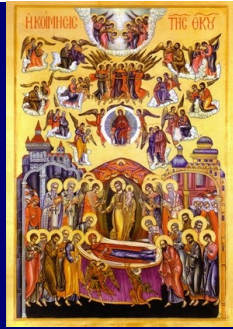


CHURCH STAFF

- Parish Priest: Very Reverend Archimandrite Christodoulos Margellos
- Parish Council President: Jim (Demetrios) Katsihs
- Philoptochos President: Eleni Giakoumopoulos
- Sunday School Directors: Susu Saba & Peli Galiti
- Greek School: Ilektra Kolokouri
- Choir Director: George Tzougros

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The Message

MAY 2020

NEVER TO LATE



In society today we have developed an obsession with winning, and being the first and the best at everything we do, and this is in no way wrong. But are we focusing our zeal into all areas of our life or just in the ones that are important to us. There are things happening all around us, that we sometimes have a tendency of overlooking. If it does not directly affect us, we pay it no attention. Unfortunately the Church sometimes falls into this bracket, not out of malice contempt, but more because we tend to not worry about the church. It is always there when it is needed, and will continue to be there. Fortunate for us, God does not take the same position with us. No where is this better noted than in the glorious sermon of Saint John Chrysostom which is read every year on Pascha in Orthodox Churches all around the world.

This famous sermon starts with a simple request. It asks all who are believers to enjoy the wonderful feast of Pascha. It does not ask only those who are in good standing, those who live their lives in accordance to all the rules of the Church. It simply asks all those who believe to partake in the joy which is the Resurrection of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ. Now St. John continues by telling us in even greater detail that or those who toiled from the beginning all the way to those who arrived at the last minute, are all to rejoice in the feast. Think about how great these few words are in explaining God's love towards humanity. It does not matter where you may put your priorities in life, it simply tells us to partake in the feast. God does not turn away those who come last, nor does God give to those who were there from the very beginning any extra credit. The sermon continues on to say that it does not matter if you are rich or poor, if you fasted or did not. It is simply telling us to rejoice.

Now we get to the part of the sermon that for myself is the most moving. It is the triumph of Christ over Satan. We see a series of statements beginning with "It was Embittered", and immediately the laity respond by repeating it. To hear the whole congregation shout out together is an awe inspiring moment for me. To hear so many faithful cry out in unison moves me to tears. It shows the power of Christ's resurrection, and the effect it had on the world for 2,000 years now. It continues on now focusing on the crushing of Satan's power over us and this world. "He is Risen! Oh death where is your sting" "Christ is Risen! And you are Annihilated." Christ destroyed the Devil and brought us back into eternal life. He allowed us to once again to enter into God's kingdom. Let us take to heart this joyous gift that was given to us, and let us redirect our lives towards Christ. I conclude now with the only response able to show you the love we owe Christ.

CHRIST IS RISEN!

Christos Anesti! ~ Christ is Risen! Early this morning our Great Lenten and Holy Week journey ended at an empty tomb. One of our hymns reminds us of the myrrh-bearing women, who came to an empty tomb with the stone rolled back, and encountered an angel seated on the rock saying, “Why do you seek the living among the dead? Go announce it to His disciples” The stone wasn’t rolled back to let Christ out, but to let us in and witness His glory that He truly is our living God. Thus, we too, just as the women did, joyously proclaimed the news as we sang our Resurrectional Hymn for all to hear and witness and raised our glowing candles to dispel the darkness that had surrounded us. Death could not possibly contain the Creator of Life. What a visual expression of our Orthodox faith in our risen Lord and for all the world to witness.

