




METROPOLIS OF CHICAGO

2020 ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

The Light of Christ illumines all, even in the darkest of times.



“If we walk in the light,
as God is in the light, then
we also have communion
with one another ...”

1 John 1:7

2020 ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

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GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF CHICAGO

Beloved Stewards and Friends of the Metropolis of Chicago,

It is an honor to present our first Annual Impact Report as Metropolitan of Chicago. To say that the past year was difficult for our beloved Metropolis would be a vast understatement. We lost many loved ones and dear friends. Our churches were forced to close in an unprecedented manner to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. The Midwest itself was shaken at its core by social unrest. The public demonstrations and riots we witnessed were like nothing I had ever imagined seeing in my lifetime. And yet, amidst all of this, 2020 reminded me of what Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew refers to as “the power and value of love and solidarity” (Keynote Address, Halki Summit IV).

Throughout this past year, I was deeply inspired by the commitment and dedication of our clergy and laity, who worked together to share the love, mercy, healing, and peace of the Gospel. One of the biggest takeaways of 2020, for all of us, was that no single person can overcome these difficulties alone—it takes a collective effort. I am most proud of the unwavering faith and ongoing response of the faithful in our Metropolis to all these challenging circumstances. Thus, I offer my wholehearted praise and thanksgiving to the Lord for the way in which we continue to come together as a Christ-centered community that loves, guides, engages, and serves all people, both Orthodox and non-Orthodox alike.

By taking a moment to look back on 2020, it is my hope that this report will provide us with a renewed focus for the coming year. Without a doubt, our success in 2021 will be shaped by our commitment to Christ as well as our ability to make the most out of everything our communities have endured over this last year. We have already seen what we can achieve when we work together. Now, with stronger communication and a greater sense of collaboration, we have the ability to carry the resilient spirit of our forefathers and mothers into the new year. I pray that God grant us all health and strength throughout 2021. May He bless all of you with every good and perfect gift from above.

† METROPOLITAN NATHANAEL OF CHICAGO

Dear Friends,

The Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago's 2020 Annual Impact Report is quite unique. It embodies our commitment to accountability in assessing our progress toward the goals set forth in our strategic plan. Our primary aim with this report is to provide transparency around key financial and demographic trends across the Metropolis and its parishes. We also hope it will serve as a baseline in assessing the growth and programmatic impact of our ministries.

Over time, the Metropolis intends to augment this report with additional indicators that provide a more comprehensive picture of our collective progress in serving Christ and expanding the impact of our Orthodox Christian faith. In looking back on the challenges faced in 2020, there is one very important fact that jumps off of the pages of this report—that our Metropolis, as a whole, stepped up and made a positive impact on those who needed it most, both within and beyond the walls of our communities. Together, we fed the hungry, provided personal protective equipment to our first responders, raised funds for our parishes, and provided pastoral care through traditional and innovative ways. Our community grew stronger together in service to Christ and neighbor, lighting the way to a hopeful future ahead.

Our Metropolis is proud of the work we accomplished last year at a time when it was needed most. This success was made possible through the efforts of our Metropolis Council members, officers, legal, financial and real estate advisors, communications and technology experts, and other volunteers who gave so generously of their time and expertise. Their expenditure of time was made at great personal expense and sacrifice, and in some cases, with the support of their employers, to whom we extend gratitude as well. Finally, the Metropolis acknowledges and thanks all those who donated funds to support our mission which, this year, focused on helping our parishes weather the negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The outpouring of support is both inspiring and humbling.

We plan to expand our ministries and humanitarian initiatives to impact more lives in 2021. If you are a business, community organization, or a volunteer wishing to support the ministries of the Metropolis, we want to hear from you. Please email us at contactus@chicagometropolis.org.



VICKI PAPPAS KARL, Executive Director

ADMINISTRATION



His Eminence Nathanael
Metropolitan of Chicago



His Grace Bishop Timothy
Chancellor



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Chanters*

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The Metropolis Rolled up its Sleeves in 2020

PAMELA ARGYRIS, Metropolis Council First Vice President

The year began with the Metropolis moving its operations from the furnished corporate office space in Elk Grove Village, IL, donated by the Parthenis Families, to the furnished office space located in Lombard, IL, which was donated by Gus and Maria Danos and their family. To honor their generosity, commitment to the Church, and true authentic servant leadership, Metropolitan Nathanael bestowed the Metropolis Silver Cross upon the Parthenis and Danos families.

The Metropolis hit the ground running in January 2020 by beginning the implementation phase of its 16-goal Strategic Plan—a detailed blueprint

developed by our faithful and accepted during the 2019 Clergy-Laity Assembly. Task forces for each goal were organized and goal teams began the hard work of conducting research and gathering data. Our objective is to identify and introduce best practices and programs that will benefit our parishes as well as enhance Metropolis operations. Owen Field and Myra Karegianes and members of Task Force 7.1 (Comprehensive Parish Stewardship Ministries Program) developed the Strengthen Stewardship Now program, which helps parishes enhance their stewardship programs and transition to more sustainable methods of financing their operations and ministries. This comprehensive program consists of

educational materials, monthly meetings, direct assistance, and an online toolkit. We are pleased that our parishes have received the program with great enthusiasm and have already begun thinking of ways to implement many of the key strategies and practices.

In keeping with its objective of greater operational excellence in 2020, the Metropolis adopted a new Sexual Harassment Policy and training program, and continued rolling out the Archdiocese's Policies for the Safety of Children and Youth. The Metropolis was able to achieve 100% compliance with both programs, demonstrating its unwavering commitment to protecting its youth and adults from harm.

Strategic Plan ➔ chicago.goarch.org/strategic-planning

Clergy and parishioners of St. Demetrios Church in Libertyville, Illinois prepared meals for 1,000 families at Christmas.





2020 Financial Snapshot

GUS KOLYVAS, Metropolis Council Assistant Treasurer

2020 was a challenging, yet transformative year for the Metropolis of Chicago's finances. When the pandemic struck in the first quarter, the Metropolis quickly pivoted to provide much needed financial assistance to our parishes, our faithful, and our neighboring communities. We are enormously proud of the ways in which our clergy and faithful came together to help those in need during this unprecedented humanitarian crisis.

