

SUNDAY BULLETIN

MARCH 23, 2025

SUNDAY OF THE VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

The Holy Righteous Martyr, Nicon and His 199 Disciples



SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
2350 E. Dempster Street, Des Plaines, IL 60016
(847) 827-5510 www.stjohnthebaptistgoc.org

[f stjohnbaptistgoc](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnbaptistgoc) [s jbgreekorthodox](https://www.instagram.com/sjbgreekorthodox)

On Duty this Sunday Main Church
Acolyte Teams: B & C (Archangel Gabriel & Raphael)
Pangari Team B: St. Andrew

COME AND SEE THE RISEN LORD!

Join us each Sunday morning for Orthros/Matins
conducted in Greek & English.

- ◇ Orthros binders are in the narthex with service text
- ◇ Proper attire is required during church services.

SUNDAY SERVICES

Matins/Orthros..... 8:30am
Divine Liturgy..... 9:45am

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Matins/Orthros..... 8:00am
Divine Liturgy..... 9:00am

Entrance Hymn

Δεῦτε προσκυνήσωμεν καὶ προσπέσωμεν Χριστῷ. Σῶσον ἡμᾶς Come let us worship and bow down before Christ. Son of God,
Υἱὲ Θεοῦ, ὁ ἀναστὰς ἐκ νεκρῶν, ψάλλοντάς σοι, Ἄλληλούια. who rose from the dead, save us who sing to Thee, Alleluia.

Resurrectional Apolytikion

Ἀγγελικαὶ δυνάμεις ἐπὶ τὸ μνήμα σου, καὶ οἱ φυλάσσοντες When the angelic powers appeared at Your tomb, the soldiers
ἀπενεκρώθησαν· καὶ ἴστατο Μαρία ἐν τῷ τάφῳ, ζητοῦσα τὸ guarding it feared and became as dead. And standing by the
ἄχραντόν σου σῶμα. Ἐσκύλευσας τὸν ἄδην, μὴ πειρασθεὶς ὑπ' sepulcher was Mary, who was seeking Your immaculate body.
αὐτοῦ· ὑπήντησας τῇ Παρθένῳ, δωροῦμενος τὴν ζωὴν. Ὁ ἀναστὰς Unassailed by Hades, You divested it of spoils. Then You met the
ἐκ τῶν νεκρῶν, Κύριε δόξα σοι. Virgin. You granted life. O Lord, risen from the dead, glory to You!

Festal Apolytikion of the Veneration of the Holy Cross

Σώσον, Κύριε, τὸν λαόν σου, καὶ εὐλόγησον τὴν κληρονομίαν-α O Lord save Your people and bless Your inheritance. Grant
ν σου, νίκας τοῖς βασιλεῦσι κατὰ βαρβάρων δωρούμενος, καὶ victory to our country over its enemies, and preserve Your
τό σὸν φυλάττων, διὰ τοῦ Σταυροῦ σου πολίτευμα. community by the power of Your Cross.

Festal Apolytikion of St. John the Baptist

Μνήμη Δικαίου μέτ' ἐγκωμίων, σοὶ δὲ ἀρκέσει ἡ μαρτυρία τοῦ The memory of the just is observed with hymns of praise; for you
Κυρίου Πρόδρομο· ἀνεδείχθης γὰρ ὄντως καὶ Προφητῶν suffices the testimony of the Lord, O Forerunner. You have proved
σεβασμιώτερος, ὅτι καὶ ἐν ρείθροις βαπτίσαι κατηξιώθης τὸν to be truly more ven'erable than the Prophets, since you were granted
κηρυττόμενον. Ὅθεν τῆς ἀληθείας ὑπεραθλήσας, χαίρων to baptize in the river the One whom they proclaimed. Therefore,
εὐηγγελίσω καὶ τοῖς ἐν Ἄδι, Θεὸν φανερωθέντα ἐν σαρκί, τὸν when for the truth you had contested, rejoicing, to those in Hades
αἴροντα τὴν ἀμαρτίαν τοῦ κόσμου, καὶ παρέχοντα ἡμῖν τὸ μέγα you preached the Gospel, that God was manifested in the flesh, and
ἔλεος. takes away the sin of the world, and grants to us great mercy.

Kontakion for the Veneration of the Holy Cross

Τῇ ὑπερμάχῳ στρατηγῷ τὰ νικητήρια, Ὡς λυτρωθεῖσα τῶν O Champion General, to you belongs our prize of victory! And
δεινῶν εὐχαριστήρια, Ἀναγράφω σοὶ ἡ Πόλις σου Θεοτόκε. since you saved us from adversity, we offer you our thanks. We are
Ἄλλ' ὡς ἔχουσα τὸ κράτος ἀπροσμάχητον, Ἐκ παντοίων με your people, O Mother of God! So, as you have that invincible
κινδύνων ἐλευθέρωσον, Ἴνα κράζω σοὶ· Χαῖρε νύμφη power, continue to deliver us from danger that we may cry out to
ἀνύμφευτε. you: Hail O Virgin and Bride ever pure!

