

Philoptochos Perspective

Philanthropy • Fellowship • Faith in Action

End of Year 2020



Goodbye 2020 - Hello 2021

President's Letter

2020 A YEAR IN REVIEW A SALUTE TO THE UNSUNG HEROES: THE LADIES OF PHILOPTOCHOS

2020 began as previous years, with our Annual Vasilopita. St. George Chicago was our gracious host and 500 people attended. All our chapters also celebrated at their own parishes. In February, our chapters, especially our officers gathered for a President's meeting at All Saints Joliet that was an officer's workshop. The Board instructed, the officers took notes and we celebrated our accomplishments from the 2019 Children's Medical Fund Luncheon. At the time we did not know that this would be the last time we would be face to face in 2020.

AND THEN THE PANDEMIC ARRIVED.

We waited until the last moment and the Lenten Retreat was cancelled. The Quilt-a-thons were cancelled. Church was cancelled. Toiletries were in short supply. There was a run at COSTCO and Walmart, AND THEN PHILOPTOCHOS TOOK ACTION. The Ladies of

Philoptochos, you the Chapters of this Metropolis followed our Mission and began helping those in need.

The Metropolis and most importantly the Chapters organized food deliveries, made phone calls to their parishioners, especially the elderly to check up on them, organized toiletries for delivery, donated to food banks and shelters, sent food to first responders at hospitals, police and fire stations, continued making quilts and blankets , continued our Feed the Hungry Program and began making masks.

The Masks Matter was initiated as a Metropolis project with the Blessings of His Eminence Metropolitan Nathanael. Our ten co-captains from throughout the Metropolis organized the sewers and reported to the Metropolis Board Members, Georgia Sarlas and Carol Stamas. They have been distributed to health care workers, nursing homes, police and fire men and parishioners. Many chapters participated.

The Pandemic did not stop our Quilters and Blanket makers, both SS Constantine & Helen, Palos Hills and SS. Peter and Paul, Glenview continued their "Quilt a Thons" at home. Parking lots became the new go-to places to meet with masks on and exchange materials. Food became the number one priority.

The Metropolis Feed the Hungry Program had to stop for a few months due to COVID restrictions. However, with the Blessings of His Eminence and His Grace, Bishop Timothy and the assistance of the Annunciation Cathedral Chicago Parish, we were able to re-start in the parking lot of the Cathedral. Metropolis Board chairs, Georgia Gavaris and Vonnie Karafotias reorganized the program and chapters again donated and served many homeless. We continue this program every Tuesday on LaSalle Street in Chicago. But what about our meetings?

The birth of ZOOM PHILOPTOCHOS MEETINGS. The Metropolis encouraged zoom meetings and conference calls as better to connect with your members. The Metropolis Board itself has had more meetings via zoom , including several President's meetings. Though not face to face, Philoptochos members were able to discuss and create new ideas to be implemented during these restricted times.

Though many feared going to Church, going out to meet, Philoptochos ladies continued on.

The Metropolis Board thanks and salutes all our Philoptochos Chapters and members for their continued support and courage to help those in need and those who cannot help themselves.

YOU ARE OUR UNSUNG HEROES

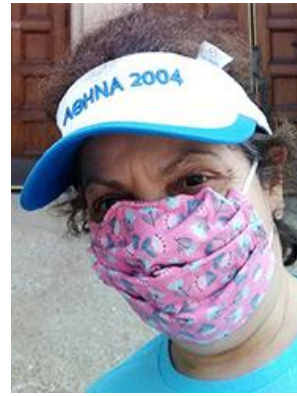
Together we can serve Him and continue His work.

I wish you and your families a most hopeful and Blessed New Year!

Yours in Christ,

Marilyn

Marilyn Tzakis, President
Metropolis of Chicago Philoptochos



IN THIS ISSUE

Metropolis News

Enthronement of His Grace, New National Philoptochos President, Metropolis Masks Matters, Project HOPE, Feed the Hungry, Guidelines for Feed the Hungry, SS Cosmas & Damianos Feast Day, September Fundraising Virtual Event.

