

# MOSAIC

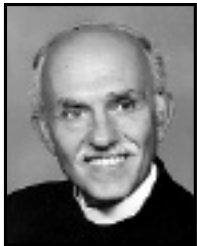
Coming together, we form an icon of God's Kingdom

Vol. 19, No. 7

Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church 2501 S. Wolf Rd. Westchester, IL  
(708) 562-2744 www.holyapostleschurch.com

November 2014

From Father Bill



## The importance of your baptismal name

On the fortieth day after the birth of a child, the mother carries the child into the church to present it to the Lord. It is the first visit of both mother and child into the church since the delivery. The practice is observed in imitation of the Blessed Virgin who, on the fortieth day after birth of Jesus, brought the Divine Infant into the Temple, where He was received by St. Simeon the Just. When the mother receives the 40 day blessing, she is encouraged to come to the next Liturgy and receive Holy Communion. In the days to follow, the parents of the baby focus on baptism. Since Christ has set down baptism as necessary for salvation, parents should prepare for the baptism of their child as soon as possible.

When a ship is being launched, there is a ceremony where the boat is given a name and 'christened'. A high dignitary will be asked to sponsor this and break a bottle of champagne onto it. When a new-born becomes a member of the church, some people call the event a christening. That's not the case in the Orthodox Church.

When someone is made a member of God's family, the Church, they are baptized. The roots of the word christening and baptism are not the same. Christening comes from the word "Christian." That would mean to become a Christian, a new person in Christ. The word baptism means to dip, to immerse. It gives a better picture of baptism. For to become a Christian, one is put into water three times to symbolize the washing away of the old person and the death and three day burial of Jesus Christ.

The use of sponsors in Baptism dates back to the days when Christians were persecuted



Metropolitan Isaiah of Denver visited Holy Apostles Sunday, October 19, and gave an inspiring sermon about dealing with modern adversity.

by Nero. Parents were often massacred during these persecutions. Sponsors were provided to instruct the children in the Christian faith in the event the parents were martyred.

Today the sponsor, although chosen by the parents, represents not the parents but the Christian community. When someone is brought into the Church by Baptism, the members of the whole Church must assume responsibility for the child's growth in the faith. This is the reason a baptism is announced in the bulletin of our church. The

godparent, speaking not for himself but for the entire congregation, promises to that the child is raised and educated in the Orthodox Christian faith. Because of the role of the godparent, it is important that the godparents chosen love God and the Church. Thus it is emphasized that the sponsor must be Eastern Orthodox and a steward in the church.

Since hospitals require that a name for the infant be immediately given at birth, the parents must be prepared in advance. It is

...See Fr. Bill on P. 4

From Father Nicholas



## Taking up our cross

A few years ago, Archbishop Anastasios of Albania issued an interesting challenge. He wrote: "One of the greatest dangers for Christianity is that we become forgetful in the practice of the cross and create a comfortable type of Christian who merely wants the cross as an ornament." During the Holy Cross feast days, we are reminded: "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, take up his cross and follow Me." (Mark 8:34) Taking up our cross may involve suffering. If we follow international news in Syria, the Middle East, and throughout the world, many are suffering. Some of us are suffering physically with an illness, emotionally, psychologically or even financially.

Why do pious faithful Christians suffer? Doesn't God want us to live a successful, financially prosperous life? Doesn't the Lord want us to live the American dream? Some non-Orthodox preachers are proclaiming the prosperity Gospel. This teaching links earthly prosperity with faith. Prosperity preachers teach that earthly success is directly linked to how much faith you have. If you want something, just trust God and pray. He is obligated to give it to you. Is this true? Christ tells us: "Take up your cross!" The Saints were often persecuted, poor, and hated by the world. True faith is not measured by earthly riches. A successful Christian life is filled with repenting and personally participating in the grace-giving sacraments of the Church. An Orthodox Christian life is sober. It is living the humble, consistent life of Christ not seeking extraordinary experiences. Sometimes we are healed physically, but the Lord wants something much more. He seeks our spiritual healing.