Epistle Reading - Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:1-6

Ἀδελφοί, ἀφοῦ λοιπὸν ἔχουμε μεγάλο ἀρχιερέα, ὁ ὁποῖος ἔχει Brethren, since then we have a great high priest who
διαβεῖ τοὺς οὐρανοὺς, τὸν Ἰησοῦ, τὸν Υἱὸ τοῦ Θεοῦ, ἃς κρατᾶμε has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of
σταθερὰ τὴν πίστη, πού ὁμολογοῦμε. Γιατί δὲν ἔχουμε ἀρχιερέα πού God, let us hold fast our confession. For we have not
δὲν μπορεῖ νὰ αἰσθανθεῖ συμπάθεια γιὰ τίς ἀδυναμίες μας, ἀλλά a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our
ἔχουμε ἀρχιερέα πού ἔχει δοκιμασθεῖ σέ ὅλα, ἀφοῦ ἔγινε ἄνθρωπος weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been
ἐξ ὁλοκλήρου ὁμοιος μέ μᾶς, χωρὶς ὅμως νὰ ἀμαρτήσῃ. Ἄς πλησιάσου- tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with
με λοιπὸν μέ θάρρος τὸ θρόνο τῆς χάριτος γιὰ νὰ λάβουμε συγχώρηση confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we
τῶν ἀμαρτιῶν μας καὶ νὰ βροῦμε τὴ θεία χάρη πού θά μᾶς βοηθήσῃ ἀπο may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of
τελεσματικά τὴν ὥρα τοῦ πειρασμοῦ. Γιατί κάθε ἀρχιερέας προερχόμε- need. For every high priest chosen from among men
νος ἀπὸ τοὺς ἀνθρώπους, γίνεται ἀρχιερέας ὑπὲρ τῶν ἀνθρώπων στὴν is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to
ὑπηρεσία τοῦ Θεοῦ γιὰ νὰ προσφέρει δῶρα καὶ θυσίες γιὰ τίς ἀμαρτίες, God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can deal
ὄντας σέ θέση νὰ συμπαθεῖ μέ μετριοπάθεια αὐτούς πού ἀμαρτάνουν gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he
ἀπὸ ἄγνοια καὶ πλάνη, γιατί καὶ αὐτὸς σάν ἄνθρωπος περιβάλλεται ἀπὸ himself is beset with weakness. Because of this he is
ἠθικὴ ἀσθένεια καὶ ἀδυναμίες. Γι' αὐτὸ ἀκριβῶς τὸ λόγο ὀφείλει καθὼς bound to offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for
προσφέρει θυσίες ὑπὲρ τοῦ λαοῦ, ἔτσι νὰ προσφέρει θυσίες καὶ γιὰ τὸν those of the people. And one does not take the honor
ἑαυτοῦ γιὰ τὴ συγχώρηση τῶν ἀμαρτιῶν του. Καὶ κανεὶς δὲν παίρνει upon himself, but he is called by God, just as Aaron
μόνος του τὴν τιμὴ αὐτῆ (τῆς ἀρχιερωσύνης) ἀλλὰ ὅταν καλεῖται ἀπὸ τὸ was. So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a
Θεοῦ, ὅπως καὶ ὁ Ἀαρών. Ἔτσι καὶ ὁ Χριστὸς δὲν δόξασε μόνος του τὸν high priest, but was appointed by him who said to
ἑαυτοῦ στοῦ νὰ γίνῃ ἀρχιερέας ἀλλὰ ἐκεῖνος πού τοῦ εἶπε, "Σὺ εἶσαι him, "Thou art my Son, today I have begotten thee";
Υἱός μου, ἐγὼ σέ γέννησα σήμερα". Καθὼς καὶ σέ ἄλλο μέρος (τῆς as he says also in another place, "Thou art a priest for
Γραφῆς) λέγει, "Σὺ εἶσαι αἰώνιος ἱερέας ὅπως ὁ Μελχισεδέκ."