COVID-19 did not, however, divert the Metropolis from its promise to put its own financial house in order. This year, we made significant strides in our efforts to bring financial stability, improved internal controls, as well as greater transparency and accountability to the Metropolis finances. We are pleased and humbled to share the following list of financial achievements, which briefly touch on the progress we made under the most trying of circumstances:

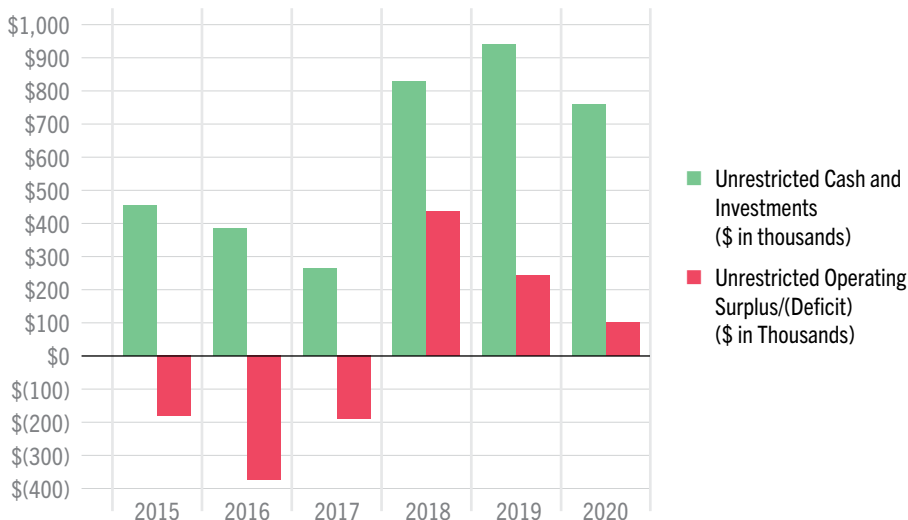
- Independent auditors issued an unmodified (clean) opinion on the Metropolis's 2019 financial statements.
- The Metropolis successfully implemented proper governance and internal controls with appropriate oversight.

- The Metropolis launched the Coronavirus Parish Relief (CPR) Fund, raising over \$265,000 for parish relief through a grassroots-giving campaign. An initial distribution of over \$138,000 has been made directly to our parishes.
- The Metropolis raised \$226,000 to support philanthropic and humanitarian causes in the broader Chicagoland area, of which \$173,000 was disbursed to outside charities or allocated to our Project HOPE in accordance with donor intent. The Metropolis intends to distribute the remaining funds in 2021.

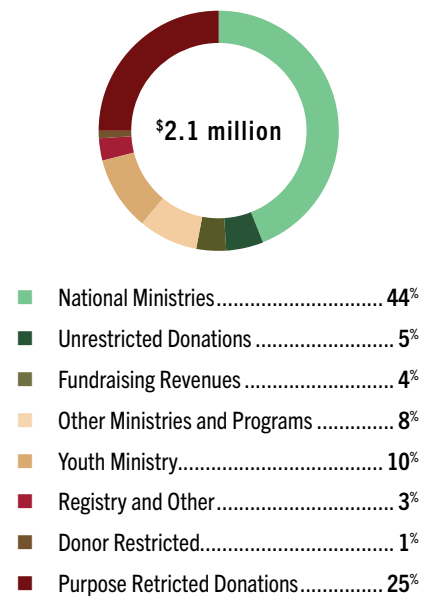
Through careful budgeting and support from our parishes and individual donors, the Metropolis of Chicago reported a small surplus from operations compared to an anticipated deficit forecasted at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Metropolis of Chicago was in a strong financial position on December 31, 2020, positioning it well to meet the challenges of the future.

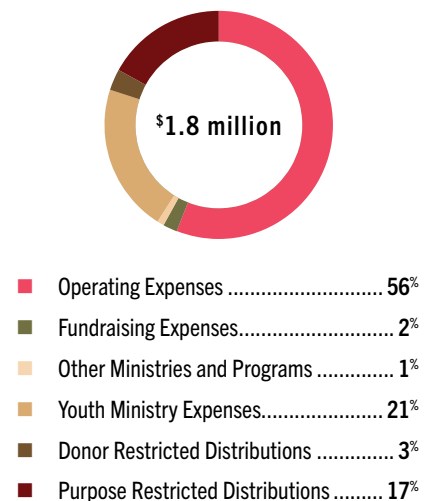
UNRESTRICTED CASH AND INVESTMENTS AND OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) 2015-2020



2020 REVENUES BY SOURCE



2020 EXPENSES BY FUNCTION



Audits, 2020 Profit and Loss and 2021 Budget
chicago.goarch.org/finances-and-governance



A Sacramental Snapshot of the Metropolis (2009-2019)

REV. DN. ANTONIOS CALASH, Metropolis Registrar

In 2020, the Metropolis initiated an audit and review of its sacramental registry data, which is comprised of the written records of baptisms, chrismations, weddings, and funerals celebrated at our parishes. The purpose of this audit was to ensure the accuracy and completeness of our records as well as to further understand the trends occurring across our six-state Metropolis over the past ten years.

Our analysis shows that baptisms and weddings are trending slightly downward (2% annually) while the number of funerals is slowly rising. The differential of baptisms

