

MOSAIC

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

Vol. 13, No. 8

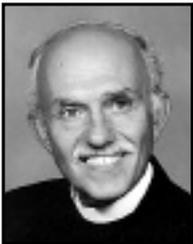
Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church 2501 S. Wolf Rd. Westchester, IL

December 2008

(708) 562-2744

www.holyapostleschurch.com

From Father Bill



Anticipating the Best

Just before Christmas, I took a moment to test some pupils' responses to the following incomplete sentence. On the chalkboard I wrote, "Christmas is..." and then I asked each pupil to complete the sentence by supplying one word. "Christmas is..." The first response was "presents." So I wrote it on the chalkboard: p-r-e-s-e-n-c-e; presence. "That's not what I meant," the pupil explained. "Oh," I asked, "what did you mean? What's wrong?" "That's not the way to spell it," the pupil continued. "Yes it is," I continued. "P-R-E-S-E-N-C-E Presence!" "But I meant the other," the youngster insisted, "I meant gifts."

So I erased the last two letters from the word I had written, and in place of c-e, I wrote t-s, presents. Christmas is presents!

Of course, both of us were right. Christmas is gifts-presents and Christmas is incarnation-presence. My question is then and now, which comes first?

We have arrived at the season of anticipation. Children anticipate Christmas and presents. Adults anticipate family gatherings and other festive get-togethers, and students away at school anticipate getting home for the holidays. We all anticipate warm, meaningful moments in worship, the joy of singing the carols of Christmas, the emotional heights of a Christmas Eve candlelight service and listening to the beautiful voices of the choir.

But then, isn't all of life filled with anticipation? Business people anticipate what will sell, fashion designers anticipate what people will wear, television programmers anticipate what people will watch, investors anticipate the stock market, the Cubs fans anticipate winning a championship, and the sick anticipate get-



Presvytera Michelle teaches TOTS toddlers at a recent class.

ting well. We anticipate our way through our days, and life would lose much of its luster were it not for the capacity to anticipate.

Anticipation is two-directional: one can anticipate the best or anticipate the worst.

An illustration of how some people anticipate the worst is the story of a man driving home late one night who had a flat tire. He was out in the country on a lonely dirt road and to compound matters, he discovered his jack was missing. Looking down the road, he made out the darkened shadow of a farmhouse and, thinking he might be able to borrow a jack, started walking toward the house. As he walked he got to thinking: "Here it is one o'clock in the morning; I'm probably going to make that fellow angry knocking on his door at this hour." He kept on walking toward the house and another thought hit him: "He'll probably be so mad that even if he has a jack he won't let me use it." Finally he reached the farmhouse and knocked on the door. The farmer came to the door and the motorist shouted, "Keep your old jack!"

The way it goes in Isaiah 35, the Old Testament reading for this Advent Season, is upward and onward. The chapter is a poem

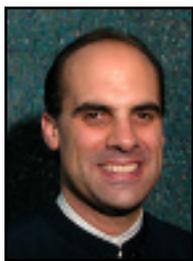
anticipating Zion's happy future when "The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad the desert shall rejoice and blossom..."

The Bible refers throughout to the coming kingdom of God. This is its dominant theme. The gospel, especially, depends upon the realization of the Kingdom of God. Thus, anticipation and hope leads one to the center of Christian affirmation. After all, isn't Christian salvation based on anticipating that Christ will come again? And doesn't this anticipation and aspiration compel the believer to envision the future expectantly?

Let us anticipate that the gift of Christmas will transform our thinking, our world and the manner in which we live. Let us anticipate the change that occurred that holy night on the hills of Bethlehem. Change came to the shepherds who witnessed the angels singing and glorifying God for this great event. The shepherd's life after that first Christmas could never be the same. They took the divine glory of the manger back to the daily grind of shepherding. We read, not merely that they returned, but that they "returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they

...See Fr. Bill on P. 4

From Father Nicholas



Journeying Through Life

Our family began a new family tradition last year. Sometime during the Christmas season, we watch the movie "It's a Wonderful Life". George Bailey is a softhearted owner of a savings and loan company. On Christmas Eve, he learns that his company is short money for which he may have to go to jail. The normally happy, go-lucky George believes that he has done nothing. He thinks he has no money, no hope and no prospects to keep the savings and loan open. George goes to a bridge and contemplates jumping. Just then, an angel appears and takes George on a journey through his entire life. He sees and realizes all of God's blessings throughout his life. George remembers his brother, wife, children, and all his friends and the powerful ways he has impacted many people's lives. At the end of the journey, he yells to the angel, "Take me back, take me back to my life."