If we stayed for the whole service, the Good News was made abundantly clear when we heard St. John Chrysostom’s Paschal sermon recited: “If there are devout and God-loving people here, let them enjoy this beautiful, radiant festival. If there are prudent servants, enter joyously into the Lord’s joy. Whoever may be spent from fasting, enjoy now your reward. Whoever has toiled from the first hour, receive today your just settlement. If any of you have arrived only at the eleventh hour, do not be dismayed for being late. The Master is gracious: He accepts the last even as the first. So, all of you, enter into the joy of our Lord: first and second, share the bounty. Those who fasted and those who did not, rejoice today. The table is full, everyone fare sumptuously. The calf is fatted; no one go away hungry. Everyone, savor the banquet of faith; relish the riches of His goodness. Death, where is your sting? Hades, where is your victory? Christ is risen and you are overthrown.” This is just an excerpt from the sermon. We should read the whole sermon not only now but often to strengthen us when we feel defeated or inadequate, because of our stumbles along the road. The message is to make an honest beginning with a pure heart and seek Him.

As we gathered later that morning at home as we watched The Agape Service and heard the Gospel of the Good News that Jesus, who was crucified, died and placed in a tomb is now risen and alive and appeared to His disciples. We heard the Gospel in several languages so that all may come to know Him and embrace His Holy and life-giving Resurrection. We announced the news with love – agape and embraced all. At the Mystical Supper Jesus told His disciples, “Love one another; even as I have loved, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” The hymn at the end of the service reminds us once again what this all means: “It is the day of Resurrection; let us then make ourselves resplendent for the festival and embrace one another, let us say, brethren, even to those who do not love us: Let all be forgiven in the Resurrection, and to exclaim: Christ is risen from the dead, by death, trampling down upon death, and to those in tombs, He has granted life.”

Having traveled with Jesus through His passion and death and now his glorious Resurrection we joyously celebrate with family and friends. And in the Greek tradition, who will be the one holding the red egg that broke all the other ones? And so for the next forty days we don’t greet each other with a Hi! or Hello!...it’s: Christ is Risen!! Christos Anesti!

Now what? Do we sit back and rest on the fact that we have churched ourselves so much we deserve to take a break? On the contrary, with our reenergized joy in the Resurrection we shouldn’t allow the flame of our Paschal candle to extinguish. We need to channel this energy into a new commitment to attend our church services as often as possible (Even if only online for the time being) and to share the light with those disenchanted with religion or the church and show them what they are excluding from their life. Church and the liturgy is heaven on earth, where we are embraced with peace, love, serenity and caring, unlike the world we live in but are not a part of it.

It is the mission of our faithful to share this message with whoever wants and cares to listen. All we can do is to make it available to those who seek it or we are able to be in contact with. We won’t be having a Greek Fest this year but we can still share the message of “Come and See”. We won’t be having the people come and enjoy our ethnic food and fun, but we can still share our most important ethos which is our Orthodox faith, which is what we must share and make known. Many have no clue who we are, what we profess, and even think we are some kind of closed ethnic group, which excludes others. On the contrary, we are Greek, Russian, Serbian, Arab, African, American, etc. All are welcome in the embrace of our loving and Risen Lord. So, let’s all do our part and invite all our relatives, friends and neighbors to an see our faith realized in the many different and unique ways at this present time. The best days of our parish should not be a past memory, but starting today and going forward if we step up, commit ourselves and truly embrace His message.

To all the mothers of our parish, we wish you a very happy and blessed Mothers’ Day! And to all of us: go share the message of the Resurrection and all though we will not see you physically in the church we will know you are there in the mystical presence of our church every Sunday. Truly He is Risen! ~ Alithos Anesti!

The Parish Council Update

May 2020

Officers: Jim Katsihtis, President; Maria Molzahn, Vice President; Bruce Hansen, Secretary; Niko Papadopoulos, Treasurer; Scott Storck, Assistant Treasurer

Members: John Bayouth, Christy Chappell-Belkin, Conn Choles, Maria Schirmer-Devitt, Dori Hosek, Carol Griskavich, Mike Smith

Dear Parishioners, Christ is risen!

We hope and pray that you and your loved ones are all well during this continued COVID-19 “Safer at Home” mandate, and that you are finding comfort, hope and joy in the remembrance and celebration of the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I’m thankful for our tradition in greeting each other with “Christ is risen! Truly He is risen.” It’s an opportunity to frequently remind us that if we truly believe in the resurrection as we proclaim, then everything about our life and our outlook should be transformed.

