

MOSAIC

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

Vol. 13, No. 7

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

November 2008

(708) 562-2744

www.holyapostleschurch.com

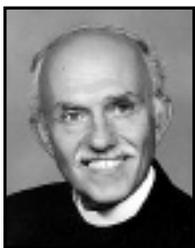


Fanari campers enjoy fellowship at the Fanari Reunion Dance held at Holy Apostles

photo by Peter Bell

From Father Bill

Traveling the corridor of time - A Plea for Porches



Now that we have designated the coming year as a celebration of our 50th anniversary since the awarding of an ecclesiastical charter to Holy Apostles, I often find myself traveling

through the corridor of time. It is always a rewarding and learning experience to reflect on how we have arrived at the present.

On a warm summer evening, Presvetera and I enjoy walking through the neighborhoods. At times we feel energized and take extended walks and literally go the extra mile to see neighborhoods, and sometimes familiar faces.

Both of us are attracted to porches. Home for me consisted of an apartment, usually in a complex with several units. In this environment, I soon became acquainted with porches and all the good folks who lived there. Those of you who were city dwellers, I am certain recall the porches in your time. Because we did not enjoy the comfort of air conditioning, we spent much of our free moments sitting on a porch. From our porch, I became acquainted with many neighbors. During the day, the sound of a man's voice pushing his cart filled with fresh vegetables and ripe fruit could be heard. The aroma and the sweetness of his fresh merchandise were always tantalizing. I often enjoyed biting into a sweet Georgia peach and Wisconsin strawberries. Soon to

follow was the man with the cart sharpening knives, always accompanied by a small monkey. The kids in the neighborhood treasured his visit and were entertained by him.

The sound of the ice cream truck ringing its bells and filling the night air with musical notes always attracted a large crowd. When we realized what was about to take place, we abandoned our game of marbles or hopscotch, and even lost sight of 'kick the can', as we ran as fast as we could to ask mom for enough money for an ice cream treat.

Afterward, most of us would gather on a neighbor's porch with a large swing that was one of the popular attractions. We sat and visited until the silence of evening was interrupt-

...See Fr. Bill on P. 6

From Father Nicholas



Giving Thanks

One afternoon a woman was shopping at the mall. She was tired from all the shopping, so she bought a small bag of chocolate chip cookies and put them in her shopping bag. She sat down at one of the crowded tables in the food court and began reading the newspaper and sipping her coffee. Across the table from her, a man was reading a magazine. After a few minutes, she reached out and took a cookie. As she took the cookie, the man sitting across from her also took a cookie out of the same bag! This really bothered the woman, but she did not say anything. A few minutes later, she took another cookie. Once again, the man took another cookie from the same bag! Although the woman was very upset, she still did not say anything. After taking a few more sips of coffee, the woman, once again, took another cookie. Again, the man took another cookie from the same bag. Now, the woman was extremely upset because she realized that only one cookie was left! Before the woman could say anything, the man took the last cookie and broke it in half. He offered her one half and ate the other half himself. The man smiled at the woman, put his magazine under his arm, and walked away. As the mad, extremely flustered woman steamed out of the food court, she folded her newspaper, opened her shopping bag, and discovered her own, unopened bag of chocolate chip cookies!

Some of us are similar to the woman in the story. God gives us gifts and blessings, and we are not aware of them. We get caught up in the day-to-day hustle and bustle of life and forget. When things seem to be going poorly in our lives, we forget to thank God for His blessings. The recent financial turmoil and uncertainty have greatly affected people. We may have a loved one that is ill or has passed away recently. Maybe our relationships with our spouse, children, or parents are challenged. When we do not receive what we want, we may get angry, scared, frightened and even upset with God. How should we treat these difficult, challenging times? Remember, the Lord uses these challenges in life to bring us closer to Him. These difficult times can be used as an opportunity to grow in our relationship with the Lord.

