

Philoptochos Perspective

Philanthropy • Fellowship • Faith in Action
December 2022



*The light of the Christmas star to you
The warmth of home and hearth to you
The cheer and goodwill of friends to you
The love of the Son and God's peace to you*

President's Letter

Dear Fellow Philoptochos Sisters and Friends of Philoptochos:

Tis the season for all to be thankful, joyful and hopeful for the coming of Christ Our Lord. All of you have worked hard this year to continue the Mission of Philoptochos as we transitioned from the COVID staid atmosphere to again going out into the world. The Metropolis Board thanks all of you and wishes you to continue even greater good that you have been doing. We have changed the Feed the Hungry Program and are back inside. Everything takes time and we will work together to make things happen. Many of you are featured in the Perspective with your many Christmas Parties and especially all your special gifts to those in need. Whether you are a small chapter or a large chapter, we are grateful for the assistance you give. Every little bit counts! Do not forget our upcoming Vasilopita at St. Spyridon Greek Orthodox Church on Sunday, January 15, 2023. Hope to see you all there. I wish to thank my Metropolis Philoptochos Board for their continued support, their dedication to Philoptochos, and love and philotimo to each other and to those in need.



MAY YOU ENJOY CHRIST'S LOVE WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS!

Yours in Christ,
Marilyn
Marilyn Tzakis
Metropolis of Chicago Philoptochos President



*Philoptochos is the face of
love and compassion.*

IN THIS DECEMBER ISSUE

President's Letter,
Metropolis Open House,
Metropolis Philoptochos Board Christmas Luncheon,
Vasilopita Celebration

All Saints - Joliet, Annunciation Cathedral - Chicago,
Annunciation - Milwaukee, Ascension of Our Lord - Lincolnshire,
Assumption - Chicago, Assumption - Town & Country,
Holy Apostles - Westchester,
Twelve Holy Apostles - Deluth ,
St. Andrew - Chicago, St. Athanasios - Aurora
St. Basil - Chicago, Saints Constantine & Helen - Palos Hills, St.
Constantine & Helen - Rockford, St. Demetrios - Chicago,
St. Demetrios - Elmhurst,
St. Demetrios - Libertyville, St. George - Chicago,
St. George - Schererville, St. John the Baptist - Des Plaines,

St. Luke - Columbia, St. Mary - Minneapolis,
St. Nectarios - Palatine
St. Nicholas - St. Louis, St. Nicholas - Oak Lawn,
St. Sophia - Elgin, St. Spyridon - Palos Hills.

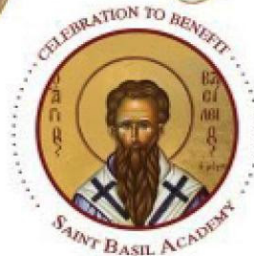
Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople
Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America under the jurisdiction of
HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN NATHANAEL
OF CHICAGO



THE FAITHFUL OF
THE METROPOLIS OF CHICAGO
ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO THE

62ND ANNUAL

Vasilopita Celebration



SUNDAY, JANUARY 15, 2023

6:00 IN THE EVENING

HOSTED BY ST. SPYRIDON HELLENIC ORTHODOX CHURCH
12307 S. RIDGELAND AVE · PALOS HEIGHTS, ILLINOIS
PARISH RESERVATIONS MAY BE MADE BY CALLING
THE ST. SPYRIDON CHURCH OFFICE AT 708-385-2311.

LIVE STREAM WWW.YOUTUBE.COM
SEARCH ST.SPYRIDONHELLENICORTHODO6833

METROPOLIS CHRISTMAS

OPEN HOUSE









*The true spirit of
Christmas lies in a
Philoptochos member's heart.*

**METROPOLIS
PHILOPTOCHOS BOARD
CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON**





ST. NECTARIOS - PALATINE FEED THE HUNGRY



ANNUNCIATION - MILWAUKEE

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Held At Blue Mound Country Club in Wauwatosa, WI.

