

# MOSAIC

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

Vol. 6, No. 11

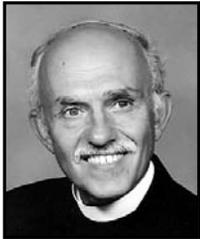
Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church 2501 S. Wolf Rd. Westchester, IL

March 2002

(708) 562-2744

www.holyapostleschurch.com

From Father Bill ...



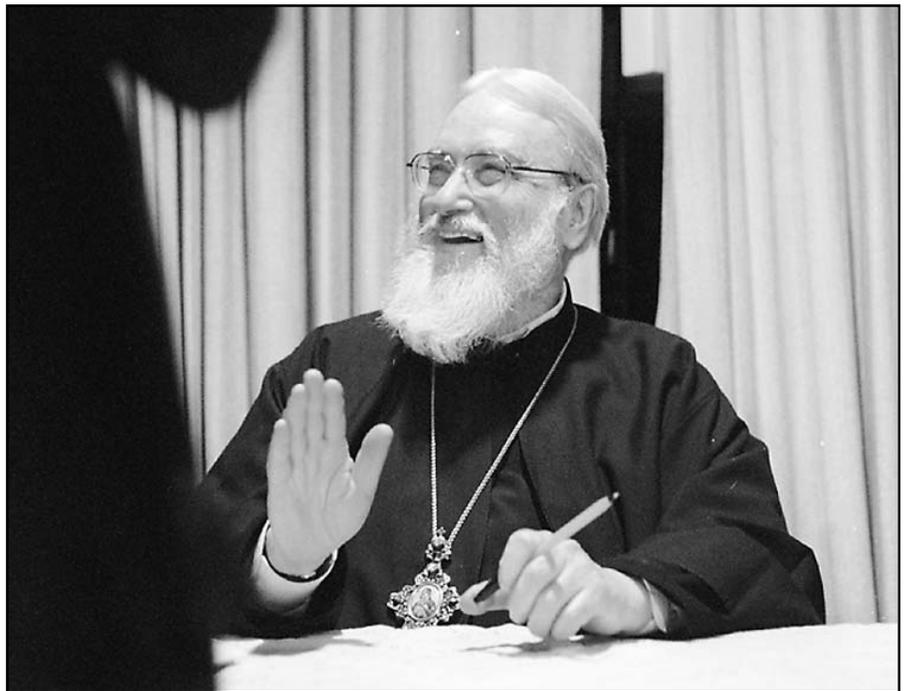
## Waiting in The Lord's Reception Room

"But when you pray," said Jesus, "go into your closet and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you." (Matt.6:6).

More often than we need to go to church, we need to enter the inner closet of the heart to commune with God. If the greatest battles we fight in life are fought inside, within our mind and heart, then we have available to us the greatest resource for help, the powerful presence of God within us. "Greater is he who is within you than he who is in the world," writes the apostle. "You seek the Lord?" asks St. Theophan, "Seek, but only within yourself. He is not far from anyone. The Lord is near all those who truly call on Him." Find a place in your heart, and speak there with the Lord. It is the Lord's reception room. He has set no other place for meeting souls.

In preparation for my recent surgery, a first-time experience, praise God, I was confronted with many thoughts. Sitting in the pre-op waiting room, which I will refer to as God's reception room, I had a strong desire to pray with the medical team that was to accompany me in the operating room. Moments before I was to be wheeled into the operating room, Presvytera and our two sons, along with the medical team, surrounded me.

As if nudged by my guardian angel, I invited them to pray with me. The stark and sterile hospital room was converted into a cathedral of prayer as we all bowed our heads in the solemn and sacred moment. I was not certain whether these people, who for the most part were strangers, were faintly acquainted with my Lord, but that just didn't seem important to me.



## Bishop Kallistos to return for third visit to Holy Apostles

Holy Apostles will be honored once again, by a visit from Bishop Kallistos for this year's annual Celebration of Books. The title of his presentation will be, *The Lenten Springtime: Repentance, Confession, Forgiveness*. His first presentation on March 31st will be *Forgive us... as we forgive, the mystery of mutual pardon*. This will be followed on April 2nd by *The house of the physician, Confession as a sacrament of healing*. He will conclude on April 4th with *The end draws near, Lent and the second coming*.

