



Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia

ST. SPYRIDON PARISH

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'Communication 2012'



THE PARISHIONERS OF ST SPYRIDON – THE PRIDE OF OUR CHURCH

The Parish and Community of St Spyridon expresses its heartfelt pride in you, our devout Parishioners, who embrace every call of the Church with so much love. To you, the People of God, we say a sincere "thank you"!

We thank you for the kindness and nobility of your souls. We admire you for the courage and resolve with which you face the challenges of life. We are grateful for your commitment to the Hellenic Ideals and to our Orthodox Faith. We thank you for your devotion to our Parish and Community of St Spyridon. With your contribution, two churches, a Child Care centre and St Spyridon College were built.

Above all we thank you for your reverence towards the Church. Every time you light your candle you acknowledge and call upon Christ as "the True Light who enlightens and sanctifies every person who comes into the world".

We pray that our faith in Christ will increase every day, individually and collectively.

ST SPYRIDON COLLEGE – A DREAM COME TRUE

The establishment of a full-time Greek Orthodox day school in Australia was the dream not only of the post-war immigrant generation of the '50's and '60's, but also of the older immigrants of the 19th and 20th centuries. The reasoning was simple: Just as Roman Catholic, Anglican and Protestant schools function, what a blessing it would be if we had our own Greek Orthodox school!

The dream remained a 'noble aspiration' of the Greek Australian people for many decades, for almost a century. Until, in 1983, St Spyridon Parish established such a school through the leadership and support of His Eminence Archbishop Stylianos and with the harmonious collaboration of the Clergy and Laity of our Parish. Despite the adversities, our People embraced the school with great empathy and the Federal and State governments recognized our school as equal to all other Independent schools, providing recurrent funding per student.

It is a splendid achievement that will illumine the path of our children, our grandchildren and the descendant generations deep into the future of our Greek Australian presence here in the Antipodes. Therefore, our Parish unfailingly prays especially for the Great Benefactors of the school, living and departed, but also for the donors and particularly the pensioners who, with their invaluable contributions, all together, have provided the financial basis for the construction and expansion of our College facilities.

However, the functioning of a school is not dependent only on material facilities. The thousands of students who have passed and who will pass through its classrooms are the living wealth of our College. Therefore, our Parish expresses its gratitude and congratulations to the parents who have selected the school of our Church for the education of their children, from 1983 right up to 2018...

As the tapestry of Australia's population changes unpredictably, our College is becoming more and more indispensable.

"Salutations" to the Benefactors and the Parents who champion our College.

LUNCH 'IN GOOD COMPANY' – The elderly are the treasure not just of our families but of the entire community. And as the years progress they are finding things a little more challenging. However, if they are able to get about, albeit with some difficulty, then our Parish conducts a sacred mission that provides an outlet to their loneliness. Every THURSDAY, in the Parish Hall, the Church provides LUNCH IN GOOD COMPANY which is ABSOLUTELY FREE and invites you to come and join our wonderful gathering.

It is called 'Lunch in Good Company' (*Yévma Syntrofiás*) precisely because it gives our senior citizens an opportunity to get out of the house, speak to other members of the community and share a fresh, tasty meal cooked on the premises and served by the Philoptochos Ladies' Auxiliary. Between 100 and 150 seniors attend each Thursday!

Importantly, attendees also have the opportunity to participate in a special programme of music, dance, gentle exercise, talks and outings organized by the Greek Welfare Centre of our Archdiocese.

The group will recommence on THURSDAY, 2nd February, from 10.00 a.m. till midday!

FELLOWSHIP AND BIBLE STUDY – Every TUESDAY evening, in the Parish Hall, young adults over 18 and those who feel young at heart (mainly in the 20 – 40 yr bracket), meet for Fellowship led by Father Steven in ENGLISH.

Contemporary issues are presented and discussed through the perspective of the Church. Answers to questions about Orthodoxy are provided in a spirit of love. Besides Bible Study, the Fellowship also engages in social events such as excursions, community dances and coffee in friendship.

This year, the Fellowship completes 36 years of continuous spiritual service to young people from all over Sydney. In an age of confusion and information overload, Tuesday night provides spiritual comfort to those searching for God and His Church.

Fellowship will recommence on TUESDAY, 14th February from 7.30 – 8.30 in the evening.

AFTERNOON AND SATURDAY GREEK LANGUAGE SCHOOLS – Every SATURDAY morning the Greek Language School operates in the facilities of St Spyridon College from 9.00 a.m. till midday. Students come from all over Sydney because of the quality of education and the caring environment provided. It's really worth the effort!