Chapter News

St. John the Baptist, St. Haralambos, St. Sophia, St. Nicholas - Oak Lawn, St. Demetrios - Libertyville, Ascension of Our Lord, St. Nectarios, Sts. Peter & Paul, St. Basil - Chicago, Twelve Holy Apostles - Duluth, St. Mary's - Minneapolis, St. Nicholas - St. Louis, Holy Trinity - Chicago, Assumption at Hegewisch, Saints Constantine & Helen - Palos Hills, Assumption - Chicago, Annunciation Cathedral, St. George - Chicago, Holy Apostles - Westchester, St. Demetrios - Elmhurst

Hello. Welcome to Flight #2021

We are preparing to take off into the New Year. Please make sure your attitude and blessings are secure and locked in an upright position. All self-destructive devices should be turned off at this time. All negativity, hurt and discouragement should be put away. Should we lose altitude under pressure during the flight, reach up and pull down a prayer. Prayers will automatically be activated by Faith. Once your Faith is activated you can assist other passengers.

There will be no baggage allowed on this flight.

The Captain (GOD) has cleared us for takeoff.

Destination: GREATNESS.

We hope that you will join us and enjoy the flight.

METROPOLIS OF CHICAGO

Calendar of Chapters' Events

"Separated but United"

Blessings for a Happy New Year! Kali Xronia

2021

January

1/1 - Sunday Metropolis Wide VASILOPITA for 2021.

Due to COVID restrictions, His Eminence Nathanael has cancelled our Metropolis-wide Vasilopita event.

FEBRUARY

02 TBA Saturday **METROPOLIS PRESIDENT'S MEETING (ZOOM)**

02/26 - Friday SS. Peter & Paul, Glenview, IL. Ladies Night Out Event 6:00-10:00pm
Double Tree-Skokie

APRIL

TBA Saturday **Metropolis Lenten Retreat**

04/25 - Sunday SS. Peter & Paul, Glenview, IL, Palm Sunday Bake Sale 11am-1pm

MAY

05/7 - Friday **Bright Week Zydhos Pygi Feast at St. Iakovos Retreat Center**

SEPTEMBER

9/18 Saturday **Metropolis September Luncheon/Fundraiser - Details Coming**

OCTOBER

10/6-8 Tentative (Wed. - Fri.) **Metropolis Clergy-Laity St. Louis, MO**

*Let's continue to Pray the Philoptochos Covid Virus Prayer, Nationally at 3pm eastern
/2pm central time*

**** Bold items Are a METROPOLIS EVENT AND SHOULD have all Chapters Attend**

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:
- 219-789-4560**

AXIOS!

On December 5, at the Cathedral of Saints Constantine and Helen, The Right Reverend Timothy Bakakos, Chancellor of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago, was ordained to the Episcopacy.

His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America presided at the service. The celebration was live-streamed, to comply with COVID restrictions. His Grace Bishop Timothy expressed his commitment to Christ and the faithful of the Metropolis of Chicago:

“Our purpose as Church leaders, is to bring our faithful closer to Christ, assisting them in small, successive steps toward salvation. With God’s blessing, that is and will continue to be my mission.”

His Grace then thanked everyone involved in his ordination. His Grace Bishop Timothy will serve as Chancellor of the Metropolis with the added responsibility of assisting Metropolitan Nathanael with his Archpastoral ministry.



Arlene Siavelis Kehl Named National President For 2020-2022 Term



**His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America has appointed
Arlene Siavelis Kehl as the New National Philoptochos President.**

To the members and stewards of the Metropolis of Chicago Philoptochos Society,

2021 promises to be an exciting year, and I am looking forward to working with all of you to carry out our mission as we embrace trials and overcome challenges we will face as an organization. Our members have faith and never accept the word “no.” There continue to be needs, and it is our responsibility to do the best that we can to fulfill those needs.

One of my favorite biblical passages is Philippians 4:8. “Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.” I am committed to try to do what is right, and although I may not always succeed, please know that as I lead, I will have our Philoptochos ever at heart. It is my fervent hope that love, grace, and truth will guide our National Philoptochos Society as we aid the less fortunate among us.

I am immensely proud to lead Philoptochos and the membership in our significant work and to continue the work of previous administrations. On behalf of my fellow dedicated Executive Board Members and Staff, I wish you and your family a Safe, Healthy, and Blessed New Year!

**Me Agape,
Arlene Siaveles Kehl
National Philoptochos President**

Photo compliments of Perspective Issue 2016



All that Philoptochos has done this year has changed the tomorrows of many, including ourselves.

