

Philoptochos Perspective

Philanthropy • Fellowship • Faith in Action

Spring 2023

Dear Fellow Philoptochos Sisters and Friends of Philoptochos:

XRISTOS ANESTI! CHRIST IS RISEN!

We have been reborn and recharged! Christ has risen and we are ready to continue our life's work and the work of Philoptochos. In January, we celebrated the Metropolis-wide Vasilopita at St. Spyridon Greek Orthodox Church in Palos Heights, IL. We thank, Father George Lamberis, Philoptochos President, Georgia Xeros, her Board and the co-chairs, Toulia Georgiopoulos and Helen Sotiropoulos, the members of Philoptochos and the Parish for hosting a most outstanding event! Over 500 people attended to celebrate the New Year.

In February, we held a most comprehensive and inspiring Presidents Meeting at SS. Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church in Merrillville, IN. We thank Father Ted Poteres, Father Dimitri Burikas, Philoptochos

President Julia Papadopoulos, her Board and the members of Philoptochos for hosting the meeting.

Membership and Elections were key discussion points. The membership committee, chaired by Pat Gerbanas, 2nd Vice President along with Kathy Korbakes & Maria Macris presented a detailed plan to help increase membership. Participants were divided into groups and much discussion and valuable information was exchanged. There is a challenge for each chapter to increase their membership, those most successful chapters will be announced at our upcoming Clergy-Laity Conference in October. Past Metropolis Presidents, Pam Argyris and Joanne Stavrakas presented the Election Process for the upcoming chapter elections. Many questions were answered. Let us not forget, this is an important process, that maintains our unity as a Sisterhood.

In March, the annual Quilt-A-Thon, was again not in person, however, SS. Peter and Paul continues the blanket making via pick up kits. We thank Julie Mantis, Philoptochos President and her team chaired by Tru Bazianos.

In April, we held the Metropolis Philoptochos Lenten Retreat at St. Athanasios Greek Orthodox Church in Aurora, IL. We thank our hosts, Father Panagioti Boznos, Philoptochos President Samatha Dulles and her Board and members for their generosity and support. Special thanks to our co-chairs, Vonnie Karafotias and Kathy Siavelis for their insightful speakers, Father Panagioti and Father Andrew Georganas.

The theme, "Seeking Peace and Love in an Anxious and Confusing World", was a spiritual awakening for many as our speakers brought out key points of family, children and effects of this most confusing time.

We especially thank our Retreat Master, His Grace Bishop Timothy of Hexamilion, our Chancellor and Philoptochos Advisor for his continued support and understanding.

Our next meeting will be at the Retreat Center on May 20, 2023. Please join us!

We thank all of you for your love and support of Philoptochos.

Me agape,
Marilyn

Marilyn Tzakis
Metropolis of Chicago Philoptochos President



*I used to pray that God would feed the hungry,
but now I pray that he will guide me to do what
I can do. I used to pray for answers, but now
I pray for strength. I used to believe that
prayer changes things, but now I know that
prayer changes us and we change things.*



METROPOLIS OF CHICAGO PHILOPTOCHOS Calendar of Chapter Events

2023

April

04/14	Friday	St. Andrew Philoptochos, Chicago, Good Friday Feed the Masses Outreach Service Project
04/20	Thursday	St. Demetrios Philoptochos, Libertyville, Culver's Fundraiser, 5 pm - 8 pm at Culver's Fountain Square, Waukegan
04/21	Friday	Ζωοδόχος Πηγὴ Celebration, St. Iakovos Retreat Center, Kansasville, WI
04/29	Saturday	St. Andrew Philoptochos, Chicago, Trivia Night 7 pm
04/30	Sunday	Best of Greece Concert to benefit the St. Iakovos Retreat Center North Shore Theatre of the Performing Arts, Skokie, IL