The petitions and supplications to a loving and merciful God flowed from my heart. In that moment, I experienced the peace of Christ with humility. I sensed the oneness with God was real and whatever was to follow in my life, I was prepared to accept His will.

In the next few days, I became acquainted with pain. I confess that I weakened and asked God why he couldn't take this away from me.

The great Apostle Paul complained to God about his "thorn in the flesh," a physical ailment that bothered him to no end. Three times he asked God to remove the thorn and God

said no. His answer was not a negative reply, for He said: "my strength is made perfect in your weakness." We can almost hear Paul answering: "God did not answer my petition, but He did answer my prayer. He did not make life easier, but He did give me strength equal to life's demand." Although God did not remove the thorn in my flesh, He did help me to live with and transform it into a powerful means of grace.

I was reminded that both the good times and the afflictions are there to glorify God. We

...See Fr. Bill on P.3

From Father Peter..



## Sit, Stand, Kneel ?

I can recall growing up, being told to remember to say my prayers before I went to bed each day. Unfortunately, I literally said them just before falling asleep. I remember laying down on my bed and staring at my icons, and starting the Lord's prayer. Many times, I remember being in between sleep and being awake (the place where Tinkerbell was supposed to have lived).

I recall saying a sentence of the Lord's prayer and it took forever. I would start...dose off...wake up...and repeat the same line. It was so hard to concentrate, because I was so tired from the day's activities. I am still the kind of person that falls asleep as soon as my head hits the pillow. However, praying is not quite the same as when I was a child.

Proper posture has much to do with depth of prayer. Standing up, kneeling down, or lying down, have different results for different people. Standing in church has always been viewed as a disadvantage by us, the modern day Christians. However, standing was a sign of readiness to preach the Resurrected Lord. Kneeling, as a symbol of repentance and humility in the presence of God, is sometimes viewed as undesirable because of knee problems or leg pains. Sitting might be viewed as more desirable to those people as well as others. Then there are the people who cannot sit for extended periods of time. The cycle goes around and around.

It is never good to be too comfortable in prayer or in church for that matter, because that's when our thoughts drift from prayer. Just think about the 'chair' that you might watch television in, it can make you drift off to sleep if the time is right.

However, discomfort can be just as distracting to our prayers. If we are hurting or really in discomfort, we can be consumed by the pain or nagging of something, and forget about what we set out to do.

Our church has guidelines for when to sit, stand, and kneel during the services. However, thinking about all of this, what is the best position for our prayers at home? Each person will have a different posture for prayer, but it is important that however you, you and your spouse, you and your children, decide to pray, that it is a posture that does not distract from prayer itself.

Our connection with God through prayer,



## Gavel to Gavel



BY NICK KIRKELES... Parish Council Secretary

### Regular Parish Council meeting Thursday, November 15th

Present: Father Peter Spiro, George Alex, Don Alexander, John Anos, Jim Banakis, George Beshilas, Terry Chiganos, Sandy Fiascone, James Fotopoulos, George Mannos, Jr., Dennis Poulos, Michael Stefanos, Peter Tomaras

Absent: Nick Christy, Spiro Kinna, Nick Kirkeles, Peter Poteres

#### Meditation

- + Father Peter spoke on John the Baptist, which was the Gospel reading for the day. Jesus went alone to grieve about what had happened to St. John. He stressed that we, as Council members, should never make promises that are not right in God's eyes and how we should always do things and promise things that please God at all times. He also updated the council on

#### Finance

- + Father Bill's health.
- + Peter Tomaras reported on the pending loan for the church that will be written for between \$120,000 and \$150,000. The monthly payment will be in the range of \$1960 at a rate of 6.75% for a 7 year period. Total payments for the life of the loan will be \$164,640.
- + The 2002 budget prepared by the finance committee was distributed and should be reviewed for discussion and action at the February council meeting.
- + The financial report was given by treasurer Sandy Fiascone. Pending the year-end audit, the church ended the year 2001 with a net deficit of \$148,061. This was primarily due to a decrease in stewardship (\$22,000), the HVAC project (\$109,000), and mosaic icon expenses exceeding donations by \$18,000. Cash bank balances were \$292,072 which was down