Metropolis Masks Matter

Shortly after the onset of the COVID-19 Pandemic, National Philoptochos initiated the Mask Campaign with the following message:
Stop the Spread – Stay Home Instead *Mask On*

Our Metropolis Philoptochos soon followed instituting a Metropolis Mask Campaign with a goal of 10,000 masks. It is with much gratitude now that I share with you the success of our Metropolis Mask Campaign.

At this time, our incredible Sewers have sewn 19,255 masks! Although, this most likely ends the mask making for 2020, it does not mean we won't need more masks in 2021 depending on how everything is with the pandemic in the New Year.

If any of our Sewers want to continue making masks, please do so. If you do continue, if you would be so kind and keep a count for your records and where the masks are being distributed, that would be most appreciative. Thank you all so very much for your extraordinary humanitarian work.

**Carol Stamas, Metropolis Coordinator North
 Georgia Sarlas, Metropolis Coordinator South**



St. Sophia Philoptochos, Elgin Illinois Masks Matter Project

**With the onset of the Corona Virus Pandemic, the St. Sophia Philoptochos began making fabric masks for distribution in the Fox Valley Community. Our “Masks Matter Project” supplied masks to the Elgin Community Crisis Center, Lazarus House, P.A.D.S. of Elgin, South Elgin High School, teachers and staff of the Pericles Greek School of St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Church, Parishioners of St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Church and various people in need of masks.
More than 550 masks were made and donated!**

**Thank you to all those who helped make this project a success. To our dedicated sewers who did not hesitate to ready their sewing machines and step right up - -
Garifalia Bolos, Matina Caribacas, Stella Frangiadakis,
Fani Kalamaras, Karen Karas, Gus Panagiotopoulos,
Sophie Petratos and Demi Wians.**

**To our fabric and elastic cutters who sharpened their scissors and were a big help to our sewers: Jill Maria Antipas, Pam Argyris, Irene Arsoniadis, Peggy Boyter, Vasiliki Constantine, Polly Gorski,
Janice Novick and Maria Raleigh.**

To Vivian Baxter, Pat Kolodziej and Maria Sarris who ordered fabric and elastic and printed Mask Matters labels for our masks.

And to our project Coordinator and delivery girl, Kathy Katrakis.





Project Hope

The Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago has launched a new ministry designed to address food security and stable housing for families and individuals living in the Chicago area. Called **Project HOPE** (Humanitarian Outreach and Philanthropic Engagement), the new ministry is already operating.

More info can be found at these two links:

<https://www.chicago.goarch.org/-/new-ministry-to-support-food-and-housing-needs-of-chicago-area-residents>

<https://usa.greekreporter.com/2020/11/25/hope-new-orthodox-initiative-helping-those-in-need-in-the-midwest/>



Since its inception, Project Hope has provided over 15,000 meals, over 5000 COVID Kits and Holiday Care Package Assistance to 30 Greek families in our area. Pictured above are HOPE committee members *Lainey Manos, Lori Chiampas, Dena Pavlopoulos and Yianni Sianis.*

A life lived to help others is a life worthwhile.

Feed the Hungry

Metropolis of Chicago Philoptochos Feed the Hungry Program had been operating twice a week for approximately 30 years at the Annunciation Cathedral. As the pandemic arrived, we followed the city and state COVID 19 guidelines and in March of 2020, when everything was shutting down, we did also.

With the guidance of Marilyn Tzakis, Metropolis of Chicago Philoptochos President, and His Eminence Metropolitan Nathaniel's Office, established new guidelines and restarted our weekly program on June 16th, 2020. Now, rain or shine, we are passing out lunch bags to the needy every Tuesday at 11:30 from the Annunciation Cathedral parking lot. Our menus have been as simple as a sandwich or as elaborate as a hot meal and a dessert, a fruit, a drink, etc. We have also given out extra meals, masks, socks, scarfs, hygiene kits, etc.

Our servers are Philoptochos chapters who stepped up & picked extra serving days. Others that served were Project HOPE, Ladies of Ahladokampos, Ladies of Lakonia, and even a family who chose a day as a memorial to a loved one. Our warmest Thank You to all of you that volunteered. Without you, we would not be successful.

Serving these people has been very gratifying. People are grateful & appreciate us being there. They are complimenting our choice of meals. We hear things like "Thank you for not forgetting about us".

Our heartfelt wishes for a Happy, Healthy and Safe New Year!