We continue to receive updates and guidance from His Eminence Metropolitan Nathanael on the approach to safety, the Liturgical services and matters relating to the financial impact of the pandemic on parishes. We participate in a weekly conference call that His Eminence leads with all the parishes. The Metropolis walked us through a forgivable loan application we can make under the Payroll Protection Program of the CARES Act. The loan is intended to cover approximately two months of payroll expenses and would be forgiven if the funds are used for that purpose. We initially had some questions and reservations regarding debt in any form, our needs and the needs of others. After further consultation with the Metropolis and prayerful consideration, we have decided to apply for the forgivable funds to help us during this period of reduced income and fundraising.

Thank you for your patience and support as we’ve worked through such new and different ways to worship and communicate. Thank you to Fr. Christodoulos and to our chanters Benny, Saed, Michelle and Niko for their tireless work in offering the many services and bringing them to us livestreamed throughout Holy Week and Pascha. Thanks also to Lainey and Niko for their work on the website, and to Lainey for the email reminders about upcoming services. And finally, a special thanks to our Choir director, George, for sending links and files of beautiful hymns for the period.

Thank you to all who continue to support our parish via their many forms of stewardship. Our parish relies on your loving stewardship. Please continue to pray for and support our parish, especially while we are being impacted by the various effects of COVID-19. And please let us know how we can serve you.

The next Parish Council meeting is Tuesday May 5 at 7:00pm.

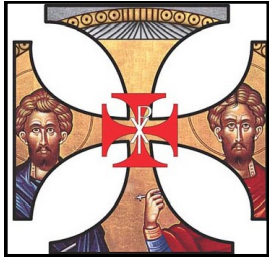
Thank you.

On behalf of the Parish Council,

Jim

407-408-3096

jkatsihtis@gmail.com



FOCUS ON PHILOPTOCHOS HELP US TO HELP OTHERS

**President, Eleni Giakoumopoulos, lenagiak@gmail.com
608-556-8186**

**Vice President: Maria Molzahn, Secretary: Sue Soloninka, Treasurer: Maria Heide,
Asst. Treasurer: Jenny Glatch, Corresponding Secretary: Nancy Briamis, Asst. Corre-
sponding Secretary: Kathie Fafalios**

Christ is Risen!

Our sincere wishes for everyone to be healthy and safe during this challenging time. Thank you for all your support in the work we do. We are #PhiloStrong because of the support of this community!!

April 2020 commitments:

- ◆ Thank you to all chapter members who joined the phone meeting on 4/10/2020. The chapter voted on the local, national and international commitments to the following organizations:
- ◆ \$1,100 to the Metropolis of Chicago COVID-19 Parish Relief Fund
- ◆ \$1,100 to the National Philoptochos for COVID-19 Emergency Fund Drive
- ◆ \$500 to River Food Pantry
- ◆ \$500 to the Goodman Community Center
- ◆ \$500 to Lincoln Elementary School - Relief to Educational Barriers Fund - Food donation for families
- ◆ \$2,000 to Greece/Cyprus relief through the IOCC - Congratulations to Patti Cameron for winning the raffle drawing

METROPOLIS:

There are 58 parishes in the Metropolis of Chicago. If you wish to contribute directly to the Metropolis of Chicago COVID-19 Parish Relief Fund, you can do so online, send a check or via text message. More information is available here: <https://chicago.goarch.org/donate>.

NATIONAL PHILOPTOCHOS

You can support the National Philoptochos COVID-19 Emergency Fund Drive. You can find more information on the page here: <https://www.philoptochos.org/whats-happening/>

The 45th Clergy Laity Congress and 2020 National Philoptochos Biennial Convention in Cleveland has been cancelled. Plans will be forthcoming concerning the date and location of a future congress.

River Food Pantry - Nancy Briamis, nbriamis@gmail.com

The River Food Pantry has established a COVID-19 Emergency Food Fund to see the nutritional needs of food-insecure households for the duration of the coronavirus pandemic. The fund will help to provide curb side pick up of boxes of groceries for hundreds of households, as well as provide pre-bagged lunches for children delivered to 9 low-income neighborhoods 6 days a week.