The Gospel account of Christ's Nativity details a different journey. It chronicles the journey of Mary, Joseph and Jesus. If we could go back 2,000 years to the first Christmas, we would hear a variety of sounds. Sounds of animals feeding in the cave, the angels singing on high, and excited shepherds coming to see the baby Jesus in the manger. But, the sounds of soldiers and cries of children and of mothers trying to protect their male children soon replaced those happy, excited sounds. We read in the Gospel account that an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said: "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt and stay there until I bring word." After all this Holy family had been through, they had to flee to Egypt – another journey!

Just like the Holy Family, our life's journeys can be filled with roadblocks and detours. The Theotokos' pregnancy was difficult. She and Joseph were betrothed – not married. Just when Joseph was ready to call the whole thing off, the angel appeared and explained the situation. Surely, Mary was hassled as an unwed mother. The Emperor demanded that every person return to their birthplace to pay a new tax. They arrived at Joseph's birthplace, 100 miles away, and experienced another roadblock. No room at the inn. Joseph and Mary settled for the only accommodations available: a cave. In this stark place, surrounded by stinking animals, with no doctors or nurses, Mary gave birth! Everything



Gavel to Gavel



BY STEVE SAVAS

Parish Council Meeting of October 16, 2008

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

Financial Report

✦ George T. Mannos reviewed the financial reports and bank balances dated September 30. Jim Fotopoulos moved to approve the financial statements dated September 30 subject to year end review. The motion passed unanimously.

Stewardship

✦ As of September 30, the amount pledged was \$668,580.93; amount paid, \$565,246.92; amount due, \$103,334.01; amount paid in September, \$29,201.25. The number of pledges is 808; average pledge, \$827.45; percent paid, 85%.

Correspondence

✦ George T. Mannos read correspondence from OCMC thanking the parish for our support of the Children's Home of Hope in Albania.

Meditation

✦ Fr. Bill told the story of the centurion Longinos, who is celebrated on October 16. He was the centurion who said during the crucifixion of Christ "truly he is the son of God."

✦ Fr. Bill also talked about our church beliefs or "our statement of faith". When people ask, "what do you believe in your church?" we respond with the meaning of

seemed to be fine until the angel appeared and told them to flee to Egypt. How would we respond in this situation? Maybe we would say: "Lord, enough is enough." Or, "Lord, why don't you kill Herod and spare us the hassle - haven't we been through enough?" Over and over again, Joseph and Mary endured setbacks and roadblocks for the sake of the Baby. If this happened to the Holy Family, can we expect anything different in our lives?

One thing was very apparent in their journey. For every hassle or hurt they experienced, God provided them help. He sent angels to explain what he was doing. God provided them the means to get to Bethlehem. He even saved space in a cave. Over and over again, this journey story shows us that God provides help in dealing with setbacks. He will

the Creed. The creed is our statement of faith, as this is how we should live our lives. "We must all walk in our faith as examples to others and for our own fulfillment".

Building & Grounds

✦ Jim Fotopoulos reported that the window project has been underway for about a week. An outside source is coming in to look at the sound system in the multi-purpose room.

Ways & Means

✦ Steve Savas reported that 338 people attended the tailgate party and the food was exceptional. \$4,044 was donated with a net of \$3,200. Many thanks to all the many people who helped out.

✦ A special thank you to George and Karen Mannos of the Exchequer Restaurant, for their many donations and tireless efforts on putting on such an affair.

Demographics

✦ George Alex reported that the report would be 90% complete for the General Assembly meeting.

