



# GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF CHICAGO

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## ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΣΙΚΑΓΟΥ

Wednesday, February 22, 2017

The Reverend Clergy  
Beloved Faithful  
Holy Metropolis of Chicago

Beloved in the Lord,

Each year at this time, the Metropolis of Chicago acquaints the faithful as to the Lenten period worship offerings so that all may participate fully in this Holiest of seasons. 'Solemn Vespers' begins on Sunday, February 26, 2017 on the Eve of Great Lent, and are celebrated on each Sunday evening throughout Lent. We commend those parishes which have incorporated this liturgical practice in their own communities. For all others, various parishes throughout the *Chicagoland* area will host the Sunday Solemn Vespers services, with us in attendance.

The host parishes will be:

**Sunday, February 26 (Eve of Great Lent)**

Solemn Vespers beginning at 7.00 PM

Chapel of St. Dionysios of the Holy Trinity Church, Chicago, IL

**His Eminence, Metropolitan IAKOVOS of Chicago, Preacher.**

**Sunday, March 5 (Sunday of Orthodoxy)**

Pan-Orthodox Vespers Celebration **beginning at 6:30 PM**

**SAINT GEORGE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH**

(1220 S. 60th Ct., Cicero, IL 60804, Telephone 708-656-2927).

**Reverend Father Josiah Trenham, Ph.D., of Saint Andrew Orthodox Church, Riverside, California (Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese), Preacher.**

### **FESTIVAL OF ORTHODOX BOOKS WEEK**

ALL PROGRAMS AT HOLY APOSTLES GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF WESTCHESTER, ILLINOIS

### *Navigating God's Holy Word*

**Sunday, March 12 (St. Gregory of Palamas)**

Solemn Vespers beginning at 6.30PM

Presentation beginning at 8.00 PM

**Rev. Dr. Eugen Pentiuc, Lecturer**

*Understanding the Old Testament*

**Tuesday, March 14**

Compline beginning at 6.30PM

Presentation beginning at 8.00 PM

**Dr. Alexis Torrance, Lecturer**

*Hearing and Keeping the Word of God*

**Thursday, March 16**

Compline beginning at 6.30PM  
Presentation beginning at 8.00 PM

**Dr. Bruce Beck, Lecturer**

*Reading Scripture with the Orthodox Church*

**Sunday, March 19 (Veneration of the Holy Cross)**

Solemn Vespers beginning at 7.00PM  
Holy Taxiarchai-St. Haralambos Church, Niles, IL

**Rev. Fr. Kosmas Kallis, Preacher.**

**Sunday, March 26 (St. John of the Ladder)**

Solemn Vespers beginning at 7.00PM  
Saint Basil Church, Chicago, IL

**Rev. Fr. Apostolos Georgiafentis, Preacher.**

**Sunday, April 2 (St. Mary of Egypt)**

Solemn Vespers beginning at 7.00PM  
Saint Demetrios Church, Hammond, IN

**Rev. Fr. Athanasios Minetos, Preacher.**

Again this year we recall – and emphasize – the words of the Apostle: πάντα δὲ εὐσχημόνως καὶ κατὰ τάξιν γινέσθω. – ‘Let all be done beautifully and according to the rubrics’ (I Corinthians 14.40). It is not without reason that this apostolic liturgical guideline is invoked at the beginning of the sacred Τυπικόν of the Great Church of Christ. Liturgical change is not the prerogative of individuals; no change should ever be arbitrarily and individualistically made. We thus emphatically expect that you will honor the fullness of the cycle and order of Lenten, Holy Week and Paschal services. Keeping this in mind, **please note that since the Feast of the Annunciation this year coincides with the fourth stanza of the Salutation Service, The rubric (Τυπικόν) is uncommon – please review and celebrate these services accordingly.**

**Thus, on Friday evening, March 24, we sing Great Vespers for the Feast of the Annunciation. Following, “O Master now let Your servant depart...”, we sing *O Champion Leader*...followed by the fourth stanza of the Akathist Hymn, with *O Champion Leader*...repeated at the conclusion of the stanza. We continue with the *Trisagion* prayers and the conclusion of Great Vespers with appropriate dismissal for the feast.**

We pray that our Christ will richly bless and strengthen us all as we once again undertake this Lenten journey. May the ways of prayer, fasting and almsgiving make our Great Lent truly fruitful, truly God-pleasing, and truly renewing for all.

With paternal blessings,

  
Metropolitan IAKOVOS of Chicago