A beautiful story is told about a sheep that hurt its leg. The sheep limped and never wandered more than a few feet away from the shepherd. A stranger looked at the sheep and

...See Fr. Nicholas on P. 6



Gavel to Gavel



BY CHRIS ZURALES, SECRETARY

Parish Council Meeting of September 24, 2008

Present: Fr. William Chiganos, Fr. Nicholas Georgiou, George Alex, Chrysi Banakis, George Chechopoulos, Terry Chiganos, James Fotopoulos, Ted Gregory, James Kapolas, Nick Kirkeles, George T. Mannos, Stephen Melonides, Peter Poteres, Steve Savas, Peter Tomaras, and Chris Zurales. Absent: Mara Georges, Sandy Fiascone.

Financial Report

- + George T. Mannos reviewed the financial report and the bank balances as of August 31. There was a discussion regarding the significant difference in the year to date numbers on the priest pension between 2007 and 2008. It was noted that last year a correction was made in September or October that corrected the error.
- + Ted Gregory moved to approve the financial statement. The motion passed unanimously.

Stewardship

- + Stephen Melonides reported that as of August 31, the amount pledged was \$659,200.93; amount paid, \$536,195.67; amount due, \$123,005.26; amount paid in August, \$47,974.25. The number of pledges is 785; average pledge, \$839.75, percentage paid, 82%. An additional \$2,095 was collected for 2007, leaving a balance of \$9,473.96.

Correspondence

- + Chris Zurales read correspondence from: Bishop Demetrios of Mokissos who sent a greeting on behalf of His Eminence Metropolitan Iakovos for the new Ecclesiastical Year; Saint Helen Women's Philoptochos extending an invitation to a kick-off dinner for the 100th Anniversary of Ss. Constantine and Helen; Ioanna Burtzos thanking the parish for the beautiful icon that was written by Jane Fotopoulos; Holy Trinity Hellenic Orthodox Church extending an invitation to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Socrates School; Redia Degutiene, who thanked our parish for its kindness over the last three years that she assisted Sophia Petrakos; Hellenic College and Holy Cross thanking the parish for our generous commitment and support of the school.
- + Saint Demetrios Church announcing the celebration of its 80th anniversary. Peter Tomaras moved to purchase a \$75 sponsorship in their souvenir program book.

Meditation

- + Father Bill talked about our commitment and responsibilities as members of the Parish Council. We must reflect on these responsibilities and be present at as many services as possible.

Building & Grounds

- + Steve Savas reported there was some money remaining in the budget and asked if we should spend it on new chairs, which had been previously discussed.
- + Adequate donations have been received for the new landscaping project.
- + James Fotopoulos brought up retrofitting of the windows with thermopane glass. He went over preliminary estimates and various ways we could either fit the project in the budget this year or straddle it across two years. However, he cautioned that if we were going to get it done before this winter, we only have a few weeks left because temperatures will be too cold for the process that is necessary. Peter Poteres moved to authorize the expenditure of up to \$30,000 for the retrofitting of the entire church structure with thermopane glass. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business

- + Nick Kirkeles reported that the General Assembly meeting will be Sunday, October 26.
- + The Sunday School has 323 students. There are nine more students than last year. The 4th and 5th grade have been combined this year. A bell will be used for dismissal for communion and the children will come out to the parents. Three high school girls are teaching Kindergarten: Alexa Cussick, Connie Savas, and Katherine Berg. Mary Margaret Kouchis and Elesia Poteres are teaching pre-school.
- + Greek School has 96 students with 16 in kindergarten. An assistant for kindergarten is needed because 16 children at that age are a lot for one teacher to handle.
- + Nick Kirkeles announced that commitments have been made by a number of individuals to cover the mortgage of the property for the Saint Iakovos Retreat Center.

Remember!
Stewardship Sunday
is November 23.

Philoptochos will be soaring to new heights this year

Philoptochos kicked off its new year in September at the lovely Drury Lane. The theme for the year is "Soaring to New Heights." President Cathy Magas welcomed over 100 attendees, and membership is already at 140 members. She announced the goal for this year is to reach 200 members! If you haven't submitted your membership dues, please consider joining and helping us meet our goal.

Christmas Party

Get into the holiday spirit at the Annual Philoptochos Christmas Party at the church on Tuesday, December 9. The Hinsdale South High School Madrigals will entertain, and there will be delicious appetizers and dessert. In lieu of a grab bag, Philoptochos will collect new pajamas for the notable charity Pajama Program. Please watch your mail for more details.