Suffering may be our cross. Should we question God? Do you remember what God said to Job who loved God but suffered so much? Job questions and God replies: "Shall a fault finder contend with the Almighty?" (Job 40:2) We may question God and wonder why this is happening to us. Why do we suffer? First is sin. Sin exists. Suffering is not because of our own individual sins but the sins of the world. The Scriptures are clear. According to the Book of Genesis, God created a peace-filled world with great harmony and beauty. He stepped back and said, "It is good!" (Genesis 1:12) When Adam sinned, creation fell and death resulted. Disease, sickness, pain, suffering and death came into the



# Gavel to Gavel



## Highlights of the August Parish Council Meeting

By PAUL KALLIS, SECRETARY

Present: Father Bill Chiganos, Fr. Nicholas Georgiou, George Alex, Peter Bell, Terry Chiganos, Cindy Clark, Jim Fotopoulos, Tom Gregory, James Kapolas, Louis Katzioris, Nick Kirkeles, Nick Kouchis, George Mannos and Mary Maragos.

### Financial/Treasurer's Report:

- ✦ The financial/treasurer's report was presented by Peter Bell. A motion to approve pending a year-end review by Nick Kirkeles was passed unanimously.

### Stewardship Report:

- ✦ Louis Katzioris reported that there are currently 719 pledges for a total of \$537,756 for an average of \$908. This compares favorably to the comparable 2013 amounts of 720 pledges, \$518,274 total, and average \$887.

### Correspondence:

- ✦ The correspondence was read by Peter Bell. An IOCC appeal for contributions was given \$500 upon unanimous passage of a motion by George Mannos.
- ✦ An ad was approved for the National Choir Federation after unanimous passage of a motion by Nick Kirkeles.

### Meditation:

- ✦ The meditation was given by Fr. Chiganos. He spoke of his recent participation in the annual National Clergy Laity Conference. Stewardship was a particular topic of discussion at the conference. Stewardship is not merely financial support of the community, but of spiritual support as well. Furthermore, we are not stewards just of our own parish, but of our entire community and the world. Noting that we will soon be having a luncheon celebrating the 55th anniversary of Holy Apostles, Fr. Chiganos said it is not enough to celebrate what has happened; rather, we must focus on what is to come.

### Building & Grounds:

- ✦ The Philotochos room has a new floor.
- ✦ Maintenance projects done include a sump pump replacement and a new icon stand near the organ.
- ✦ Upcoming projects include replacement of a ceiling light over the choir loft and major trimming of trees and shrubs on the property.

### Old Business:

- ✦ The Parish Directory has been completed and is being distributed. The Council thanked Cindy Clark for her hard work.
- ✦ Preparations for the 55th Anniversary Luncheon are underway. It is noted that The Diplomat West, the venue, is being very generous to the parish.
- ✦ Clergy-Laity Conference: George Alex, who attended with Fr. Chiganos, gave a summary of the conference. Of particular interest and concern was the necessity to have a session devoted to "How to Close a Parish." The Metropolis of Detroit wishes to close 2 churches, the Metropolis of New York wants to close 7 out of 11 upstate churches. Out of 550 total churches, 75 are facing closure. Also of note: only 350 churches of the 550 attended the conference. The Council thanked George Alex for his service.

### New Business:

- ✦ The Ways and Means Committee noted that the 2015 Golf Outing will be close to the Independence Day holiday. A discussion ensued.
- ✦ Nick Kirkeles reported that 2014 Fanari Camp had a record number of attendees. This was the last of the one-week format camp. Beginning in 2015, Fanari Camp will be spread over a number of weeks, with fewer participants per week. There will be a new on-line registration system.

world. Our fallen nature brings suffering into the world. Although difficult to endure, suffering brings spiritual benefits. God allows suffering because He knows it is best for us. We read Christ's words in the Gospel of St. Matthew: "Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28) Suffering brings us to Christ, on our knees, asking Him to help and to carry us through difficult, challenging times. The days immediately following September 11, churches were packed with people turning to God. Suffering helps us rely

on Christ. He becomes our security blanket. We may suffer pain because God knows it is necessary for our salvation or even the salvation of others. St. Paul writes about God providing a thorn so that he would not become too proud. Some Saints asked God for challenges. They felt they had become too self-reliant and independent from God. These Saints wanted to be reminded, through suffering, of their great dependence on God! Pain may be God's last tool to get through to us. The Lord wants us to come to Him. The

...See Fr. Nicholas on P. 4



Nicole and Renee Govostis strut their stuff at Philoptochos' recent fashion show.