May

05/04	Thursday	IOCC Midwest Banquet, Concorde Banquets, 6:00 pm
05/06	Saturday	All Saints Church Philoptochos, Joliet, IL, Festival of Tables, 11:00 am
05/06	Saturday	St. John the Baptist Philoptochos, Mad Hatter on the Mediterranean Luncheon Fountain Blue, Des Plaines, 11:00 am
05/14	Sunday	St. Spyridon Philoptochos, Palos Heights, Mother's Day Luncheon
05/20	Saturday	Holy Trinity Philoptochos, Fond du Lac, WI, Gyros 2 Go, 11 am - 2 pm
05/20	Saturday	Metropolis-Wide PRESIDENT'S MEETING, St. Iakovos Retreat Center

June

06/11	Sunday	St. Constantine and Helen Philoptochos, Merrillville, IN, Loukoumades Sale
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September

09/21	Thursday	St. Constantine and Helen Philoptochos, Merrillville, IN, Spaghetti Dinner Bake Sale
09/23	Saturday	Metropolis-Wide Annual September Luncheon, Concorde Banquets
09/29	Friday	St. Nectarios Philoptochos, Palatine, IL Fashion Show

October

10/11-10/13	Wed.-Fri.	Metropolis Clergy Laity and Philoptochos Convention
10/21	Saturday	Holy Apostles Philoptochos, A Mediterranean Adventure Fashion Show at Drury Lane, Oak Brook, 11 am
10/28	Saturday	Metropolis-Wide Dress-A-Girl Around the World, St. Basil, Chicago

November

11/11	Saturday	Children's Medical Fund Luncheon, Houston, TX
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December

12/09-12/10	Sat-Sun	St. Constantine and Helen Philoptochos, Merrillville, IN, Christmas Bake Sale
12/24	Sunday	St. Constantine and Helen Philoptochos, Merrillville, IN, New Year Bread Sale

To submit events for the calendar, please email philomocc@gmail.com or call Kathi Stamatis at 773-230-2370

Bold items are Metropolis Events and should have all Chapters' support and attendance.

*Philoptochos Volunteers
are Possibilitarians.
We raise our sights
to see all possibilities.*

IN THIS SPRING ISSUE

**President's Letter, Metropolis Calendar,
Metropolis Vasilopita at St. Spyridon,
President's Meeting at
Sts. Constantine & Helen - Merrillville, IN,
Lenten Retreat at St. Athanasios - Aurora,
Ascension of Our Lord - Lincolnshire,
Holy Trinity - Fond du Lac WI, St. Demetrios - Libertyville,
Hellenic Foundation, Holy Taxiarchi & St. Haralambos - Niles,
St. Luke - Columbia, MO, Annunciation - Milwaukee, WI,
SS Peter & Paul - Glenview, St. Nectarios - Palatine,
St. Sophia - Elgin, St. George - Schererville, IN,
St. Andrew - Chicago, St. John the Baptist - Des Plaines,
Sts. Constantine & Helen - Palos Hills,
St. Nicholas - St. Louis, MO, Holy Apostles - Westchester,
Assumption - Madison, WI, St. Demetrios - Elmhurst,
St. Spyridon - Palos Hills, St. Nicholas - Oak Lawn,
Assumption - Homer Glen, St. Mary's - Minneapolis, MN,**

*To serve those in
need is to serve
Christ Himself.*

METROPOLIS VASILOPITA HOSTED BY ST. SPYRIDON

**A big Thank You to the St. Spyridon Philoptochos & Parish.
Also, thanks to all that attended and helped at the 2023
Metropolis Vasilopita. Special thanks to Kathy Korbakes for
being the Metropolis Board liaison & contributing the article.
We raised over \$2,400.00 with our free will offering,
We appreciate all of your generous donations!**



**National Philoptochos President Arlene Siavelis Kehl,
Metropolis Philoptochos President Marilyn Tzakis and**

**St. Spyridon President Georgia Xeros, co-chair ladies
Toula Georgiopoulos & Helen Sotiropoulos
with Kathy Siavelis, Metropolis Board member.**



This year the Vasilopita Celebration for the entire Metropolis of Chicago was proudly hosted by St. Spyridon Philoptochos of Palos Heights. The Metropolis of Chicago is the only metropolis in our Archdiocese that hosts a metropolis-wide celebration. Over 500 guests attended this year's celebration after a two-year pandemic hiatus.