#### Stewardship

- + \$131,786 or 31% for 2001.
- + Mike Stefanos reported that the amount

pledged in 2001 increased only 1% from 2000. Our average pledge was \$590.37, increasing from \$567.08 in 2000, as the total number of pledges went from 940 in 2000 to 915 in 2001. To date in 2002, pledges total 494 for \$364,557, or an aver-

#### Building and Grounds

- age of \$737.97.
- + George Alex and Jim Fotopoulos reported on the HVAC project, indicating that it is coming and that we need to be patient with its progress and ultimate completion. A meeting should be scheduled to discuss all pending action, along with question-

#### Fundraising (Candle to Candle)

- able areas of the project.
- + Mike Stefanos and George Mannos both indicated the need for increased revenues, not the cutting of expenses in these lean years. The Council was challenged for

#### New Business

- their help and integrity in this mission.
- + The council approved a new computer for the office staff, not to exceed \$1000. The unit will be purchased, not leased.
- + Don Alexander reviewed some upcoming dates: Macaronatha Sunday (3/17), golf

#### Upcoming events sponsored by your Parish Council

- outing (7/15), and the family picnic (7/21).
- + Sunday March 17-Macaronatha Luncheon following Liturgy. Last year was a sell-out, so get your group together and call the office with your reservations. There is no charge, but a free-will offering will be collected for Orthodox missions.
- + Monday July 15- Annual Holy Apostles golf Open will be held at Oak Meadows Golf Course. Limited to the first 144 golfers, so start thinking about who you will invite.
- + Sunday July 21- Holy Apostles Family Picnic following Liturgy in the park.

and the ability to receive His grace in prayer, is of the utmost importance. How we achieve that is partially due to the lack of distraction in our posture.

There are so many other distractions: what is going on tomorrow, what happened today, and all the interactions of the day. Make sure that you are not falling asleep because you are laying down, or wincing because of bad knees,

or have difficulty standing in a good place. I think the best posture for our prayers in our homes should be not too comfy and not too uncomfortable, but peaceful and not overly dramatic.

Remember Tinkerbell doesn't answer prayers, God does.

# The HARC CORNER

## **The Greek War of Independence The Struggle for Freedom from Ottoman oppression and the Birth of the Modern Greek Nation**

By David Brewer

Many of us have vivid childhood memories of March 25th celebrations, the anniversary of the Greek War of Independence in 1821: dressing in Greek national costumes, marching in parades and recitations of heroic Greek poems. For many of us, however, the details of the Greek War of Independence are perhaps vague and unclear.

We are fortunate, therefore, that David Brewer has written a complete history of the Greek War of Independence. His book was first published in England, with the title "The Flame of Freedom: The Greek War of Independence, 1821 -1833". It was recently published in the United States, with a somewhat different title. This is one of a few comprehensive books written in English during the past 100 years dealing with this period in the history of Greece.

The book is an important contribution to our better understanding of the valiant Greek patriots who freed Greece from the 400 year rule of the Ottoman Turks. The earlier revolutions in America and in France influenced the Greeks to undertake their heroic effort, sustained throughout by their Orthodox faith and the bravery of the freedom fighters.

You will learn about important figures from Greek history, whose names are perhaps familiar but whose deeds are not. Included would be such legendary figures as Bishop Germanos, Theodoros Kolokotronis, Yannis Makriyannis, Lord Byron and Admiral Sir Edward Codrington.

You will learn about the start of the

war and events such as those purported to have occurred at Aghia Lavra, where legend holds that the flag of revolution was first raised. You will be moved to read about the massacre in Chios and the horrible events at Mesolongi, both of which were immortalized by the famous paintings of French artist Eugene Delacroix and which were instrumental in creating support and sympathy for the Greek cause throughout Europe. You will be fascinated by the details of the battle at Navarino Bay.