## A busy fall awaits Philoptochos members

### Membership

If you were unable to attend Membership Night held on September 16, it is not too late to join Philoptochos. We welcome new and returning members. Membership envelopes and volunteer forms are available in the church office. Contact Membership Chair Faye Adams at 630.517.8097 for more info.

**Sunday, November 9 – Artoclasia for Veterans' Day** – Philoptochos will honor all of our military veterans with an Artoclasia. We encourage those who have served to attend for this special blessing.

**Tuesday, November 11 – Koukla's Kafenio** – All Seniors are invited to attend. Doors will open at 12 pm. Reservations are needed by November 5. We will celebrate the veterans that served our country. If you are a veteran, please mention it when you respond to Faye Adams at 630.517.8097.

We will be collecting items for the Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans. Donations of shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, and soap are most needed.

**Sundays, November 9, 16, 23 – Holiday Shoppe Donations** – We will be collecting monetary donations to purchase toys that will be taken to Family Shelter Services for victims of domestic abuse. It is our way of spreading some holiday cheer to our community at large. Each year this organization holds its Holiday Shoppe in which clients can come and choose age-appropriate Christmas presents, at no cost to them, for their children. Otherwise, these mothers would not have gifts to give on Christmas. To contribute, look for the Philoptochos table after church or send your donation to the church office before November 23 marked Philoptochos/Holiday Shoppe.

### Saturday, December 13 - Communion

**Breakfast** – The Liturgy is at 9:00 with breakfast at 10:30. There will be a craft for the children and a visit from Santa. Kindly bring an unwrapped toy for needy children. Please make your reservation with Anthoula Pomrening at 708.588.0258 or pomrening@mbhb.com or Tina Dillon at 630.832.5652 or tina660@sbcglobal.net.

**Saturday, December 13 & Sunday, December 14 - Holiday Bake Sale** – Please note that we will again be selling delicious baked goods before the holidays. For those who love to bake, we welcome your wonderful cookies, cakes, Greek pastries and other special holiday confections. For more info, contact Eleni Poteres at 630.416.8902.

### Tuesday, December 16 - Philoptochos Christmas Party & General Meeting

Once again, we will be host our annual holiday party for our members. We will be collecting items for Almost Home Kids, one of our 2014 Fashion Show beneficiaries. More details will be included in a mailed flyer.

### Philanthropic Service Projects

**Fleece Blankets** – We are looking for people to make and donate fleece lap blankets. It is our hope too get enough blankets donated by December 14 so that we can deliver them to our Holy Apostles shut-ins when we do our Christmas visits.

**"Blankets of Love"** – We are encouraging people to keep knitting and crocheting infant blankets! Last year we took them to Good Samaritan hospital for the babies in the Neonatal Unit and the staff was just thrilled.

We will be making another delivery in February. Contact Faye Adams at 630.517.8097 if you have questions regarding these projects.

## The HARC Corner

### The Way of a Pilgrim

Translated by Olga Savin

Foreword by Father Thomas Hopko  
These are intimate firsthand accounts of a life illuminated by the Jesus Prayer. The anonymous narrator, carrying little more than a Bible, some dried bread, and a prayer rope, walked across 19th-century Russia repeating it, recording his experiences in his effort to put into practice the words of Saint Paul, "Pray without ceasing." The text is accompanied by a never-before-translated appendix from the Russian edition that gives instruction and advice on practicing the Jesus Prayer.  
\$22.00

### Holy New Martyr Elizabeth, Grand Duchess of Russia

by Adela Maria Calistru

This is the story of a real princess who through the power of faith left all temporal things and became the abbess of a convent, even a martyr, in a time of great oppression against the Orthodox Church.  
\$8.40

### Every Time I Do My Cross

by Presvytera Angela Alatzakis

Every time you do your cross it is for a different reason; whether to thank God, or to pray for help with a big decision. It doesn't matter the time or day or even where you are, when you need to say a prayer, doing your cross is where you begin.  
\$17.00

## Baptisms

*Josephine, daughter of  
Chrysanthi and Michael Weisburger  
Sponsor: Constantine Cois*

*Madison, daughter of  
Nicole and Jason Lee  
Sponsor: Chris Jumes*

*Zoe, daughter of  
Alexis and Brandon Miller  
Sponsor: Lauren Futris*

## Weddings

None

Fr. Bill from P. 1...