His Eminence Nathanael officiated the Vasilopita program along with His Grace Bishop Timothy of Hexamilion and accompanied by Rev. Fr. George Lamberis of St. Spyridon.

Special guests included:

His Grace Bishop Athenagoras of El Salvador.

The Vasilopita program began with a procession of Vasilopitas carried by St. Spyridon's Handmaidens. His Eminence Nathanael blessed the Vasilopitas and gave pieces to distinguished guests. Among those honored guests were National President Arlene Siavelis Kehl, the Honorable Consul General of Greece-Chicago Emmanuel Koubarakis, and many other representatives of ministries and organizations of the Metropolis of Chicago.

Guests then proceeded into the St. Spyridon Community Center for light appetizers and fellowship. Winners of the coin from each table received the blessing of His Eminence and Fr. Lamberis and were presented with a special St. Basil's commemorative "flouri."

The St. Spyridon Archangels Pre-School Academy performed "Silent Night" in sign language followed by the Plutarchos Greek School singing the traditional "kalanda."

The St. Spyridon Philoptochos chapter, with President Georgia Xeros and Co-Chairladies Toula Georgiopoulos & Helen Sotiropoulos & all the chapter members were truly honored to host! St. Spyridon is widely known as a "family parish" and it was truly evident with the involvement of the children & assistance from the parish council & parishioners. Generous free will donations and a highly successful raffle were hosted by the Metropolis of Chicago Philoptochos Board with all proceeds going to St. Basil's Academy.





ST. BASIL'S ACADEMY VASILOPITA FUND

In March 1944, Archbishop Athenagoras recommended that the Philoptochos Society purchase the 250-acre Rupert Estate in Garrison, New York, located on the shores of the Hudson River, directly across from the United States Military Academy at West Point. With that purchase, and with the establishment of the Academy of St. Basil, Philoptochos undertook the lasting commitment to the children who reside there. Today, Philoptochos remains a major financial supporter of the Academy through the Vasilopita Fund:

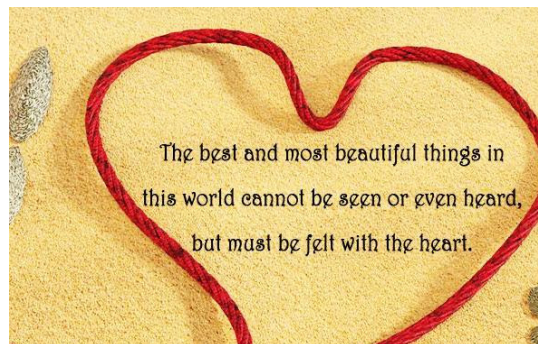
- Held in January by every chapter in the United States, this event provides a major source of funding for the Academy's operating expenses.





This is Stella Argyropoulos of St. Spyridon Handmaidens, one of the youth auxiliaries of our Philoptochos.

She and other girls are the future of Philoptochos.



FEED THE HUNGRY

Ladies of Lakonia Served



ASCENSION OF OUR LORD LINCOLNSHIRE

Our Vasilopita Champagne Toast, which officially kicked off our 25th Anniversary celebration year. We began with the cutting of the Vasilopita following Divine Liturgy, and then welcomed the parish into our Fellowship Hall with champagne. We toasted 25 years, then Father Sotirios Malamis and Father James Gordon presented commemorative silver coins.





It was a sell-out at our "Breads & Spreads" Bake Sale. Thanks to our top-notch Philoptochos bakers who produced all of the delicious baked goods.



*Philoptochos
people
are the nicest
you'll ever meet.*

Celebrating Greek Independence Day
Our youth proudly honor our ancestors. Philoptochos has
been a constant and dedicated supporter of assisting
with humanitarian needs for Greece & Cyprus.



HOLY TRINITY FOND DU LAC, WI

Vasilopita Cutting with Fr. Chris Webb.
Recipient of lucky coin is Philoptochos Vice-President
Peggy Kallas, a long-time Philoptochos member
and parish council member.



FEED THE HUNGRY

Annunciation Cathedral - Chicago Served



ST. DEMETRIOS - LIBERTYVILLE

Vasilopita



Operation Classroom spread cheer
to McKinney - Vento School Students.



