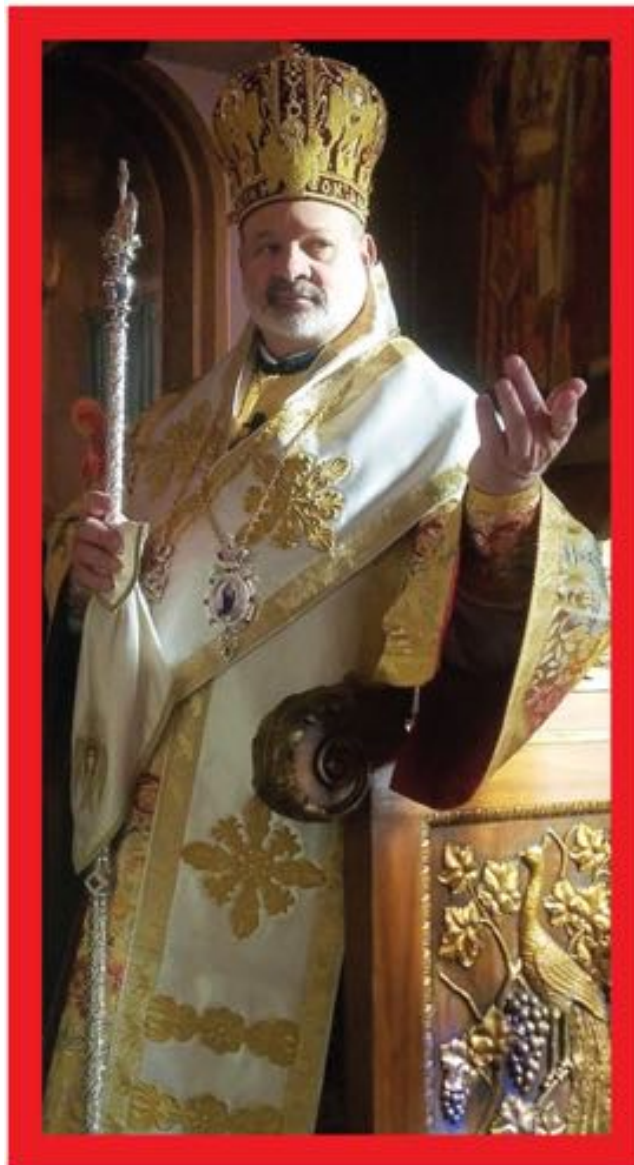


December 2017

PHILOPTOCHOS PERSPECTIVE

Philanthropy • Fellowship • Faith in Action



Bishop Demetrios of Mokissos – Chancellor of Chicago

Celebrating the 11th Anniversary of His Elevation to Bishop



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF CHICAGO ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΣΙΚΑΓΟΥ

December 12, 2017

FEAST OF SAINT SPYRIDON THE WONDER-WORKER

Holy Metropolis of Chicago
Philoptochos Board and Chapters,

Dear Beloved Sisters and Co-workers in the Lord,

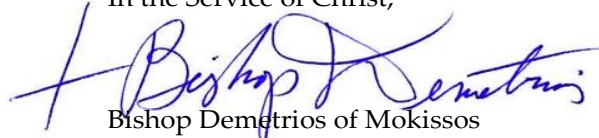
As we approach the glorious Feast of our Lord's Nativity I greet you in his Holy Name, desiring to thank you for your ministry, cooperation and assistance over this past year. The strength of our Holy Metropolis is a reflection of your dedication and commitment, in making the Incarnate One present in our world through your philanthropy, support of our faithful families and our Holy Church.

It has been a challenging year for our Holy Metropolis considering the falling asleep in the Lord of our spiritual father and hierarch, His Eminence Metropolitan Iakovos of blessed memory. As you may recall, His Eminence was ordained a bishop of the Church on Christmas day, 1969. Although we lament his sudden passing, we may rejoice that this great liturgist now joins the heavenly liturgy in the fullness of our Lord's Kingdom with all the saints and the heavenly hosts, certain of his continued prayers for us, the flock to whom he was devoted for so long.

While I am grateful to all our Philoptochos members, let us also be thankful for the guidance and blessings of His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas of Detroit, *Locum Tenens* of Chicago to whom we are indebted for his pastoral leadership and sensitivity these several months, and earnestly pray that our Lord grant him many more years of health and strength in his continued archpastoral ministry.

