

# MOSAIC

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

Vol. 14, No. 3

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

June/July 2009

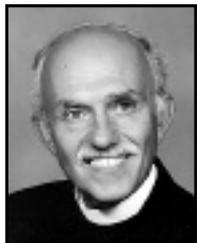
## Pounding the pavement for a good cause and fun!



Runners and walkers take to the streets in Holy Apostles' annual 5K. Read complete coverage on page 3.

Photo by Peter Bell

From Father Bill



### The Good Wine Is Yet To Come

The title of this article is a reminder to all who entered into the sacrament of marriage. "The good wine is yet to come" makes reference to the wedding of Galilee. Jesus blessed the water and it was transformed into wine because there was no wine for the wedding celebration. In those days, a wedding would last for seven days and the guests would consume the less expensive wine and would keep the good wine until the end.

Daily remembrance of Christ makes a difference in marriage. One sees couples enamored of each other who in six months are

quarreling. The wine turns to water. Christ can turn the water of an insipid marriage into the tasteful wine of a joyous union. There are trials and tests in every marriage and through the years, married couples need to invite Christ into their marriage each day through prayer. Where He is present there is forgiveness, love, understanding and joy.

Anthony Coniaris in his insightful book on marriage said of St. Dorotheus of Gaza (sixth century) in his instructions: "imagine a circle marked on the ground. Suppose that this circle is the world, and that the center of the circle is God. Leading from the edge of the circle to its center are a number of lines, and these represent the paths of ways of life that men can follow. In their desire to draw near to God, the saints advance along these lines toward the middle of the circle, so that the further they go, the nearer they approach to one another as well as to God. The closer they come to God, the closer they come to one another; and the closer they come to each other, the closer they

come to God. Such is the nature of love; the closer we draw to God in our love for Him, the more we are united together by love for our neighbor; and the greater our union with our neighbor, the greater is our union with God."

Penning these thoughts in the 50th year of our church, I returned to the ledger of our church which has recorded every wedding celebrated from the very existence of the church (1959). I read names of some couples who are no longer members of Holy Apostles, some who have been called to be with the saints, while others continue to complete the mission of our church. We are inviting all couples married at Holy Apostles to attend the Divine Liturgy on July 12, at which time we will commune and offer special prayers. We ask that each couple bring a photograph of their marriage to be placed on display during the Fellowship Hour.

Come and join with the family of God in renewed commitment that the "The good wine is yet to come."

From Father Nicholas



## Acquiring Wealth

Recently, Federal Reserve Chairman, Ben Bernanke, said that the U.S. economy is stabilizing and will begin to rebound later this year. He warned that recovery will be slow and cautious. "We continue to expect economic activity to bottom out, then to turn up later this year," he said. Many are asking: "Is this the market bottom? Will my money be safe in the markets now?" Stewardship of the financial resources God provides us is important. The father of economic science, Adam Smith, said: "A man must be perfectly crazy who does not employ all the stock which he commands. The individual acting on his or her own self-interest would do that which in the aggregate would also be in the best interest of all." Is this the correct way to live? Should we be gathering all that we can?

In these uncertain economic times, what is the proper Christian understanding of wealth? The Fathers warn that wealth can bring about stinginess, greed, complacency, worry and even sleeplessness. St. Clement states: "so let no man destroy wealth, rather the passions of the soul." Their concern is not wealth, rather the attachment to it. How do we fight against the attachment? St. Cyprian said, "As water quenches fire, so do alms quench sin." Should we give our wealth away so that we don't have to deal with the struggle? St. Clement said, "Riches, which benefit our neighbors, are not to be thrown away. They are useful and provided by God for the use of men. They are put under our power for good use to those who know the instrument." In other words, God provides wealth to an individual on behalf of the entire community. Our challenge is in stewarding the money in a way that pleases the Lord. According to St. Clement, stewarding resources that include alms giving keeps us from developing a love of money.

Apart from love of money, overindulgence is another danger of wealth. Bernie Madoff is a great example of this. According to a March 13, 2009 filing by Madoff, he and his wife owned a 2006 Leopard yacht in France, expensive jewelry, an exclusive Manhattan apartment, expensive homes in Montauk and Palm Beach, and had many millions of dollars in cash and investments. Over the years, this overindulgence led him to commit the largest investor fraud ever. He defrauded numerous people of millions of dollars. St. John Chrysostom cites the parable of Lazarus and the rich man. The rich man was so indulged

...See Fr. Nicholas on P. 4



# Gavel to Gavel



BY GEORGE CHECHOPOULOS, SECRETARY

Parish Council Meeting of April 23, 2009

Present: Fr. William Chiganos, Fr. Nicholas Georgiou, George Alex, Chrisy Banakis, George Chechopoulos, Terry Chiganos, Jim Fotopoulos, Mara Georges, Tom Gregory, Paul Kallis, James Kapolas, Nick Kirkeles, George Mannos Jr., Steve Melonides, Peter Poteres, Steve Savas, and Peter Tomaras.

Absent: Sandy Fiascone.

### Financial Report

✦ Steve Savas reviewed the comparative financial report dated March 31, 2009 and 2008. A motion to approve it passed unanimously.

### Stewardship

✦ Stewardship Report: The church received 569 pledges, down 9 pledges for the same period last year, totaling \$542,242.34 for an average pledge of \$952.97. Amount paid for March 31 was \$70,562.