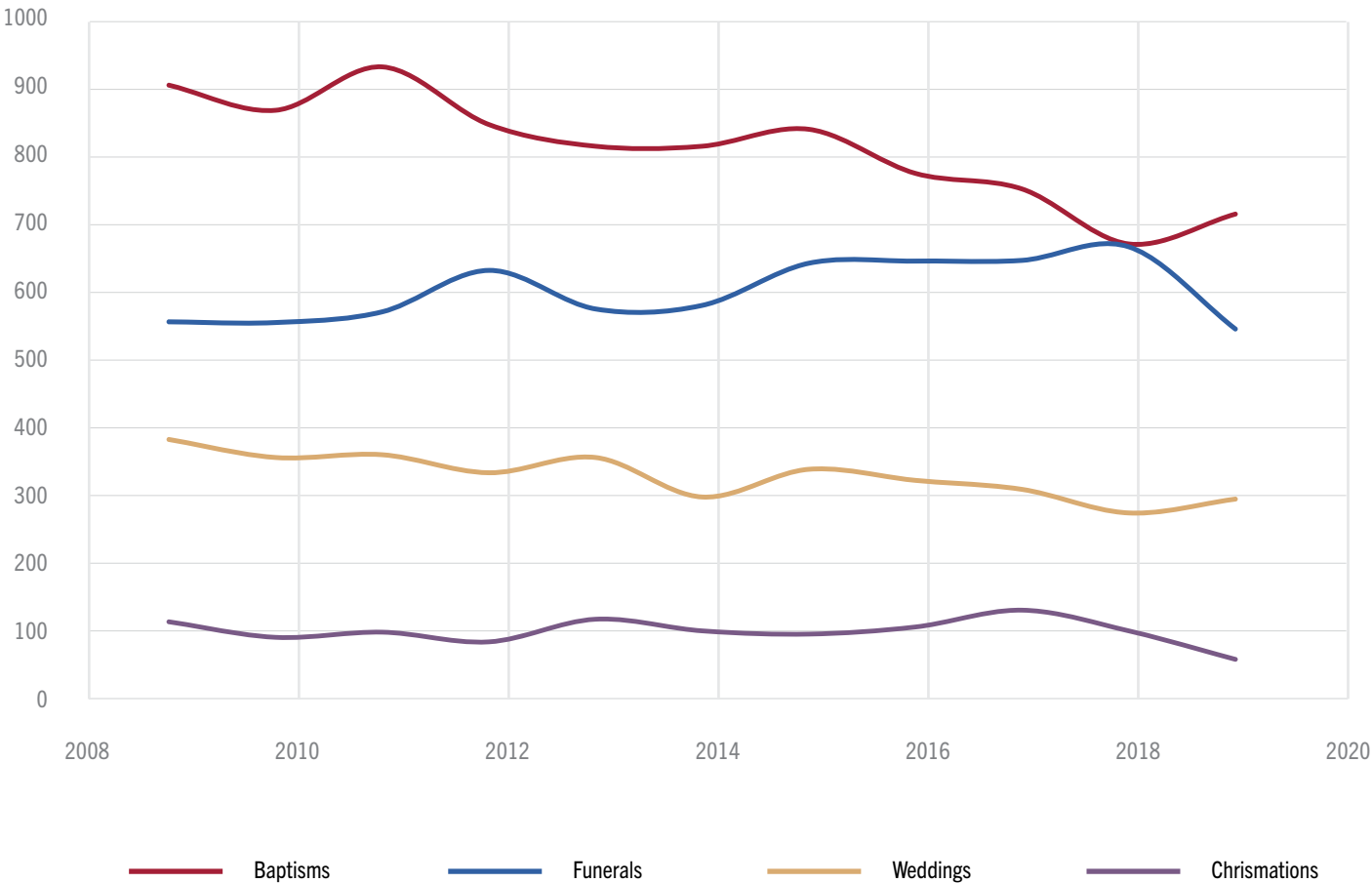
over funerals, which serves as one indicator of overall parish growth, remains positive but also declining at a rate of 2% annually.

The data and trends observed provide us with a picture of our Church, one in which fewer people partake in the “sacraments of initiation” today than in the past. If we continue on this downward trajectory, it is inevitable that we will have far more empty pews in our parishes. This not only means that our parishes may find themselves unable to support their basic operations and ministries, but more tragically, that there will be fewer Orthodox Christians

witnessing to the Gospel and sharing the love of Christ in the world.

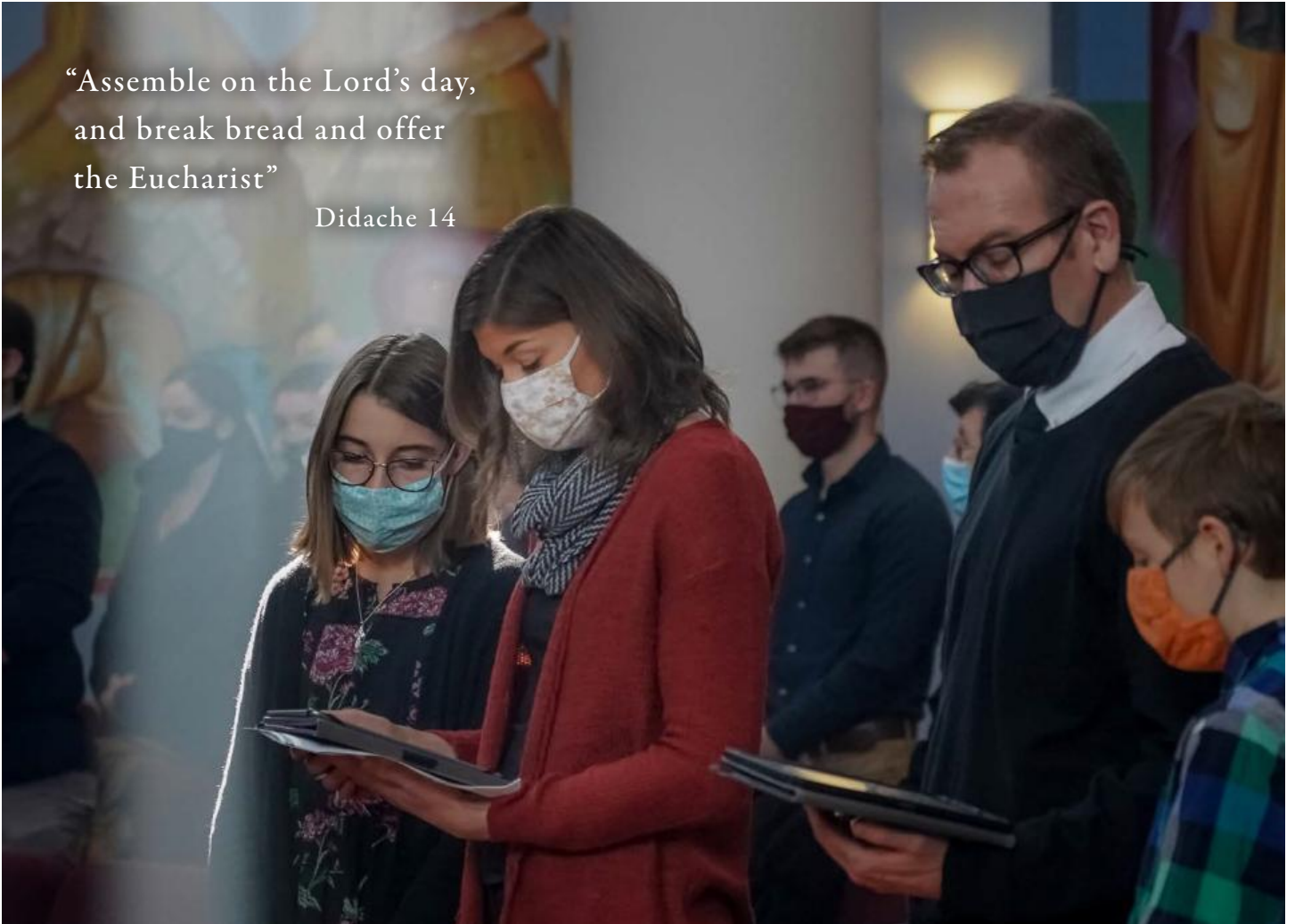
One can surely point out that this downward trend is observed in most major faith communities across the United States. We cannot, however, afford to become complacent in this fact; we must understand the urgency of our reality. Instead of searching for excuses and becoming defensive, we should remain inquisitive. We must renew our commitment to the Gospel. We must become avid “seekers” of Christ, so that we may become “doers” of His Word.

