

# MOSAIC

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

Vol. 7, No. 10

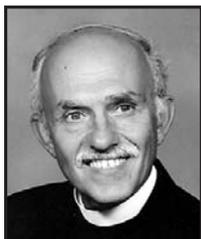
Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church 2501 S. Wolf Rd. Westchester, IL

January 2003

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From Father Bill ...



## Time Flies

Centuries ago a Roman penned two famous words: "Time flies." However, a person doesn't have to be a poet or a philosopher to know that time is always passing. The Bible has much to say about time and the fact that time is swiftly passing. Job 7:6-7 says, "My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle, and are spent without hope. Remember, O God, that my life is but a breath..."

Those words from Job took me by surprise. I had never thought of life as moving as swiftly as aboard a shuttle. Today we have the means to witness the take off of a shuttle and marvel at the speed it travels. Although Job did not have the shuttle we know in mind, I have taken the liberty of applying it to life today. At times like birthdays, anniversaries and the end of another year, we consider that life moves swiftly, perhaps becoming somewhat sentimental, but never making any changes in the direction life's journey is taking us.

During my period of recovery from open-heart surgery, I had time to read, analyze and mostly think. There were moments when I got caught up in nostalgia for the good old days and while there is nothing wrong with that, nostalgia can never be a way of life for the dedicated Christian.

Do you ever feel like you're riding on the tail end of a tornado? Ever get the idea that you're being thrown like a rag doll from one thing to the next? As I sat at home during these weeks awaiting God's healing touch to be complete, I considered how we spend so much time doing things that steal our minutes and siphon the significance from our hours. You know what I mean! Things like getting gas or a haircut, standing in line at the Department of Motor Vehicles, ironing, pay-



## Christmas Pageant brings holiday cheer to Church

After walking through a myriad of video cameras operated by proud parents, the assembled multitude sings Silent Night, above. At right, before the production begins, Kathryn Liston gets some help with her halo from her mother, Kiki Liston.



ing bills, washing stacks of dishes after endless meals, mowing the lawn, and a dozen other time-consuming tasks that must be done keep us from doing the things that make life so invigorating and fulfilling.

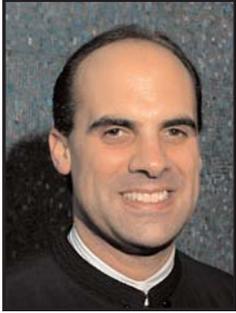
When all is said and done and someone finally closes the coffin, the average person will have spent six months waiting at stoplights, eight months opening junk mail, not to mention the e-mail on the computer screen, and five years standing in line. Think about that the next time you find yourself waiting to

buy a ticket at one of our sporting events, or for a concert, or the frequent visit to the supermarket, or a year and a half looking for car keys. As for me, I think that is a conservative estimate.

If we added the time we spend gathering dust in doctors' waiting rooms plus watching mindless television commercials and decoding the hieroglyphics we call the tax code, what's left? What significant tasks are we leaving out of the time we have? My answer would be

...See Fr. Bill on P. 3

From Father Nicholas



# Thank God For Time

Now that the holiday season is over and we have indulged ourselves, we may be saying: "I need to lose some weight." or, "I need to start exercising more often."

We are in a season of New Year's resolutions. In the beginning of the year we find ourselves reflecting, reviewing, analyzing the previous year, and planning and resolving to change our lives in the current year.

As I review and reflect on last year, I am overcome with thankfulness. The Book of Psalms reminds us, "It is good to give thanks to the Lord and to sing praises to His name." My family and I are so thankful to be a part of this wonderful, loving Holy Apostles community. We are thankful that the Lord sent us here. We thank God for the community's support, encouragement and prayers, and for Father Bill and the loving, enduring guidance he provides for us and for the community. We are thankful to be serving the community with Father Bill and Presbyteria Effie and look forward to their return. We are also thankful to Perry Hamalis and all of the wonderful work he has done with the TOTS, The Way, GOYA and the Young Adults programs this past fall. Perry eagerly took over the leadership of the youth programs to help our community.