Communion Breakfast

On Saturday, December 13, Divine Liturgy will be at 9 am followed by a Communion Breakfast and a visit from Santa. There is no charge for this popular event, but reservations will be taken starting on November 23. For more information, please contact Tina Dillon (630) 832-5652 or Anthoula Pomrening (708) 588-0258.

Holiday Bake Sale

Why bake? The Annual Holiday Bake



Seated above, board members JoAnn Stubbings, Terry Parafink, and Jennifer Govostis welcome Evelyn Paleotheodoros, left, to Membership Night.

At left, members Mary Aravosis, Betty Kass, and Helen Sakoulas enjoy fellowship.

Sale will be held on Saturday December 13 (11 a.m. to 1 p.m.) and Sunday, December 14 after Divine Liturgy. You will be able to purchase tsourekia (sweet breads), tiropetes, spanakopites, baklava, and other goodies for

the holidays. We will also accept donations of baked goods from any talented bakers in Philoptochos. Please contact Jennifer Govostis (630) 455-1388 or Eleni Poteres (630) 416-8902.

Adventure Theater Christmas Play a potpourri of emotions

Beginning on November 9 and on the three following Sundays, members of the Adventure Theater will be taking reservations in the multi-purpose room following the Divine Liturgy for its play, *Twas the Second Day of Christmas*. The play will be presented immediately following the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, December 7, preceded by a delicious luncheon. We are asking for an \$8 donation per person. You may make your reservations in person, or by contacting Mr. D. at 708-562-0869, or by e-mail: fanari@sbcglobal.net

Preview: When the Lamplighter Family moves from New York City to the town of

Christmas Tree, they fall in love with a large, old house on Mistletoe Lane. They buy it, despite the strange and mysterious fact that there is no way to the third floor. But the two Lamplighter children, Anthony and Briana, are determined to find the way.

Examining an oddity in a large mirror in the front hall, the two Lamplighter siblings discover that the mirror is actually a secret door behind which is an elevator. Will the elevator take them to the third floor? What connection does finding a way to the third floor have to Anthony and Briana's desire to give a party for the staff and children of a homeless

shelter on the second day of Christmas?

The crash landing of a Galaxy airliner near the house on Mistletoe Lane, a unique girl from the homeless shelter named Grace, an unexpected Christmas miracle, and a bit of romance provide tragedy, adventure, fun, and Christmas joy to this play, so please come. *Twas the Second Day of Christmas* promises to be among the most challenging and spiritually rewarding plays ever performed by the Adventure Theater.

...by George Demetralis, aka Mr. D.



Above, senior fellowship members Cleo Loukes, Peter Kates, and Michael Simos venerate the icon of St. John Chrysostom during a recent trip to the St. John Chrysostom monastery in Kenosha, WI. At right, the seniors enjoy refreshments and conversation at the monastery.

Fall happenings at Holy Apostles



Three Presvyteras worshipped together recently and reminisced about the early years at Holy Apostles. L-r: Presvyteras Michelle Halekakis from St. Demetrios-Libertyville, Effie Chiganos, and Maria Drossos from St. Panteleimon-Toronto, Canada.



Above, Jane Antonelli and Sophia Natiello with their sons enjoy the tailgate kickoff festivities. At right, Tom Dillon, and Norm and Anthoula Pomrening and their daughters at the buffet.



The **HARC** CORNER

**Turnaround
The Orthodox
Purpose Driven Life**
By Forrest Long

Although many Orthodox Christians know about their faith, they have no concept of how to live their lives in Christ. This book contains a practical hands-on strategy which sets out on a one month journey for spiritual renewal.

Week 1: Focusing on God, Week 2: Understanding Oneself, Week 3: Spiritual Discipline, Week 4: Ministry in Motion.

This is a roadmap to the daily stopping points that have been used for centuries, which guide the reader to the above mentioned four essential areas that will impact your spiritual development.

About the author: Forrest Long served for 28 years as a Baptist minister in Canada. He has been on a personal spiritual journey which eventually brought him in the Orthodox Church. He now attends St. Gregory the Theologian Church in Alabama, and has devoted his time to freelance writing and painting.