SACRAMENTS
2009-2019



“Assemble on the Lord’s day,
and break bread and offer
the Eucharist”

Didache 14



“Make certain, therefore,
that you all observe one common Eucharist;
for there is but one Body of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and but one cup of union with His Blood,
and one single altar of sacrifice”

Ignatius of Antioch,
Letter to the Philadelphians, 4



The Metropolis Participates in the FAITH Endowment's Strategic Leadership and Transformative Action Program

FR. DUSTIN M. LYON, Proistamenos, St. George Greek Orthodox Church, DeKalb, Illinois

In January 2020, the FAITH Endowment afforded the Metropolis of Chicago an extraordinary opportunity. A total of twenty lay and clergy leaders were selected to participate in a pilot program for Strategic Leadership and Transformative Action (SLTA), which was presented by the faculty of the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University. The pilot program was designed specifically to benefit

the Greek Orthodox community in the United States. Working together, our clergy and lay leaders explored the potential within our six-state region to invite, educate, and engage both the faithful and seekers to live more fully in the Orthodox faith. The resulting programs that have emerged—including Project HOPE, Strengthen Stewardship NOW and The Myrrhbearing Women—have contributed to a changing ethos in the Metropolis, setting

the stage for ongoing transformation. In 2021, the Metropolis is preparing to launch strategic initiatives for clergy and lay leadership development, enhanced religious literacy, and building sustained and enduring support for the Metropolis and its parishes. We are grateful to the FAITH Endowment for inspiring this innovation, collaboration, and advancement within our Metropolis.





"The sessions were led by expert faculty who were not only researchers but also practitioners. Their ability to speak from experience really helped bring these concepts to life. I walked away from each of the sessions with practical tools that were directly related and could be integrated into the process of designing the women's leadership project."

Mary Scott
St. Andrew Greek Orthodox Church,
South Bend, Indiana

"Each applicant in the SLTA program was asked to propose an Impact Project that could help transform the Metropolis. As critical tools and skills were gained by participants during the week-long program, these Impact Projects quickly developed into robust, more comprehensive plans."

Fr. Rick Andrews
Proistamenos, Saints Peter and
Paul Greek Orthodox Church,
Glenview, Illinois



Photo credit: Tufts



The Metropolis Introduces the Servant Leadership Award

The Servant Leadership Award was introduced in 2020 as a way to recognize and celebrate parishioners across our Metropolis who exemplify Christ's servant leadership. Each parish was asked to identify a steward whose unparalleled service, leadership, and creativeness benefitted the parish and the

broader community. In late 2020, Metropolitan Nathanael embarked on a series of pastoral visits, traveling throughout the Metropolis to bestow the Metropolis Bronze Cross on each of our Servant Leadership Award recipients. The Metropolis is proud to honor the following recipients of the 2020 Metropolis Bronze Cross.



RECOGNIZING SERVICE, LEADERSHIP AND INNOVATION



Theodore Abbgly
SS. Constantine
and Helen Greek
Orthodox Church
Rockford, Illinois



George Argires
SS. Constantine
and Helen Greek
Orthodox Church
Palos Hills, Illinois



**Dino & Linda
Argyropoulos**
St. Demetrios Greek
Orthodox Church
Chicago, Illinois



**Steve and Minda
Arsenault**
St. George Greek
Orthodox Church
*Saint Paul,
Minnesota*



**Christina
Arvanites**
Assumption Greek
Orthodox Church
Chicago, Illinois



Basil Athenson
Ascension of
Our Lord Greek
Orthodox Church
*Lincolnshire,
Illinois*



Chris Atsaves
SS. Peter and Paul
Greek Orthodox
Church
Glenview, Illinois



Demetria Bakris
St. George Greek
Orthodox Church
Schererville, Indiana



Kathy Beauchamp
St. George Greek
Orthodox Church
Des Moines, Iowa



Ellen Best
Annunciation
Greek Orthodox
Cathedral
Chicago, Illinois



Matthew Bezanes
St. Andrew Greek
Orthodox Church
Chicago, Illinois



Irene Booras
Saint Demetrios
Greek Orthodox
Church
Libertyville, Illinois



Paul Chiligris
Annunciation
Greek Orthodox
Church
Decatur, Illinois



Helen Chioles
All Saints Greek
Orthodox Church
Joliet, Illinois



**George and Nia
Choles**
Assumption Greek
Orthodox Church
Madison, Wisconsin



Andrew Dimitriou
Assumption Greek
Orthodox Church
Homer Glen, Illinois



Maria Dimitriou
Holy Taxiarchai – St.
Haralambos Greek
Orthodox Church
Niles, Illinois