Now that I have been assigned here, I look forward to working with the youth programs in January. We are in the process of planning some very exciting events and programs for the spring. Perry has been doing a wonderful job with the Young Adults and has graciously agreed to continue working with them.

I am thankful for the time that God grants to all of us. The Lord's great mercy granted me enough time to make the decision to fully serve the Church. His timing worked beautifully, as I was assigned to this lovely community. As I pondered and thought about last year, I could not believe how fast the year passed. It seems like yesterday that we were celebrating the 2001 New Year. Just yesterday, our son could not even walk and now he is a little boy! Our little children seem to grow up so fast. Wouldn't it be nice to slow down time?

St. Paul's letter to the Ephesians challenges us to "be careful how you live, not as unwise

## New Parish Council members elected, and incumbents return to serve another term



**George Alex**



**Don Alexander**



**John Anos**



**George Aravosis**



**James Banakis**



**George Chechopoulos**



**Terry Chiganos**



**Sandy Fiascone**



**Jim Fotopoulos**



**Nick Kirkeles**



**Peter Poteres**



**Dennis Poulos**



**Peter Tomaras**



**Steven Savas**



**Chris Zurales**

Four new stewards were elected to the Parish Council during elections conducted after the Liturgy, December 15th. 267 stewards cast ballots and elected George Aravosis, George Chechopoulos, Steven Savas, and Chris Zurales to their first terms

on the Council. They, along with the returning incumbents, are pictured above.

Many thanks to the election judges Ioanna Burtzos, Al Coulolias, and Gregory Vandarakis.

people but as wise, making the most of time."

Often we get caught up in the hustle and bustle of life and time passes us. Time is a precious gift given to us by God. If we waste time, we waste opportunities. Once a minute in time passes, it can never be recovered. We can never go back to that time again. Time is an opportunity for us to pray, to learn more

about ourselves and others, to grow in our self-control, to be kind, to help others, and to grow closer to the Lord.

Time is a precious commodity that God gives us. The Book of Proverbs reminds us that we are given time through God's great mercy for us. This passage warns us to "not ...see Fr. Nicholas on P. 3

## Small percentage of parishioners attend Annual General Assembly Meeting

The 43rd Annual Holy Apostles General Assembly Meeting was held on November 24, in the multi-purpose room, immediately following the coffee hour. Members who satisfied their pledge for 2002 or submitted a pledge for 2003 were invited to attend.

Father Nicholas Georgiou offered the opening prayer. President James Banakis gave a brief overview of the past year and a state of the community report. Banakis pointed out that despite three major capital improvements, which totaled \$350,000 last year, the state of the community is healthy. This is due primarily to the collection of \$120,000 through a special appeal to which our stewards generously responded. In addition, we had a record year of stewardship. When adjustments are made for capital expenses, our 2002 is actually running under budget through October by about \$75,000. Banakis anticipated that this amount would probably be about \$60,000 at the end of the year. He also cautioned that we must remain vigilant in order to continue this level of stewardship and community support.

Treasurer Sandy Fiascone gave her report and indicated that our cash reserves stand at \$290,000.

During 2002, there were 930 stewards who through October had pledged \$557,332 for an average of nearly \$600. Mike Stefanos, the Stewardship Chairman, reported that stewardship this year at Holy Apostles is at an all time high despite the weak economy of the nation.

Perry Hamalis, our acting Youth Director,

**Fr. Bill from P. 1**

## As long as God is on the throne, there is hope!

prayer and quality time with God.

The year 2002 has been an extremely difficult and challenging year. I discovered during a time of illness or difficulties, time seems to stand still. I can recall times this past year while I was recuperating in the hospital when the days just trudged along like tired turtles, and I wanted them to speed along like locomotives. Job was a sick man, and his situation was difficult, yet he complained that his days were moving too fast for him. In fact, that whole seventh chapter of the Book of Job deals with the swiftness of human life.

You and I should look at the swiftness in life as having a pattern and purpose. God



Don Alexander discusses parish business in front of a crowd of about fifty stewards, who represent only about five percent of Holy Apostles' 930 stewards.

told us about recent activities of the various youth groups as well as plans for activities in 2003. He indicated that the youth groups are active and growing.