Gospel Reading - Mark 8:34-38; 9:1

Καὶ ἀφοῦ κάλεσε τὰ πλήθη τοῦ λαοῦ μαζί μέ τοὺς μαθητὲς του τοὺς At that time, he called to him the multitude with his
εἶπε, "Ὅποιος θέλει νὰ μέ ἀκολουθήσῃ, ἃς ἀπαρνηθεῖ τὸν ἑαυτοῦ disciples, and said to them, "If any man would come
καὶ ἃς σηκώσῃ τὸ σταυρὸ του καὶ ἃς μέ ἀκολουθήσῃ. Γιατί ὁποιος after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross
θέλει νὰ σώσῃ τὴν ἐπίγειο ζωὴ του, αὐτὸς θά χάσῃ τὴν αἰώνια. and follow me. For whoever would save his life will
Ἐκεῖνος δὲ πού θά χάσῃ τὴν ἐπίγειο ζωὴ του ἐξ αἰτίας μου καὶ ἐξ lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake and the
αἰτίας τοῦ εὐαγγελίου μου, αὐτὸς θά κερδίσῃ τὴν αἰώνια ζωὴ. Γιατί τί gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man, to
θά ὠφεληθεῖ ὁ ἄνθρωπος ἂν κερδίσῃ τὸν κόσμον ὅλο ἀλλὰ χάσῃ τὴν gain the whole world and forfeit his life? For what
ψυχὴ του; Ἡ τί ἀντάλλαγμα εἶναι δυνατόν νὰ δώσῃ ὁ ἄνθρωπος γιὰ can a man give in return for his life? For whoever is
τὴν ψυχὴ του; Γιατί ὁποιος ντραπεῖ γιὰ μένα καὶ γιὰ τὴν διδασκαλία μου ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and
ζώντας στὴ γενεὰ αὐτῆ τὴν ἀπιστή καὶ τὴν ἀμαρτωλὴ καὶ ὁ Υἱὸς τοῦ sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be
ἀνθρώπου θά αἰσθανθεῖ τροπὴ γι' αὐτόν (καὶ θά τὸν ἀποκηρύξῃ), ὅταν ashamed, when he comes in the glory of his Father
ἔλθῃ (ὡς κριτῆς) μέ τὴ δόξα τοῦ Πατέρα του μαζί μέ τοὺς ἁγίους with the holy angels." And he said to them, "Truly, I
ἀγγέλους." Καὶ τοὺς ἔλεγε, "Σὰς διαβεβαιῶν, ὅτι ὑπάρχουν μερικοὶ say to you, there are some standing here who will not
ἀπὸ αὐτοὺς πού στέκονται ἐδῶ, οἱ ὁποῖοι δὲν θά γευθοῦν τὸ θάνατο, taste death before they see that the kingdom of God
πρὶν νὰ δοῦν τὴ βασιλεία τοῦ Θεοῦ νὰ ἔρχεται μέ δύναμη."

Saints Commemorated this Week

March

Mon, 24

Forefeast of
Annunciation, Tikhon
Patriarch of Moscow

Tues, 25

Annunciation of the
Theotokos

Wed, 26

Synaxis of Archangel
Gabriel, 26 Martyrs in
Crimea

Thurs, 27

Matrona of
Thessaloniki, Paul,
Bishop of Corinth

Fri, 28

Hilarion the New,
Herodion of the 70

Sat, 29

Mark Bishop of Arethusa,
Cyril the Deacon

This Week at St. John the Baptist

- Sunday** **March 23**
8:30am Orthros 9:45am Divine Liturgy (MC)
 9:15am Sunday Church School
 12pm Pasta for a Purpose
- Monday**..... **March 24**
7pm Great Vespers (Annunciation, Chicago)
- Tuesday** **March 25**
8am Orthros 9am Divine Liturgy (MC)
ANNUNCIATION OF THE THEOTOKOS
 11am Guardian Angel School March 25th Program
- Wednesday** **March 26**
 10am HOPE
 10am Martha & Mary Women's Book Fellowship
 4:30pm Greek School Immersion Program
6pm 9th Hour & Pre-Sanctified Divine Liturgy (MC)
 7:30pm Lenten Meal sponsored by Greek School & Presentation
on Reflection of the Pilgrimage: In the Footsteps of St. Paul
- Thursday** **March 27**
 7pm Guardian Angel School Board Meeting
- Friday** **March 28**
9am Pre-Sanctified Divine Liturgy (MC)
 6pm Inquirer/Catechumen Class
 7pm Salutations D' (GAC)
- Saturday** **March 29**
 9:30am Parish Retreat at the St. Iakovos Retreat Center
- Sunday** **March 30**
8:30am Orthros 9:45am Divine Liturgy (MC)
 9:15am Sunday Church School

COMMUNITY FOCUS

Find more info on these events on the church website.

St. John Chrysostom Parish Oratorical Festival: Congratulation to all the Participants of the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical and Fine Arts Festival for making this year's Parish festival such a success. They Shared their Faith within all categories of Oratory, Essay, Poetry, Iconography and Vocal Chant. Please visit the church website for complete information on this year's festival.

PreSchool Admissions Now Open for the 2025-26 School year:
 Call to schedule a visit!

Pascha Lambades Sale: Available for purchase during Greek School and after Divine Liturgy on Sundays during Great Lent.