**Themistoklis
Fabiatis**
St. Basil Greek
Orthodox Church
Chicago, Illinois



**Michael Edward
Ferretti**
St. Nicholas Greek
Orthodox Church
*Saint Louis,
Missouri*



Foti Georgopoulos
St. Athanasios
Aurora, Illinois



**Becky Greanias
Lagouros**
All Saints Greek
Orthodox Church
Joliet, Illinois

LEADERSHIP



Mary Harker
St. John the
Baptist Greek
Orthodox Church
Cedar Rapids, Iowa



**Paulette G.
Hastings**
St. Mary's Greek
Orthodox Church
*Minneapolis,
Minnesota*



Peggy Kallas
Holy Trinity Greek
Orthodox Church
*Fond du Lac,
Wisconsin*



Deno Kandis
Assumption Greek
Orthodox Church
East Moline, Illinois



Alex Karras
Holy Trinity Greek
Orthodox Church
Sioux City, Iowa



George Katsambas
Holy Trinity Greek
Orthodox Church
Chicago, Illinois



Hristos Kirgios
St. Andrew Greek
Orthodox Church
South Bend, Indiana



Frances Klimis
Ss. Constantine
and Helen Greek
Ortho Cathedral
Merrillville, Indiana



Chris Kontos
St. Demetrios Greek
Orthodox Church
Elmhurst, Illinois



Photios Kutil
Three Hierarchs
Greek Orthodox
Church
Champaign, Illinois



**Chrisanthe
Litsogiannis**
Holy Cross Church
Justice, Illinois



**Aristomenes (Art)
G. Liyeos**
Assumption Greek
Orthodox Church
*Town & Country,
Missouri*



**Mary Helen
Luccas**
Kimissis Tis
Theotokou
Racine, Wisconsin



Alex Marlis
SS. Constantine
& Helen Greek
Orthodox Church
*Wauwatosa,
Wisconsin*



**Annette
McDermott**
St. Anthony Greek
Orthodox Church
Springfield, Illinois



Ilias Meggos
St. Nectarios
Greek Orthodox
Church
Palatine, Illinois



James Metropulos
St. George Greek
Orthodox Church
Chicago, Illinois



Janice S. Novick
St Sophia Greek
Orthodox Church
Elgin, Illinois



**Mary Helen
Papachrisanthou**
SS. Constantine
and Helen Greek
Orthodox Church
Swansea, Illinois



**George
Papaioannou**
Assumption Greek
Orthodox Church
Chicago, Illinois



Barbara Pappas
Holy Apostles
Greek Orthodox
Church
Westchester, Illinois



**Nicholas
Paramboukas**
St. Nicholas Greek
Orthodox Church
Oak Lawn, Illinois



**Judge James G.
Poulos**
Annunciation Greek
Orthodox Church
Milwaukee, Wisconsin



Andrew Poulos
St. Spyridon Hellenic
Orthodox Church
*Palos Heights,
Illinois*



Catherine Poulos
St. John the
Baptist Greek
Orthodox Church
Des Plaines, Illinois



Ellie Regas
Twelve Holy
Apostles Greek
Orthodox Church
Duluth, Minnesota



Dr. John Revelis
St Spyridon Greek
Orthodox Church
*Sheboygan,
Wisconsin*



Mantea Schmid
St. Elias Orthodox
Church
Dubuque, Iowa



Colette Spurgetis
St. George Greek
Orthodox Church
Rock Island, Illinois



**Brian and Beth
Stipp**
Annunciation Greek
Orthodox Church
Kankakee, Illinois



Arita Travlos
St. Luke Greek
Orthodox Church
Columbia, Missouri



**Bill
Vassilogambros**
St. George Greek
Orthodox Church
Dekalb, Illinois



Dr. Halina Woroncow
Holy Anargyroi - SS.
Kosmas and Damianos
Greek Orthodox Church
Rochester, Minnesota



Carole Yarovsky
St. Demetrios Greek
Orthodox Church
Hammond, Indiana



Doing God's Work in Our Communities

+ BISHOP TIMOTHY OF HEXAMILION, Chancellor

It seemed, at first, that January 20, 2020, would be just another day at the Metropolis of Chicago. No one imagined that the first laboratory-confirmed case of COVID-19 would be discovered in the United States that day.

In the weeks that followed, our lives were upended. We were separated from our family members, colleagues, and friends; businesses closed; jobs were lost; and classes were suspended. It seemed that the only thing certain was the feeling of hopelessness.

The pandemic, however, did something else. It provided us an opportunity to reflect on the significance of faith in our lives. Many of us took comfort in and recalled a great truth

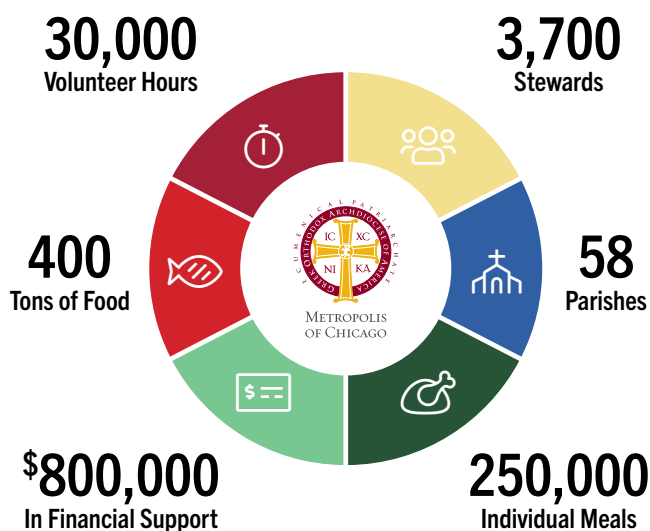
felt deeply by all children: the love of parents is eternal. As sons and daughters of Jesus Christ, we know that nothing can separate us from the love of God, not even a global pandemic. Renewed and strengthened by our faith, the stewards of the Metropolis came together in 2020 in most remarkable ways.

The parishes of the Metropolis of Chicago gave back to their communities. Collectively, our 58 parishes donated 400 tons of food and groceries, and provided 250,000 individual meals to those in need. During this time, a total of 30,000 volunteer hours were offered by 3,700 stewards of our Metropolis. Moreover, our communities spent \$800,000 in support of parish and outside charitable and community organizations.