How many of us realized the important role of England, France and Russia in support of the Greek revolution or that of Egypt in support of the Turks? You have probably read how the English, French and Russians, with their decisive naval victory at Navarino Bay on October 20, 1827, assured the final outcome of the war by sinking 60 of 89 Turkish ships thus destroying the Ottoman navy and driving off the Egyptians. However, there were several more years of fighting and negotiations still to come. Final independence was achieved with the arrival of Greece's new King Otto on February 6, 1833.

David Brewer has written a meticulously researched book which is a definitive history of the war. I highly recommend this compelling, powerful and important book.

...reviewed by Elias P. Kusulas

## **Books by Bishop Kallistos Ware**

Bishop Kallistos, a world renowned theologian, author, and teacher, will be the presenter at this year's Celebration of Books from March 31st to April 7th. The following collection of his writings will be available for sale:

### **The Orthodox Church**

A history of the Orthodox Church over the last two thousand years.

Softbound \$15.00

### **The Orthodox Way**

A general account of the doctrine, worship, and life of Orthodox Christians and how it applies to everyday life.

Softbound \$11.00

### **The Inner Kingdom**

Volume I of the collected works. An introduction to the six volume series with themes central to Easter worship and spiritual life.

Hardbound \$23.00

### **Communion and Intercommunion**

A study based on the theology and practice of the Eastern Orthodox Church.

Softbound \$4.95

### **Power of the Name**

How to apply the Hesyacht (masters of stillness) teaching in our prayers by using the Jesus Prayer.

...reviewed by Pauline Franks

## **Surgery recovery affords Fr. Bill the opportunity for spiritual reflection**

### **Fr. Bill from P.1**

are to trust His love and strength, and I needed to review that important lesson. Like many of us, I may have allowed myself to become consumed with the cares of life and pushed aside the daily remembrances of God's wonders and love.

During these weeks, I have learned several lessons that contribute to our welfare and spiri-

tual growth. I was reminded how important it is to remain teachable. We are all learners, and our minds and hearts should remain open in order to stay in touch with God and trust Him. To teach us patience, God may crush us and bring us to our knees, and then use us as His servants. God makes us wait in His reception room for what we need and what we want. God's reception room revealed to me the

importance of vision. He doesn't desire that His children remain in a rut, but rather that they expand borders and horizons.

God allows us to have ups and downs in our lives, so that we may be strengthened in our faith and develop sound attitudes. Waiting in God's reception room teaches one some valued lessons, and I know that I shall always remember those moments with God.

## Philoptohos... working hard to make a difference



Anna Eriotes is director of the Philoptohos Welfare Committee.

BY CYNTHIA STATHOPOULOS

Philoptohos - friend of the poor – has become the largest Christian women's philanthropic organization in America because of its national, diocesan and local charitable endeavors. Our parish is fortunate to have a Philoptohos chapter with volunteers that devote their time and talents to help the needy in many different ways.

Anna Eriotes, Welfare Chairperson, directs the 'behind the scenes' philanthropic commitments of our Philoptohos and is serving her second term in this position. She and the committee respond to the individual needs of our community.

Anna's distinguished career includes a Masters in Social Work from the University of Illinois, forty years in the field of clinical social work, and an administrator of the Illinois State Psychiatric Institute of Chicago. Her focus was three- pronged: educating, research, and providing care for the inner city population. As an administrator she was assigned daunting challenges to improve the Institute; she loved her work and considered it the perfect job.

Anna considers Presvytera Dana and Dolly Panton indispensable in responding to the committee's tasks. Presvytera Dana, a professional medical social worker herself, organizes and coordinates the Philoptohos food basket



Athanasia Katris and Angelike Mountanis, above, prepare to deliver food baskets. JoAnn Stubbings, left, gives a donation to Dolly Panton for the Needy Children Fund.

program. Every Thanksgiving and Christmas approximately thirteen laundry-size baskets are distributed to needy families. The baskets include nonperishable food items, grocery certificates, toys, and gift certificates for personal use. Dolly Panton collects funds for buying and distributing toys and clothing items for needy children. \$1,000.00 was donated by the Elmhurst Rotary, thanks to Don Alexander.