Fellowship Coffee hour: All parishioners are welcome to host! Do you have a name day? Anniversary? Consider hosting a coffee fellowship hour to celebrate with your St. John the Baptist family! Guidelines for hosting can be found on the church website. You can also contact Youla Karanikolas at (773) 510-8628 or ykaranik@outlook.com to sign up to host coffee hour.

Family Synaxis Lenten Retreat: Saturday, April 5. The retreat theme is *"Following Christ Together: Strengthening Families through the Bond of Community"*. Speaker: Fr. George Dokos, Holy Apostles. Location: Ascension of Our Lord, Lincolnshire. Cost: \$75/family.

Godparent Sunday, May 18: Godparents are graciously invited to join their godchildren in worship, followed by a luncheon and a time of fellowship after the Divine Liturgy. Cherished aunts, uncles and grandparents are all invited! Everyone is welcome! Purchase your ticket online or contact Georgia Gerick with questions georgiagerick@yahoo.com. We look forward to sharing this special day with you!

2025 Grade 8 Commencement Guardian Angel Day School Save the Date: Thursday, June 5, 2025. Reception to follow at Fountain Blue Banquets.

Spring Soiree Save the Date: Thursday, June 12, 2025 at the Chateau Ritz. Hosted by Philoptochos. Dinner at Tiffany's. A night of dinner, dancing and more.

Scholarships: Visit the church website for information on the John G. Adinamis and the GARA (Greek American Restaurant Association) scholarships.

National Hellenic Society's Heritage Greece Program: A transformative, two-week cultural immersion experience designed for accomplished Greek American college students. Visit the church website for more info.




**Join us for
a Delicious Lunch
to help families
in need!**



Sunday, March 23

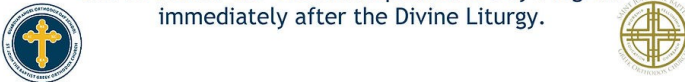
After Divine Liturgy: Dine In or Carry Out

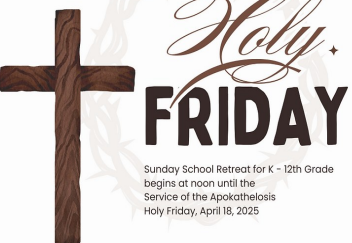


GUARDIAN ANGEL ORTHODOX DAY SCHOOL
ΗΜΕΡΗΣΙΟ ΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΟ ΣΧΟΛΕΙΟ «ΦΥΛΑΞ ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ»

invites you to join us on
Tuesday, March 25, 2025

to celebrate Divine Liturgy for the Annunciation of the Theotokos
 and to attend the Greek Independence Day Program
 immediately after the Divine Liturgy.





Holy FRIDAY

Sunday School Retreat for K - 12th Grade begins at noon until the Service of the Apokathelosis
 Holy Friday, April 18, 2025



Bright Friday CELEBRATION

FRIDAY April 25 2025

More details to come!

SUNDAY APRIL 6th



GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE 2025

HALSTED ST (CHICAGO) : 2.30PM

PARTICIPATION & OTHER INFO WWW.ENOSISGROUP.ORG
 The Federation of Hellenic Organizations of Illinois (ENOSIS)





FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 2025
 1PM BLUE ROOM
 MAKING PALM CROSSES

Golden Agers

FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 2025
 10AM BLUE ROOM
 WRAPPING EGGS & PREPARING





Eggs Needed!

BRING THE EGGS BY APRIL 6
 AND THE GOLDEN AGERS WILL DYE THEM

OR BRING THEM ALREADY DYED
 BY HOLY FRIDAY MORNING,
 APRIL 18

PLEASE CALL SUE SCORDAS
 TO LET HER KNOW HOW MANY
 DOZENS OF EGGS YOU PLAN
 ON BRINGING
 (847) 309-3338





LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST

PALM SUNDAY BAKE SALE

PRE-ORDER NOW!

Pick up on Saturday, April 12th 11am-1pm
 Sunday April 13th after Divine Liturgy

PLEASE SEND IN YOUR ORDER FORMS OR ORDER ONLINE NOW
 THROUGH APRIL 8th
WWW.STJOHNTHEBAPTIST.GOC/PHILOPTOCHOS

Treats and Desserts for sale at pick-up!
 Proceeds will go towards local charities

QUESTIONS? CONTACT PATRICIA ANTONAKOS 847-910-2060



Palm Sunday Fish Fry

April 13th following the Divine Liturgy

Delicious Fried Cod, Salad, Vegetables, Fruit, Apple Pie!

All proceeds to support GOYA endeavors

Adults: \$25
 Children 18 and under: \$15
 Children under 5 - Free

RSVP TODAY!



Order your Pascha Tsoureftial \$18