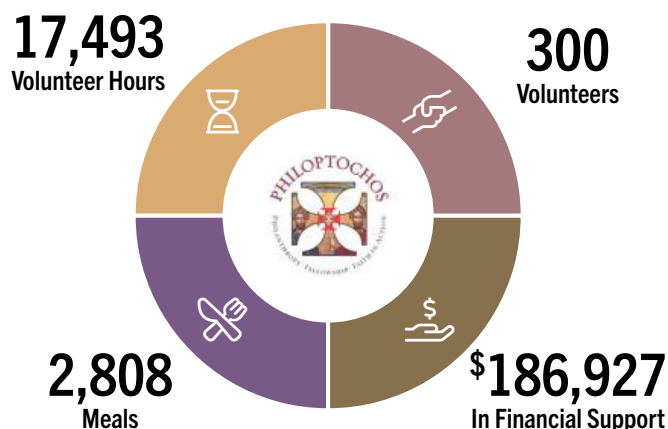
The Metropolis Philoptochos also engaged in an enormous amount of philanthropic and humanitarian work. With the help of 300 volunteers, the women of the Philoptochos logged 17,493 volunteer hours, served 2,808 meals, donated \$1,500 in goods and services, and dedicated \$186,927 in support of outside charitable and community organizations.

As we recall the memories of 2020, we are grateful to call you our brothers and sisters in Christ. We are humbled by your selflessness, blessed by your love, and remain in admiration of your strength. We don't know what 2021 will hold for us. But as we reflect on the works of the faithful in 2020, we are confident that we can do all things through Christ, Who is our rock and foundation.

PARISH IMPACT



PHILOPTOCHOS IMPACT





2020: The Year of COVID-19 and Christ's Love

CHRIS VARONES, Member, Metropolis Council, Chair, Communications Committee

As Orthodox Christians, we are called to answer Christ's invitation to "love our neighbor" by offering our time, talent, and treasure in service to others, regardless of their background. The Metropolis of Chicago takes this responsibility seriously and prayerfully. As we draw inspiration from our ancestors, we remain a strongly knit people who joyfully extend Christ's compassion and care to members within and outside our faith community. In few places is this spirit more present than in how we, as a Metropolis community, responded to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Over the course of 2020, the stewards of the Metropolis rallied and donated over \$265,000 to our COVID-19 Parish Relief Fund (CPR Fund). Through this grassroots initiative, we provided financial relief to parishes in the Metropolis hardest hit by the pandemic. Half of the monies raised were distributed by the end of 2020, with the remainder to go to parishes in 2021.

The Metropolis also assembled medical and financial experts to help our parishes follow COVID-19 health protocols and secure funds from the federal Payroll Protection Program.

Thanks to the leadership of John Koudounis, CEO of Calamos Investments, the Metropolis was selected by the Chicago CEO COVID-19 Coalition to participate as a designated charity in the "Sweet Home Chicago" COVID relief telethon. The Metropolis received \$161,300 from this initiative, which it allocated to humanitarian and philanthropic groups throughout the Chicago area, including: Sarah's Circle, Lazarus House, The Lake County Haven, Cornerstone Counseling Center, Angel Harvey Family Health Center, Ecker Center for Behavioral Health, the Chicago Police Department's Hellenic American Police Association, the Metropolis of Chicago Philoptochos Society, and our very own Project HOPE.

In the spring, hundreds of people came together in the six states of the Metropolis to participate in the first-ever Metropolis

of Chicago Crosstown Virtual 5K to raise money for our CPR Fund. Thousands more found spiritual sustenance by joining Metropolitan Nathanael in his weekly Facebook Live sessions and tuning in to the daily sermonettes delivered by the clergy of the Metropolis throughout Great Lent to Pentecost.

The women of the Metropolis Philoptochos undertook a campaign to organize, sew, and distribute tens of thousands of facemasks to their local communities. In the midst of the pandemic, the Metropolis launched its new food and housing ministry—Project HOPE—and was flooded with offers of support and service. As job security became a growing concern for our parishioners, the Metropolis reached out to local employers to identify job opportunities for the faithful.

2020 was extremely difficult, and it brought about much confusion and disorder. But one thing was constant—the love, mercy, and compassion of our Lord, God, and Savior, Jesus Christ.



TELETHON FUND RECIPIENTS

Thanks to the leadership of John Koudounis, the Metropolis was selected to participate as a designated charity in the "Sweet Home Chicago" COVID relief telethon. The Metropolis received \$161,300 from this initiative, which it distributed to these humanitarian and philanthropic groups.



The Metropolis Creates Three New Ministries In 2020



Project HOPE

YANNI SIANIS, Project HOPE Chair and Member of the Metropolis Council

Project HOPE (Humanitarian Outreach and Philanthropic Engagement) is an exciting new ministry of the Metropolis of Chicago, which is a direct result of the FAITH Endowment's Strategic Leadership and Transformative Action program. The mission of the Metropolis's HOPE ministry is to help children, families, and individuals achieve food security and stable housing. This includes both those within and outside our Orthodox parish communities. HOPE also offers an opportunity for the laity—particularly our youth and young adults—to engage with their faith by helping their fellow neighbors in tangible ways. While this nascent ministry is centered in Chicago, HOPE is scalable and serves as a model for other parish communities across the Metropolis to adopt in the future.

HOPE is chaired by Metropolis Council member Yanni Sianis, Metropolis Council member Lori Chiampas, Father Chrysanthos Kerkeres, and a committee of 10 dedicated volunteers, who run the day-to-day operations of the ministry. Represented on the HOPE Committee are Metropolis Philoptochos Board Member, Dena Pavlopoulos as well as Metropolis Junior Board Member, Lainey Manos. Other Committee members include George Andrews, Al Coulolias, Achilles Kornaros, Kiki Whitehead and, most recently,

Viki Conner. HOPE's model is to partner with the parishes of the Metropolis as well as private and governmental networks to maximize the ministry's reach and impact. The HOPE committee members spent months creating a business plan, collaborating with local charities and organizations, and raising funds in order to launch this operation. The HOPE team collected several tons of donated food and thousands of donated cooked meals from our parishes and private organizations. By year's end, HOPE was able to provide an astounding **51,000 meals** to those in need and make **30 food distributions** throughout the Chicago Metropolitan area.

This food relief went to support **50 Greek Orthodox families**, as well as residents of abused and battered women's shelters, senior citizen and assisted living communities, homeless teen shelters, low-income families, underserved communities and orphans. HOPE partnered with a host of organizations in order to distribute this critically needed food relief, including: The Metropolis of Chicago Philoptochos, Chicago CRED, Deborah's Place, Humboldt Park Solidarity Network, La Casa Norte, Lincoln Park Community Center, New Mount Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church, The Night Ministry, Northern Illinois Food Bank, Primo Center for Women and Children, Rush University Medical Center, St. James Catholic

Church and Food Shelter, and Stella's Place.