Georgia Gavaris and Vonnice Karafotias, Co-Chairs



Holy Trinity - Chicago



St. Haralambos - Chicago





Assumption at Hegewisch



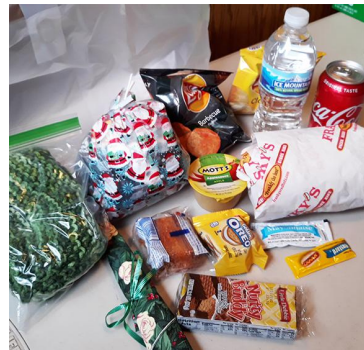
Saints Peter & Paul - Glenview



Saints Constantine & Helen - Palos Hills



Assumption - Chicago





*Today you could be standing 6 feet away from someone
who is trying their best not to fall apart.
Whatever you do, do it with kindness in your heart.*

**Feed the Hungry at Annunciation Cathedral
We Never Stopped Helping During the Pandemic**





St. George - Chicago St. George Serves The Last Meals of 2020





Holy Apostles - Westchester Served First Meals of 2021



Thank You to All the Volunteers That Happily Helped Feed the Hungry

For Future Volunteers These are the Feed the Guidelines Feed the Hungry with Social Distancing

We are glad, that we have reopened our Feed the Hungry Program every Tuesday, since June 16,2020.

Because of social distancing and state restrictions, we have been passing out bag lunches in the Annunciation Cathedral parking lot beginning at 11:30 am. Now that it's getting colder, we will be passing out the lunch from the side door towards the front of the church. Please arrive by 11:00 and keep in mind that we have to wear masks and gloves (please bring your own).

You choose where you prepare.

1. Use your church facilities to prepare your meal, provided you get the approval of your parish priest along with the proper paperwork from him for Metropolis Approval.

2. Food must be purchased from a restaurant/grocery store. You can use Subway, Jewel, Mariano's, or any other place of your choice, per Metropolis Guidelines.

Your choice of meal

A. A Bag Lunch that should include:

A meat & cheese sandwich individually wrapped (stick to one type of meat such as turkey, ham, beef etc.). No trimmings and no condiments on the sandwich. Include individual packets of condiments if you choose. Add a bag of chips and a napkin.

B. A Hot Lunch, purchased or made in your church facilities, as elaborate as you choose, which can be packaged at the Cathedral - bring your serving utensils - or bring it packaged already. If you use the Cathedral ovens for reheating or the Cathedral kitchen for packaging, there will be a \$75.00 fee payable to the Metropolis of Chicago Philoptochos to Covid clean the Cathedral kitchen area. Add plastic ware and a napkin.

Whether you pick choice A or choice B your bag should include:

- a. Some kind of dessert individually packed (sweet roll, granola bar, cookies etc.)
- b. A drink (pop, water, juice etc.)
- c. Some kind of fruit (cuties, oranges, bananas etc.)
- d. Anything else you choose.
- e. If any of your items requires a spoon, or something else, include it in your bag.

We estimate that 95 - 100 lunches should be enough.

You will need to have 3 to 5 people from your Philoptochos to pass these bags out.

Any questions contact: Georgia 773-627-4580 georgiag2003@yahoo.com or
Vonnie 708-280-6537 vonnie@Karafotias.com



Philoptochos friends bring such beauty to our lives.

May God hold you and enfold you

With happiness and good cheer

Throughout the coming year.

St. Demetrios - Elmhurst
Divine Liturgy



St. John the Baptist - Des Plaines

Many participated in our Parish's Thanksgiving efforts! The Coats were dropped off at WINGS. Monetary donations were utilized to purchase grocery bags filled with food. All collections exceeded expectations.

The team led by Kathey Papaioannou, Katerina Rallis, Hope Elpida Platis, Laura Paulus, Olga Leventis, Sophia Haritos and Marguerite Gibrogiannis organized an amazing effort. 650 hot meals and 450 full grocery bags!

This year's "Thanksgiving Feed My Neighbor" was done in loving memory of Chrisoula Maratos, our dear sister in Christ, who always dedicated so much of her time, talents and treasure to this event.





Greek American Rehab and Care Center

St. John's dedicated Philoptochos ladies delivered treats and joy to the Greek American Rehab and Care Center. Special thanks to Pat Kladis and Mary Pagonis and their team of Eva Economy, Maria Karavas, Sue Scordas, Zoe Ifantis, Nancy and Betty for the love and time that they dedicate to our Nursing Home Residents at Greek American Rehabilitation & Care Centre.



Greek American Rehab and Care Center

St. John's Philoptochos Ladies delivered Christmas gifts to the Greek American Nursing Home residents.