500 hot meals were packaged and delivered to our Operation Classroom Students.



Annual Makaronada Fundraiser



*Philoptochos
Members
Get Their Strength
From God.*



*"Do all the good you can.
By all the means you can.
In all the ways you can.
In all the places you can.
At all the times you can.
To all the people you can.
As long as ever you can."*

HELLENIC FOUNDATION

Vasilopita

The Metropolis of Chicago Philoptochos Board
was invited to attend their Vasilopita.





HOLY TRINITY - SIOUX CITY, IA

Go Red Sunday



HOLY TAXIARHAI & ST. HARALAMBOS - NILES

Go Red Sunday



The Chapter participated in the Greek Independence Day Parade.



FEED THE HUNGRY

SS Peter & Paul - Glenview Served Twice in February



*Phloptochos members
work together for
the greatest good.*

ST. LUKE - COLUMBIA, MO

Go Red Sunday



ANNUNCIATION - MILWAUKEE

Go Red Sunday



Check Presentation to IOCC



SS. PETER & PAUL - GLENVIEW

Go Red Sunday



ST. NECTARIOS - PALATINE

Go Red Sunday



Our ladies are busy preparing for the Easter Bake Sale!





ST. SOPHIA - ELGIN

Go Red Sunday

St. Sophia Philoptochos celebrated Go Red Sunday with a presentation from our own resident nurse, Kathy Grivas.



FEED THE HUNGRY

Holy Taxiarchai & St. Haralambos - Niles Served

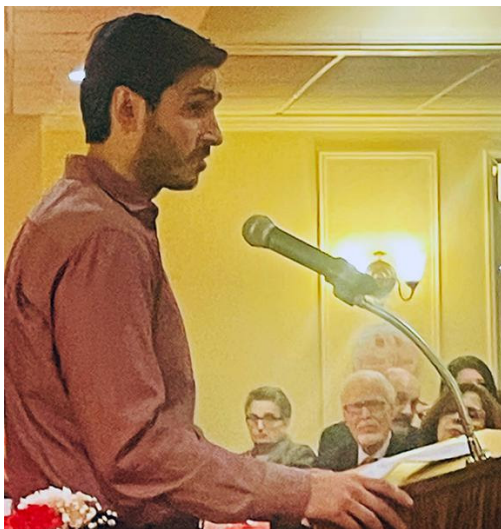


ST. GEORGE - SCHERERVILLE, IN

Go Red Sunday

We hosted a free will donation for American heart and provided a healthy heart nutritional breakfast for all the parish. We had one of our own past youth of our parish, who now is a prominent cardiologist in Chicago, gave a presentation on the important facts and signs for women to understand about heart disease.





ST. ANDREW - CHICAGO

Go Red Sunday

Our chapter had a heart healthy coffee hour, Joanna Moraitis did heart, lung checks, BP and O2 checks. Anna Moraitis, Physical Education teacher, showed us how to do heart healthy chair exercises. And they taught us the Heimlich maneuver and CPR.



Dreamcatcher Foundation

For over 12 years we have been Supporting Dreamcatcher Foundation a Human Trafficking group in many different ways. This year we donated bath towels, wash cloths, soaps and lotions. We also gave them over 300 Bombas socks to be distributed.



A graphic for Human Trafficking Awareness Month. It features a large blue "25" and a group of blue human icons. The text says: "25 million people are victims of human trafficking around the world." Below this is a quote from Melissa Diehl, a survivor of human trafficking: "Remember that every person on the streets, in a club, on the internet, in a hotel room, WHEREVER they may be, have families and loved ones and hearts just as you do, and that they are worthy and enough. When you see us, could you just offer a small smile? Extend a small bit of compassion even though you may not personally understand? Small, simple actions have the potential to make a large impact, and now is the time more than ever before." — Melissa Diehl, survivor of human trafficking. At the bottom, it says "January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month" and includes the logo for the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society. A small note at the bottom reads "Statistic courtesy of U.S. Department of State".

9,000 pairs of Bombas socks were distributed to local shelters, Metropolis Feed the Hungry, Project HOPE, Guiding Light of Hope, Loaves & Fishes, Amani House, food pantry's and more.