Anna has sought groups worthy of our attention, such as MYM of Dupage who, in addition to mentoring and helping young mothers and teen parents, also provides diapers and formula for babies. Year after year, the welfare committee sends outerwear to "People's Resource Center," an agency providing for people below poverty level, and to the Salvation Army for the annual "Make a Difference Day" coat drive. Christmas gift certificates are sent to children at St. Basil's Academy, and annual donations are made to the Hollywood House and to the Hellenic Family and Community Services. "We are very fortunate to have a professional social worker on our Board," says Ann Lampros,

President of Philoptohos. "Anna's extensive background serves as a resource of social services, advising, and recommending."

Once Philoptohos is notified of a family who may be at a crisis point, the Board approves monthly donations. The "Feed the Hungry" program, where our volunteers prepare and serve 150 to 200 people two times per year during the month of May, has been very popular. The chapter has also been very generous in contributing locally and worldwide to many organizations and missions, a few of which are Project Mexico (a Greek Orthodox orphanage for abused and homeless boys), Asian and Albanian Missions, the Diocese Philanthropy Fund, and the Family Shelter of DuPage County.

The Lekotek Center (based in Evanston that makes toys and play accessible for newborn to adolescent children who have disabilities), Children's Memorial Hospital, Multiple Sclerosis, Special Olympics, Y-Me National Breast Cancer organization, Make-A-Wish Foundation, and many other organizations

**See Philoptohos P.5**

## February Registry

### Baptisms

James, son of  
Lelia & Thomas Lazarski  
*Sponsor: James Sinanis*

Zachary, son of  
Christina & Vincent Beretoncini  
*Sponsor: Tania Dokmo*

Gerik, son of  
Joy & William Tyburk  
*Sponsor: Dan Niforatos*

Zoe, daughter of  
Maria & Kenneth Johnsen  
*Sponsor: Stacy Niforatos*

### Weddings

None



Tina Karagiannis is the only person in the diocese who signs the Liturgy for deaf worshippers. She provides this service the second Sunday of each month.

### Deaf worshippers can now experience the Liturgy more fully

On a Friday last August, Tina Karagiannis got a call from Father Bill. Five deaf people were going to attend that Sunday's liturgy and Father Bill, aware that Tina was adept at sign language, asked if she could "sign" the upcoming liturgy for the visitors.

"I was a little nervous," said Tina, who had taught deaf children for nearly 12 years before leaving the field to raise her children in 1995. She struggled through that first service but persevered.

"After that, Father asked, 'why don't you do it once a month?' " Tina recalled. "I said OK. I can never turn down Father Bill."

Since then, Tina has been "signing" the liturgy on the second Sunday of the month. She believes that Holy Apostles is the only Greek Orthodox parish in the Chicago area providing that service on a regular basis.

It is a difficult undertaking. Tina must not only "sign" all of the English portions of the liturgy. She also must translate in her mind the Greek language sections and convert those words to sign language.

"It was hard the first time," she said. "But, the more times I did it and the more I practice, it gets easier."

To polish her skills, Tina listened and "signed" to a CD recording of a liturgy at Holy Apostles. She also reviewed the liturgy book.

Tina, a member of Holy Apostles for 35 years, said she has wanted to work with deaf children since elementary school, when deaf classmates taught her sign language. She earned a speech and hearing science degree at

University of Illinois, then a master's degree in deaf education at Illinois State University. She student taught at famed Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C. then returned to the Chicago area, where she worked with deaf children with behavioral disorders and taught deaf students in high school and middle school.

Holy Apostles has no deaf parishoners, Tina said, but they visit frequently. And, now that Father Bill has notified other parishes of Tina's services, Holy Apostles can expect to see more deaf people worshipping here.

Tina said she will continue offering her signing skills as long as deaf people attend and want her there. "I feel like I'm helping the deaf people understand the liturgy better," she said, "and it's helping me get back into what I went to college for. I enjoy it. It gets me into learning more and more about the liturgy."