50th Anniversary

✦ Sandy Fiascone reported that the Dinner Dance Committee met with the banquet facility and some special packages will be put together in the next month. We are also looking for sponsors to help offset the cost of the dinner dance so we may include all people of all ages for this very special occasion.

New Business

✦ Parish Council elections will be held December 14. See slate on page 3.

give us what we need. God does not save us from every pothole but provides the grace to keep going. Although He may not wipe out our enemies or people that threaten us, He will guide and protect us. As we struggle in life's journey, filled with hassles, roadblocks and potholes, remember God is full of help. Psalm 46 reminds us: "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear."

Despite hurts and hassles, God gives us hope. Another group that traveled was the wise men. They traveled for days following the star in the East until they finally found the Christ child. The wise men rejoiced and fell down and worshipped the Lord. They were filled with hope and brought gifts of gold,

...See Fr. Nicholas on P. 6

Philoptochos updates

Fashion Show Charitable Recap

This year's two beneficiaries Community Health and Hellenic Family and Community Services, received \$10,000 from the show's proceeds. The Fashion Show Committee would like to thank the Gold and Bronze Sponsors, the patrons, and all the generous donors who helped to make this event successful by allowing us to spread good will throughout our community.

Gold Sponsors

Dr. Pat, Lara, Steven and Clara Pappas
John and Lily Mathews and families

Bronze Sponsors

Mr. & Mrs. Daniel McKay
Mrs. Elaine Pappas
Mark A. Kaufman / Athletico
Anthoula Pomrening / McDonnell
Boehnen Hulbert & Berghoff LLP
Helene Zarcone
Penelope Maduros Egerter – In memory of her mother Diana Maduros and husband Robert Egerter
The Theotikos Family – George, Lena Demetra, Gregory and Nikolas
Kathy Stratton
Don & Jody Alexander / Don Alexander Investments Inc.
Michelle Dukler and The Grove, Inc.

Communion Breakfast

On Saturday, December 13, Divine Liturgy will be at 9am followed by a



Tessie Andreakis, Chrysi Banakis, Anthoula Pomrening, and Chrisie Alex collect clothing donated by parishioners for Poised for Success.

Communion Breakfast and a visit from Santa. There is no charge for this popular event, but reservations will be taken. 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 Sale will be held on Saturday, December 13 (11am to 1pm) 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 our talented bakers in Philoptochos. Please contact Jennifer Govostis (630) 455-1388 or Eleni Poteres (630) 416-8902.

Vasilopita Celebration

On Sunday, January 11 there will be a special fellowship hour celebrating the 50th Vasilopita Celebration for Holy Apostles. This will be the first event in 2009, the 50th year for our church, and we look forward to everyone's participation in this memorable event.

by JoAnn Stubbings

Parish Assembly Meeting highlights and Parish Council slate

President Nick Kirkeles told the assembly that the church is fiscally sound. George Mannos, Jr. reported that the Council has worked hard to stay within its budget. Ted Gregory reported that the number of pledges has increased over the past year by 11. The average pledge is \$827.

Fr. Bill reported that the average attendance in Sunday school is 176. March 15-22 is the Celebration of Books. Parea and the Seniors Group are going strong. He thanked Joan Berg and Barbara Pappas and the Mosaic staff for their contributions.

Fr. Nicholas reported on youth groups. TOTs has about 20-25 children participating. The Way, GOYA, YAL and Family Synaxis are going well. VBS had 120 children. The 5K Run raised approximately \$20,000. There are 35 altar boys.

James Fotopoulos reported that new projects will cost about \$74,000. There is a long range plan for a new organ, which will cost \$25,000-\$30,000. Nick Kirkeles thanked Jim and Gregory Vandarakis (aka Frick and Frack)

for their hard work.

Steve Savas reported that the Macaronatha luncheon had over 338 people this year; the golf outing, 126 people; the picnic about 200-230 people.

50th Anniversary event planning is well under way. The Tailgate Party, had 342 attendees. The luncheon, golf outing and tailgate party generated over \$73,000.