## Only one name is to be given at baptism

important for them to remember that the child should be given an Orthodox Christian name and not simply one chosen arbitrarily, at random, or merely because it sounds nice. Traditionally, it is the name of the grandparents with the name of the paternal grandfather or grandmother having priority. We should exercise good judgment that the name chosen is not to honor a popular hero idolized by the movie industry, nor an accomplished athlete of the day or statesman in politics. The original baptismal name is sacred and to tamper with it is a serious matter, as well as a violation of the Orthodox practice of honoring and venerating the saints of Christ.

It is equally important to know that in the Orthodox Church only one name is given to a new-born child and not two names. It has become fashionable to give two names, but there is no justification for this habit in Orthodox belief and tradition, and must be carefully avoided. The one and only name which is pronounced over the baptismal font by the priest remains attached to the soul for all eternity. It is the name remembered at the altar after death: one distinct name for one distinct soul. Consequently, careful attention should be shown by parents when the time comes to name their child.

Every child should be taught by the parents who his or her saint is, and should be trained to look forward with joy to the observance of the name day. Also, at the time of baptism, a holy icon of the saint should be given to the newly baptized.

In addition to our own individual name each person receives the name 'Christian' at Baptism. From the moment we bear the name of Christ, we ought to prize this privilege.

Anthony Coniaris wrote these words in his book, *A Creed for Today*: "We are God's children. We are loved by Him from the very moment of birth when He takes us to His arms and bestows upon us the kiss of love through Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist. He makes us heirs of His riches."

## Church Directories

Directories are now available for pickup after The Divine Liturgy or weekdays in the church office.



**Synaxis hosted a family fall hayride Oct 11 at Knoch Knolls Park, Naperville. Everyone enjoyed a hayride through the woods and along the river at this 255 acre wooded park. Afterwards, they roasted marshmallows and visited around the campfire.**

## Make Reservations now for Adventure Theater's Christmas luncheon and shadowbox play

Following Divine Liturgy on November 9, 16, and 23, Adventure Theater members will take your reservations in the multi-purpose room for their unique, shadowbox performance *Welcome to Christmas Valley*. The play will be presented after Divine Liturgy on Sunday, December 7. This rare production, accompanied by shadowbox visual effects created by Stella Athanas, a graphic designer and professional artist, will be preceded by a delicious luncheon. Donation: \$10.00/person. You may make reservations in person or by contacting Mr. D. at: 708.562.0869 or fanari@me.com.

Preview: Julie and Harry Smith are deeply troubled due to their parents' continuous arguing and bickering. Then, shortly before Christmas, the siblings receive a phone call from an uncle whom they never knew existed as he had been disowned by their father.

What will Julie and Harry Smith's reaction be when they meet their Uncle Paul in Christmas Valley for the first time? What will their father's reaction be since he has been estranged from his brother long before the children were born? And, what's this about a train that takes its passengers through the branches of a giant Christmas tree to the very top?

We promise that you'll be spiritually uplifted, pleasantly surprised by and entertained with the shadowbox visual effects and well fed with a sumptuous meal. Join us!

... By George Demetralis

## Suffering can shape us to be used by God

Fr. Nicholas from P. 2...

Book of Ezekiel reminds us: "He desires not the death of a sinner but that he should turn from his sin and live." (Ezekiel 33:11) God wants us! Last, suffering can result from our own actions. We read in the Psalms: "There is no peace in my bones because of my sins. For my transgressions rise up over my head; like a burden too heavy for me." Psalm 38:3-4

Pain comes with unconfessed sin and resentment toward others. Carrying the sin and resentment brings pain. It is difficult to face our imperfections and admit failure. Resenting another person brings anger. St. Paul reminds us: "Do not let the sun go down on your anger." (Ephesians 4:26) This prevents resentment, pain and suffering.

What can sufferers do? First, remember our Lord Jesus Christ Himself suffered tremendous physical and emotional pain. He knows and empathizes with our suffering.

No one is exempt from pain. How did Christ Himself respond while suffering? He said; "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me, nevertheless, not as I will but You will." Jesus confronts the problem. He does not ask for an explanation. He accepts, confronts and engages the problem. He says Your will, Lord, be done. Suffering can shape us to be used by God for His purposes. If we see the burden of suffering getting in the way of what we want, we will be miserable. The Evil One will use every trick to turn our pain into self-pity. If we respond, as Christ did, with humility, our suffering can be transformed.