The River seeks health volunteers who are not in the higher-risk demographic to help with food packaging and distribution and client registration. Volunteers are also needed to help with MUNCH lunch production (Monday, Wednesday and Friday 8:30-10:30 am) and lunch distribution (Monday-Saturday 10:45am-2:30pm).

To donate to the COVID-19 Emergency Food Fund or to register to volunteer, please visit their website - info@riverfoodpantry.org or call (608) 442-8815

CHURCH WEBSITE

Lainey Skoumbouris, laney0220@yahoo.com

The church website is set-up for private login to access the monthly newsletters and are meant for Church members only, not the public. Church members can read the newsletter on the website, but you must create an account before you can view it. Log onto the website and click on "Newsletter" on the side-bar <http://www.agocwi.org/registration-required/>, or "login" on the main menu <http://www.agocwi.org/login/>; it will direct you to sign up. If you need help, have questions or something isn't working in the registration contact me.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

J and M Home Helpers

AGOC's handymen, John and Mike, will do minor home repairs and maintenance for \$25/hour, with the money for their work being donated to the church.



Call Mike at (608) 516-9188 and John at (608) 575-1014 today!

SPIRITUAL MEETINGS

Peli Galiti, pegaliti@gmail.com

We continue our spiritual meetings online now. After a successful virtual gathering on April 30, our group will meet again on Thursday, May 14, and on Thursday, May 28, both days at 6:30 to 8:00 pm, through zoom. The link will be sent via email, for those participating. If anyone else wants to join us please contact Peli at pegaliti@gmail.com.

Assumption Cookbook Project

In the meantime, it seems prudent for us to develop alternate fundraising plans. As a parish community, we can use this crisis as an opportunity and strategically pause to assess how else we can celebrate our shared cultures as Orthodox Christians who find a spiritual home in the Greek Orthodox Church. In that spirit, please help us to create an Assumption cookbook to share stories and bits of our traditions. This will allow our shared and unique cultures and histories to live on, and can be a way we can raise money for the church without social gathering. Here is how you can help: Please start gathering your recipes, your stories, and your photos. In the coming weeks, we will put together a cookbook committee. If you are interested in joining this committee, please let Maria Schirmer Devitt know (especially if you have graphic design or publishing experience).



Great and Holy Pascha

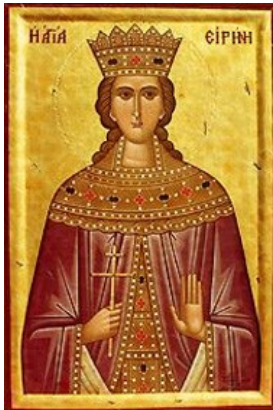
Mary Magdalene, and the other women who were present at the burial of our Saviour on Friday evening, returned from Golgotha to the city and prepared fragrant spices and myrrh, so that they might anoint the body of Jesus. On the morrow, because of the law which forbids work on the day of the Sabbath, they rested for the whole day. But at early dawn on the Sunday that followed, almost thirty-six hours since the death of the Life-giving Redeemer, they came to the sepulchre with the

spices to anoint His body. While they were considering the difficulty of rolling away the stone from the door of the sepulchre, there was a fearful earthquake; and an Angel, whose countenance shone like lightning and whose garment was white as snow, rolled away the stone and sat upon it. The guards that were there became as dead from fear and took to flight. The women, however, went into the sepulchre, but did not find the Lord's body. Instead, they saw two other Angels in the form of youths clothed in white, who told them that the Saviour was risen, and they sent forth the women, who ran to proclaim to the disciples these gladsome tidings. Then Peter and John arrived, having learned from Mary Magdalene what had come to pass, and when they entered the tomb, they found only the winding sheets. Therefore, they returned again to the city with joy, as heralds now of the supernatural Resurrection of Christ, Who in truth was seen alive by the disciples on this day on five occasions.

Our Lord, then, was crucified, died, and was buried on Friday, before the setting of the sun, which was the first of His

"three days" in the grave; observing the mystical Sabbath, that "seventh day" in which it is said that the Lord "rested from all His works" (Gen. 2:2-3), He passed all of Saturday in the grave; and He arose "while it was yet dark, very early in the morning" on Sunday, the third day, which, according to the Hebrew reckoning, began after sunset on Saturday.