Masquerade Glendi



Our chapter did a Toy Drive for Children's Hospital University of Illinois & Stroger Hospital. We collected over 200 toys and also made fleece tie blankets. A parishioner knitted baby hats and blankies for the little ones. Chapter also sponsored the Holiday Christmas party for Pederson Boys & Girls Club Chicago for 100+ kids and distributed 50+ bags filled with treats along with hats & gloves.



FEED THE HUNGRY

St. Nectarios - Palatine Served



Food offers comfort. When you break bread, you break down walls between people.

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST DES PLAINES

Go Red Sunday



Our Lenten College Outreach packages included a St. Paisios card with prayers for Lent, a gift card, a faith stone, and a yummy treat.



Golden Agers
What a lovely lunch our Golden Agers had! We hosted over 30 people for lunch and Fr. John cut the Vasilopita!
Thank you Sue Cortsirilos Scordas for planning!

And thanks to all the Ladies for the tasty desserts!



Our "Pasta For a Purpose" was a huge success!



Our "Dream Team Bakers" hard at work for our Pascha Bake Sale.



STS. CONSTANTINE & HELEN PALOS HILLS

Go Red Sunday



Vasilopita

Our Chapter was able to donate \$2000 to our commitment to St. Basil's Academy from our Vasilopita.



FEED THE HUNGRY

St. Demetrios - Elmhurst Served



PRESIDENT'S MEETING "GREET, MEET & EAT"

Hosted by Fr. Dimitri Burikas &
Philoptochos President Julia Papadopoulos
Sts. Constantine & Helen - Merrillville, IN





*A Philoptochos Friend
is What the Heart
Needs All the Time.*





Philoptochos Chapter Elections

May

Oath of Office

I do solemnly affirm that I will uphold the dogma, teaching, traditions, holy canons, worship, and moral principles of the Greek Orthodox Church, as well as the Constitutional Charter, discipline and regulations of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, and that I will fulfill faithfully and sincerely the duties and obligations required of the Board of Directors of the Philoptochos Society.

So help me God.





FEED THE HUNGRY

Pan-Laonian Brotherhood Served



MEMBERSHIP



Membership Committee:

Pat Gerbanas - gerbanas@yahoo.com

Kathy Korbakes - kathykorbakes@gmail.com

Maria Macris - mmacris83@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

For 90 years, Philoptochos has served as the philanthropic arm of the church. At St. Mary's, we actively support local, national, international, and Orthodox charities, and coordinates many hands-on activities. We also support the parish by decorating the church for different seasons, hosting Pan-Orthodox and other events, and managing the festival bake sale.



*Our Metropolis
Philoptochos
Membership Is
Growing By
Leaps and Bounds!*

METROPOLIS NEWS

Blankets for Babies - Metropolis-Wide Project
President Julie Mantis & Project Chairperson Tru Bazianos
You have until the end of June to participate.
Contact Sts. Peter & Paul



Help us create much needed blankets for the University of Illinois Hospital Pediatric Unit. Last year, we donated 200 blankets through the Take Home Blanket Kit Initiative

Please let us know if you would like us to drop off or send blanket kits to your church .

Starting April 1, 2023-June 30, 2023

We need chapter donations :

Please consider making a monetary donation to cover the cost of blanket supplies. Donations may be made online:

:<https://ssppglenview.org/philoptochos/> OR mail your

donation to: SS. Peter and Paul Philoptochos -ATTN:

Blankets for Babies Committee-1401 Wagner Road,

Glenview, IL 60025

With much appreciation,

SS. Peter and Paul Philoptochos and Youth Ministry Committee Chairs:

Tru Bazianos-trubazianos@gmailcom-Philoptochos Chair

Julia Bazianos-jbaz3b@gmail.com-Youth Ministry Chair



Letter of Appreciation

Hi everyone,

Thank you so much for donating blankets to the kids at UI Health! I work in the inpatient pediatric units with children 0-21, but can also share your blankets with our Neonatal Intensive Care unit too to spread the love to many different units with babies! We appreciate you helping bring comfort and joy to our kids.