Long-time Building and Grounds Chairman George Alex reviewed this year's capital improvements and discussed issues pending for the year 2003. He told the assembly that there are no capital improvements planned for the year 2003.

Ways and Means Chairman Don Alexander announced that this year's golf outing was our most successful, netting a profit for the church of nearly \$10,000.

Terry Chiganos, Chairman of Long Range Outlook Committee, discussed the opportunity of acquiring the property across the street from the church. This 1.3-acre parcel is available and the 2003 Parish Council will discuss

the merits of the acquisition.

As part of new business, Parish Council nominations were made. It was announced that the election would be held on Sunday, December 15, immediately following the Divine Liturgy. President James Banakis, nominated the following existing Council members: George Alex, Don Alexander, John Anos, Terry Chiganos, Sandy Fiascone, James Fotopoulos, Spero Kinnas, Nick Kirkeles, George Mannos, Jr. Peter Poteres, Dennis Poulos, Peter Tomares. The other candidates that were nominated were: George Aravosis, George Chechopoulos, Steve Savas, Chris Zuales, and Jimmy Zakos.

The meeting was adjourned after completion of the nominations. Perry Hamalis offered the closing prayer.

**Fr. Nicholas from P. 2**

## Use gift of time wisely

boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring." When we realize that time is a gift from God, we will treat it with respect and be thankful for it. We are reminded in the Book of James that our time on earth is like "a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes."

As we greet this New Year, hopefully we are not pessimistically saying, "Oh, another New Year." Instead, we should thank God for the time that He grants to us. We should resolve to productively utilize the time that God has given to us. As we look forward to the New Year, we should never forget God's great gift of time. Once we realize that time is a gift, we will welcome the year with great enthusiasm and thankfulness.

controls the shuttle and God has a pattern for our lives. This ought to encourage us no matter how difficult the days may be. As long as God is on the throne, there is hope!

God isn't finished with us and is helping us work toward our salvation. As you remove the days from your calendar and travel in your shuttle toward your ultimate destination, keep these things in mind: Prioritize. What we do with the time we have unveils our priorities. Plan. This might be the most important. As you have heard before, if you fail to plan, you plan to fail. Plan to listen to your Creator and to take time to pray and read His word. Remember, time flies.



Diana Dellaportas and her children Peter, Steven and Samantha Gianakas.

## Holy Apostles parishioner's story brings home the urgent need for organ donors

Holy Apostles parishioner Diana Dellaportas has a great sense of humor, always an important asset in life. But when one considers her life in the past few years, it's almost a wonder she has the ability to laugh at all. Diana lost one child at birth five years ago, won a fight with cancer about four years ago and has endured the pain of divorce.

Now, she's facing perhaps her most difficult trial: Her one remaining kidney is failing and she needs a transplant. "I've learned a lot," Diana, 43, said. "I tell my friends I could be a lawyer from what I've learned through my divorce and a doctor from what I've learned through my kidney disease."

Diana's kidney difficulties started about four years ago, when an X-ray prior to her cancer surgery revealed that infectious kidney stones had rendered her left kidney nearly useless.

After her surgery and treatments for tongue cancer, which were successful, surgeons removed the left kidney in May 2001. At that point, doctors found that the kidney

stones had damaged her right kidney severely, Diana said.

Now, that kidney is starting to malfunction and doctors say she will need a new one, although the time frame is somewhat uncertain. They had told her after her surgery that she would be in dialysis within six months. But, through discipline, exercise, strict diet and prayer, she has yet to undergo dialysis.

"I feel like this year has been a roller coaster," said Diana, a mother of three. Friends and relatives have stepped forward to donate, only to be turned away because they are not a match for Diana's blood type, which is O, or for related reasons. "It gets hard," she said. "With my three kids and all the homework, it gets hard but you've got to get up and keep going—for your kids and for yourself."

