **\$25 festival gift cards! These fun, little gift cards are available NOW...** through the office, by reaching out to us, at the candle stand before/after services and at the Festival table in the hall. Please consider gifting friends, family, teachers, coaches, neighbors, co-workers, gym/club members, other churches/clergy, or anyone you'd like to treat!

Additionally, as Frank and I have served this country for many years, we are proud to dedicate **a portion of the spring festival proceeds to local veteran organizations.** To help us open the fest, veterans will be conducting a color guard presentation at 11:45am on Friday, May 16th. Please join us for this special honor!

We are also offering daily raffle prizes (over the festival weekend), in addition to the standard festival raffle. **Sponsorship opportunities look a little different as well,** 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!

All support is genuinely welcomed and very much appreciated! 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 and building new memories in our community!

**Truly He is Risen!**

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

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





# STEWARDSHIP

**Christ Is Risen!** Over the last couple years, the Stewardship Committee has used the term Stewardship Independence in many of their communications. We would like to take this opportunity to expand on this vision and provide you some more background information on it. First of all, it is important for us to understand how our Stewardship Treasures are used. The primary use of these Treasures is to pay for our “day to day” operating expenses . . . utilities, salaries, building maintenance items, ministries, etc. Currently, Stewardship pays for about 50% of our expenses with the remainder paid by external fundraisers. Our 2025 Stewardship Goal of \$408,300 will result in Stewardship paying for about 60% of our operating expenses. Our 2025 Stewardship Goal reflects about a 15% increase over our 2024 level. We recognize that our achievement of Stewardship Independence will be a multi-year “journey” and will not happen overnight.

It is also important to note that to achieve our Stewardship Independence Goal, the average Stewardship Pledge will have to increase from its current level of about \$1,300 to about \$2,300. This assumes that our number of Stewards remains constant at about 300.

Once we achieve Stewardship Independence, we can use our external fundraisers in this manner:

1. Help cover the cost of major capital expenses that we incur related to our buildings and property.
2. Fund additional Philanthropic activities to help those within our Church Community and those outside our Church Community.

As you can see, we have a Stewardship vision that is the goal of many Parishes within the Metropolis. It will not be achieved overnight, but it is a goal that we should all strive to achieve.

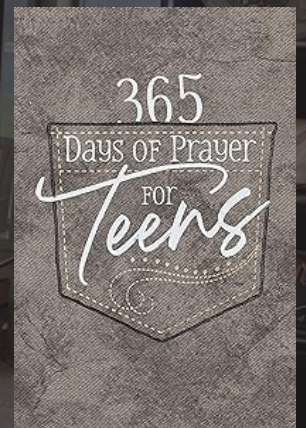
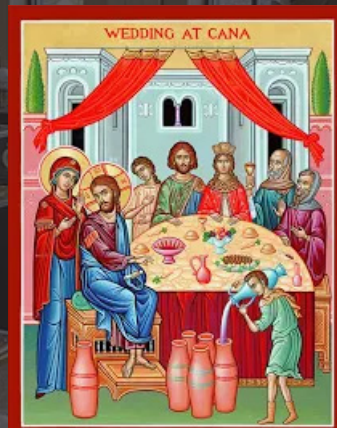
Please look into your heart when you make your Stewardship commitment and take this Vision into consideration.

In His Service,  
**Elli Koulos and Pete Nassos**



## BOOK STORE

May is a month of graduations and wedding planning! Visit our Bookstore after Sunday Liturgy to browse our daily devotional books for adults and teens along with icons, Bibles, jewelry, music CDs, and other religious items for graduation gift giving. For weddings, there are gift items, including the Wedding at Cana icons. Visiting our Bookstore can be an inspiring teaching and engaging experience, much different than shopping online on one's own using a computer or mobile device. Our Bookstore's presence in our Church in St. Matthew Hall makes everyone feel connected to God and to our fellow parishioners. Stop in soon!





# MEN'S GROUP

Xristos Anesti! Alithos Anesti! Christ is Risen! Truly He has Risen!  
Thank you all for your support and participation in this ministry. We hope to continue our successful ministry in 2025 with your help.

**Lenten Dinner Meal – April 9:** The Men's Group provided dinner after Presanctified Liturgy. Thank you to all who provided food and their service to make it a success.

**Men's Workshop - Busyness & Stillness – April 10:** Our last workshop was on Thursday, April 10. We look forward to our next workshop series.

**Blood Drive – April 30:** Thank you Mickey Koulos for leading this important event and to those donating blood.

**Aurora Greek Fest – May 16-18:** We need volunteers to work the souvlaki and chicken grills. Please contact us if you are interested.

