

The purpose of the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival is to give our youth the opportunity to learn and speak about their beliefs, their Church, and their heritage in order to strengthen their understanding and appreciation of their identity as Greek Orthodox Christians.

ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM was born in the ancient city of Antioch in 347 AD to a noble and pious family. He studied to be a lawyer and was an exceptional student. He was led to a religious life where he devoted himself to discipline and spiritual growth. As a priest, St. John had the innate quality of winning the hearts of his audience, even though many times he would chastise them. He loved his people and would hold nothing back in order to inspire, challenge and paternally lead them into upright living. He was also a great advocate of social justice and proclaimed the equality of all people before God. At the age of forty-nine he became Patriarch of Constantinople. He was an outspoken critic of the imperial court, and after a series of exiles and returns, he was banished in 403 and died two years later. He earned the title *Chrysostomos* ("Golden Mouth") because of his dynamic and forthright preaching. As one of our most honored Church Fathers, Patriarchs and Saints, and also because of his bold eloquence, it is fitting that the Archdiocese Oratorical Festival be named after this most celebrated preacher in the history of the Christian Church.

The St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival is a program of the Department of Religious Education, Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, 50 Goddard Avenue, Brookline, Massachusetts, 02445.

The St. John Chrysostom ORATORICAL FESTIVAL



SAMPLE PROGRAM SUGGESTIONS

Below is a sample of the information you could include on the inner pages of your Oratorical Festival Program cover. (Please refer to the *Oratorical Festival Manual* for suggestions on planning your Festival program.)

The St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival of
Church Name
City, State
Festival Date

Opening Prayer and Welcome.....Name of Priest

Introducing Today's Program.....Name of Festival Chairman

Junior Division Speakers

List Speakers in alphabetical order for Parish Festival **only**. You may also want to list each speaker's age, school, speech topic, etc.

At District or Diocese Festivals the speakers are **not** to be listed to insure complete objectivity. They are introduced by the speaking number they draw: "Speaker No. 1, No. 2, etc."

Senior Division Speakers

Judges retire for deliberations

Introduction of all Speakers while Judges deliberate

Short Intermission

Announcement of judging results and presentation of awards by Hierarch/Priest and Festival Chairman

Comments by Judges, Hierarch/Priest, President of Community, or others, as appropriate

(Instructions on assembly for a group photograph may be given at this time.)*

Closing prayer by Hierarch/Priest

Names of Judges

(You may want to list some biographical information about each judge if space permits.)

Name of Timekeeper

Oratorical Festival Committee

(You may want to add a personal note of thanks.)

Additional Optional Information:

Purpose of Oratorical Festival (Page 4 in *Manual*)

Judges' Criteria (Page 26 in *Manual*)

Information (dates and sites) of upcoming District, Diocese, and Archdiocese Festivals

*Picture policy at all Oratorical Festivals is to take a group photo of all participants holding certificates, with top speakers in front flanking the Hierarch/Priest or Chairman.