I pray that this Christmas and the season of Theophany be a time of abundant blessings for you and your families, and for all the faithful we serve. Wishing you a very, merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, I remain,

In the Service of Christ,



Bishop Demetrios of Mokissos
Chancellor

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President's Corner

Dear Chapter Presidents and Philoptochos Sisters,

“Christmas is a time to come together,

A time to put all differences aside

When I reach out my hand to the family of man

To share the joy I feel at Christmas time.”

The Christmas Wish, music and lyrics by Dan Wheetman

Many families share traditions as Christmas approaches. When my children were young we always listened to the music of John Denver and the Muppets “A Christmas Together” as we trimmed the Christmas tree. Many years later, my children are grown and have moved on, but my husband and I have kept this tradition alive. Once again, this year, as we trimmed the tree, the lyrics to this song reminded me how blessed we are to experience the spirit of Christmas.

As we approach the Feast of the Nativity, I know how busy we all are...working, shopping, baking, cleaning, doing whatever is necessary to prepare for Christmas. Let us not forget the opportunity we have to put our differences aside and reach out our hands to those less fortunate, no matter what their race or creed, wherever they may be, through our work as Philoptochos members...to share our blessings and the joy that is Christmas.

I thank you for all that you do to aid those in need, through your selfless acts of caring and kindness, not just at Christmas but throughout the entire year. I want to thank His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas of Detroit, Locum Tenens of the Metropolis of Chicago for his leadership during these past six months since the passing of His Eminence, Metropolitan Iakovos, of blessed memory. I especially want to thank His Grace, Bishop Demetrios of Mokissos, for his continued guidance and support of our Philoptochos mission.

I wish you and your loved ones a very Merry Christmas and I pray that the New Year 2018 brings you the blessings of peace, love and joy.

With sisterly agape, Pam

Pam Argyris, Metropolis of Chicago Philoptochos President



METROPOLIS BOARD CHRISTMAS PARTY





*Some pursue happiness.
But Metropolis Philoptochos members
create it!*



2018 IS THE YEAR OF KINDNESS!

Set your new intention to bring kindness in to your daily life.

It makes you feel good and it gets easier the more you do it!

Share a smile. Pass on a kind word. Do a good deed. The possibilities are endless.

METROPOLIS OF CHICAGO

Calendar of Chapters' Events

2017

December

12/31 St. Andrew, Chicago, New Year's Eve Day Champagne Mimosa Brunch

2018

January

01/16 St. Antonios Vespers, Metropolis Home

01/17 St. Antonios Feast Day Divine Liturgy, Metropolis Home

01/27 St. Sophia, Elgin, Trivia Night

February

02/02 St. Demetrios, Elmhurst, Fashion Show

02/03 Presidents' Meeting @ ST. Demetrios, Hammond, IN

02/10 SS Constantine & Helen, Palos Hills, Night at the Bouzoukia

02/10 St. Athanasios Philoptochos Trivia Night

02/11 Ascension of Our Lord, Lincolnshire, Philoptochos Apokriatiko Glendi @ Concorde Banquets

March

03/03 SS Peter & Paul, Glenview, Quilt-A-Thon

03/10 Metropolis Lenten Retreat @ Assumption, Chicago

03/17 SS Constantine & Helen, Palos Hills Quilt-A-Thon

April

04/13 Zoodochos Peghe Divine Liturgy, St. Iakovos Retreat Center

May

05/19 Presidents' Meeting @ St. Iakovos Retreat Center

September

09/15 or 9/22 September Luncheon, venue TBD

October

10/12 St. Nectarios Fashion Show

10/13 Metropolis Wide Dress A Girl Sew-a-thon @ St. Basil, Chicago

Please Note: Every Chapter hosts Christmas & Easter Bake Sales, Palm Sunday Luncheons, Membership Drives and other usual internal events. Due to limitation of space, this calendar is designed as a tool to notify chapters about citywide events, to encourage participation from our chapters' members, and as a vehicle for planning chapter events to assist in eliminating schedule conflicts whenever possible.

