St. Paul's Greek Orthodox Community of Regina

3000 Argyle Road
Regina, SK S4S 2B2
Phone: 306-586-6402
Email: st.pauls@sasktel.net
Website: www.gocregina.com

Community Priest:
Rev. Father Spyridon Vandoros
Phone: 306-585-9359

Council President:
Tom A. Liagridonis
Phone: 306-591-3032

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Director of Admin: Chris Perentes
Email: st.pauls@sasktel.net
Secretary: Marina Sellis
Email: st.pauls@sasktel.net

COMMUNITY NEWS

Ο ιερέας μας, Πατήρ Σπυρίδων Βανδώρος, ο πρόεδρος και τα μέλη του Διοικητικού Συμβουλίου της Κοινότητάς μας, η πρόεδρος και τα μέλη της Φιλοπτώχου Αδελφότητας, το προσωπικό και οι εθελοντές του Ελληνικού Σχολείου, η νεολαία μας, και η οικογένεια της ΑΗΕΡΑ, σας εύχονται…

Ευτυχισμένο το Νέο Έτος με υγεία και ευτυχία στα σπίτια σας.

Our priest, Reverend Father Spyridon Vandoros, the president and the members of our Community Council, the president and the members of the Ladies of Philoptochos Society, Greek School Board, staff, Parents Association, the Met Youth, and the entire AHEPA family, wish you… **Happy New Year!!!**

2025 Stewardship Obligation

Family: $400 (including children under 18 years)
Family: $300 (65 years of age and older including children under 18 years)

Individual: $200 (18 - 64 years of age)
Individual: $150 (65 years of age and older)

Please contact the Treasurer or any member of the Community Council if you have any questions.

All Church Sacrament fees (marriage, baptism, chrismation and funeral) are included in your membership. All parties involved in the Church Sacraments must be members in good standing (annual stewardship obligation) for the last year and must be paid in full prior to the performance of the service).

Your donation can be made by Cash, Cheque, Visa, MasterCard or Debit or *online through the website:* www.gocregina.com/donate

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

December 1, 2024 AGM

Good evening and thank you for taking time to attend this Annual General Meeting.

I have heard it said that we are (or perhaps I am) always thanking people, businesses and sponsors. I have thought about this a lot and cannot for the life of me understand how this is a bad thing. As such, allow me to extend my deepest gratitude to everyone who has made tonight possible:

First and foremost, a heartfelt thank you to Father Spyro, whose three decades of dedication to our faith have been a beacon of inspiration. His commitment, compassion, and spiritual guidance have profoundly impacted our Community, and I am privileged to have experienced his wisdom during my time on the Council.

As we approach the end of this Council's term, I must express my gratitude to each Council member: Vice-President Nick Kourles, Treasurer Georgina Barlas, Secretary Margarita Parisone, Fay Bobetsis, Taya Christidis, Fotini Gargatzidis, Christopher Hamilton, Maria Lygouriatis, Maria Perentes, and Vasili Vandoros — your commitment and dedication to our Community is truly commendable.

I want to acknowledge and thank Christopher Hamilton and Vasili Vandoros for their tireless efforts in maintaining our church and its surroundings.

Thanks to Thanos Christodouloulis, Chris Perentes, Spiro Kangles, and Dimitri Fourlas, our chanting team, for enriching our spiritual experiences.

Thank you also to the altar boys, helpers (such as Andrew Giannoulis and Mihail Ionescu), and Epitropi John Makris, George Doulias, and Christos Lygouriatis.

Thanks to Chris Perentes, our Director of Administration, for seamlessly embodying this role and ensuring continuity, knowledge and support. I want to acknowledge his accomplishments as an Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and his active role as president of the Archons in Canada, Order of St. Paul the Apostle at the 4th International Archons Conference and 1st Global Summit of Archons held in Athens.

A warm appreciation to Marina Sellis, our secretary of 6 years now, whose dedication goes beyond newsletter duties, providing invaluable support to Father, the Council, and many others.

Thanks also to Toula Perdicaris and the Ladies of Philoptochos Society for their remarkable contributions to our Community's well-being.

To Fotini Labropulu and the Greek Heritage Language School Board, principal Petros Aiginitis, teachers, Catechism teachers, helpers, and of course the Parents Association, your commitment to preserving our language, history, culture, and religion is truly admirable.

I am very pleased at the progress of the Met Youth. Thank you to Maria Lygouriatis, Haris Kangles, Domenica Parisone, Spiro Giannoutsos and all the Met Youth members for participating in this very important part of our Church Community. Thanks to Vasili Vandoros and Sophia Kolitsas for their advisory role to the Met Youth.

I want to extend our deepest gratitude to the many individuals and businesses who have graciously and selflessly supported our Community throughout the year. While too numerous to list, please know that each and every contribution is sincerely appreciated. Your generosity — whether through time, goods, or funds — has been invaluable to the success of our many events.