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

# COLLEGE MINISTRY



## JOHN POULAKIDAS

John Poulakidas is attending Yale University at New Haven, Connecticut. His major is in Political Science and he expects to graduate in May 2025. His favorite classes so far have been "Psychology" and "Global Capitalism". After graduation, John's plan is to pursue Professional Basketball. In the longer term, he anticipates playing in the National Basketball Association (NBA). The Orthodox Church John attends while at College is the "Saint Basil's" Greek Orthodox Church. Having grown up in the Saint Athanasios Church, he feels a deep sense of nostalgia every time he is here. The church holds so many memories for him, and it has always felt like home. He is also incredibly grateful for Father Panagiotis. John's favorite sport is basketball. He enjoys training and spending time with friends and family. His favorite season is Summer because of the warm weather and the fact that being off from school allows him to spend his time how he wants to. His favorite restaurant while at College is the "Cast Iron Chop House". When at home, he enjoys dining at the "Spartan Ale House".

# CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

**Christ is Risen! Χριστός Ανέστη!** It seems just like yesterday that we were joyfully celebrating the feast day of our patron and rejoicing in the retirement of our mortgage. Time marches on, children grow, adults age, and often **communities evolve**.

As we saw on Holy Saturday, through the Catechumens who joined us our community is growing which is fantastic! And while growth is exciting, it's also accompanied by the reality that our beloved facilities are growing older too (a little like some of us).

The good news is if we take the time and effort now, we can successfully continue to grow our community and maintain our facilities. To achieve that goal, I am inviting all of you take the time to recommit to Phase Two of our Capital Campaign. To refresh ourselves:

## **What is Phase Two of the Capital Campaign?**

Phase Two focuses on addressing the essential structural and maintenance needs of our building. In order to be on track to meet those needs we need to raise \$125,000 this year.

## **I don't remember what the building needs were. What are they?**

We have identified four major building needs as follows:

- 1) landscape renovation
- 2) replacement of the three original HVAC systems including the boiler in the basement
- 3) replacement of the existing roof **when needed**
- 4) repair and upgrade the parking lot

Our 2025, objective is to raise \$125,000. As of March 31st, we are well on our way to achieving this goal. We have raised over \$57,000!! Thank you to everyone who has contributed so far.

Please take the time to find out how you can support the campaign by visiting our website and commit to supporting this vital campaign.

Thank you,  
Phil Nassos & Mike Tsimouris  
Capital Campaign Committee

## LEARN MORE







## JOY

**MAY 9, 2025 | 6:00 PM**

Join us for our JOY meeting on  
May 9th at 6pm.

More information and RSVP in Remind.



## JR GOYA

**MAY 14, 2025 | 6:00 PM**

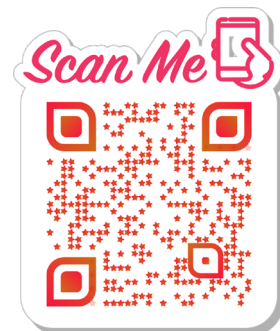
Join us for our Jr. GOYA meeting on May 14th  
at 6pm

More information and RSVP in Remind.



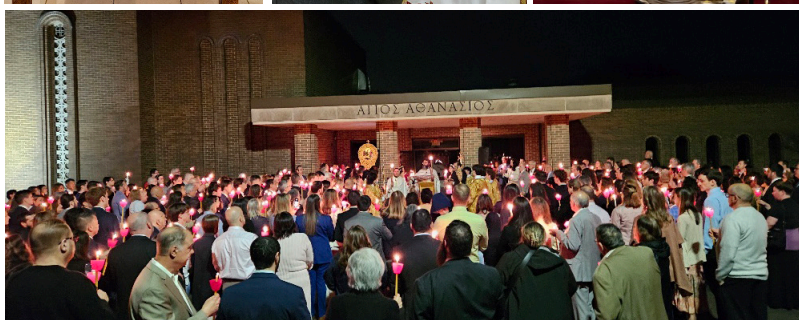
## JR OLYMPICS

It is almost time for the Junior Olympics! The 2025 Junior Olympics will be held May 23rd-25th 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.





# HOLY WEEK 2025



## AGAPE MINISTRY

The Agape Ministry is happy to be hosting coffee hour on Sunday, May 4th. If you would like to contribute please contact Samantha at (312) 504-4448 or [agape@stathanasios.com](mailto:agape@stathanasios.com).

Our next meeting will be in St Matthew Hall on May 15th at 11am. Please join us for a potluck lunch and a short presentation on "Getting your documents in order" by Becki Drake from Bardwell Residences (see flier below).

### Getting Your Docs in Order



Join us at this informative presentation on important documents.

When life throws you a curveball, it's good to be prepared for yourself and the ones you love.

We will discuss what documents you need for your future and how to get them all in one place.

Many of us are saving a lot of documents we don't need - find out what to pitch, what to keep and how to get organized.

