

# **News Release**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **ST. GEORGE CHURCH BETHESDA, MARYLAND PREPARES FOR THE ORATORICAL FESTIVAL WEEKEND**

The Church of St. George in Bethesda, MD has scheduled an exciting Oratorical Festival weekend where they will host the eighteen Metropolis finalists and their families. The festivities will begin on Friday, June 8, 2012 and conclude on Sunday, June 10. Under the chairmanship of the Rev. Dimitrios Antokas, the host committee is working tirelessly to ensure that the weekend will be a memorable one for all attendees.

After each family arrives and settles into their hotel room at the Bethesda Marriott Suites they will depart for Vespers and a welcome reception at the St. George Church. They will be officially welcomed by His Eminence Metropolitan Evangelos of New Jersey, Fr. Dimitrios Antokas, Proistamenos of the parish, as well as other host committee members. The evening will include with fun activities so that the finalists can get to know each other better.

Saturday morning begins with a 7:30 AM departure for the Church. After breakfast and a Speaker Orientation Session the Twenty-Ninth Archdiocese Oratorical Festival is scheduled to begin. In attendance will be His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, His Eminence Metropolitan Evangelos, Dr. Anton C. Vrame, Director of the Department of Religious Education, the Rev. Fr. John and Presvytera Margaret Oratorical Festival, Oratorical Festival Archdiocese Co-chairpersons, as well as other dignitaries.

The Luncheon and Award Ceremony will take place at the Congressional Country Club. Each finalist will be awarded a certificate, personally signed by Archbishop Demetrios, a beautiful plaque recognizing their achievements and a scholarship. After returning to the hotel for a quick change, the participants and their families will be taken on a tour of the Capitol Building, dinner and a bus tour of Washington, DC.

Once again, Sunday morning will have another early morning departure for the St. George Church where a hierarchical Divine Liturgy will be celebrated. The weekend quickly comes to an end with a farewell luncheon and tearful goodbyes bringing to a close another successful Oratorical Festival year.

Even though only eighteen Oratorical Festival participants make it to the National level of the Festival, this does not diminish the success and congratulations that each Parish Oratorical Festival participant deserves. It is through their involvement in this worthwhile program that it continues to impact and inspire others.