Christmas Bake Sale

The St. John's Philoptochos Pre-Order Christmas Bake Sale was a big success! Thank you to all who ordered and supported this fundraiser to benefit the iPad project for the Greek American Nursing Home. Special thanks to Lena Memmos Milissis for all her hard work! And our amazing bakers!



Welcome Back Philoptochos Weekend!

A very special thank you to all who renewed their membership, attended our meeting & Divine Liturgy. We will continue to work together as Philoptochos sisters to "Do good & Share!"



St. John Operation Classroom



St. John College Care Packages

Our College Care Packages were delivered! Thanks to our College outreach team led by Kathy Pappas for this thoughtful and inspirational gift for our College kids.





TEN WAYS TO GIVE LOVE

LISTEN without interrupting (Proverbs 18)
SPEAK without accusing (James 1:19)
GIVE without sparing (Proverbs 21:26)
PRAY without ceasing (Colossians 1:9)
ANSWER without arguing (Proverbs 17:1)
SHARE without pretending (Ephesians 4:15)
ENJOY without complaint (Philippians 2:14)
TRUST without wavering (Corinthians 13:7)
FORGIVE without punishing (Colossians 13:7)
PROMISE without forgetting (Proverbs 13:2)

St. Haralambos - Niles Giving Thanksgiving Baskets

We are thankful to our Philoptochos and Agape Ministry for preparing 70 Drive-Thru Thanksgiving baskets. Baskets included a frozen turkey, frozen pumpkin pies, and all the other fixings needed for Thanksgiving. In addition to this, we also distributed our weekly grocery bags to anyone that came by. Thank you also to everyone that donated to make this possible!



*Tis the Season
To Give the Gift of a "Thanksgiving Meal"*

**St. Haralambos
Philoctochos Turkey Drive**

Partnering with the Agape Ministry

Please help us provide meals for 70 families in need, either by dropping off the items below or by making a \$35 donation online at <https://saintharalambosgo.org/index.php/online-giving> in the Philoctochos field or by mailing a check to the church, please earmark donation with "Philoctochos Turkey Drive."

Items needed:

- 12-14 lb. Frozen Turkey
- 5 lb. bag of Russet Potatoes
- 5 Sweet Potatoes
- 1 bag/box of stuffing
- 2 cans of green beans or corn
- 1 can of cranberry sauce
- 1 jar of turkey gravy
- One bag frozen bread rolls
- 1 frozen pumpkin pie



All items can be dropped off at St. Haralambos
7 days a week 9:00am-2:00pm
no later than Sunday, November 15, 2020



St. Haralambos Drive Through Bake Sale Was A Success





A kind word or deed is like a Spring day in Winter.

St. Sophia - Elgin
Baking for Baking Spirits Bright





St. Nicholas - Oak Lawn

St. Nicholas Philoptochos held its annual Christmas Dial-A-Baklava delivery on December 19, 2020. It distributed pastries to many very happy customers. Elaine Besbekos was thrilled to purchase the very last small baklava pan. Chapter member Millie Molesky worked diligently distributing over 500 items while all customers and workers followed all Covid protective procedures for everyone's benefit.





A generous person will be blessed if he shares food with the poor. Proverbs 22:9

St. Demetrios - Libertyville Operation Classroom

St. Demetrios Philoptochos (Libertyville) has delivered to date around 1000 lbs. of food and numerous school supplies including calculators and thermometers to the Mckinney - Vento students in need in Waukegan school district #60.



Hot Meals

St. Demetrios Philoptochos delivered hot meals to Lake County Haven's, Hope House and Renewal House residents.



Ascension of Our Lord - Lincolnshire Retreat

Ascension of Our Lord Philoptochos was excited to be able to have our first women's retreat at the Ascension.

Our retreat began at 8:00 am in the church, continued in Fellowship Hall, socially distanced, where we heard our very popular women's bible study leader Dr. Helen Theodoropoulos speak about the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. After a delicious boxed lunch, served packaged at our seats, we listened to Presvytera Stephanie speak about Panagia. Violetta Buhler speak about our Shoes for Nuns project for a monastery in Crete, and Dr. Randa Anderson talk about Peace and Joy among other Fruits of the Holy Spirit. It was a wonderful day!