A heartfelt and profound thank you to the organizing committee of the Greek Golf Charity. Their steadfast dedication and remarkable generosity have once again resulted in a substantial financial donation to the Greek Heritage Language School. Year after year, their support serves as a cornerstone

in sustaining the school's operations, ensuring the continuation of our cherished cultural and linguistic heritage.

This year, their incredible kindness extended even further, with a significant contribution to the Met Youth program. This generous donation will support those youth who attended the Met Youth Retreat in St. Catharines, empowering the next generation to grow in faith, fellowship, and community.

We are deeply grateful for their commitment to nurturing both education and youth, strengthening the foundation of our Community for years to come.

Our Community has continued to achieve remarkable progress this year. Some of our Council's accomplishments during the year include:

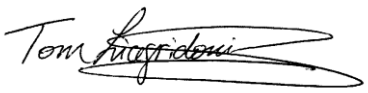
- We invited the new Consulate General of Greece in Vancouver, Mr. Dimitrios Skoutas, to visit our Community to assist our members in conducting consular business without having to travel to Vancouver;
- We petitioned and were awarded various proclamations from both the City of Regina and the Province of Saskatchewan:
  - The City of Regina proclaimed March 25 to 29, 2024 as Greek Independence Week
  - The Province designated March 28, 2024 as Greek Independence Day
  - With the joint contribution of AHEPA, the Province designated the entire month of March 2024 as Hellenic Heritage Month
- We actively participated in the 30th anniversary of *An Evening in Greece*;
- We participated once again in the MOSAIC festival;
- We changed the venue for our annual picnic to our own facility and held a very successful event;
- We participated in annual Greek International Film Festival Tour for the third year;
  - Should Council decide to participate once again, GIFFT 2025's official festival dates will be September 25th to October 5th
  - The big draw for films next year is called IPARHO (ΥΠΑΡΧΩ) which is the life story of Stelios Kazantzidis
- We had delegates attend the Clergy-Laity Assembly in St. Catharines;
- We awarded the Leadership Scholarship awards to two very worthy young members of our Community: Paraskevi Nagel and Aspasia Miraglia;
- We emphasized keeping our website, church app and social media posts updated, current and relevant;
- We held two *Strategic Vision Workshop* sessions, one in April and one in October, in order to generate ideas for all areas of our church, current and future use, buildings, accessibility, and parking just to name a few.

These are a few of our accomplishments to which others Council members may provide more information in their reports and may also add to the list.

Each of you has played an instrumental role in making these events a success. There is still lots more to do. This meeting tonight is extremely important in that it provides the Community Council with a plan or roadmap of where it should be putting its efforts to. I encourage open and honest discussion. Healthy debate is the cornerstone of making informed decisions. Please voice your opinions. This is the right time. This is the right venue.

The end of this month marks the end of the current Community Council's term. I encourage you to put your name forth to be a member of the Council for the January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2026 term. As I reflect on the energy that permeates our Community, I am inspired. Together, we are shaping St. Paul's Greek Orthodox Community of Regina into the best community in Canada.

Yours in Christ,



Tom A. Liagridonis, President, St. Paul's Greek Orthodox Community of Regina

St. Paul's Leadership Scholarship

Our Community congratulates this year's Leadership Scholarship recipients **Paraskevi Nagel** and **Aspasia Miraglia**. Congratulations to both on their academic achievements and the work they do in the community. Καλή πρόοδο!

Daughters of Penelope

Hellenic Dance Program

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!! Good health and prosperity to you and your families. We look forward to welcoming everyone back for the start of a new term on **Monday, January 6, 2025** at SaskExpress.

***** NEW DANCERS:** Children must be in Grade 1 (Greek Heritage Language School) and 6 years old as of December 31, 2024 (no exceptions).

***** ALL RETURNING DANCERS:** The dance time will be the exact same as last year - NO CHANGES ***

Group 1 - 5:45pm - 6:45pm
Group 2 - 5:45pm - 6:45pm
Group 3 - 6:45pm - 7:45pm
Group 4/5 - 7:45pm - 8:45pm
Group 6 - 6:45pm - 7:45pm

Registration fee per student is $150.00

If anyone else is interested in joining Hellenic Dancing this coming term, please reach out to the Directors directly to receive further details on age, group number and time at greekdancingdop@gmail.com

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us via email at greekdancingdop@gmail.com

Sophia Kolitsas and Vasilis Vandoros – Co- Directors

Christmas Shoeboxes

The Daughters of Penelope would like to thank everyone who participated in making shoeboxes for *Samaritans Purse*. We appreciate all the donated boxes. This was one of our most SUCCESSFUL years yet!