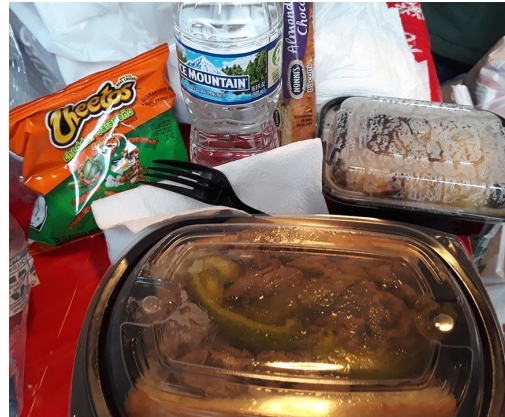




*A very Merry Christmas to
your family, my friend. May
your Christmas bring happiness
and your joyful times never end.*

FEED THE HUNGRY

The Gavaris family served, as a memorial for loved ones.



ASCENSION OF OUR LORD LINCOLNSHIRE CHRISTMAS PARTY







ASSUMPTION - CHICAGO FEED THE HUNGRY



ASSUMPTION TOWN & COUNTRY, MO CHRISTMAS PARTY Chapter Collected Hats, Gloves and Scarves

For FOCUS-St. Louis





TWELVE HOLY APOSTLES DULUTH, MN

The Chapter and the youth at 12 Holy Apostles spread holiday cheer to the church neighborhood on St. Nicholas Day. Our group handed out free cookies, cocoa and socks in honor of St. Nicholas for the sixth year.

As part of our holiday giving efforts, our chapter was blessed to make a generous donation to a local organization which offers support and shelter for those affected by various types of abuse. Glory to God!

The Chapter also hosted Prosfora Baking Workshop
and a Kolyva Making Workshop.







*May this Christmas warm your
soul and bless you with all
good things life has to offer.*

ST. ANDREW - CHICAGO

Great Vespers



Our Chapter prepared Lenten Sweets for the Parish



The Chapter made blankets for the children receiving treatment at UIC Pediatrics! We donated hand knit baby hats packaged with little toys made by one of our parishioners!



Thank you to our sister Angela Vlachos Ruth for making beautiful warm hats for the homeless people of Chicago. Angela is a member of St. Stefanos Greek Orthodox Church in St. Petersburg FL.

At our Feed the Hungry we gave out Bombas socks along with a nice lunch.





Christmas Party







*The magic of Christmas never ends.
Its greatest gifts are
family and friends.*

ST. ATHANASIOS - AURORA

Philoptochos partnered with our GOYAN group to support the Aurora Interfaith Food Pantry with 50 stuffed stockings for delivery to local children.

Supporting Pack the Back initiative for Focus of North America, our Philoptochos and our youth collected funds and school supplies. Our youth filled each backpack to the brim for needy school children.



FEED THE HUNGRY

Holy Apostles - Westchester



ST. BASIL - CHICAGO DRESS-A-GIRL AROUND THE WORLD

Our Chair of this year's event, Kathy Walstrom, would like to thank everyone who participated and made this sew-a-thon a huge success.

15 dresses were completed with 89 more dresses in progress!

150 dresses are scheduled for delivery in January





Dorothy Bezemes is a member of St. Basil Philoptochos, who just celebrated her 98th birthday! If you think that means she takes a seat on the sideline, you are mistaken.

Dorothy started our Yiayia's Kouzina program about 20 years ago and is still active on the committee. The baking program was initiated to keep our offerings uniform and consistent while offering the members of our parish community lessons on how to make Greek pastry and appetizers. The program grew to cooking for our parish festival and turned into a preorder bake sale that is a major fundraiser for our chapter.

Once Dorothy masters a project, she starts a new one - usually bigger and better than the previous one.

Once Yiayia's Kouzina took off and others were able to coordinate and lead it, in 2012 she turned her attention to Dress A Girl Around the World! She built enthusiasm within our chapter and even helped other chapters around the country start programs too. Her efforts have evolved into a Metropolis Wide event at St. Basil Church, held each year in the fall. Due to the success of this event, we are able to send hundreds of dresses and pants (yes, boys are now included) to countries that need help every year.

Dorothy is our biggest cheerleader, a woman who always pushes us to do more, the 2014 Metropolis of Chicago AGAPE award winner, and a true inspiration.

We love you Dorothy!



*A Philoptochos friend
is a gift you
give yourself.*

**ST. DEMETRIOS - LIBERTYVILLE
ASCENSION OF OUR LORD
LINCOLNSHIRE**

The two churches teamed up and volunteered to help
at the Northern Illinois Food Bank.