Walk For Breast Cancer

With most Breast Cancer walks being virtual this year, the Ascension of Our Lord Philoptochos redoubled efforts to support this important cause with team donations and a scaled-down walk of our own. Following Divine Liturgy, Philoptochos members and supporters met in the parking lot of our new church home and walked down beautiful Riverwoods Road as a church family. Members completed a modified Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk on the same day as the local virtual event, taking precautions against the spread of COVID-19. Headed up by long-time American Cancer Society supporter & Philoptochos Board Member Marcia Moore, this year's special event was certainly a walk to remember.





*Wake up with determination to do a good deed,
and go to bed with satisfaction.*

St. Nectarios - Palatine Fashion Show

The 2020 Virtual Fashion Show and Raffle was a huge success!





Saints Peter & Paul - Glenview Sew-At-Home Quilt-a-Thon

The Annual North Side Chicago Metropolitan Quilt-a-Thon usually held at SS. Peter and Paul was cancelled this year. Many volunteers came through with "at home sewing" making it possible to donate blankets for 20 uninterrupted years! Over 200 blankets were donated to the Linus Project . Additionally, blankets and children's masks were donated to the UIC Pediatrics unit.



St. Basil - Chicago "Operation Classroom"

Thirty-five kindergarten students of Nathaniel Dett School, located on the west side of Chicago, each received colorful backpacks filled with school supplies from the outreach ministries of St. Basil Church. The project, Operation Classroom, was a collaborative effort among Philoptochos, Prison Ministry & St. John the Almsgiver.

The idea to establish a relationship with one of the neighborhood public schools was initiated by the Philoptochos Society before Covid-19 set in. We researched a few local schools and then reached out to the Principal Heather Hampton at Dett School in March to see how we could help the school during the coming year. 98% of the school's families are living below the poverty level. From these early discussions, the ministries decided to adopt one grade, kindergarten. To start we bought school supplies and backpacks. Our hope is to follow these students all through grade school. We have established a communication with the kindergarten teacher and have offered some resources for books and health supplies. We are also collecting some general supplies for the entire school that the teachers and administrators can give out. The backpacks, included notebooks, pencils, crayons, glue sticks, scissors, folders, markers, pencil boxes, toothbrushes, Bombas socks, and face masks made by our Philoptochos members. Due to the students starting the school year from home, each backpack also included earbuds for online learning.

As the school year progresses, the St. Basil ministries will also try to offer workshops for parents and teachers on topics such as anger management, parenting, and social/emotional support. Principal Hampton has also requested help with tutoring and homework support for the students.





*Philoptochos members start each day
with a positive thought and a grateful heart.*

Twelve Holy Apostles - Duluth

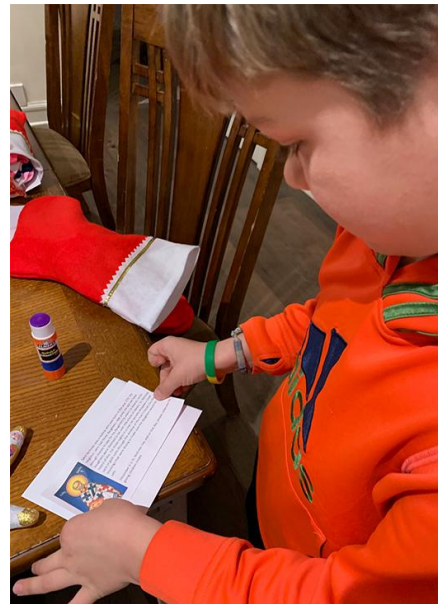
Our chapter would like to share what we have been up to recently!

In Honor of St. Nicholas Day, our Philoptochos chose to spread some Holiday joy to those currently sheltering at Safe Haven, a shelter for victims and families of domestic violence in Duluth, MN. We packed stockings with chocolates, new socks, gift cards to a local restaurant and a short summary of beloved Saints to give to 16 individuals and 5 families currently staying at the shelter. We were blessed to have offered some joy to folks from our community who are finding themselves in unfortunate circumstances this Nativity Season.

Lacey Wendland along with two of my children helped with packing and delivery.

Also, Presbyteria, Gabriela Sas, and Philoptochos members collected items for the homeless in the neighborhood where our own church resides. We worked together with the youth to assemble plastic bags with immediate-need essentials inside; toothbrush, toothpaste, baby wipes, easy to open canned foods, bottle of water, granola bar, etc. These kits are to be utilized by ushers or anyone else at church when our neighbors in need approached the church for donations.