Looking forward to hearing from you,

Dana Thornquist, MS, CCLS
Certified Child Life Specialist-Pediatrics, Pediatric Intensive Care
Children's Hospital University of Illinois

ST. NICHOLAS - ST. LOUIS, MO

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Our youth helped make blankets for Shriners Hospital





*Be a Ruth,
loyal in all your relationships,
walk the extra mile
and don't quit
when things get tough.*

Our Chapter Membership Meeting Received A Visit From Travelin Tom's Coffee Truck



Philoptochos women of all ages are driven by faith and fellowship to improve lives by mobilizing the caring power of communities around the nation to advance the common good.

FEED THE HUNGRY

St. George - Chicago Served



HOLY APOSTLES - WESTCHESTER

Blankets of Love Blanket Making Event



Godparents Day
Thanks to all our wonderful godparents, godchildren and the entire Holy Apostles community for making this year's Godparent Luncheon such a success! Thank you to all those godparents who show their love, support and faith in the Lord to their Godchildren!
Co-Chairs - Marianna Bannos & Deanne Chiganos





ASSUMPTION - MADISON, WI

**Our Spotlight Chapter for The Spring Edition
Each Perspective Edition Will Spotlight A New Chapter**

This thriving chapter in Madison is well known for their outreach programs in the community. These 66 mighty members, led by President Lena Giakoumopoulos, are unstoppable in their successful and unique events and fundraisers.

These Madison ladies had their most successful fundraiser ever in November 2022. A whopping \$17,800 was raised with Baklava Plus Sale! And that's net after expenses!

Using email blasts and multiple promotions on social media, patrons pre-ordered online to purchase their church-made baklava, spanakopites and keftedes. Orders were ready for pick-up the Saturday before Thanksgiving. Patrons were also able to stop at the kafeneion in the church hall for traditional Greek coffee and select baked items while they wait to pick up their order.



This February, the chapter hosted a Mid-Winter Appreciation Luncheon for their members. This annual luncheon highlighted three very important opportunities: fellowship with fellow sisters from other Orthodox churches in the area; open membership to current and potential new members; and

fundraising for a local organization. This year Philoptochos members met at The Madison Club to enjoy lunch and the beautiful view of Lake Monona. Raffle drawings and goodwill donations raised \$1000 for Diaper Drive, which was hosted by a Madison TV station.



**Chapter Officers
President: Lena
Giakoumopoulos, Vice
President: Maria Katsaros
Molzahn, Recording Secretary:
Jenny Glatch, Corresponding
Secretary: Nancy Briamis/
Kathie Fafalios,
Treasurer: Beth Fatsis,
Assistant Treasurer:
Maria Papas Heide,
Advisor: Patti Cameron**





*Let your light shine!
Be a source of strength!
Share your wisdom!*

FEED THE HUNGRY

St. Spyridon - Palos Heights Served



ST. DEMETRIOS - ELMHURST

Fashion Show



The Ladies Philoptochos
of Saint Demetrios Elmhurst
invites you to an evening of
dinner and fashion

Grecian
GLAMOUR

Friday, February 24, 2023
6pm

The Empress Banquets
200 East Lake Street, Addison
Donation: \$75

*A portion of the event proceeds to support
Little Friends, Inc.*



Baking for Pascha



*Beauty is not in
the face. It's a
light in the heart.*



**Our Chapter made its monthly visit to
The Greek American Rehabilitation & Care Centre.**



FEED THE HUNGRY

St. Andrew - Chicago Served Twice





SS. PETER & PAUL - GLENVIEW

Blessing Bags

SS Peter & Paul parishioners and Philoptochos members gathered for a fellowship meal and to assemble 200 "Blessing Bags" for PROJECT HOPE.



ST. SPYRIDON - PALOS HEIGHTS

Apokreatiko





Holiday Brunch





Chapter members & guests served a souvlaki dinner at the Almost Home organization which helps those in need in Oak Lawn and surrounding communities.