ST. DEMETRIOS - CHICAGO

Christmas Party





ST. DEMETRIOS - ELMHURST Christmas Party





*Philoptochos friends are like diamonds,
bright, beautiful, valuable
and full of sparkle and shine.*

ST. DEMETRIOS - LIBERTYVILLE

**On Philoptochos Sunday we had an Artoklasia,
shared cake and also honored our Veterans.**





**Monthly loukoumades Sunday Fundraiser.
Proceeds to benefit The Lake County Haven.**



Our Chapter packaged and delivered 500 hot meals to the McKinney-Vento staff for our Operation Classroom homeless students and their families. Thank you to everyone that participated and a special THANK YOU to Father John Sardis for once again volunteering to cook such a delicious Thanksgiving Feast.



FEED THE HUNGRY

Anthoula & Pat Gerbanas,

Electra Kantalonis & nephew Christopher served.



ST. GEORGE - SCHERERVILLE, IN

Our Chapter held Breakfast with Santa! We hosted the Boys & Girls Clubs of Hammond & East Chicago, and St. John Township (this township includes a few communities in Northwest Indiana). A total of 62 underprivileged kids up to age 12 attended. Our chapter had the support, sponsorship and volunteers from our Parish Priest Father Demetri Kounavis, our Parish Council, Goyans, Maids of Athena/AHEPA, many of our parishioners and youth who served up a delicious breakfast, wrapped gifts that our Chapter purchased so “Santa” had one for each child. Also provided were gloves, hat and socks for each child.







STS. CONSTANTINE & HELEN PALOS HILLS Christmas Party





FEED THE HUNGRY





Philoptochos members carry the spirit of Christmas and Philoptochos with them as they continue to serve those in need.

STS. CONSTANTINE & HELEN ROCKFORD

Our chapter made our famous Spanakopites and Tiropites for our Christmas Bake Sale, Luncheon and Bazaar.





FEED THE HUNGRY ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL & ST. GEORGE CHICAGO

The two churches served a traditional Thanksgiving meal - turkey, stuffing, gravy, mashed potato, corn, cranberry, bread & pumpkin pie. Scarves, gloves, socks, masks & hand sanitizers were also given.





*Our Philoptochos Chapters demonstrate
daily the wise old adage that
actions speak louder than words.*

ST. LUKE - COLUMBIA, MO

Our chapter hosted our Second Annual Advent Treat exchange. Families bought or made fast, friendly snacks and treats. Then we all took turns picking items and placing them in bags provided by Philoptochos. Shut-ins were visited with special bags from the event.



ADVENT TREAT EXCHANGE

ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST PARISH

Goal: To strengthen family and togetherness within the parish by sharing fast-friendly treats with each other and the greater parish community

St. Mary - Minneapolis

Fall has been a time with many hands-on activities for our Chapter!

Activities included:

Preparing and serving dinner to more than 200 guests at FOCUS Minnesota.

Hosting Artoclasia, social hour and a slide show for Philoptochos Sunday.

Assembling IOCC Hygiene Kits.

Decorating the church for Advent and Christmas.

Coordinating Operation Classroom winter clothing drives for 2 schools.

Organizing the purchase of gifts for mothers and children at the residential program Healing House.

Baking and selling Vasilopita for the New Year.



ST. NICHOLAS - ST. LOUIS

"Jingle & Mingle" Christmas Party







ST. SOPHIA - ELGIN
Christmas Party



ST. SPYRIDON - PALOS HEIGHTS

Craft Show & Food Fair



FEED THE HUNGRY



ALL SAINTS - JOLIET

Our Three Hierarchs Philoptochos chapter hosted our annual free will Veterans Day Chili Luncheon and chili with all the fixings, hot dogs, and

cake. This is a popular menu for our Parish. Each year, all the proceeds are donated to programs that serve Veterans. This year we supported: Military Outreach USA & K9's for Veterans. Military Outreach USA stands at the forefront of service organizations in providing, with their partners, tens of thousands of needed items for our Military Community. K9's for Veteran's mission is to help veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder transition back to civilian life once their military service has ended with the help of trained service dogs.