Another one of our Philoptochos Members, Chicki Bovis, knitted 75 pairs of mittens and donated them to a local homeless shelter (CHUM, Duluth MN) on behalf of Twelve Holy Apostles Orthodox Church. Glory to God!



Saints Peter & Paul - Glenview Santa Drive-By Event and Movie Night Event



Let's Celebrate!

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Despite the ongoing pandemic, our board members and volunteers have persevered and upheld the spirit of philanthropy and community.

Philoptochos News

Thank you to everyone for participating and volunteering!!!

- MOVIE NIGHT
- BAKLAVA BAKERY CURBSIDE SALES
- FEED THE HUNGRY
- SANTA DRIVE UP
- BOON ONLINE SALES
- HOMEBOUND COMMITTEE DELIVERED PASTICHIO DINNERS, MADE CALLS AND SENT CARDS
- CHALET MEMBER APPRECIATION DAY

RECENTLY, WE WERE ABLE TO DONATE \$3,000 TO LOCAL FOOD BANKS!!!

Coming up-Lou Malnati's Promo!



St. Mary's - Minneapolis
St. Mary's Philoptochos hosted a virtual event
on "Moving Forward With Covid-19"

A dark blue event flyer with white text. At the top left is a small circular logo. The main text reads: "MOVING FORWARD WITH COVID-19 The New 3 R's for 2020". Below this, it says "ENGAGING OUR MINDS 'LIVE' SPEAKER SERIES" followed by "Randa K. Anderson, Ph. D. Orthodox Christian Counseling Institute". The date and time are "WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2020 7:30PM EST". A circular portrait of Randa K. Anderson is on the right. At the bottom, it says "REGISTER NOW | EVENT LIVE-STREAMED ON FACEBOOK".

St. Nicholas - St. Louis
Vasiloptia Baking





*Positive Philoptochos thinkers see the invisible,
feel the intangible, and achieve the impossible.*

 *scatter
kindness*

September Luncheon

The most powerful words we ever speak are those of **KINDNESS**, and so **SCATTER KINDNESS** became our September Luncheon theme. Due to unforeseen circumstances we soon were busy recreating the September Luncheon into a fundraising event virtual style. Teamwork and collaboration have always been a hallmark of the Metropolis Board. This year was no exception as the 2020 Fundraising event nearly doubled our original goal. Many thanks to our committees, the extraordinary participation of our chapters, our committed members that joined with us with such dedication to make the Metropolis 2020 fundraising event surpass our expectations.

**Flora Dimitriou, Marilynn Jemas, Vonnie Karafotias
Tri-Chairs, September Virtual Event**



Excerpts from Metropolis President Marilyn Tzakis' remarks:

Though we are not physically together, the Board is zooming live with you at the St. Iakovos Retreat Center. We thank Executive Director, Chrysanthy Tiggas and Event Coordinator, Arun Modayil for their hospitality and assistance in making this program possible. Today we honor our AGAPE nominees and our 2020 AGAPE Honoree, Olga Paxinos for their service to Philoptochos. Chicago continues to be at the forefront of keeping the Mission active. We thank all our Chapters of the Chicago Metropolis for their continued support and generosity to this event. This event would not be possible without the creativity and resourcefulness of our three chairladies, Flora Dimitriou, Marilynn Jemas and Vonnie Karafotias. Congratulations to you ladies and to your committees in making this event a huge success!

On behalf of the Metropolis of Chicago Philoptochos Board and its members we thank our generous donors for supporting this year's beneficiaries, the St. Iakovos Retreat Center, Team No Kid Hungry and our Metropolis Philanthropic Endeavors. We thank Metropolitan Nathanael for his pastoral guidance, Father Timothy, our spiritual advisor for his patience, understanding and advice. We also wish to thank all the Clergy of our Metropolis for their assistance to all our chapters. Thank you for being with "us", in the virtual world and enjoy the program. Continue to scatter kindness thorough out our Metropolis.



