

# **SAINT SOPHIA GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH MINISTRIES**

*Welcome to the Holy Orthodox Church of Saint Sophia. We are a Community of Orthodox Christians who strive to love God with all our hearts, souls and minds. With this, we seek to love our neighbors as ourselves. The objective of our ministries is to equip it's faithful stewards to build up the Body of Christ as we grow together in the grace and knowledge of our Savior, Jesus Christ.*

*Our ministries include:*

## **PARISH COUNCIL**

The Parish Council is the elected body of practicing Orthodox Christian Stewards of Saint Sophia who work together with the priest to aid in the fulfillment of the goals and the concerns of the parish. The Parish Council consists of members of the community who contribute their time and talents towards these endeavors. It is an office requiring each individual to have Faith, Hope and Love leading to loyalty and commitment to further the mission and programs of our church.

The Parish Council meets monthly.

## **PHILOPTOCHOS**

Philoptochos is a vital ministry of the St. Sophia community and the official philanthropic organization of the Greek Orthodox Church of America. The word Philoptochos means "Friends of the Poor". The mission of the St. Sophia Philoptochos is to aid the poor, the sick, the distressed and the other victims of misfortune through programs that make a difference in the lives of others. Meetings are typically held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month, September to June.

## **STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE**

The Stewardship Committee offers an invitation to the faithful to give their Time, Talent and Treasures to further the mission and ministries of St. Sophia Church. Stewardship is a deep and personal expression of love for God and His countless blessings. The Stewardship Committee will endeavor to promote the message of stewardship through its outreach ministry.

## **YAL MINISTRY**

YAL serves Orthodox Christian college students and young professionals (ages 18-35) who want to connect with other Orthodox groups. YAL's four pillars are: Worship, Witness, Service and Fellowship.

## **ST. SOPHIA CHOIR**

The Choir at St. Sophia is made up of and open to the faithful of all ages. The goal and mission is to be active participants in singing praises to the Lord so that the congregation may fully experience the Divine Liturgy. Choir begins in September and ends in May, with practices twice monthly.

## **SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL**

The Sunday Church School is dedicated to teaching our Eastern Orthodox faith. The classes range from preschool through high school and meet following Holy Communion. We encourage parents to bring their children to come, learn, grow and worship with us. We ask children to attend regularly so that they may become close to the church and learn more about their Orthodox Faith.

## **ADULT SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL**

The Adult Sunday Church School comes together to be strengthened in the Teachings and Traditions of the Church. The Adult Sunday Church School meets immediately following Communion. Classes are open to all adults. Seating is limited.

## **PERICLES GREEK SCHOOL**

The Community of St. Sophia upholds and promotes the Hellenic language and culture through its accredited Greek School program. Its fine teaching staff is dedicated to teaching students the Greek language. Classes are currently held on Saturday.

### **BIBLE STUDY**

Bible study is typically held twice a month in the evenings at church. We focus on understanding the New and Old Testaments, so that we may apply it to our daily lives and also be prepared to answer our neighbors questions about our faith.

### **GOLDEN CIRCLE**

The Golden Circle is a ministry for Senior Stewards (though young at heart) stewards of the community who come together in fellowship to grow in an Orthodox setting dealing with the sacred and secular issues of our times. The Golden Circle Group meets monthly from October through May.

### **ALTAR BOYS**

Altar Boys faithfully serve our Lord every Sunday and during the may special Holy Days of our Orthodox Church. Participation helps to instill the understanding of serving with humility as well as developing responsibility. Boys between the ages of 10-17 are encouraged to speak with Fr. Andrew about joining.

### **YOUTH MINISTRY**

There are 3 Youth Ministry Programs:

- ❖ HOPE - infants 40 days old to age 5
- ❖ FAITH – Kindergarten to 2nd Grades & JOY – 3rd to 5th Grades
- ❖ Jr. GOYA – 6th to 8th Grades & Sr. GOYA – High School

The Youth Ministry groups tailor their respective programs to encourage the children in various activities through social interaction, crafts, singing and occasional outings, all with in the context of the Orthodox faith.

### **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

A week filled with summer fun, friends and faith, takes place every June at St. Sophia. Children between the ages of 3-16 meet with their age groups to partake in Orthodox themed games, crafts, song, drama, study, field trips and much more.

### **JR. OLYMPICS**

Thousands of children from Greek Orthodox Churches throughout the Metropolis of Chicago gather each year over the Memorial Day weekend to compete in various athletic events. Athletes represent their parishes and compete within their age group in a wide variety of events.

### **AGAPE DANCE TROUPE**

The Agape Dance Troupe was formed in 1986. It is open to all children in 1<sup>st</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade whose parents are Stewards of St. Sophia Church. The Troupe performs at our annual Greek Fest and other cultural, civic and private events locally and in neighboring states. The Agape Dance Troupe is available to perform at weddings, baptisms or other types of functions.

### **ST. SOPHIA GREEK FEST**

Experience Greece this summer at our annual St. Sophia Greek Fest held in July. You'll taste the flavors of Greece with our authentic foods and drinks, learn to Greek dance or just sit and enjoy the entertainment provided by our St. Sophia Agape Dance Troupe. Enjoy the music, shop in the Marketplace/Greek Agora (indoors and air conditioned) and tour our beautiful church. Attractions for the kids round out a great time for the whole family. Volunteering for the Greek Fest is a fun way to come together, as Saint Sophia family, in support of our beloved Church. Please join us and be a part of it! See you at Greek Fest - OPA!

Please contact the church office for additional information at 847~888~2822. Thank YOU!