Peter Poteres stated that Greek School, under new principal Agiro Tobasi, has approximately 100 students and is operating without a deficit. Sunday school has an enrollment of about 329 with a staff of 23 and costs \$20 per student. All grades are receiving music instruction under the direction of Bette Schieber. High school students are assisting in teaching Sunday school. There is electronic communication via email to parents.

Sandy Fiascone reported that the multi-purpose room renovation cost about \$242,000 and that artwork is needed. There will be a wall dedicated to past presidents of the parish and Philoptochos.

Nick Kirkeles put the following names into nomination for the Council: George Alex, Chrisie Banakis, George Chechopoulos, Terry Chiganos, Sandy Fiascone, Jim Fotopoulos, Mara Georges, Jim Kopolas, George Mannos, Jr., Steve Melonides, Peter Poteres, Steve Savas, Peter Tomaras; judges, Greg Vandarakis, Ioanna Burtzos, Al Cololias. Nominated from the floor: Paul Kallis, Michael Parafink, Tom Gregory.

Help feed the homeless

Last year some parishioners prepared and delivered meals to the BEDS shelter site at the First Congregational Church in Brookfield on the 4th Friday of each month. BEDS is a coalition of faith communities and caring individuals who provide overnight shelter and meals to the homeless people of west suburban Cook County. This year we will provide meals on the following Fridays: December 26, January 23, February 27, March 27, and April 24. If you would like to participate, please call Stacy Kinnas at 630-325-4979.

A home away from home at NIU for Orthodox students needs your help

The OCF (Orthodox Christian Fellowship) at NIU is currently renting a home in DeKalb for Orthodox students. Katie Sietsema, from Holy Apostles is already living there with five other students.

Fr. Chris Webb, the priest at St. George in DeKalb, is the spiritual advisor to the NIU OCF, although it is not yet a formal assignment. Orthodox students are welcome at the house virtually anytime, provided a resident is at home to let them in. This fall, the residents are hosting backyard bonfires every Thursday evening for all students, and on Sunday afternoons Fr. Chris visits, along with OCF faculty advisor Katherine Wright at 148 N. Third St., DeKalb, IL 60115.

The national OCF Executive Director, Fr. Kevin Scherer has recommended that a House Board be established to set policies, and is looking for interested persons to serve on the Board.

Now the OCF needs to raise \$9,000 by January 1 for a down payment in order to actually begin purchasing the house. They would be happy to name rooms after donors or saints, or in memory of a loved one. All donations are tax deductible. Please make checks out to NIU OCF, and send to Dr.

Fr. Bill from P. 1

Remember His presence while you enjoy your presents

had heard and seen." That was a mountain-top spiritual experience that we may anticipate for us. We are to become ambassadors for our King in the workshop, in the office, and on the construction site. We are not to hide our light in the marketplace or in the home.

We should anticipate the birth of Christ and when Christmas arrives, focus on the true meaning of the event: the P-R-E-S-E-N-C-E and the P-R-E-S-E-N-T-S.



This house in DeKalb houses six Orthodox NIU students, including Katie Sietsema.



Katie Sietsema, center, chats with the U.S. ambassador from Cyprus, Andreas Kakouris during his recent campus visit.

Katherine Wright, OCF Faculty Advisor.

Any items from the "wish list" would also be greatly appreciated. Dr. Spero Kinnas at Holy Apostles is working on transporting donations to the house. Please contact Holy Apostles church office, if you have items to donate. This is a great opportunity to support a mission in our own back yard.

OCF NIU Wish List

- Icons
- Chapel items
- Orthodox books
- 4-cup drip coffee maker
- large urn-type coffee maker
- small sleeper-sofa
- small flat-screen TV
- vacuum cleaner
- towels and bed linens
- furniture
- lamps
- dishes and silverware
- environmental-friendly
- cleaning products
- garage sale items
- monetary donations in any amount



Greek School teachers such as Gigi Trulis, above, and PTO members, manage to turn a pre-kindergarten Greek language class into a fun experience at its social.

