



St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival

Important Dates

November 15, 2015

All participants must be registered by either:

1. Filling out the online registration form
2. Filling out a paper copy

January 6, 2016

Essays and poems must be emailed to pcousoulis@aim.com by midnight.

Please save the file as a **PDF**.

Your name, address and division must be included on a separate sheet of paper within the PDF document. Your name or any other personal identifiers cannot appear on any of the pages with content.

Name the file as follows:

LastName_FirstName_Division_Category

You will receive additional information about the content and format of your submission.

A written copy of speeches is also due this date for review.

January 17, 2016 (Tentatively)

Speeches will be presented.



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA
DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
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2016 St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival Topics

Junior Division (Grades 7–9)

1. In the Old Testament we read that there is “a time to keep silence and a time to speak” (Ecclesiastes 3:7). What is the value of silence and quiet in a time when we are always “plugged in”?
2. Jesus fed 5,000 people with five loaves and two fish (Matthew 14:13–21). Discuss what this miracle teaches about our ability to serve humanity.
3. Discuss how icons play a helpful role in the prayer life of an Orthodox Christian.
4. Houses of worship and congregations have always been thought of as a sanctuary of peace and serenity. Recently they have become the vulnerable targets of violent crimes. Discuss the attitude of Orthodox Christians toward this issue today.
5. How might Orthodox Christians contribute and support the efforts to eliminate poverty and hunger in the world?

Senior Division (Grades 10–12)

1. How does gathering as a community of Orthodox Christians to participate in the Divine Liturgy influence your daily life?
2. In light of Genesis 1:24-27, the sixth day of creation, discuss how all living beings are connected and its impact on our responsibility for the planet.
3. How do you respond to people who question your belief in God and participation in the life of the Church?
4. Discuss how “the arts” (music, painting, sculpture, architecture, and others) can inspire a greater connection between God and an individual or community.
5. Human trafficking (i.e., the exploitation and enslavement of women and children) remains a tragedy even today. We know that all human beings are created by God in His image (Genesis 1:27); therefore, how can we as Orthodox Christians help these victims and assist in the efforts to eliminate human trafficking?