ST. NICHOLAS - OAK LAWN

Cooking Class

Chapter held a Cooking Class Demonstration and Luncheon







Operation Classroom

Our Chapter presented 60 books & money to Kolmar School. The books were part of their Operation Classroom 2022-23 project to be sent home with underprivileged students who have no books at home. We also provided clothes & supplies to two other schools.



*An attitude of
"Whatever it takes"
is impossible to stop.*

Loukoumdes Sunday

All proceeds were sent to two charities.





ASSUMPTION - HOMER GLEN

Holiday Party at Kefi Restaurant





ASSUMPTION - CHICAGO

The Chapter proudly introduced their New Lenten Cookbook. The book is filled with a variety of inspiring recipes and new ideas to help plan Lenten menus for years to come. Only \$25.

To purchase, please email Chapter President at assumptionphiloptoschos@gmail.com



philoptochos
ASSUMPTION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH



LENTEN RECIPE COLLECTION

ST. MARY'S - MINNEAPOLIS

THANK YOU...

• **Sacred Bakers** - Thank you to the many people who have committed to baking prosforo throughout for the first half of the year. This effort is led by Toni Bazakos, who also held a koliva (memorial wheat) workshop with help from Tina Menter, Maria Prassas, and Paulette Hastings.



- **Sia and Dena Tortorellis** for presenting and leading our discussion on engaging young women in Philoptochos.
- **Sweet Sunday Participants** - We are grateful to the many people who donated more than \$2,000 for [Children's HeartLink](#) as well as event chairs Cathy Forchas and Connie Kouzes and the dozens of people who brought treats and helped throughout the day.



St. Mary's parishioners have volunteered for Children's HeartLink, previously called Children's Heart Fund.

- ♥ Many served as translators, hosts, and supporters over several decades.
- ♥ Harriet and Sam Cheolis hosted 12 children from South Korea and Greece.



Photos include Joanne Forchas and family, Susie Boscati, Cheolis family, and many Children's Heart Fund volunteers.

- ♥ **Besse Maragos served on the Board of Directors for 30 years.**



Photos with Besse include Besse Karami, Liu and Bill Nicklow, Peter Benavise, and Bill and Jim Nicklow.

FEED THE HUNGRY

St. Basil - Chicago Served



LENTEN RETREAT

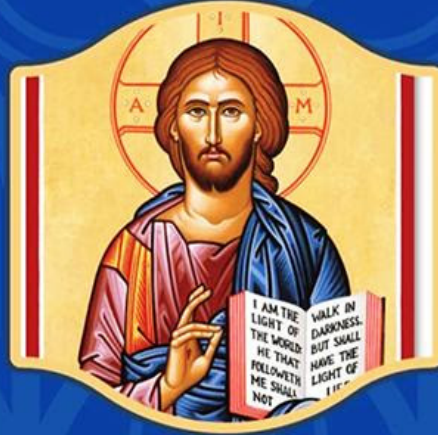
**Hosted by St. Athanasios - Aurora
Fr. Panagioti Boznos and
Philoptochos President Samantha Dulles
Co-Chairs Vonnie Karafotias & Kathy Siavelis**

METROPOLIS OF CHICAGO PHILOPTOCHOS LENTEN RETREAT 2023

Seeking Peace and Love in an Anxious and Confusing World

Saturday, April 1, 2023
9:00 am - 1:30 pm

Fellowship & Registration
beginning at 9am
Services, Presentations and
Luncheon to follow



John 14:27: 'Peace I
leave with you; my
peace I give unto you;
not as the world gives
do I give to you. Let not
your heart be troubled,
neither let it be afraid.'

Retreat Master: His Grace Bishop Timothy of Hexamilion
Presentations by:

Fr. Panagiotis Boznos
English Speaker
St. Athanasios, Aurora, IL

Fr. Andreas Georganas
Greek Speaker
St. Demetrios, Chicago, IL

RSVP to your Chapter President or Lenten Retreat Co-chairs
by Saturday, March 18th

Please let us know if you will be attending the English or Greek presentation

Co-chairs: Vonnie Karafotias - vonnie@karafotias.com - (708) 280-6537
Kathy Siavelis - katherine.siavelis@gmail.com - (847) 710-0326

St. Athanasios Greek Orthodox Church
1855 E. Fifth Avenue, Aurora, IL

Metropolis of Chicago Philoptochos Lenten Retreat 2023

On Saturday April 1, 2023, our Metropolis of Chicago Philoptochos held our annual Lenten Retreat at St. Athanasios in Aurora, IL. This year's theme was:
Seeking Peace and Love in an Anxious and Confusing World.
We had over 185 participants.