This year's proceeds to benefit:



The St. Iakovos Retreat Center



The Metropolis Philoptochos Philanthropic Endeavors

**Metropolis of Chicago 2020 Agape Award
Chapter Nominees**

- Anna Amanatidis, St. George, Schererville, IN**
- Penny Geavaras, St. John the Baptist, Des Plaines, IL**
- Vonnie Karafotias, St. Andrew, Chicago, IL**
- Chrysanthe Kondos, Annunciation Cathedral, Chicago, IL**
- Tia Muchulas, St. Mary's, Minneapolis, MN**
- Anna Paramboukas, St. Nicholas, Oak Lawn, IL**
- Olga Paxinos, St. Spyridon, Palos Heights, IL**
- Arianna Stevens, Ascension of our Lord, Lincolnshire, IL**

**Metropolis of Chicago Philoptochos
2020 Agape Award Winner
Olga Paxinos
Saint Spyridon Greek Orthodox Church Philoptochos
Chapter No. 2008 - Palos Heights, IL**

Olga Paxinos has been a member of Philoptochos for over 30 years. During that time she has served in many officer capacities, including being President more than once. During her tenure, she established a Scholarship Program that assists young parishioners going to college. She still sits on the committee as an advisor. Olga advanced the chapter from selling pastry to having informative lectures on women's health and assisting women's shelters. Being a former nurse, Olga always aims to please. She is the first to volunteer. In addition to her continued leadership and support at the chapter level, Olga also served for several years on the Metropolis of Chicago Philoptochos Board.

Olga is married to Peter Paxinos and they have 3 children; Ari and Zoe Paxinos. who have 3 children; Eleni and Bill Spyropoulos who have 2 children and Evan Paxinos. She is both a devoted mother and grandmother.

Olga has been named the "Ultimate Cheerleader" for Philoptochos. She encourages young mothers and young adults to participate and become members. She truly exemplifies the mission of Philoptochos, always helping te in need and those that cannot help themselves.



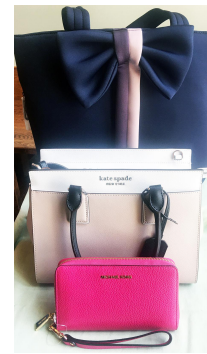
*You will be remembered
more for your kindness
than any level of success
you could possibly attain*

Excerpts from National President Maria Logus' remarks:

"In a year that will forever be described as unusual, one thing that can be counted on with absolute certainty is the resilience and fortitude of the Philoptochos women of the Metropolis of Chicago. While many of us still scramble to maintain any semblance of normal life, you have found a new way to demonstrate your continuing and unwavering commitment to the Philoptochos mission – a virtual fundraiser to support the needs of people and families in need. I thank you for all you have done for Philoptochos and the people and causes we champion."



Raffle Winners
First Prize: \$1,000
Connie Christopher-SS Constantine & Helen-Palos Hills
Second Prize: \$500
Angie Koulouriotis-Assumption Town & Country, MO
Third Prize: \$250
Nancy Vlahos-St. Demetrios-Hammond, IN
Fourth Prize: \$250
Susan Smoley-SS. Peter & Paul-Glenview



Day of Event Raffle Winners
First Prize: Kate Spade Handbag
Maria Schultz
Second Prize: Michael Kors Wallet & \$40
Arthur Peponis
Third Prize: Stella & Dot Tote Bag
Presvytera Georgia Botsis



Thank you to Juliana Arsoniadis
for her technical help and expertise.

You Put the YOU In Thank You!

Your kindness gave The Metropolis of Chicago Philoptochos Virtual Luncheon the helping hand we needed to help others. Thank you for so enthusiastically believing in and supporting Philoptochos in our vision for our Virtual Fundraising Event.

*If you want more kindness in the world,
put it there.*

Philoptochos Perspective

Positive News is an encourager and a great motivator. The care and concern that Philoptochos has shown for others is outstanding. Our Philoptochos chapters succeed because Philoptochos is 100% effort in spite of any obstacles.

Thank you to those chapters that have sent submissions to the Perspective. Please continue to share your events and good works with the Perspective.

Every edition of the Perspective welcomes your submissions.

Here are a few useful guidelines.

**Assign someone to be in charge of taking photos to submit.
Send submissions shortly after the event to email address below.
Include a brief description of the event including the following info:**

Chapter and Church name

Name of Event and Chairperson(s)

Photos are an important addition to the Perspective.

**Photos of small groups of 3 to 5 people work best in the page layout
The higher the resolution of the photos, the better they will appear.
It is best to email photos rather than text.**

**The Perspective is now being emailed
directly to you from the Metropolis.**

Continue to send your submissions as before to:

marilynnjemas@gmail.com

It is important to share the good works of Philoptochos!



Metropolis of Chicago Philoptochos | 555 E. Butterfield Road, Suite 201, Lombard, IL 60148

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