As we celebrate today this joyous Resurrection, we greet and embrace one another in Christ, thereby demonstrating our Saviour's victory over death and corruption, and the destruction of our ancient enmity with God, and His reconciliation toward us, and our inheritance of life everlasting. The feast itself is called Pascha, which is derived from the Hebrew word which means "passover"; because Christ, Who suffered and arose, has made us to pass over from the curse of Adam and slavery to the devil and death unto our primal freedom and blessedness. In addition, this day of this particular week, which is the first of all the rest, is dedicated to the honour of the Lord; in honour and remembrance of the Resurrection, the Apostles transferred to this day the rest from labour that was formerly assigned to the Sabbath of the ancient Law.



Saint Irene the Great Martyr - May 5th Saint Irene was the daughter of a princelet called Licinius; named Penelope by her parents, through a divine revelation she was brought to faith in Christ and at Baptism was renamed Irene. In her zeal for piety she broke in pieces all the idols of her father, who commanded that she be trampled underfoot by horses. But while she remained unharmed, one of the horses rose up and cast down her father, killing him. By her prayer she raised him to life again, and he believed and was baptized. Afterwards, in many journeyings, Saint Irene suffered torments and punishments for her faith, but was preserved by the power of God, while working dread miracles and converting many thousands of souls. At last she came to Ephesus, where she fell asleep in peace, in the first half of the fourth century. Two days after her death, her gravestone was found lifted off, and her grave empty. At least two churches were dedicated to Saint Irene in Constantinople, and she is also the patroness of the Aegean island of Thera, which is commonly called Santorin (or Santorini), a corruption of "Saint Irene."



Methodius & Cyril, Equal-to-the Apostles Illuminators of the Slavs – May 11th

Born in Thessalonica, Saint Methodius was a military man before becoming a monk on Mount Olympus. His brother Constantine, known as the Philosopher because of his erudition, was Librarian at the Church of the Holy Wisdom in Constantinople; he later became a monk with the name of Cyril. The Emperor Michael sent him with his brother Methodius to the Khazars in response to their petition for teachers to expound to them the Christian Faith. On their way, they stayed in Cherson, where they recovered from the Black Sea the relics of Saint Clement of Rome. Later, they were called by Prince Rostislav of Moravia to instruct his people in the Orthodox Faith (Saint Rostislav died a martyr's death and is celebrated Oct. 15). The Saints devised an alphabet for the Slavs, and used it to translate the Greek books into the language of the people. In their apostolic labours throughout the Balkans, the holy brothers were slandered by certain Germanic bishops who opposed the use of the vernacular in the church services.

Summoned to court at Rome in 867, they presented their Slavonic translations to Pope Adrian II, who received them with love and full approval. Two years later, Saint Cyril reposed in Rome on February 14 and was buried in the Church of Saint Clement. Saint Methodius was made Bishop of Moravia, but at the intrigues of certain Latin clergy, was cast into prison by the "Holy Roman Emperor" (the Germanic Emperor of the West), where he was cruelly tormented for some three years. In 874, through the defence of Pope John VIII, he was freed and made Archbishop of Moravia. Because he reproved the lax morals of the German priests in Moravia, he was soon accused of heresy by them, and was forbidden to celebrate the Liturgy in Slavonic. Summoned to Rome again in 879, he was completely exonerated and allowed once again to use the Slavonic tongue for the divine services. He reposed on April 6, 885.



Commemoration of the Precious Cross that appeared in the sky over Jerusalem in 351 A.D. May 7th

On this day in the year 351, not long after Cyril had succeeded Maximus as Archbishop of Jerusalem, during the reign of Constantius, the son of Saint Constantine the Great, on the day of Pentecost, the sign of the Cross appeared over Jerusalem. Saint Cyril, in his letter to the Emperor Constantius, says, "At about the third hour of the day, an enormous Cross, formed of light, appeared in the heaven above holy Golgotha and reaching to the holy Mount of Olives, being seen not by one or two only, but manifest with perfect clarity to the whole multitude of the city; not, as one might suppose, rushing swiftly past in fancy, but seen openly above the earth many hours in plain sight, and overcoming the beams of the sun with its dazzling rays" (PG 33:1 16q).