Softbound, \$17.00

**St. Seraphim's Beatitudes
Blessings for Our Path
to Heaven**

By Priest Daniel Marshall
Illustrations by Paul Drozdowski

This beautifully illustrated full color life of St. Seraphim of Sarov delights with inspiring stories that every young (and old) Christian will enjoy reading again and again. Short sayings patterned after the Lord's Beatitudes, present St. Seraphim's wisdom in clear, memorable phrases.

Hardbound, \$20.00

**The Illustrated Life
The Theotokos
for Children**

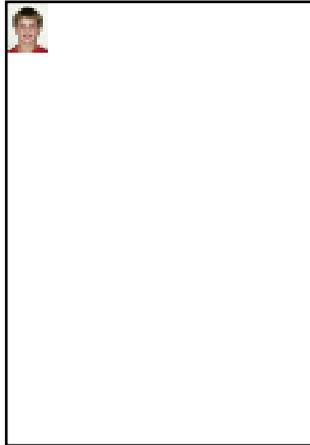
By Georgia & Helen Hronas

The authors have told the beautiful story of the Theotokos in a fascinating way that will attract and hold the attention of children of all ages as well as adults. Based on the Bible, Synaxarion, and Sacred Tradition.

Softbound, \$11.00

A wide variety of interests for November's altar boy of the month

Austin Anderson is a 7th grader at Lisle Junior High School. He was baptized at Holy Apostles and has served in the altar since



November, 2004.

Austin has great respect and admiration for Fr. Bill, Fr. Nicholas and Cots and is grateful to each of them for their encouragement and instruction.

He really enjoys coming to church early and serving at the Orthros Service and Divine Liturgy. Austin's favorite time in altar is during Holy Lent, especially Holy Friday. He has made many good friends in the last four years.

His favorite sports are football, baseball and hockey, and he is a loyal Cubs and Bears fan. His hobbies include: golfing, cooking, bike riding, playing baseball and football, swimming, and ice skating. Austin has gone on several 25 mile bike rides. One memorable bike ride was this past year with his papou, Jim Bobis, and Father Nicholas, when they got lost.

This summer he enjoyed: two weeks of camping, trips to the Indiana Dunes and Wisconsin Dells, a white-water rafting trip, watching fireworks at Lake Michigan, and seeing the Cubs win their Division.

Austin is a great person to have in the altar. He is very attentive and is always looking to do things. He enjoys cutting bread, cleaning, taking the censer out for memorials and setting up for baptisms. He is also a great help during the period of Lent. When you ask Austin to do something, it is always taken care of. Each time he is in the altar, I sense his respect and love for God.

...by Michael Cotsilis

**A recommendation
by Mr. D for a book
of faith about
marines in battle**

I highly recommend *A Table in the Presence*, by Carey H. Cash. Lieutenant Cash was chaplain for the men of the First Battalion, Fifth Marine Regiment, during Operation Iraqi Freedom, April 2003.

In his book, he describes preparations leading up to the battle for Baghdad and specifically, the battle for Saddam Hussein's presidential palace. Chaplain Cash tells how God showed His presence, sometimes miraculously, among the men for whom he was responsible.

You probably didn't hear the stories he relates in TV and radio news reports from that time; nevertheless, they are true.

The book discusses the power of prayer and its affects, as well as vividly describing how the lives of many marines were changed as they turned to Christ.

You will accompany the marines as they go into battle and are saved from certain death by events which can only be characterized as miraculous. I guarantee that *A Table in the Presence* will serve as a beacon of hope in these troubled and uncertain times.

...by Mr. D.

Registry

Baptisms

Dimitrios, son of
Anastasia Kolovos
Sponsors: Dr. Angela Bicos
& Dr. John Kiriklakis

Mia, daughter of
Lori & Dan Niforatos
Sponsors: Maria & Ken Johnsen

Andrew, son of
Enida & Leonardos Fili
Sponsor: Thanasi Hilaris

Jenna, daughter of
Christalla & George Pentaris
Sponsors: Dr. Terry Chiganos Jr.
& Deanne Demitropoulos

Andrew, son of
Jennifer & William Cardaras
Sponsor: Andrew Cardaras

Wedding

Joanne Brales & John Panopoulos
Sponsor: Nick Tsagalis

Fr. Bill from P. 1

If you build a porch, they will come

ed with the shouts of mothers calling to the children to come home. What warm and happy memories.