### Seniors Social Health Fair March 13

Seniors Social will present a health fair March 13th at 1pm in the multi-purpose room. Featured speakers will be: Mary Galinski, DPM Podiatry, and Helen Hatseras, R.D. Dietician.

Several nurses from our parish will be on hand to take blood pressure readings and glucose accuchecks.

#### Philoptohos from P.4

## Philoptohos needs you to continue its philanthropic mission

have also benefitted from proceeds of the annual fashion show.

Our volunteers serve the people of the community in the true sense of philanthropy. Philoptohos thanks those who devote their efforts as committee members and the generous donations of the parishioners who make it all possible. Your membership in Philoptohos is welcomed, and needed to continue its welfare efforts.

### Help Philoptohos by baking for the bishop!

On March 31st, Philoptohos will host the Celebration of Books reception following the lecture presented by Bishop Kallistos Ware. Your Lenten baked goods are welcome!

## Exciting March activities planned for the Adventure Theater

BY GEORGE J. DEMETRALIS  
(alias Mr. D.)

We are proud to announce that the Adventure Theater has 31 members, the most ever, eight of whom are new. They are busy rehearsing for their Easter play "The Moment Christ Died," which will be presented on Sunday, April 21st, preceded by a Lenten luncheon.

In March, the group will have a religious retreat and recreational activity (March 2nd), and a Krispy Kreme doughnut sale (March 24th). They will also begin taking reservations for their play. Please check the church bulletin for additional information.

We should all be especially proud of these kids, so here are their names: Juliana Anastasiou, Jordan Anderson, Tony and Nicky Antoniou, Natalie and John Beyer, Megan Bobis, Anthony and Alex Boutsikakis, Stephanie and Andrea Eoanou, Dino Georgakis (Director-In-Chief), George Katerinis, Jason and Briana Kush, Julia (Director) and Carl (Assistant Director) Layton, Samantha Lee and Maxx Lozano,



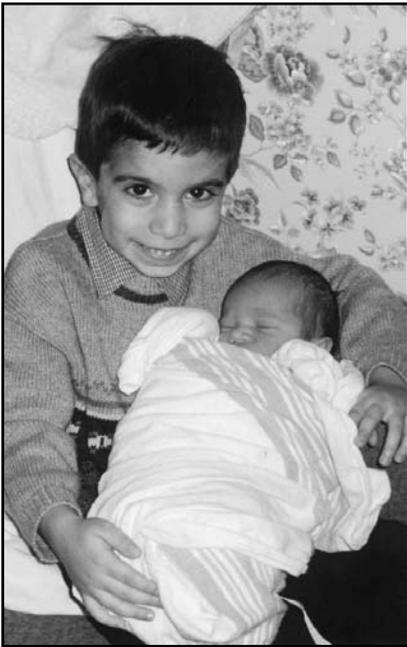
The Adventure Theater cast hams it up during a recent rehearsal.

Michael and Andrew Maragos, Andrew and John Mercouris, Hannah Milad, Andrew and Michael Pratt, Ryan Sarelas, Connie Savas, Andy Sellis, Katie Sietsema, and Marita Urban (Director).

In the classic Star Trek series, Captain James T. Kirk said that the crew of the

Enterprise was the best in the fleet. I am honored to say the same about the present Adventure Theater crew. "I'm proud to serve with you, kids. Carry on. Christ is indeed in our midst."

## Teddy gets new sister!



Congratulations to Father Peter and Presvytera Dana on the February 5th arrival of a daughter, Elena. What a wonderful, belated 4th birthday present for Teddy!

## Two books Orthodox Christians need to read

BY GEORGE J. DEMETRALIS

"And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (Jn 8:32). Seldom have I read two novels that have so illustrated these words of our Lord as *Flint's Gift* and its sequel *Flint's Truth*, both written by Richard S. Wheeler.

In *Flint's Gift*, editor and printer Sam Flint, a veteran of the Union Army, is invited to Payday, Arizona Territory, to start a newspaper. In *Flint's Truth*, he starts another newspaper in Oro Blanco, New Mexico Territory. In both books, Sam Flint and his newspapers fight against prejudice, vice, and abuse of power in two Western frontier towns. I frankly wish that more Christians could be like Sam Flint as he often risks physical harm and even death to stand up for what's right and true

and, through his editorials and honest reporting, is able to eventually rally the citizenry to action.