**To place your Chapter's events on the Calendar, please call or email:
Kathy Walstrom – kathywalstrom@gmail.com - 847-606-9889**



“I enjoy reading the Perspective because it enables me to see pictures from so many chapters in our Metropolis. My cousin, Nick Xamis and his wife Jeanie, from St. Anthony’s Church in Springfield, IL will be happy to see their photo with His Grace taken in St. Louis!” Becky Liringis

Assumption Chicago Christmas Luncheon and Sing-a-Long



*When you choose joy,
you feel good and when
you feel good, you do
good. And when you do
good, it reminds others
of what joy feels like.
And it just might inspire
them to do the same!*



*Many good wishes
for the holidays
and the coming
New Year!*





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Wishing you all the Blessings of the Christmas Season

Holy Cross, Justice, IL Christmas Party



♥ TO ♥ Aid to Greece and Cyprus Campaign Continues

On July 3, 2017, The National Executive Board approved disbursements totaling \$115,000 for aid to the people of Greece and Cyprus bringing total amount of financial support to date to \$789,120.

The Heart-to-Heart Campaign of the Aid to Greece & Cyprus Committee of the National Philoptochos Society wants to emphasize the dire need for YOUR personal help this year for the Heart-to-Heart Campaign.

The Ladies of the Philoptochos of earlier generations were called upon to provide help for the starving, homeless, and suffering multitudes in our motherland, and today we are once again called upon to provide the same service.

Today Greece is facing no less ominous situation in terms of human suffering. Poverty levels have risen 40% as of 2015. Seven thousand suicides have been reported in the last seven years, bringing it to an average of a thousand suicides a year. Widespread unemployment has forced people in their forties and fifties to survive on the pensions of their elderly parents. Greece is facing a major public health calamity. Churches and Apostoli are helping by running soup kitchens and preparing food packages to be delivered to the hungry.

The National Philoptochos Aid to Greece & Cyprus Committee has recommended one of the ways to help by holding Heart-to-Heart Kaffe-Popups. The Kaffe Popups have the ability to build a grass roots campaign to mobilize communities on an almost no cost basis to raise funds and provide aid to help the people in Greece & Cyprus.

It is easy to hold a Heart-to-Heart Kaffe-Popup at your home. Invite guests to come together at your home. Those attending are free to give any amount they deem appropriate; there is no minimum required; the important thing is your presence and your care and moral support. Spend time discussing the situation in Greece & Cyprus and emphasize how contributions can certainly help to alleviate human suffering.

At the conclusion of the Kaffe Popups, the hostess will fill out the form below, providing the attendees' details and amount donated. All Checks are made out to The National Philoptochos with "Aid to Greece & Cyprus Campaign" written in the memo. If cash is donated, the hostess converts the money to a cashier's check or money order, made out to the National Philoptochos. The form and checks are then sent to Christina Hiotis, Metropolis Treasurer, who will forward them to the National Philoptochos each month. We hope that many of the attendees of these Kaffe Popups will be inspired to hold their own Kaffe Popups, resulting in a grass roots network to help the people in Greece & Cyprus.

Our OXI in 2017 should be 'NO' to poverty, 'NO' to human suffering, and 'NO' to disease and sickness.

We ask that you to participate in this Campaign by holding a Heart-to-Heart Kaffe Popup at your home. The same request is being sent to all the Chapters in our Metropolis. Christina Hiotis, will be in contact with the chapters to offer any further information or help in organizing these Kaffe Popups.

Following videos shed light on the situation in Greece & our responsibility. It can be shown at the Kaffe Popups:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QBEed_ENBXwU

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HoXlwl3l_RE

Thank you for your time and support. ***Christina Hiotis, Aid to Greece & Cyprus Committee***

Date: _____ **Hostess:** _____

Address: _____

| Name | Email | Amount |
|------|-------|--------|
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Saints Peter & Paul Christmas Party







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St. Athanasios Christmas Walk/Raffle & Christmas Party



Assumption Town & Country Christmas Party



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***May your World be
brightened by the
beautiful
Philoptochos
friendships!***

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PHILOPTOCHOS**



St. Demetrios – Chicago Christmas Party



St. George – St. Paul, MN

Pan Orthodox Ladies Tea



Annual Advent Luncheon



***The only way to do great Philoptochos work,
is to love what you do!***

Sts. Constantine & Helen - Palos Hills



Annual Bazaar & Craft Show

*I Said a Christmas Prayer for You
because the season's near.
I didn't ask for riches
but for gifts so much more dear.
I asked for joyful gatherings
with your family all around,
And for carols to inspire you
with their old familiar sound.
I asked for quiet moments
in your heart on Christmas morn,
For a special time to celebrate
the Savior who was born . . .*



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Twelve Holy Apostles - Duluth, MN



Officers: Lia Apostolellis-Jauhol, Secretary, Rebecca Patronas Lind, Treasurer, Pamela Benson, President, Lacey Wendland, Vice President



Our chapter volunteers at the Damiano Center, a local agency in Duluth that provides services to homeless and other low-income people in the community.