DAY	PROGRAM	SERVICES	TIME
Wednesday January 1st	**Η Περιτομή του Χριστού** Our Lord's Circumcision **Του Αγίου Βασιλείου** - St. Basil	**Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία** Orthros & Divine Liturgy	10:00 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.
Sunday January 5th	**Προεόρτια Φώτων** Theophany Eve **Αγιασμός των Υδάτων**	**Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία** Orthros & Divine Liturgy **Αγιασμός των Υδάτων**	9:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.
Monday January 6th	**Τα Άγια Θεοφάνεια** Holy Theophany	**Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία** Orthros & Divine Liturgy	9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
Tuesday January 7th	**Σύναξις του Αγίου Ιωάννου** Synaxis of St. John the Baptist	**Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία** Orthros & Divine Liturgy	9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
Sunday January 12th	**Κυριακή μετά τα Θεοφάνεια** Sunday after Theophany	**Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία** Orthros & Divine Liturgy	9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
Monday January 13th	Services will be held: **St. Anargyroi Church, YORKTON**	**Θεία Λειτουργία** Divine Liturgy	7:00 p.m.
Wednesday January 15th	Services will be held: **Lifegiving Font Church, SWIFT CURRENT**	**Θεία Λειτουργία** Divine Liturgy	7:00 p.m.
Friday January 17th	**Αγίων Αντωνίου, Αθανασίου και Κυρίλλου** SS. Anthony, Athanasios and Cyrill	**Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία** Orthros & Divine Liturgy	6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Sunday January 19th	**12η Κυριακή του Λούκα** 12th Sunday of Luke	**Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία** Orthros & Divine Liturgy	9:00 a.m to 11:30 a.m.
Sunday January 26th	**15η Κυριακή του Λουκά** 15th Sunday of Luke	**Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία** Orthros & Divine Liturgy	9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
Thursday January 30th	**Των Τριών Ιεραρχών** The Three Hierarchs	**Όρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία** Orthros & Divine Liturgy	9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

After services on **Sunday, January 5th**, Reverend Father Spyridon Vandoros will begin visiting homes and businesses for blessings. If you wish to have your home and/or business blessed, please contact Reverend Father Vandoros at 306-539-7753

Met Youth

Greek Heritage Language School

The Feast and commemoration of the Three Hierarchs is celebrated with the Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom which is conducted on the morning of the feast on January 30th.

In many Greek Orthodox parishes, the Feast of the Three Hierarchs is combined with a celebration of Greek Letters. This usually includes special events which are dedicated to the preservation and promulgation of the ideals of Orthodox Christianity and Hellenic education. The Three Hierarchs were great men of letters who were not only defenders of Orthodox Christianity, but supporters of Greek learning.

On **Sunday, February 2nd**, the Parents Association of our Greek Heritage Language School invite you to a lunch following the Divine Liturgy, in honour of the Three Hierarchs.

SAINT PAUL'S GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH • PROGRAM for January 2025
ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΟΣ ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑ Ο ΑΓΙΟΣ ΠΑΥΛΟΣ • Ιανουάριος 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 10:00 a.m. Our Lord's Circumcision and St. Basil	**2**	**3**	**4**
5 **9:00 a.m.** **Theophany Eve**	**6** 9:00 a.m. Holy Theophany	**7** 9:00 a.m. Synaxis of St. John the Baptist	**8**	**9**	**10**	**11**
12 **9:00 a.m.** **Sunday after Theophany**	**13** 7:00 p.m. Service will be held at St. Anargyroi Church in Yorkton	**14**	**15** 7:00 p.m. Service will be held at Life Giving Font Church in Swift Current	**16**	**17** 6:30 p.m. SS. Anthony, Athanasios and Cyrill	**18**
19 **9:00 a.m.** **12th Sunday of Luke**	**20** 7:00 p.m. Ladies of Philoptochos meeting	**21**	**22**	**23**	**24**	**25**
26 **9:00 a.m.** **15th Sunday of Luke**	**27**	**28**	**29**	**30** 9:00 a.m. The Three Hierarchs	**31**	

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marcina.kiosses@rbc.com
Tel.: 306-501-2569

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Associate Broker, REALTOR®
peter@fbrealtyteam.ca
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fourlasandbrown.ca
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George
TSIKLIS
City Councillor-Ward 2
gtsiklis@regina.ca
306-520-5015
ELECTED!
Thank You!

Did You Know?

Christmas is such a big event in Greece that it doesn't end on December 25th – or even New Year's Day. The celebrations officially last for 14 days, from Christmas Eve to Epiphany on January 6th, also known as Theophany or Ta Fota (The Lights). It's one of the most important days on the Christian calendar, with the Greek Orthodox Church celebrating the day as the Baptism of Christ in the River Jordan by John the Baptist. They also honour the presence of the Holy Trinity – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – at the Baptism of Christ.

On the eve of Epiphany, children once again go door to door singing the kalanda, and people attend the Church service of the Lesser Sanctification of Water (Mikros Agiasmos). On the day of Epiphany, the service of the Great Sanctification of Water is held across the country.

During this ceremony, people gather around bodies of water (lakes, seas, rivers) and a priest blesses the water by casting a cross into it and releasing a dove to symbolize the Holy Spirit. Then a group of young men dive into the water to retrieve the cross. It is said whoever finds the cross and returns it to the priest first will be blessed for the year ahead.

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