Both books contain very little gunplay, but have enough excitement to keep you reading late into the night.

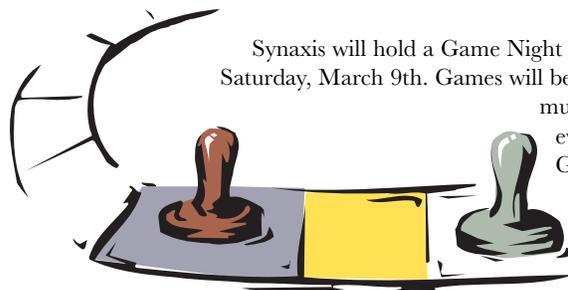
In *Flint's Gift*, Christians will not agree with the advice Sam Flint gives to the widow Merry-Grace Rakoczy. Nevertheless, Merry-Grace's dilemma sharply underscores the difficulties many widowed women often faced at that time. In *Flint's Truth*, a priest and the dying mother of a brave, twelve-year-old girl challenge the strength and sincerity of Sam Flint's Christian faith.

I've since learned that Richard Wheeler has written a sequel to *Flint's Truth* entitled *Flint's Honor*, which is on my "must read" list and hope will soon be on yours, too.

## Exciting dinner planned for Synaxis in March

Synaxis will hold a Game Night and Potluck Dinner on Saturday, March 9th. Games will be staged after dinner in the multi-purpose room. This exciting event will take place following Great Vespers.

For more information, call Terry and Mike Parafink at (630) 243-8022.





## Weekday Services

### Saturday of Souls

Saturdays March 9, 16, 23  
8:00am Orthros  
9:00am Divine Liturgy

### Sixth Hour

Monday-Friday March 18-22  
Tuesday March 26 & Thursday March 28  
at noon

### Presanctified Liturgy

Wednesdays March 20 & March 27  
6:00 pm

### Heretismi

Fridays March 22 & 29  
7:00 pm

### Annunciation Of The Virgin Mary

Monday March 25  
8:00 am Orthros  
9:00 am Divine Liturgy

### Great Vespers

Every Saturday  
5:00pm

### Holy Unction

Monday March 18  
6:00pm

### Great Compline

Monday March 25  
6:30pm

## A concert to celebrate Greek Independence

For the past 16 years, Concertante di Chicago, a professional chamber orchestra, under the direction of Hilel Kagan, has been a Chicago treasure.

On Sunday March 24th at 4:00pm, Concertante is presenting an all Greek performance that will highlight composer Mikis Theodorakis, Greece's most famous, national composer. Music by Petridis and Skalkottas will also be featured.

The concert, *Hellenic Heroes and Muses: Greece Celebrates Independence*, will take place at the DePaul University Concert Hall at 800 W. Belden in Chicago. Tickets are \$30.00 and may be reserved by calling 312-346-9006.

This should be an extraordinary event!

## Mosaic Deadline

The deadline for the April Mosaic  
is Wednesday, March 6th.

## Estate Planning

Remember Holy Apostles Church in your estate planning. If you would like additional information, please call Joe Xanthopoulos at (630) 357-0862.

## Memorials

*Georgia Ragias  
James Demetrakakes  
Lambrini Adams  
George Adams  
Louis Adams  
Antigone Kafkes  
Thomas Kafkes  
Dorothy Kotsakis  
Helen Bougadis  
Angelo Bilder  
Lelica Bilder  
James Argianas  
John Kanellakos  
James Flahos  
Elaine Karrison  
Gus Psyhogios  
Peter Georgacopulos  
Madeline Georgacopulos  
Sophia Loukas  
Tracy Kasson  
Helen Kasson  
Stephanie Vartelas  
Eleftheria Vartelas  
Theodore Theodore  
Peter Giannopoulos  
Evelyn Mitchell  
Angelo Papadourakis  
Andria Pettas*

## Funeral

*Vasilios Demopoulos*

Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church  
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(708) 562-2744

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