Christianiki Philoxenia Luncheon. This beautiful monthly outreach program began six years ago, thanks to Koula Pitsis from our parish, who connected our sister parishes of St. Constantine and Helen, St. Spyridon, St. Nicholas, Holy Cross and Assumption to unite individuals across our the southwest side of Chicago. It's an inspiring experience to see the many smiles of happiness, fellowship, tradition and love. Each of the six parishes takes turns hosting this event annually.



Faith asks that you do whatever you can, wherever you are, whenever you can, with whatever you have, to make a difference.

St. Nicholas – St. Louis

Teddy Hart was named the Chapter's "Woman of the Year".



St. Mary's - Minneapolis

Philoptochos is bringing 2017 to an end by supporting children, our church and our community. Children will be lifted up at our Days for Girls Service Project in December as well as through Vasilopita sales.

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St. Mary's – St. Paul, MN

Minneapolis Chapter 2049 hosted a Pan-Orthodox event to collect donations and cut, iron, sew and surge washable, reusable feminine hygiene products and drawstring bags for Days for Girls Kits. They will be hand delivered to girls in Uganda without access to such supplies. Without supplies, girls often stay home from school when they have their period, missing a quarter of their education and ultimately impacting their earning potential and ability to stay out of poverty as adults.



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Ascension of Our Lord - Lincolnshire

Membership Kickoff Meeting: *“Building our Faith; Building our Future”*



Christmas Party





National and Metropolis board member, Carol Stamas, volunteering with her god daughter as they model at our Feast Day Membership Luncheon and Fashion Show.

Anna Duros, Chapter President, made the gift of Philoptochos memberships to her daughters, Samantha and Jaime.



Samantha Duros, one of our youngest Ascension Philoptochos members, volunteers weekly at Tutoring Chicago to help break the cycle of poverty by educating and caring.

St. Demetrios - Elmhurst

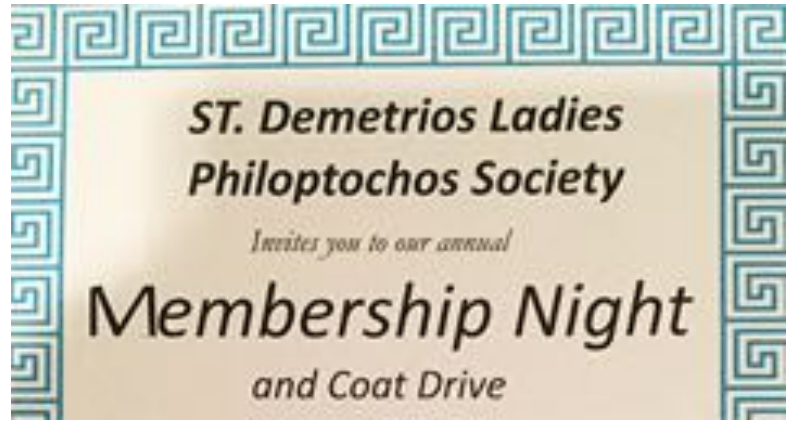
Celebrating our Church and His Grace's Name Day



St. Demetrios Ladies Working to "Feed the Hungry"



St. Demetrios - Chicago



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Philoptochos members succeed each day because they:

- Work hard to do good things.*
- Know that teamwork allows us to accomplish the most.*
- Look for and find the best in others.*
- Always give their best to make the World a better place!*



Annunciation Cathedral - Chicago

The Annunciation Cathedral Philoptochos represented the Metropolis of Chicago at the Annual Pediatric Oncology Thanksgiving Festival. This event hosts the past and present patients and their families to share a Thanksgiving meal and partnering organizations like Philoptochos who have assisted the UIC Children's Hospital in various ways, were invited to participate. The children made crafts and enjoyed a "koulouraki." Pictured are: Vice President Lindsay Stavrakas, Advisor Demetria Knoch, President Catherine Hareas, Dr. Mary Lou Schmidt, Pediatric Hematology-Oncology expert and Metropolis Board member Joanne Stavrakas.



Philoptochos Philanthropy never deprives someone of hope.

Philoptochos recognizes that hope is what people hold onto most.

