



ST. PAUL GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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February 12, 2017

Beloved Parents & Students,

Today marks one month from our scheduled Parish level St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival, which will take place on Sunday March 12, 2017. Over the past few months, as the chair-people of this event, we have taken the time to visit each class and speak with them briefly about the festival. I am aware that the teachers in their classrooms have also discussed the festival.

For those of you who may be unaware, the festival was introduced to the Archdiocese in 1983. The St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival provides Greek Orthodox teenagers the opportunity to write and talk about their faith. The Oratorical Festival Program begins at the parish level and is divided into two divisions: Junior Division for students in grades 7–9 and Senior Division for student in grades 10–12.

The top two speakers in the Junior and Senior Divisions advance to the district level. Two finalists in each District division represent the district at the Metropolis Oratorical Festival. The top speaker in each Metropolis division is then selected to participate in the Archdiocese Finals, which is hosted by a different Metropolis each year. Speakers who reach this level are then awarded college scholarships.

The Oratorical Festival experience provides your child the opportunity to: Explore a deeper knowledge of their Orthodox Faith; Think critically about current issues; Articulate an Orthodox worldview that is informed by scripture and holy tradition; Experience valuable public speaking training in front of a gentle and loving audience.

Over the past few year, we here at St Paul have had difficulty getting a commitment from our young people to participate in the festival. We ask that you discuss this as a family and highly encourage your children to participate in this year's festival. On the back side of this letter you will find the topics for the 2017 Festival. More information and resources can be found at

<http://www.goarch.org/archdiocese/departments/religioused/sjcof>

In order to help us facilitate this year's program and get firm commitments, please fill out and detach the form below if your child intends and commits to participating in this year's festival. All forms should be returned to their Sunday School Teachers no later than Sunday February 26, 2017. Thank you for taking the time and effort to make this experience beneficial and fulfilling for your child. We promise this experience will go a long way!

With love and thanksgiving we remain,

George F. Athanasiou & Erika Sullivan

Co-Chairs, 2017 St Paul Oratorical Festival

Name: _____ Grade: _____

Division: _____ Topic # _____

Signature: _____ Parent Signature: _____