As I look back in time, I realize one of the keys that contributed to these unforgettable moments was the porch. I am excited when I see new subdivisions with homes that include porches as part of the completed houses. With the addition of porches, we once again can begin to talk with each other.

To do better, churches need to provide porches. Although disappearing in many American homes, porches are the link to improved communication. As in years past, they are an intermediate ground in which people who live in the house come out and can be seen and talked to by passersby. It may seem risky to go into someone's house but easier to talk to them on their porch. Indeed, most people when invited, will go onto a porch and speak with people who ask them to come.

Such a safe intermediate ground is exactly what parishes need to provide. What will it look like? One example is the fellowship hour following the Liturgy, an essential instrument of caring and sharing. Another example of the porch in the church would be home bible study groups. A decade ago regular meetings took place in homes affording the opportunity to dialogue, read and study God's word and express love in God's name. Even the narthex is a place where people gather, light their candles, venerate holy icons and exchange greetings with fellow worshippers.

When we began our church 50 years ago, we felt comfortable when we attended the first liturgy at Nixon School. At the conclusion of the Liturgy, and during the distribution of the antithoron, the handshakes were cordial, the words, sometimes brief, were always sincere and definitely filled with love, because we passed through the church's porch. In this manner, doors were opened to strangers and visitors, and the church was introduced to those who visited. The porch allowed the few who considered themselves non-members to participate.

The most important act was the fulfillment of St. Paul's exhortation to "greet all the brethren with a holy kiss" (1 Thessalonians 5:26). This is the kind of an environment in which someone wrestling with faith may find inviting.

Jesus told us to be fishers of men and women. In order to be effective at fishing, you need to have the right timing and the right bait. That means providing porches where fish and bait can come together. May God grant us energy and creativity to provide such environments in our parish in the future.



Hats off to Philoptochos' for a huge success

Above, Michael Dorner, George Alex, and Andrew Poteres try to look sophisticated prior to walking the runway at the fashion show. At right, Philoptochos board members model their hats before the fashion show.

Fr. Nicholas from P. 2

Heed St. Paul's message: In all things, be thankful

asked, "Why is the sheep limping?" "Why doesn't the sheep ever leave the shepherd's side?" The shepherd explained that the sheep was partially deaf and could not hear his voice so it was always walking into danger. Many times the sheep was rescued from near disaster. The shepherd finally decided to inflict an injury on the sheep's leg. The sheep limped, but it stayed closer to the shepherd for protection and guidance. God allows His sheep to experience certain difficult situations (limps) in life to be used as an opportunity to grow closer to Him. St. Paul's 2nd letter to the Corinthians states: "Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me but He said to me: My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness...For Christ's sake I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties, For when I am weak, then I am strong." St. Paul had a "limp" and God did not remove it. God's love allowed the pain to remain to keep St. Paul "limping" at the Shepherd's side,

where he could find strength for his weakness. God's purpose in adversity is to make us lean more on His saving arm. Our spiritual strength or power lies in our crying out to God for help.

At every Divine Liturgy, the priest prays the Anaphora Prayer. This is a beautiful prayer of thanksgiving to God for all that He has done for us. It helps us put our problems in perspective. First, we thank God for bringing us "into being out of nothing." Then we thank God because when we fell "He raised us up again." We thank the Holy Trinity "for all things that we know and do not know, for blessings seen and unseen that have been bestowed upon us." Lastly, the prayer offers thanks for the Liturgy which we are able to celebrate.

This Thanksgiving, despite the difficult physical, emotional, or financial situations we are experiencing, we are reminded: "in everything give thanks." (1 Thessalonians 5:18).

Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church **November 2008** 2501 S. Wolf Rd. Westchester, Illinois

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

<p>8:00am Orthros 9:15am Awaken To God 9:30am Divine Liturgy Fellowship Hour DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS</p>	<p>5:15pm The Way</p>	<p>ELECTION DAY NO GREEK SCHOOL 10:00am TOTS 7:30pm GOYA Meeting</p>	<p>1:00pm Adult Christian Fellowship And Study Group Bible Study 7:30pm Catechism Instruction 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>4:30pm Greek School</p>	<p>4:30pm Adventure Theater</p>	<p>4:00pm Altar Boy Meeting 5:00pm Vespers</p> <p>FEAST DAY OF ST. MICHAEL 8:00am Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy</p>
<p>8:00am Orthros 9:15am Awaken To God 9:30am Divine Liturgy Fellowship Hour</p>	<p>5:15pm The Way</p>	<p>10:00am Clergy Synodimos Mtg. 4:30pm Greek School</p>	<p>1:00pm Adult Christian Fellowship And Study Group Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>FEAST DAY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM 8:00am Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 4:30pm Greek School</p>	<p>4:30pm Adventure Theater</p>	<p>5:00pm Vespers 6:00pm Family Synaxis</p>
<p>ELEVATION OF THE CROSS 8:00am Orthros 9:15am Awaken To God 9:30am Divine Liturgy Fellowship Hour</p>	<p>5:15pm The Way</p>	<p>10:00am TOTS 4:30pm Greek School 7:30pm GOYA Meeting</p>	<p>11:30am Adult Christian Fellowship At Drury Lane 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>4:30pm Greek School</p>	<p>PRESENTATION OF THE THEOTOKOS 8:00am Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 4:30pm Adventure Theater</p>	<p>6:00pm Family Synaxis</p>
<p>STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY 8:00am Orthros 9:15am Awaken To God 9:30am Divine Liturgy Greek School Bake Sale</p>		<p>FEAST DAY OF ST. CATHERINE 8:00am Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 4:30pm Greek School</p>	<p>EVE OF THANKSGIVING 6:00pm Divine Liturgy</p>	<p>THANKSGIVING DAY</p>	<p>Church Office Closed</p>	<p>6:00pm Family Synaxis</p>
<p>FEAST DAY OF ST. ANDREW 8:00am Orthros 9:15am Awaken To God 9:30am Divine Liturgy Fellowship Hour</p>	<p>In everything, give thanks!</p>	<p>For all that God in mercy gives, For health, and children, home and friends; For comfort in the time of need, For every kindly word or deed,</p>	<p>For happy thoughts and holy talk, For guidance in our daily walk- In everything, give thanks. Author unknown</p>			

In everything,

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For all that God in mercy gives,
 For health, and children, home and friends;
 For comfort in the time of need,
 For every kindly word or deed,

For happy thoughts and holy talk,
 For guidance in our daily walk-
 In everything, give thanks.
 Author unknown

Memorials

*Gus Ardamis
Demetra Booras
Constance Patsavos
Helen Mehilos
John Arnos
Eleftheria Pantelis
John Pantelis
Maria Anagnostopoulos
Peter Anagnostopoulos
Jean Maropoulos
Rita Chulos
John Chulos
Pauline Athas
James Athas
George Athas
James Carres
Sophia Petrakos
Harry Petrakos*

Funerals

George Demes

Weekday Services

Vespers

Saturday, November 1
Saturday, November 15
5:00pm

Feast Day Of St. Michael

Saturday, November 8
8:00am Orthros
9:00am Divine Liturgy

Feast Day Of St. John Chrysostom

Thursday, November 13
8:00am Orthros
9:00am Divine Liturgy

Weekday Services

Presentation Of The Theotokos

Friday, November 21
8:00am Orthros
9:00am Divine Liturgy

Feast Day Of St. Catherine

Tuesday, November 25
8:00am Orthros
9:00am Divine Liturgy

Eve Of Thanksgiving

Wednesday, November 26
6:00pm Divine Liturgy

Mosaic Deadline

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

Shop early in HARC

Gift items for the holidays will be available in the Resource Center beginning Sunday, November 16. Come shop for our new Christmas ornaments, Advent calendars, Christmas cards, bejeweled crosses, baby gifts, Christmas CD's, icons and our wonderful selection of books. Stop in after Liturgy on Sunday and during the week Monday-Friday.

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