Meanwhile, she has registered on three transplant lists and is expected to be on a fourth shortly. Donating a kidney is less complicated than in years past, primarily because of advances in surgical procedures that allow donor patients to recover quickly

and lead completely normal lives.

Prayer has helped Diana and her children, Steven, 9; Samantha, 8; and Peter, 5, cope during these recent months and throughout her life. "I've always gone to church, but I think I've become a lot more at peace with myself inside that it's going to be OK," Diana said. "And, the kids keep me going."

Through it all, she remains fiercely optimistic. "You just have to be," Diana said. "I've got three kids. I thank God that I'm alive and that I'm beating all these obstacles."

Those who are interested in helping Diana can contact her through the church office.

**Editors' note:** Fr. Stanley Harakas, in *The Orthodox Church: 455 Questions and Answers*, states that while there is no official position of the church in allowing organ transplants, the donation of a kidney, because it contributes to the increasing health and well-being of the recipient, would be considered a loving deed.



At their December 8th Christmas performance, The Junior Choir sings a special *We Wish You A Merry Christmas* to Fr. Bill, who was able to watch the Liturgy, thanks to Harry Theodore who videotaped the entire service.

## January Registry

### Baptisms

None

### Weddings

None

## What's Happenin' at Holy Apostles

### Vasilopita

On January 12th following Liturgy, Philoptohos will host the annual Vasilopita Celebration in the multipurpose room. A collection will be taken to support St. Basil's Academy, which houses and educates underprivileged children.

### Senior Social

Seniors will meet on January 29 at 1 pm in the multipurpose room for "Game Day." Prizes will be awarded.

### Synaxis

Father Nicholas will address Synaxis on Saturday evening, January 25th. Potluck will be served. RSVP to Jim and Vanessa Clohessy, 630-782-9533, and let them know what you will bring. Babysitters will be available. The title of the talk is "Balancing your Marriage in Unbalanced Times."

### Godparents' Luncheon

Godparents' Luncheon on February 2nd, following Liturgy, offers an opportunity for children and adults to take communion and enjoy a meal with their godparents and godchildren. Prices are as follows: adults - \$11.00; children (ages 4-18) - \$6.00; ages 4 and under - \$2.00. Reservations will be taken in multipurpose room on Sundays leading up to the event, or call Cynthia Stathopoulos (630) 986-0630. Payment with reservation is preferred.

# Adventure Theater congratulates its newest playwright



Actors Michael Maragos and Briana Kush discuss the upcoming Christmas Party which takes place in the play.



Marita Urban, above, admires angel centerpieces from the Adventure Theater luncheon, while Andrea Eoanou, right, appears as The Angel.

## Marita Urban's play sets attendance record

On Sunday, December 8th, following a delicious luncheon, the Holy Apostles Adventure Theater presented a delightful Christmas play, "An Angel We Have Heard On High," written by 16-year-old Marita Urban. There were around 200 people present, the largest crowd ever to attend an Adventure Theater performance.

Marita is the second member of the Adventure Theater to have her play presented. Jessica Young whose play, "The Case of the Stolen Jewels," was presented in December 2000, was the first. We congratulate Marita for an excellent play, and look forward to Christmas 2003, when, God willing, we will have the opportunity to attend a play written by Michael Maragos, another member of the group.



The play's narrators, Connie Savas, Andrew Pratt, and Hannah Milad portray snowmen.