St. Paul challenges us in the Book of Romans to suffer with Christ that we may be glorified with Him. Our suffering is balanced by hope that repentance and salvation are possible. Christ tells us: "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness. (2 Corinthians 12:9)

Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church **November 2014** 2501 S. Wolf Rd. Westchester, Illinois

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>8:00am Orthros</b> <b>9:15am Awaken To God</b> <b>9:30am Divine Liturgy</b> Fellowship Hour	5:15pm The Way	10:00am TOTS 4:30pm NO Greek School ( Parent Teacher Conferences )	1:00pm Adult Christian Fellowship & Bible Study 7:15pm Bible Study 7:30pm Catechism 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	4:30pm Greek School 5:00pm Greek School PTO Meeting	4:30pm Adventure Theater 6:00pm GOVA Fall Retreat	Set your clocks back one hour before bed tonight.  <b>FEAST DAY OF ARCHANGELS MICHAEL &amp; GABRIEL</b> 8:00am Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>FEAST DAY OF ST. NECTARIOS</b> Stewardship Sunday 8:00am Orthros 9:15am Awaken To God 9:30am Divine Liturgy Fellowship Hour	12:00pm Kouklid's Kafenio 4:30pm Greek School	7:15pm Bible Study 7:30pm Catechism 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>FEAST DAY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM</b> 8:00am Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 4:30pm Greek School	4:30pm Adventure Theater		12:00pm Greek Women's University Meeting
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>8:00am Orthros</b> <b>9:15am Awaken To God</b> <b>9:30am Divine Liturgy</b> 11:30am GOVA Fall Festival	5:15pm The Way	10:00am TOTS 4:30pm Greek School 6:00pm GOVA Shopping For Needy Children	1:00pm Adult Christian Fellowship & Bible Study 7:30pm Catechism 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	4:30pm Greek School 7:30pm Parish Council Meeting	<b>PRESENTATION OF THE THEOTOKOS</b> 8:00am Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 4:30pm Adventure Theater	
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>8:00am Orthros</b> <b>9:15am Awaken To God</b> <b>9:30am Divine Liturgy</b> Greek School Bake Sale		<b>FEAST DAY OF ST. KATHERINE</b> 8:00am Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 4:30pm Greek School	<b>EVE OF THANKSGIVING</b> 6:00pm Divine Liturgy	<b>THANKSGIVING</b>	Church Office Closed	
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>8:00am Orthros</b> <b>9:15am Awaken To God</b> <b>9:30am Divine Liturgy</b> 12:00pm 55th Anniversary Luncheon	<h2>For Thanksgiving</h2> <p>May your troubles be less.                      May your blessings be more.                      And may nothing but happiness come through your door.</p>					
<b>30</b>						

## Memorials

*Bob Vakos  
Peter Sfikas  
John Katziotis  
Vasiliki Karegianes  
Dena Sahlas  
Nicholas Sahlas  
Nicoletta Sahlas*

## Funerals

*Dr. Peter Pappas  
Angeliki Poulos  
Jane Adams*

## Mosaic Deadline

The deadline for  
the December Mosaic  
is Wednesday, November 5.

## Parish Elections

Nominations are now being accepted  
for the 2015 - 2016 Parish Council  
election in December.

The Holy Apostles  
Greek Orthodox School  
Thanksgiving

## *Bake Sale*

Sunday, November 23

Featuring Homemade:  
Baklava • Koulourakia •  
Kourambiethes  
Various Breads •  
Spanakopita • Tiropita  
Cookies • Brownies •  
Unique Desserts

Immediately following  
the Divine Liturgy  
in  
the multi-purpose room

## Weekday Services

Saturday, November 8  
FEAST DAY OF ARCHANGELS MICHAEL & GABRIEL  
8:00am Orthros  
9:00am Divine Liturgy

Thursday, November 13  
FEAST DAY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM  
8:00am Orthros  
9:00am Divine Liturgy

Friday, November 21  
PRESENTATION OF THE THEOTOKOS  
8:00am Orthros  
9:00am Divine Liturgy

Tuesday, November 25  
FEAST DAY OF ST. KATHERINE  
8:00am Orthros  
9:00am Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, November 26  
THANKSGIVING EVE  
6:00pm Divine Liturgy

Postmaster: Please deliver by the 3rd of November

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