The HARC CORNER

Your Baby's Baptism in the Orthodox Church

By Anthony M. Coniaris

As a parent, you have just given birth to a child. It's truly a blessed feeling to know God has made you a co-creator with Him of a new life. The purpose of this book is to help you take an active part in your child's baptism and his new life in Christ as he becomes a member of God's family.

Included are helpful sections which explain why baptism, what is baptism, the role of sponsors and what godparents bring to the service, scripture readings and a very interesting and inspiring selection on what the early Church fathers say about baptism.

Your child will have many teachers and priests as he goes through life, but the most important teacher from whom he will learn life's most lasting lessons is you, the parent. The book will call on you to assume your God-given responsibility as an Orthodox Christian parent in the religious upbringing of your child.

Softcover, \$12.00

Still my Grandma

By Veronique Van de Abeele
Illustrations by Claude K. Dubois

Over the years, Camille and her grandma have a special friendship. But one day, Grandma forgets Camille's name. With charming, sensitive illustrations, this story gently introduces young readers to the realities of Alzheimer's disease and reminds them that love is more powerful than any illness.

Hardbound, \$16.00

The Jesus Prayer and Me

By Vasiliki Tsigas-Fotinis, Ph.D.

This book is written to introduce children to one of Orthodox Christianity's shortest prayers. This beautifully colored illustrated book takes a child through the actions of a day by emphasizing the opportunities to love and praise God by repeating the Jesus prayer.

Softcover, \$13.00

Athletic honor student feels fortunate to serve in the altar

Rigas Pappas has been an altar boy for the past five years. He is an eighth grader at Butler Junior High School, where is an honor student and a member of the cross-country and basketball teams.



He is also a member of the Holy Apostles basketball team. He participates each year in the 5K race, where the proceeds benefit The Philoxenia House in Minnesota. He has been very active in The Way and enjoys listening to and

looks up to Mr. D. He enjoys talking sports and school happenings.

Rigas also participates in the Oratorical Festival at Holy Apostles and looks forward to participating this coming year. He enjoys making friends in the altar and looks forward each year to Holy Week and Easter. Rigas always enters the altar with respect and a smile. He is always willing to step in and do whatever it takes. Rigas feels very fortunate to have the chance to serve with Fr. Bill, Fr. Nicholas and Cots.

He is a pleasure to have in the altar, and I can see the love he has for church and the honor he feels serving the Lord. It is something I witness each Sunday.

by Michael Cotsilis

Mr. D reveals all about the Magi

The King James Version, the New King James Version, and the Revised Standard Version of the Bible translate the Greek word "Magi" (Mt. 2:1) with the words "wise men," while the Good News Bible has "some men who studied the stars." The New English Bible has the word "astrologers."

According to the Greek historian Herodotus, who lived from c.484 to c.420 B.C., and other ancient sources, the Magi were reputed to be wise teachers, physicians, soothsayers, interpreters of dreams and messages of the gods, priests of the Medes and Persians, and practitioners of magical arts. They studied the movements of the stars and planets, and believed that unusual signs in the heavens foretold important future events.

After leaving Jerusalem, the Magi traveled approximately six miles to Bethlehem, with the star coming to rest over the house where the Child, His mother Mary, and Joseph were staying. And when they saw the Child, they fell down and worshipped Him, offering the gifts they had brought for Him—gold, frankincense, and myrrh (Mt. 2:9-11). The fact that the Magi found the child Jesus in a house, not a manger (Lk. 2:7) suggests that at some point after Jesus was born, Joseph managed to find a house in Bethlehem for Jesus, Mary, and himself. Although the Bible does not tell us how much time elapsed between the birth of Christ and the visit of the Magi. Some say that their visit occurred after the holy family's journey to the temple at Jerusalem 40 days after Christ was born.