photos by Sunday Urban

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>This year, you can change your life!</b>  <i>What you are is God's gift to you,                      and what you do with what you are,                      is your gift to God.</i></p>						
<p><b>EVE OF EPIPHANY</b>                      8:00am Orthros                      9:30am Divine Liturgy                      Coffee Hour</p>	<p><b>HOLY EPIPHANY</b>                      OF OUR LORD                      8:00am Orthros                      9:00am Divine Liturgy                      5:15pm The Way</p>	<p><b>FEAST DAY OF ST. JOHN</b>                      8:00am Orthros                      9:00am Divine Liturgy                      4:30pm Greek School</p>	<p><i>New Year's Day</i>  <b>FEAST DAY</b>                      OF ST. BASIL                      10:00am Divine Liturgy</p>	<p>4:30pm Greek School</p>	<p>4:30pm Adventure Theater                      7:15pm YAL Meeting</p>	<p>4:00pm The Lamplighters</p>
<p><b>8:00am Orthros</b>  <b>9:30am Divine Liturgy</b>                      Vasilopita Celebration</p>	<p>4:30pm Greek School</p>	<p>1:00pm Adult Christian Fellowship                      And Study Group</p>	<p>1:00pm Adult Christian Fellowship                      And Study Group                      7:30pm Catechism Instruction</p>	<p>4:30pm Greek School</p>	<p><b>FEAST DAY</b>                      OF ST. ANTHONY                      8:00am Orthros                      9:00am Divine Liturgy                      4:30pm Adventure Theater</p>	<p><b>FEAST DAY</b>                      OF ST. ATHANASIOS                      8:00am Orthros                      9:00am Divine Liturgy</p>
<p><b>8:00am Orthros</b>  <b>9:30am Divine Liturgy</b>                      Coffee Hour</p>	<p>5:15pm The Way</p>	<p>9:45am TOTIS Program                      4:30pm Greek School                      7:00pm GOVA Meeting</p>	<p>1:00pm Adult Christian Fellowship                      And Study Group                      7:30pm Choir Rehearsal                      7:30pm Catechism Instruction</p>	<p>4:30pm Greek School</p>	<p>4:30pm Adventure Theater</p>	<p><b>FEAST DAY</b>                      OF ST. GREGORY                      8:00am Orthros                      9:00am Divine Liturgy                      Synaxis Pot Luck                      &amp; Presentation By                      Fr. Nicholas</p>
<p><b>8:00am Orthros</b>  <b>9:30am Divine Liturgy</b>                      Coffee Hour</p>	<p>4:30pm Greek School</p>	<p>1:00pm Seniors Social                      7:30pm Catechism Instruction                      7:30pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>FEAST DAY</b>                      OF THE THREE HIERARCHS                      8:00am Orthros                      9:00am Divine Liturgy                      4:30pm Greek School</p>	<p>4:30pm Adventure Theater</p>	<p>4:30pm Adventure Theater</p>	

## Weekday Services

### Feast Day of St. Basil

Wednesday, January 1st  
10:00am Divine Liturgy

### Holy Epiphany Of Our Lord

Monday, January 6th  
8:00am Orthros  
9:00am Divine Liturgy

### Feast Day Of St. John

Tuesday, January 7th  
8:00am Orthros  
9:00am Divine Liturgy

### Feast Day Of St. Anthony

Friday, January 17th  
8:00am Orthros  
9:00am Divine Liturgy

### Feast Day Of St. Athanasios

Saturday, January 18th  
8:00am Orthros  
9:00am Divine Liturgy

### Feast Day of St. Gregory

Saturday, January 25th  
8:00am Orthros  
9:00am Divine Liturgy

### Feast Day Of The Three Hierarchs

Thursday, January 30th  
8:00am Orthros  
9:00am Divine Liturgy

## Frick and Frack at it again!



Special Projects Operatives Extraordinaire, Jim Fotopoulos and Greg Vandarakis have finished yet another project for the church. They built a lighted decorative fence to put a more attractive face on the dumpster area.

## Memorials

*Andrew Cardaras*

*Elaine Cotsirilos*

*Andreas Paloumpis*

*Nikias Paloumpis*

*Georgia Paloumpis*

*Evon Stamos*

*Mae Stamos*

*Ann Kinnas*

*Yianni Kinnas*

*Kay Sarantopoulos*

*Paulline Vlangos*

*Gus Vlangos*

*Nicholas Gianakos*

*Agnes Papazickos*

*Dr. Christos Patsavos*

*Dr. Louis G. Poulos*

*Vasiliki Tasoulis*

*George Papazickos*

## Funeral

*August Zarcone*

## Mosaic Deadline

The deadline for the February  
Mosaic is Wednesday, January 8.

## Listen Up!

If you haven't yet submitted a  
pledge for 2003, please do it now!

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