Pachomius the Great –May 15th

Saint Pachomius was born of pagan parents in the Upper Thebaid of Egypt. He was conscripted into the Roman army at an early age. While quartered with the other soldiers in the prison in Thebes, Pachomius was astonished at the kindness shown them by the local Christians, who relieved their distress by bringing them food and drink. Upon inquiring who they were, he believed in Christ and vowed that once delivered from the army, he would serve Him all the days of his life. Released from military service, about the year 313, he was baptized, and became a disciple of the hermit Palamon, under whose exacting guidance he increased in virtue and grace, and reached such a height of holiness that "because of the purity of his heart," says his biographer, "he was, as it were, seeing the invisible God as in a mirror." His renown spread far, and so many came to him to be his disciples that he founded nine monasteries in all, filled with many thousands of monks, to whom he gave a rule of life, which became the pattern for all communal monasticism after him. While Saint Anthony the Great is the father of hermits, Saint Pachomius is the founder of the cenobitic life in Egypt; because Pachomius

had founded a way of monasticism accessible to so many, Anthony said that he "walks the way of the Apostles." Saint Pachomius fell asleep in the Lord before his contemporaries Anthony and Athanasius the Great, in the year 346. His name in Coptic, Pachom, means "eagle."



Saints Constantine & Helen Equal to the Apostles –May

21st This great and renowned sovereign of the Christians was the son of Constantius Chlorus (the ruler of the westernmost parts of the Roman empire), and of the blessed Helen. He was born in 272, in (according to some authorities) Naissus of Dardania, a city on the Hellespont. In 306, when his father died, he was proclaimed successor to his throne. In 312, on learning that Maxentius and Maximinus had joined forces against him, he marched into Italy, where, while at the head of his troops, he saw in the sky after midday, beneath the sun, a radiant pillar in the form of a cross with the words: "By this shalt thou conquer." The following night, our Lord Jesus Christ appeared to him in a dream and declared to him the power of the Cross and its significance. When he arose in the morning, he immediately ordered that a labarum be made (which is a banner or standard of victory over the enemy) in the form of a cross, and he inscribed on it the Name of Jesus Christ. On the 28th Of October, he attacked and mightily conquered Maxentius, who drowned in

the Tiber River while fleeing. The following day, Constantine entered Rome in triumph and was proclaimed Emperor of the West by the Senate, while Licinius, his brother-in-law, ruled in the East. But out of malice, Licinius later persecuted the Christians. Constantine fought him once and again, and utterly destroyed him in 324, and in this manner he became monarch over the West and the East. Under him and because of him all the persecutions against the Church ceased. Christianity triumphed and idolatry was overthrown. In 325 he gathered the First Ecumenical Council in Nicaea, which he himself personally addressed. In 324, in the ancient city of Byzantium, he laid the foundations of the new capital of his realm, and solemnly inaugurated it on May 11, 330, naming it after himself, Constantino-

FANARI CAMPING MINISTRIES PRESENTS

Together In Spirit



While our normal camp program may be cancelled, join us virtually for our "Together in Spirit" summer program.

When: Begins June 7

What: Virtual events include: Song Night, Bonfires, Virtual Games, and More

Where: Via the Fanari Camp Facebook and Instagram accounts

How: Register at fanari.camp | suggested donation: \$25



STRONGER TOGETHER

COVID-19 PARISH RELIEF FUND

Metropolis of Chicago
555 E. Butterfield Rd.,
Suite 201
Lombard, Illinois 60148

Phone: 312-736-2280
Fax: 312-284-2380
chicago.goarch.org

Friends,

Christ is Risen! Indeed, He is Risen!

It is with great joy and excitement that I announce the **Metropolis of Chicago Cross Town 5K Walk/Run** on Saturday, May 23, the day that is typically reserved for the Junior Olympics.