As for the star the Magi followed, it may have been formed by a conjunction of the planets Jupiter and Saturn or Jupiter, Saturn, and Mars in the constellation Pisces, or the conjunction of Mercury, Venus, and Mars, or

that it was perhaps a nova. Orthodox Christian scholars, on the other hand, with whose opinions I concur, believe that although the Christmas star may have begun as a natural phenomenon, it was a supernatural star which led the Magi from Jerusalem to Bethlehem and "came and stood over where the young Child was" (Mt. 2:9).

Finally, though the Magi were Gentiles and not Jews, they had to have had enough knowledge of the One True God to heed His warning in a dream (especially since each one of them had the same dream) "not to return to Herod." Therefore, they returned to their country by another route (Mt. 2:12).

As for which country the Magi came from, St. Justin and others are of the opinion that the Magi came from Arabia, which in today's geography, is approximately the area comprising the countries of Jordan, Syria, Saudi Arabia, and Iraq. On the other hand, some believe that they came from Chaldea (Iraq in today's geography), while St. John Chrysostom, who lived from 347 to 407 A.D., says they came from Persia, today's Iran.

In conclusion, many see the Magi's desire to find and subsequently pay homage to the Christ Child as representing the Gentile or non-Jewish world, while the visit to the manger by the shepherds (Lk. 2:8-20) as representing the Jewish people. One might also say that the shepherds represented the uneducated of the world while the Magi represented the educated. Therefore, the message remains the same today as two thousand years ago:

Whether one is educated or not, cultured or not, gentry or commoner, rich or poor, let all come to Christ and worship Him. He will turn none away.

Memorials

Demetra Zurales
Nicholas Sahlas
Vasiliki Karegianes
Doukisa Gialourakis
Nicholas Gialourakis
Cosmas Koutsis
George Demes
Joseph Siambanes
John Kamenko
Demetri Vandarakis
Efthia Deimer
Perry Deimer
Diamanto Vandarakis
Evangelos Vandarakis
Anastasios Siasios
Paraskevi Apostolakis
Chrisoula Limber
Reveka Zaharopoulos
Jennie Jumes
Beulah Savakis
Helen Sfikas
Michael Sfikas
Georgia Ladas
Peter Ladas
Stanley Malleris
Anna Malleris
Louis Malleris
Christopher Malleris
Frank Malleris
George Kosmopoulos
Elene Kosmopoulos
Florence Kosmopoulos
Peter Malevitis
George Chiampas
Theodore Mavrick

Funeral

Nicholas Svarkonis

Registry

Baptisms

None

Wedding

Marcella Hahn & Mark Fikaris
 Sponsor: Billy Chiganos



Potential future caterers don aprons to prepare a fine dinner with no leftovers.

Altar boys are cooking with Cots

The altar boys participated in the 2nd Annual "Cooking with Cots" class on Saturday, November 1. They prepared a dinner they chose and helped serve and clean up. After last year's class, there was interest in cooking and doing another class, since they were eager to learn more. They learned how to use a knife, clean-as-you-go, wash hands at all times and other skills of the kitchen. During this session they prepared roast loin of pork with gravy, mashed potatoes, carrots, salad, a delicious chocolate frosted cake, apple/raisin relish flamed with brandy, and beverage. They arrived at 4:00 pm and started to peel potatoes, carrots, and apples. They then proceeded to cut the vegetables and fruits while others prepared the cake. They all pitched in to cut and wash the lettuce, while Cots was cooking the roast pork. Then they served at vespers at 5:00 pm and invited everyone in attendance to join them for dinner. Some parents came and the whole evening was wonderful. The food was out-

Fr. Nicholas from P. 2

Leave old fears and sins behind during Advent

frankincense and myrrh. When they learned of King Herod's plot to kill baby Jesus, they did not come back to Jerusalem but departed for their own country. They departed by a different route. The wise men encountered Christ and were changed. What they experienced in the manger changed their lives. No one who meets Christ with an open heart returns the same way they came. Our motives, values and attitudes are no longer the same. The old way of life is not satisfying. At

standing, and there was nothing left!