Our Lenten Retreat included both Matins and 6th Hour Services, and presentations by **Fr. Panagiotis Boznos** from St. Athanasios, who presented in English, and **Fr. Andrew Georganas** from St. Demetrios in Chicago, who gave the Greek presentation. We thank them both for their spiritually inspiring words.

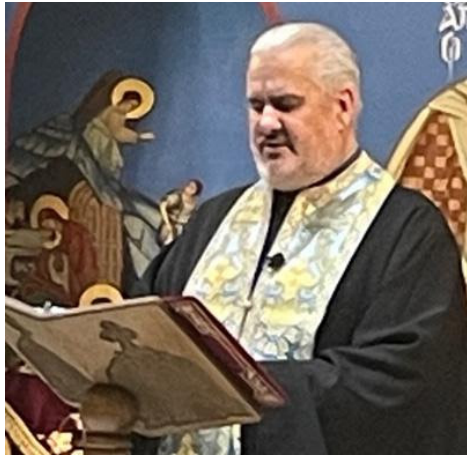
We would also like to thank Samantha Dulles, President of St. Athansios Philoptochos, and Chapter Members for their hospitality and making the Retreat and day so beautiful.

This year's participants also presented a Free Will Offering. Proceeds collected will go to Sarah's Circle which helps end homelessness for women, and Covenant House Illinois which helps ensure the fight against human trafficking and supports young people facing homelessness.

Thank you all for your generosity!

Lenten Retreat's Co-Chairs, Vonnie Karafotias and Kathy Siavelis, along with Metropolis Philoptochos President, Marilyn Tzakis would like to thank everyone who attended and participated in making this a truly uplifting day!

















*Kind people
are our kind
of people.*

***Kind Philoptochos People are my kind of People.
Thank You All!***

Five weeks ago, my son and his wife received a serious diagnosis regarding the birth of their son. While visiting New York my daughter in law was sent to Lennox Hill Hospital with severe complications and not allowed to return home.

This remarkable hospital delayed my grandson's birth from 27 weeks to 32 weeks and on April 11, 2023 my grandson was born happy, healthy and cute as can be. While baby Joseph

remains in the NICU, his parents will reside in the Ronald McDonald House NYC. Homecoming date to be determined by baby Joseph's progress.

During this time of family crisis, the Jemas family experienced the fullness of Philoptochos caring. Philoptochos sisters kept checking in, praying, lighting candles and offering encouragement. It really made a difference to my family. Prayers were answered as my grandson is healthy and the hospital was able to save his mommy's life. The power of many prayers and putting our faith in action brought a happy ending to this health crisis.

Many Metropolis Board members and Philoptochos sisters stepped up and in to complete my duties while I was away. Kathy Korbakes served as an excellent photographer along with Joanne Stavrakas and other Board members who took photos at the events I could not attend.

*Again, my sincerest thanks to
Metropolis Philoptochos Sisters!*

*Philoptochos friends that feel like family
are the best kind of friends.*

Marilynn Jemas



*Find all the news about Metropolis Philoptochos events
in the PERSPECTIVE*

*2023 had a busy beginning of the year for Philoptochos.
Thank you to chapters that submitted photos to
include in this issue.*

The Perspective is grateful for your submissions.

Your chapter participation is very important to the Perspective and to our Metropolis Philoptochos efforts.

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

This edition we start a new tradition in which we Spotlight one of our chapters. Our first Spotlight Chapter is Assumption in Madison, Wisconsin.

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. The Perspective is an asset for increasing membership. 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 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

Continue to send your Perspective submissions to:

marilynnjemas@gmail.com

Marilynn Jemas, Editor

Kathy Korbakes, Assistant Editor

**It is 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.**

Let us know how The Perspective is doing!

We welcome your thoughts and ideas!