Lessons are conducted by experienced teachers who understand Australian-born children of the 3rd and 4th generations, using effective and contemporary teaching methods. Consequently, students who do not attend St Spyridon College have the opportunity of learning the Greek language, the Hellenic culture and the Traditions of the Orthodox Faith.

During the week, our Afternoon Greek Language School operates in the same premises, TUESDAY and WEDNESDAY, 4 - 5.30 p.m.

Enrolments commence on TUESDAY 31st January 4.00 – 5.30 p.m. and SATURDAY 4th February 9.00 a.m. – 12.00 p.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL – Every SUNDAY morning the (*Catechetical*) Sunday School is conducted for children from 5 and teenagers to 17 years of age. Lessons are provided in an enjoyable atmosphere by Australian-born Sunday School teachers who introduce children to the will of God, the teachings of the Holy Scriptures and the Sacramental life of the Church.

Lessons are accompanied by songs and games from 9.00 – 10.00 a.m. before the children are escorted to the Church next door where they follow the Divine Liturgy Service and receive Holy Communion. It's a blessed school! And it's entirely FREE.

Lessons recommence on Sunday 11th March at 9.00 in the morning!

ORTHODOX SCRIPTURE CLASSES AT PUBLIC SCHOOLS – Australia is rapidly changing. So, we must make every effort to preserve the Ideals of our Faith and our Heritage.

St Spyridon Parish for over 40 years has appointed Scripture teachers at almost all public schools in the area to teach our children the beauty of the Orthodox Faith based on the Holy Scriptures and the Tradition of the Church. Scripture teachers are volunteers and conduct this weekly mission purely out of their love for the children and for the Church.

Please introduce yourself to the Orthodox Scripture teacher at your child's public school and show your support for the God-pleasing work being conducted through St Spyridon Parish.

Should you have the time to volunteer as a Scripture teacher yourself, please feel free to contact one of our Priests and all support will be provided to facilitate this.

Orthodox Scripture classes are a privilege STILL provided by our Public Schools.

PLAYGROUP FOR TODDLERS – Pre-school toddlers eventually develop to the stage where they need to interact with other children. And young mums also need to take a break from their demanding responsibilities. The little 'SPARROWS' of St Spyridon Playgroup meet each MONDAY in the Parish Hall from 9.30 till 11.30 in the morning. The programme for the Playgroup is professionally organized by the Greek Welfare Centre.

The Playgroup will recommence on MONDAY, 6th February at 9.30 in the morning!

ST SPYRIDON SOCCER CLUB - 'OLYMPIC EAGLES' Since 2007, the St Spyridon Soccer Club's 15 teams, for boys and girls from ages 6 to 18, have been formally affiliated with the history-packed Greek-Australian institution – SYDNEY OLYMPIC. Whilst our Parish is responsible for all operational aspects, our teams compete under the name OLYMPIC EAGLES.

Registration of players will take place at St Spyridon College Infants School in Day Lane on Tuesday 31st January, Wednesday 1st and Thursday 2nd February from 2.30 – 4.00 p.m. and on Saturday, 4th February from 10.00 a.m. till midday in the Parish Hall.

Training will commence in mid-February. MORE AT: www.olympiceaglesfc.com.au

THE BENEVOLENT FUND – For more than 30 years now, this Fund of our Parish has been offering financial assistance to hundreds of poor and needy people, regardless of background. Some folk cannot make ends meet on the pension alone. Many are homeless and sleep either in parks or under bridges. The poor deserve their own dignity and the Church helps generously!

From 2010, we have implemented a new system. Rather than issue cash cheques, the Parish now provides coupons of equivalent value for food from Coles and Woolworths stores. Contributions to the Benevolent Fund are always timely.

SUPPORT FOR THE 'SYDNEY CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL - Every year, thanks to the fruits of the 'St Spyridon Golf Day', our Parish donates technologically advanced medical equipment for use in operating theatres and other departments of the *Sydney Children's Hospital* at Randwick.

It is an offering of love for all children who find themselves in hospital for one reason or another. It matters not what race, or culture, or creed they belong to. The pain of any child touches everyone. And none of us can remain indifferent to the suffering of children. St Spyridon Parish is currently sponsoring a three-bed Emergency Unit for rapid response to severely ill children.

OUR CHURCH AND OUR PEOPLE – WITH HARMONY AND FAITH – IN THE SERVICE OF LOVE