The boys were very attentive and eager to help. I am very proud that they took time out on a beautiful Saturday afternoon to come to church and not only participate in vespers but also the cooking lesson. The boys who came and can be hired out to cater your next party are: Peter & Spiro Kass, Peter Savas, Michael Dorner, Nicholas Trivelas, Peter Dimas, James Georgiou, Michael Fikaris, Jeremy & Justin Glananovits, Vaios Karagiannis, Stephen & Ethan Parafink and Peter Stubbings.

I would also like to give a big "thanks" to the parents who attended and stayed to help clean-up the pots and pans. Without their continued support, we cannot have events like this and bring the boys to church each Sunday. We would also like to thank Fr. Bill and Fr. Nicholas who allow us to serve in the Holy Altar and who teach us to love the Lord and do activities like this during the year.

by Michael Cotsilis

Bethlehem, we found a new and better way to journey in life. We found a better way to live!

Our challenge is to journey down life's road leaving the old fears, grudges, sorrows and sins behind. Although George Bailey's life was filled with struggles and challenges, he had hope. Hopefully, this Christmas season, we, too, will realize that we may not be living perfect, happy lives but rather blessed lives, filled with the presence of God. Christ is born! Glorify Him!

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



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	4:30pm Adventure Theater	4:30pm Greek School	1:00pm Adult Christian Fellowship And Study Group 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	4:30pm Greek School	4:30pm Adventure Theater	FEAST DAY OF ST. NICHOLAS 8:00am Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 11:00am Adv. Theater Rehearsal 2:00pm Adv. Theater Matinee 4:00pm Altar Boy Meeting 5:00pm Vespers 6:00pm Altar Boy Fam. Dinner
1	2	3	4	5	6	
8:00am Orthros 9:15am Awaken To God 9:30am Divine Liturgy 11:30am Greek School Kalandia 12:00pm Adv. Theater Luncheon & Play	5:30pm The Way	10:00am TOTS 4:30pm Greek School 7:00pm Philoptochos Christmas Party 7:30pm GOYA Meeting	1:00pm Adult Christian Fellowship And Study Group 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	4:30pm Greek School 6:30pm Sunday School Teachers' Christmas Party	8:00am Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy & Communion Breakfast 11:00am Philoptochos Bake Sale	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
8:00am Orthros 9:15am Awaken To God 9:30am Divine Liturgy 11:30am Christmas Pageant 12:00pm Philoptochos Bake Sale 12:00pm Parish Council Elections 5:00pm Metropolis Open House	5:15pm The Way Christmas Party	10:00am TOTS Christmas Party 4:30pm Greek School 7:30pm GOYA Christmas Party	7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	4:30pm Greek School Pizza Party 7:30pm Parish Council Meeting	12:00pm Adventure Theater Outing 5:00pm Vespers 6:00pm Family Synaxis	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
8:00am Orthros 9:15am Awaken To God 9:30am Divine Liturgy 11:30am Jr. Choir Christmas Program NO SUNDAY SCHOOL	22	23	24	25	26	27
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
8:00am Orthros 9:15am Awaken To God 9:30am Divine Liturgy No Sunday School	29	30	31	Christmas Joy Somehow, not only for Christmas, But all the long year through, The joy that you give to others Is the joy that comes back to you.		

Shop In HARC

Remember to 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.

Stewardship Reminder

If you have not already done so, please fill out and return your pledge card for 2009.

Weekday Services

Vespers

Saturday, December 6
Saturday, December 20
5:00pm

Feast Day Of St. Nicholas

Saturday, December 6
8:00am Orthros
9:00am Divine Liturgy

Feast Day Of St. Spyridon

Friday, December 12
8:00am Orthros
9:00am Divine Liturgy

Mosaic Deadline

The deadline for the January Mosaic is Tuesday, December 9.

Weekday Services

Communion Breakfast

Saturday, December 13
8:00am Orthros
9:00am Divine Liturgy

Christmas Eve

Wednesday, December 24
9:00am Royal Hours
7:00pm Vespers Liturgy

Christmas Day

Thursday, December 25
9:00am Orthros
10:00am Divine Liturgy

Feast Day Of St. Stephen

Saturday, December 27
8:00am Orthros
9:00am Divine Liturgy

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