Our 5K is different from traditional walk/run events. The Cross Town 5K Walk/Run is about staying healthy, enjoying the outdoors and supporting our fellow parishes in need. No packet pick-up lines. No canceled events. No chaotic race mornings. No parking issues.

Parishioners across the Metropolis are invited to walk or run through their communities at a time of their own choosing on May 23, while observing social distancing. During the Coronavirus pandemic, as one family in Christ, we can represent our Metropolis and demonstrate how we are *SeparateButUnited*. 100% of funds raised will flow directly to the parishes most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Please visit metropolisofchicago-crosstown5k.itemorder.com/sale to register for the Cross Town 5K Walk/Run. You can register up to the day of the event, however, in order to guarantee delivery of a Cross Town 5K Walk/Run t-shirt you must register by May 10.

If you cannot join in the Cross Town 5K Walk/Run, consider a donation to the COVID-19 Parish Relief Fund. You can make an online donation at chicago.goarch.org/donate or you can send us a check made payable to the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago, with "Cross Town 5K" included in the memo line.

My hope is that we will have individuals and same-household families across all 58 parishes participate and show their support for their fellow parishes and the Church. God bless you and your loved ones.

With paternal love in the Risen Lord,

+ Metropolitan Nathanael of Chicago

Virtual 5K | May 23, 2020

METROPOLIS OF CHICAGO

GROSS TOWN 5K

Walk/Run



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



Sign Up!

Register at metropolisofchicago-crosstown5k.itemorder.com/sale
To receive a t-shirt, register by **May 10**

IMPORTANT POINT!

All funds raised from the Cross Town 5K will go toward the Metropolis of Chicago's COVID-19 Parish Relief Fund. The Fund was established to leverage the reach of the Metropolis to raise funds for our parishes most impacted by the Coronavirus pandemic. Can't participate? Donate now at chicago.goarch.org/donate.



Collect a Pledge!

Collect pledges and sponsorships at chicago.goarch.org/crosstown5k by sharing your participation with friends and family



Pick a Place!

Choose the time and place to move for 5 kilometers on **May 23**



Grab and Go!

Pick a favorite cross or icon and start moving



Snap a Pic!

Capture your 5K with a picture, video, or boomerang with your cross or icon



Post It!

Post your media on Facebook with **#SeparateButUnited**

BE SAFE!

Make sure to comply with all safety and COVID-19 laws, ordinances & orders



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCH DIOCESE OF AMERICA
METROPOLIS OF CHICAGO

Assumption Greek Orthodox Church

11 N 7th Street

Madison, WI 53704-4904

Phone: 608-244-1001 Fax: 608-244-1565

Email: office@agocwi.org



ple. Since the throne of the imperial rule was transferred thither from Rome, it was named New Rome, the inhabitants of its domain were called Romans, and it was considered the continuation of the Roman Empire. Falling ill near Nicomedia, he requested to receive divine Baptism, according to Eusebius (The Life of Constantine. Book IV, 61-62), and also according to Socrates and Sozomen; and when he had been deemed worthy of the Holy Mysteries, he reposed in 337, on May 21 or 22, the day of Pentecost, having lived sixty-five years, of which he ruled for thirty-one years. His remains were transferred to Constantinople and were deposited in the Church of the Holy Apostles, which had been built by him (see Homily XXVI on Second Corinthians by Saint John Chrysostom).

As for his holy mother Helen, after her son had made the Faith of Christ triumphant throughout the Roman Empire, she undertook a journey to Jerusalem and found the Holy Cross on which our Lord was crucified (see Sept. 13 and 14). After this, Saint Helen, in her zeal to glorify Christ, erected churches in Jerusalem at the sites of the Crucifixion and Resurrection, in Bethlehem at the cave where our Saviour was born, another on the Mount of Olives whence He ascended into Heaven, and many others throughout the Holy Land, Cyprus, and elsewhere. She was proclaimed Augusta, her image was stamped upon golden coins, and two cities were named Helenopolis after her in Bithynia and in Palestine. Having been thus glorified for her piety, she departed to the Lord being about eighty years of age, according to some in the year 330, according to others, in 336.