**Thursday, May 15  
11:00 am**

St. Athanasios  
Greek Orthodox Church  
1855 5th Ave  
Aurora, IL 60504

RSVP by May 9, 2025  
[Marketing@bardwellresidences.com](mailto:Marketing@bardwellresidences.com)

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630.596.6826

**Weddings  
Baptisms  
Christmas  
Easter**







## **PHASE II:** Groundbreaking for the Church Building (April 4, 1982) and its Realization (March 27, 1983)! THYRANIOXIA! Classrooms were approved to be added to the Community Center due to rapid growth! by Penny Panayiota Deligiannis

Pete and Betsy Nassos travel the world but their most rewarding journey is the road they faithfully traverse together. They are firmly committed to their Eastern Orthodox Faith which guides them, their children Kara, Leah, Stacia and Philip and spouses, and six grandchildren. Betsy recalled "We were stewards at our parish in Austin, Texas. Orthodox Christians attended representing many ethnicities (i.e., Lebanese, Antiochians, Greek, etc.) The Divine Liturgy was mostly in English. The Lord's Prayer was recited in six languages. We experienced the beauty of Pan-Orthodoxy! As I was still a Catholic, the converted Orthodox priest (Scottish Episcopalian background) was after me to become Orthodox. My parents weren't Orthodox. I attended Catechism classes to better learn my Eastern Orthodox Faith."

In ways this family couldn't imagine, Pete's job transfer from Texas to Nalco Chemical Company in Naperville, Illinois in October 1985 proved to be a blessed Homecoming. Although Betsy's parents resided in Naperville, it was the Nassos' new friendly Greek Orthodox neighbors George and Sheila Pullos, Lou and Helen Halkias and others who invited them to the hospitable Saint Athanasios Greek Orthodox Church in Aurora.

"Saint Athanasios' parishioners opened up their arms making us feel welcome! The receptivity of everyone to us!" remembers Pete. "Born and raised in a Greek Orthodox family on Chicago's south side, I respected Betsy's strong Roman Catholic traditions while we dated in college. We talked a great deal and needed this to be easy. As each child was born, we attended services from both Faiths."

Betsy explained "It was the caring attitude of our parishioners at Saint Athanasios! They could assist us where we were in our lives with very young children! There were lots of families. We became stewards of this vibrant community and attended Divine Liturgy with our kids. In May 1986, I was pregnant with Philip when I first forayed into the major annual Greek Food Festival parishioners actualized at the Kane County Fairgrounds in Saint Charles. After Dena Deligiannis saw me volunteering long hours, she brought me a thermos of warm milk. Pete was working the bar. It felt like we were home! We were one big family! In 1987, Pete co-chaired this Festival with our neighbor Dean Raptakis."

In 1987, Fr. Chris and Presvytera Angie Constantinides arrived at Saint Athanasios. Betsy thoughtfully reflected "I became close friends with Angie. At Philip's baptism in 1988, she came to me and asked 'Why haven't you converted?' I didn't have a good answer and told her 'I'm not ready.' Angie responded 'Let me know when you are ready.' She gave me books to read. Fr. Chris talked to me. I hadn't committed but taught Sunday School and volunteered at the Festival serving as Treasurer. Our kids enjoyed Sunday School, youth programs and serving in the Altar. The Apollo Dance Troupe (created by Dr. Michael and Eva Kontos) helped our kids relate to their Greek ethnicity! They didn't speak Greek. A positive experience! It was an easy transfer for our family to the Eastern Orthodox Church and Faith.



NASSOS Family - Front Row: Pete, Betsy  
Back Row (Left to Right): Philip, Stacia, Kara, Leah

Our kids attended Catholic schools telling Catholic friends 'We are Orthodox!' People thought they were Jewish. During my natural progression after attending Divine Liturgy for ten years, I was chrismated one Sunday in church in 1988! My sponsor was Angie."

Working with Parish Council colleagues, Pete completed a Study forecasting expected growth in the Aurora-Naperville-Geneva corridor. Peter recalled "200 children attended Sunday School and Greek School. Dividers were put up and down to improvise classrooms in the church hall. An architect completed the Assessment/estimated cost regarding building additional classrooms. Animosity existed towards building. Lots of convincing before Approval by the General Assembly!"

Pete's job transferred the family to Phoenix, Arizona. They became stewards at the Cathedral which had a Welcoming Committee. Four years later, this family returned to Naperville. Betsy chuckled, "We implemented good ideas at Saint Athanasios hosting Welcome Dinners for new families. For years, I stood at the back of the church welcoming visitors including the Boznos family (= Fr. Panayiotis was a child)!"

**Χριστός Ανέστη! CHRIST IS RISEN!**





## FRESH, HAND-CRAFTED ITALIAN & MEDITERRANEAN FLAVORS

Che Figata serves the freshest ingredients prepared simply and authentically, from house-made pastas to wood-fired meats and Mediterranean seafood. Our **Zorba Lounge** offers an elegant setting for creative craft cocktails and cozy nightcaps.

**Reservations 630.579.3210 • [www.chefigatakitchen.com](http://www.chefigatakitchen.com)**



KITCHEN — BAR — MARKET

# CHE FIGATA

ITALY TO TABLE



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



TRANSLATION OF  
THE RELICS OF  
ST. ATHANASIOS

MAY 2025



A Monthly Publication of Saint Athanasios Greek Orthodox Church

# THE CHAMPION



SAINT  
ATHANASIOS

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