New Presidents' Meeting – St. Nicholas – Oak Lawn





Presidents' Meeting – St. George - Chicago





St. Sophia - Elgin

Our St. Sophia Philoptochos chapter enlisted the help of Youth Ministry, Sunday school, Greek School and Golden Circle to host a Make a Difference Day event. Our board member, Artemis Kamaris, chaired the event. We collected the items needed for the IOCC packets and volunteers helped sort and pack the items. 245 bags were assembled and shipped. The extra soap, washcloths and nail clippers were donated to the Greek American Nursing Home and the remaining items, toothbrushes, towels, etc. were donated to Lazarus House, a homeless shelter in St. Charles.



St. Spyridon – Palos Heights

St. Spyridon has had a busy Fall. Our Philoptochos introduced the School Drive Kits to be distributed to the children of Greece. The youth of St. Spyridon, headed by Sunday School Director Zoe Kopanis, along with the Philoptochos, put together kits to be sent to Greece by IOCC.

The St. Spyridon Church Food Pantry and Philoptochos distributed food for the needy. Stella Parhas chairman of the food pantry, ladies of Philoptochos and parishioners distributed turkeys with all the trimmings for 34 needy families.

The St. Spyridon Philoptochos awarded its annual \$1,000 scholarship to two graduating high school seniors; Politimi Labrakis and Konstantinos Alikakos were the recipients.

We also held our very successful and popular annual Craft Fair.



St. Demetrios - Chicago

St. Demetrios Philoptochos collected and distributed over 250 sets of clothing for Puerto Rico Hurricane Survivors.



*Philoptochos kindnesses are special,
and so are our members!*

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St. Demetrios Philoptochos Held A Successful "Walk the Walk" Event

Saints Peter & Paul – Glenview – Baking Day



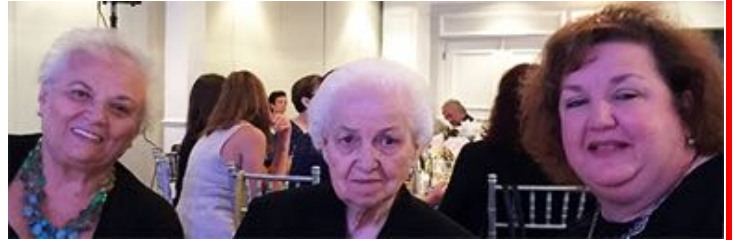
The best way of learning about Philoptochos is by doing!

Metropolis September Luncheon



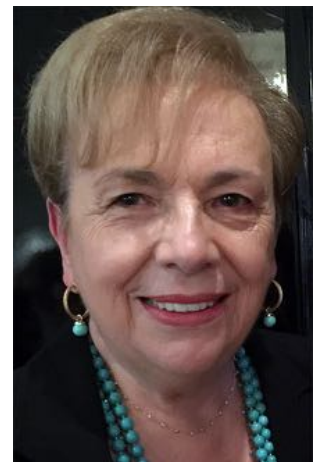






What a wonderful miracle.
Angela's name was drawn for the First
Prize Winner of our Metropolis Raffle,
What a joy when her mom took her on
the stage to receive her raffle winnings.

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St. Basil – Host For Sew-a-Thon

By working together, we made a difference! St. Basil Philoptochos recently hosted the 5th annual Metropolis wide Sew-a-thon welcoming Philoptochos members from Chicagoland and far beyond. We cut, embellished and sewed dresses and pants for many children in need. Every garment was made with love. The sew-a-thon was a great opportunity for fellowship with old friends and new ones. St. Basil's is very grateful to our many Philoptochos sisters who participated from these churches: Annunciation Cathedral Chicago, Assumption Chicago, Assumption Hegewisch, St. Andrew Chicago, Sts. Constantine and Helen Palos Hills, St. Demetrios Chicago, St. Demetrios Baltimore, St. Haralambros Niles, St John the Baptist Des Plaines and St Sophia Elgin.

We also want to thank Mrs. Dorothy Bezemes and Mrs. Helene Frankos for their commitment and continued leadership of our Dress a Girl Ministry. We have sent more than [100 dresses, pants, underwear and socks to St. Nicholas in Corpus Christi](#) for distribution to girls and boys impacted by hurricane Harvey. We hope to also send garments to hurricane victims in Florida and Puerto Rico.