The Metropolis would like to acknowledge and thank those who donated food and meals, which include its parishes and the following private organizations: A Simple Greek – Lombard, A Simple Greek – Orland Park, Andy's Deli & Mikolajczyk Sausage Shop, Athens Construction, Avli Restaurant, Brookhaven Marketplace, Buona Beef, Elgin Fresh Market, Grecian Delight, Kronos Foods, Produce World, Panos Foods, Shepard Medical Products, Chicago Sweet Connection Bakery, Testa Produce, and The Greek Kitchen. The Metropolis also deeply appreciates those who provided in-kind support for HOPE's operations, especially John Calamos and the National Hellenic Museum for repurposing a section of the Museum during the pandemic to house Project HOPE. Finally, the Metropolis extends its sincere gratitude to the Hellenic American Leadership Council, (HALC), for its invaluable strategic counsel and logistical support in establishing Project HOPE. Endy Zemenides and the members of HALC helped identify partners and mobilize parish support, assisted with food distributions and worked with civil leaders—Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White, Alderman Walter Burnett, and U.S. Representative Jesus Garcia—to identify areas of food insecurity in the Chicagoland area.



51,000
Meals Prepared

ORGANIZATIONS THAT DONATED FOOD AND MEALS



H O P E

Humanitarian Outreach & Philanthropic Engagement

Food relief went to support 50 Greek Orthodox families, as well as residents of abused and battered women's shelters, senior citizen and assisted living communities, homeless teen shelters, low-income families, underserved communities and orphans.



30
Food Distributions



MINISTRIES



The Myrrhbearing Women

ANNE MARIE ADAMS, PhD, Metropolis Council Secretary

The Myrrhbearing Women was established in 2020 in recognition of the leadership, gifts, and service that women offer the Orthodox Church. The ministry seeks to recognize, promote, and amplify the individual and collective voices of women in service of Christ and His Church by empowering women to create and sustain parish ministries across all stages of life.

Women across the Metropolis will be invited to apply for a two-year fellowship to create a new ministry in their parish. Ministries will center on community building, faith formation, and authentic leadership. Those who are selected will:

- Participate in a 2-day workshop where they will develop a preliminary proposal for a ministry based on the needs of their parish;
- Collaborate with ministry mentors to refine initiatives and evaluate benchmark progress toward goals, assessing effectiveness of programming; and
- Present best practices to the Metropolis and the cohort of fellows at an end-of-year reception.

The inaugural members of the Myrrhbearing Women were selected by His Eminence Metropolitan Nathanael in recognition of their dedication to the Orthodox Church, their tireless work to establish the new ministry, and their commitment to oversee and expand the initiative.



Lighthouse

REV. FR. KOSMAS KALLIS, Metropolis Youth Director

In 2020, through a generous grant by the Hellenic Foundation, the Metropolis created the Lighthouse camping ministry for high school seniors as a way to keep our youth engaged with their faith as they move into adulthood. Statistics show that 60% of Americans abandon their Christian faith between the ages of 15 and 22. The Metropolis is committed to our youth, young adults, and emerging leaders, and we are prepared to make the necessary investment to help ensure that they remain active and engaged in the Church.

Lighthouse will be administered by Orthodox

clergy and laypeople, who will work with campers to prepare them in a Christ-centered way for the social, emotional, practical, and spiritual challenges they will face while in college. Lighthouse will seek to foster campers' authentic engagement, commitment, community, and involvement as Orthodox Christians throughout their college years and beyond.

After postponing the ministry's launch in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we look forward to the inaugural year of the camp this summer (June 26-July 3) at Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.



MYRRHBEARING WOMEN

FOUNDING INAUGURAL MEMBERS

Dr. Anne Marie Adams, Saints Peter & Paul Church, Glenview, Illinois

Joan Tolios Berg, Holy Apostles Church, Westchester, Illinois

Efrosine (Lori) Chiampas, Saint Demetrios Church, Chicago, Illinois

Georgia Loukas Demeros, Holy Taxiarchai and Saint Haralambos Church, Niles, Illinois; St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church, Des Plaines, Illinois

Anna Kallis, Saints Peter and Paul Church, Glenview, Illinois

Vicki Pappas Karl, Saints Peter & Paul Church, Glenview, Illinois

Cindy Karos, Saint Mary's Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Dr. Valerie Karras, Saint Nicholas Church, St. Louis, Missouri

Mary Ann Langas, Saints Peter and Paul Church, Glenview, Illinois

Lainey Manos, Saint Demetrios Church, Elmhurst, Illinois

Rachael Pontikes, Saint George Church, Chicago, Illinois

Maria Schultz, Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, Sioux City, Iowa

Mary Scott, Saint Andrew Church, South Bend, Indiana and Saint Sophia Church, Elgin, Illinois

Chrysanthi Tiggas, Saint Mary's Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Dr. Gayle Woloschak, Saints Peter and Paul Church, Palos Park, Illinois



FANARI CAMP PRESENTS

LIGHTHOUSE
EST. 2019



ORDER of
SAINT ANDREW
THE APOSTLE
Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate

Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate

Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate were unable to meet in person in 2020 due to the ongoing pandemic. Even so, they continued and increased their internal and external communications and procured two major matching grants for their ongoing programs in religious freedom awareness and the newly created “Pilgrimage of Discovery,” a program designed to connect young adult leaders of the Metropolis with the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople. The Archons also continue to develop their mentoring program, their 2021-2022 strategic plan, and their website.



Choir Federation

Choir Federation continued its Vocal Solo virtually for the Saint John Chrysostom Oratorical and Fine Arts Festival. The Federation also initiated a number of virtual programs, including Musical Game Night, online tutorials for the Gallos 2 liturgy, and a Virtual Choir, and continued to hold bi-monthly board meetings via video teleconference. In September, Nick Chimitris, President of the Chicago Metropolis Federation of Church Musicians was elected Chairman of the National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians, the music arm of the Archdiocese.