We were blessed on this day to have the Memorial Guard from the Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery who posted colors and presented a flag to our Parish. A bugler was present and played Taps. Our Priest, Father Chris Avramopoulos had a memorial for our veterans who have passed and then also called upon those that were present to receive a blessing for their service to our country.

Our Parish has been recognized by Military Outreach USA, founded by Major General James Mukoyama. Our parish has raised funds for Hines Fisher House, the Gary Sinise Foundation, Heart of a Veteran, and Military Outreach USA. We've supported Wreaths Across America whose mission is to remember, honor, and teach by the laying of wreaths on the graves of those veterans who have served or have made the ultimate sacrifice and are interned at all the National Military Cemeteries.





*Carols in the distance
Laughter everywhere
The sounds and smells of Christmas
are floating in the air.*

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST DES PLAINES

**Our Chapter brought warmth & Holiday Cheer to the Greek America
Rehabilitation Centre residents by serving hot cocoa & festive Greek cookies.**





Christmas Party



A big THANK YOU to all who donated coats and groceries for our guests on Thanksgiving Day at our Parish's Feed My Neighbor Lunch. The GOYANS also receive a big thank you for helping to set up and organize the coats.





Our Philoptochos Ladies worked hard on baking and prepared beautiful packaging for our Bake Sale.





FEED THE HUNGRY

Ladies of Ahladokambos





*Christmas is forever, not for just one day.
For loving, sharing, giving are not to put
away like bells and lights and tinsel, in a
box upon a shelf. The good you do for
others is good you do for yourself.*

ST. NICHOLAS - OAK LAWN FEED THE HUNGRY





The Perspective November and December issues were filled to the brim with Philoptochos events.

It has been a busy fall for Philoptochos.

Thank you to all chapters that submitted to be included in the December issue.

Plenty of positive Philoptochos News to share!

This is the most wonderful time of the year!

The Perspective is grateful for your submissions.

Your chapter participation is very important to the Perspective.

Each edition brings hardworking, creative and thoughtful news to share with our chapters.

Duty and dedication describe all of our Metropolis Philoptochos chapters, and each and every marvelous member.

Our Perspective is a very valuable resource for our chapters.

Our Perspective highlights and documents our history.

Our Perspective shares new creative ideas.

Our Perspective proudly displays

our Chapter and Metropolis events and successes.

Do more than just belong to Philoptochos, participate in the Perspective!

Please help the Philoptochos Perspective by sending in your updated email lists.

We want all of our members to receive the Perspective.

Please share the Perspective with someone that is not currently a member of Philoptochos.

If every member forwarded the Perspective to someone who is not a Philoptochos member, we could reach & impress 3,000 new people every edition. Philoptochos members are aware that it's not just about good ideas. It's about making good ideas happen.

Our Metropolis Philoptochos Newsletter loves to brag about all that you are doing, and all the creative, thoughtful ways you are helping others.

Please EMAIL photos and information about your chapter event to the Perspective.

Designate someone to be the photographer at your meetings and events.

Then submit your Chapter event along with your photos to me as soon after the event to insure it is included in the next issue of the Perspective.

Include a brief description of the event including 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.

The higher the resolution of the photos, the better.

It is best to email photos rather than text.

The Perspective is now being emailed directly to you from the Metropolis. If you are not receiving the Perspective this year we can offer a few suggestions. Make sure your email is included in our email mailing list. To be included contact Juliana Arsoniadis at:

jarsoniadis@gmail.com

Or you might check your SPAM folder to see if your email is filtering out the Perspective.

Continue to send your Perspective submissions to:

marilynnjemas@gmail.com

Marilynn Jemas, Editor

Kathy Korbakes, Assistant Editor

Dear Philoptochos Friends,

It has been a pleasure to serve Philoptochos as Editor of the Perspective Newsletter. We have doubled our staff to bring you better, more inclusive & informative issues of the Perspective.

Not only at Christmas, but all the long year through, the joy you give to others is the joy that comes back to you.

The magic of Christmas never ends.

The greatest Christmas gifts are Family and Philoptochos Friends! Many blessings sent to you for Christmas and Happy New year too!

Wishing you and your family a very Merry Christmas!



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

[Unsubscribe homewalstrom@gmail.com](mailto:Unsubscribe_homewalstrom@gmail.com)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by chicagometropolisphilo@gmail.com in collaboration with



Try email marketing for free today!