St. Basil

St Basil Philoptochos continues to support of the Lincoln Park Community Shelter by making sack lunches for their residents. The shelter provides homeless men and women programs to help them overcome the issues that caused their homelessness and help them move into their own permanent home. We are blessed for the opportunity to help them reach their goal.



In early December, our members and some of their spouses gathered together at The Greek Island to celebrate the Christmas season. It was a special evening filled with delicious food, happiness, laughter and much love.



St. Andrews - Chicago

St. Andrew's Philoptochos has partnered with our Sunday Church School Program to complete three Acts of Kindness. First, we purchased and assembled 50 School Supply Kits, which were given to IOCC for the Children in Greece. Then, on another Sunday, we made 75 Lunches with sandwiches, cookies, snacks and drinks, and wrote notes of encouragement for the Night Ministry Program which serves vulnerable youth and adults who are struggling with poverty and homelessness.



Then, collectively, the Sunday School children and Philoptochos members made 25 blankets for the children who stay over the holidays at the Pediatric Unit at UIC Hospital. By partnering together, we are teaching our students the meaning of philanthropy, and helping those in need! Many thanks to Kathy Siavelis, Arlene Siavelis Kehl, Tracey Lazos and Vonnie Karafotias who coordinated these events.

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Open Hearts, Open Minds and Open Doors Inclusion Sunday: Many Thanks to Maria Kotsinis, Presbytera Kiki Kalomas, Joanne Mammias, Father Kalomas, Presbytera Kiki, Father Athanasios and Alejandra Franco for supporting our annual Inclusion Sunday on October 23rd. Once again, we had the Greek American Rehabilitation Center drive out a number of residents to attend services & luncheon.



St. Andrew's Philoptochos partnered with the IOCC to support the 11th annual 5K Walk/Run to support IOCC's global humanitarian relief programs. All of the participants enjoyed a delicious breakfast prepared by Kosta and his staff after the walk/run. Many thanks to Kathy Siavelis, Patty Harrison, Vonnie Karafotias, Cindy Lynch, Semi Karnezos, Seva Johnson and Marilyn Tzakis who helped to serve the meal Saturday morning.

Thanksgiving Food Drive: Chaired by Stephane and Adam Collopy. Once again, we had a terrific response by the entire parish to ensure that 25 turkeys and 40 boxes filled with non-perishable were donated to Care for Real. It is heartening to see the outpouring of generosity by so many to ensure those less fortunate had a warm turkey with all the trimmings on Thanksgiving Day.



Vespers and Names Day: Every year Philoptochos proudly joins with the parish to celebrate our patron St. Andrew with a luncheon and coffee hour.



Philoptochos members always learn from the past. They live in the now.

And are optimistic about the future!

Annual Dinner Dance: Held at the Westin O'Hare was a wonderful success thanks to first time Dinner Dance Chairman, Vivian Davros. This year Vivian introduced a new recipient to receive some of our proceeds, The Navy SEALS Foundation, which provides a comprehensive set of programs specifically designed to improve health and welfare, build and enhance resiliency, empower and educate families and provide critical support during times of illness, injury, loss and transition.





In Loving Memory
His Eminence
Metropolitan Iakovos of Chicago
April 4, 1928 – June 2, 2017

Please send submissions to: marilynnjemas@gmail.com



All Philoptochos members instinctively know that the things that are really worth doing are those things that we do for others. This edition of the Perspective highlights our many Philoptochos gatherings and our giving spirit!

Each chapter submission conveys our positive “can do” attitude, our helpful hands and our beautiful smiling faces.

Thank you for your submissions to the Perspective and for all you do for Philoptochos.

As this year closes, we remember all the best Philoptochos moments and people. Life expands by the friendships we keep and those friends and events we remember most fondly.

All the best to all of our readers in 2018!

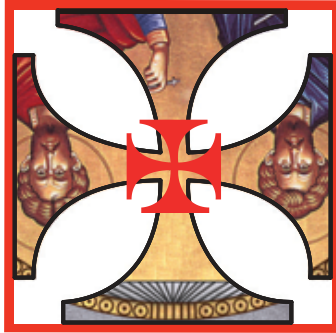
**I am the face of
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You may also purchase St. Nicholas merchandise from Shoppe Philoptochos. 100% of the profits will support Philoptochos Initiatives. The St. Nicholas silk tie and sterling silver charm make wonderful gifts for family and friends.

Many other gifts are available.

To order, visit our website:

<http://www.philoptochos.org/resources/shoppe-philoptochos/>



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