Clergy Syndesmos

Clergy Syndesmos liaised with the Metropolis to aid the clergy in responding to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Syndesmos also facilitated continuing education for the clergy and provided them with fellowship opportunities in an effort to reinforce their fraternal bonds. In May, the 2020-2022 Syndesmos Board was elected and consists of the following officers: Rev. Fr. Stefanos Bithos (President), Rev. Fr. Richard Demetrios Andrews (Vice President); Rev. Fr. Douglas Papulis (Treasurer); and Rev. Fr. Dimitri Tobias (Secretary).



Family Synaxis

Family Synaxis held a men's and a woman's retreat in early 2020. When the pandemic hit, the Family Retreat and Labor Day Retreat were both cancelled, and the ministry pivoted to virtual programming. The “Parenting University” lecture series went online as webinars in the fall of 2020, and additional webinars and online retreats are being organized for 2021.



Greek Education

Greek Education distributed awards to students during the annual Hellenic Letters celebration. As circumstances around the pandemic changed the educational landscape, the ministry assisted the parochial schools and leadership to ensure the continuation of Greek school programs.



Greek Orthodox Athletic League

Greek Orthodox Athletic League grew by overall number of teams, players, and parishes as well as increased female participation. The League expanded athletic activities to include softball, including a first-ever trophy tournament in October 2020. The basketball season culminated in the annual all-star game in February 2020. In January 2020, GOAL teamed up with The National Hellenic Basketball Tournament (NHBT) on a tournament for first through eighth graders. Through the hard work and support of the volunteers, Hellenic leaders, parents, and supporters, GOAL continues to grow.



Junior Board

Junior Board utilized the pandemic downtime to finalize its organizational structure and create committees to augment and support the Metropolis Council in the critical areas of social media, fundraising, and technology. Junior Board members assisted the Metropolis in organizing the inaugural Virtual 5K to raise funds for our COVID parish relief effort, volunteered for Project HOPE and helped in the planning of the later-cancelled Servant Leadership Awards Banquet. The Junior Board also conducted a social media audit of the Metropolis's parishes and developed online best practices for them to follow.



Philoptochos

Philoptochos ramped up its humanitarian efforts to meet the increased need for services in 2020. Through its Masks Matter program, the Philoptochos produced and distributed over 19,700 masks to hospitals, parishioners, daycare and senior facilities, nursing homes, schools, and frontline workers. The Philoptochos dedicated 480 hours to feeding the hungry and added more days to its monthly Feed the Hungry program. The Philoptochos Philanthropy Fund—augmented by financial support from the Sweet Home Chicago Telethon—provided rent, food, and utility assistance to those affected by COVID-19. Through the Philanthropy Fund, the Philoptochos also financed rents, mortgage payments, medical bills, funeral expenses and transportation costs for the elderly and those in need. Volunteers donated approximately 20 hours per week to the Philanthropy Fund's efforts, which took on 45 cases in 2020. The Philoptochos' popular Quilt-a-Thons produced and distributed 750 quilts to area hospitals and nursing homes, totaling 862.5 hours of cumulative donated time.



Philoxenia Charities

Philoxenia Charities

Philoxenia Charities continues to provide free, temporary housing to Mayo Clinic patients in need. During the pandemic, two houses closed for repairs, and capacity was reduced to one family per home in others. Policies, procedures, and cleaning standards were updated, and approximately \$125,000 was saved in lodging expenses.





Religious Education

Religious Education adapted to the pandemic conditions by conducting Sunday School, Catechetical Courses, and Adult Religious Education programs online and through self-directed educational materials distributed to the faithful. Surveys of our parish youth and adult religious education programs were conducted, the results of which will help the ministry plan future programming.



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF CHICAGO
ST. IAKOVOS RETREAT CENTER

Saint Iakovos Retreat Center

Saint Iakovos Retreat Center cancelled all retreats, gatherings, and camps due to pandemic regulations. Rather than letting its facility sit idle, the Retreat Center initiated Project Agape through which it adapted its lodging facilities to offer free and safe quarantine housing to first responders exposed to COVID-19 in the line of duty.



St. John Damascene League of Chanters

St. John Damascene League of Chanters normally chants Feast Day vespers as a group. Due to the pandemic, the activities of the ministry were limited. The hiatus allowed for housekeeping, future planning, and the development of a new website.

The YAL Chicago Conference, revived after 12 years, drew 550 attendees.





Young Adult Ministry

Young Adult Ministry continued to flourish despite the pandemic. The YAL Chicago Conference, revived after 12 years, attracted 550 attendees. This weekend-long event featured 12 speakers, worship, fellowship, and an outreach project. The YAL Spring Retreat hit record registration numbers (33% increase), and our team was able to work within the COVID-19 restrictions to increase online engagement, which included a YAL Bible Study and a virtual Orthodoxy on Tap. YAL Chicago engaged in philanthropy, including donating 75 children's bicycles to charities and sponsoring all of the Christmas gifts for two residents of the St. Innocent Orphanage.



Youth Ministries

Youth Ministries grew significantly in 2020. Due to popular demand, Fanari Winter Camp was expanded to two sessions, representing a 100% increase over 2019, and an all-new Fall Camp was introduced, drawing 100 participants. Registrations for the later-canceled Fanari Summer camp sessions increased by 33%. A new leadership team for camping ministries was put in place, together with leadership and ministry training for these young adult leaders. 2020 also saw the launch of Lighthouse Camp, a new camp for graduating high school seniors. The Youth Department also made several changes due to the pandemic, shifting from typical in-person to virtual activities. The Together in Spirit program (250 participants), Youth Worker Summit (70 participants), and the virtual St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival are a few examples of our Metropolis's successful virtual programs.





METROPOLIS
OF CHICAGO

GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF CHICAGO

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PURPOSE STATEMENT

To receive and share unconditional love, mercy, healing, and peace, so that life has greater meaning and purpose.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago is a Christ-centered community that loves, guides, engages and serves all people.

CORE VALUES

Christ-centered
Integrity
Service
Humility
Love
Merciful
Spiritual development
Adaptable

VISION STATEMENT

In 3-5 years, we will grow our Metropolis family through greater:

Fellowship & Welcoming
Accountability
Ministries & Education
Innovation
Leadership
Involved Youth & Emerging Adults
Engagement on Critical Issues
Stewardship



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