### Correspondence

- ✦ On September 12, the St. George Philoptochos is inviting all NIU students, alums and friends to join a walk-a-thon to raise funds for OCF House;
- ✦ The National Greek Orthodox Campus Ministry sent a letter thanking Holy Apostles for being an annual sponsor of its National Campus Ministry Program. Nick Kirkeles made a motion to renew and continue our sponsorship of the National Greek Orthodox Campus Ministry with a \$100 donation. The motion passed unanimously;
- ✦ George Mannos Jr. made a motion to send a \$500 donation for the Greek American Rehabilitation & Care Centre Spring Gala. The motion passed unanimously.

### Meditation

✦ Holy Week was special to Father Bill as he celebrated his 54th Holy Week. He said that Holy Week should have impacted all our lives. We should gain enlightenment from the light received on Holy Saturday at the Resurrection Service as it is the light of faith and hope. Father Bill also spoke about the 'Miracle of the Holy Light or Fire' that takes place every year, at the same time, in the same manner, on the same spot, in the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem. It is on this day the fire comes down from Heaven and lights the candle of the Greek Orthodox Patriarch, who then distributes the light to others. Father Bill said we must also convey our light to others as much as we can,

and especially to those who are in need.

### 50th Anniversary

- ✦ Peter Poteres and Nick Kirkeles said the next meeting will be held on Monday, May 4 at 7pm. A meeting will be held at the Westin Hotel with the 3 to 4 selected florists who will be bidding for the flower arrangements for the 50th Anniversary dinner dance.
  - ✦ There will not be a tailgate party this year due to the number of events taking place.
- ### Building & Grounds
- ✦ George Alex & Jim Fotopoulos said all the windows are now completed; repairs to the kitchen hood were attempted, however, it is still not working properly and the entire motor assembly on the roof will have to be changed. The landscaping is completed. Most of the money for the landscaping came from the Peter Angelopoulos Fund. There was a recommendation to put a light on the 50th Anniversary banner on the outside of the church.

### Technical Committee

- ✦ Paul Kallis said the committee will be working on the sound system. On Holy Saturday morning, a parishioner made a donation toward the purchase of an additional wireless microphone for visiting clergy.

### New Business

- ✦ The Altar Boy reunion will be held on October 18, the same day as Breast Cancer Awareness.
- ✦ George Mannos Jr. presented the report for yearly budgeted payment of all donation commitments to take place at one time. Rather than having payments made at various times throughout the year, checks to the various organizations (Retired Clergy, IOCC, OCMC, etc) will be sent this month.
- ✦ Steve Savas made a motion to donate \$2,000 from the 5K run to the Philoxenia House in Rochester, Minnesota. The motion passed unanimously.
- ✦ Our custodian Bob, will be going on medical leave for 3-4 weeks beginning May 7.
- ✦ Nick Kirkeles has requested that the Building & Grounds Committee look into bids for updating security around the church by enabling our security cameras at the North and South exits to sensor monitor the doors with capture video feeds.

# 5K Family Run and Walk

Despite a cool, blustery morning, an enthusiastic group of men, women, and children showed up to support Holy Apostles efforts to help Philoxenia House in Rochester, MN. The House and Holy Anargyroi parish provide free lodging and food to patients (and their families) receiving medical treatment at the Mayo Clinic. Father Nicholas Kasemeotes, the founder, joined us again this year to run with our Father Nicholas.

Peter Stubbings was the overall winner of our 4th Annual Holy Apostles 5K Family Run/Walk, posting a solid time of 19:47. The ladies were led across the finish line by Dena Colie, who completed the course in 25:03. For the first time in the history of this event, we had at least one participant in all gender-age category combinations, a testament to this event's family appeal.

Thanks to our many participants and platinum sponsors: Avgeris and Associates, Barone's of Glen Ellyn, the Beshilas and Savas families, Don Alexander Investments and the Lampros family. Donors included: Caribou Coffee, Competitive Foot, Dominick's, Great American Bagel, New Balance, PowerBar,

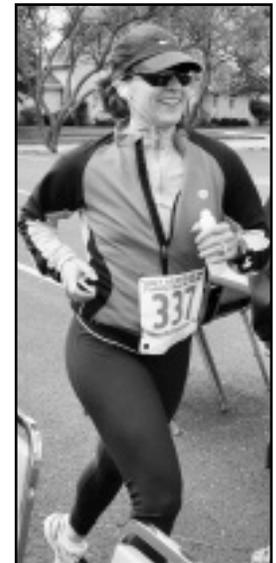


**Fine form is demonstrated by first place finishers Peter Stubbings, above, and Dena Colie, right.**

ReMax Suburban, and the Athas, Fiascone, Fotopoulos, Lou Kafkes, and Maragos families. We are grateful for our loyal 5K staff: Steve Savas, sponsorship, Presvytera Michelle, publicity, and Kiki Liston, Master of Ceremonies and the many other volunteers who made this event possible. \$4,500 was raised.

We hope to see more of you next year for this popular event, tentatively scheduled for May 8, 2010.

By Lou Kafkes, Race Director



## Save this Date!

All couples whose marriage was blessed at Holy Apostles during the first 50 years (1959-2009) need to save Sunday July 12.

On that Sunday, special prayers will be offered for weddings celebrated during the first 50 years of the church's existence. A memorial service will be chanted for those who have gone to be with the saints and an artoclasia will be chanted for those who continue to live a life of love and commitment. Couples are invited to bring wedding pictures which will be displayed during the Fellowship Hour. If you have any questions, please call the office at 708-562-2744.

## Philoptochos Update

### Philoptochos Easter Sale Recap

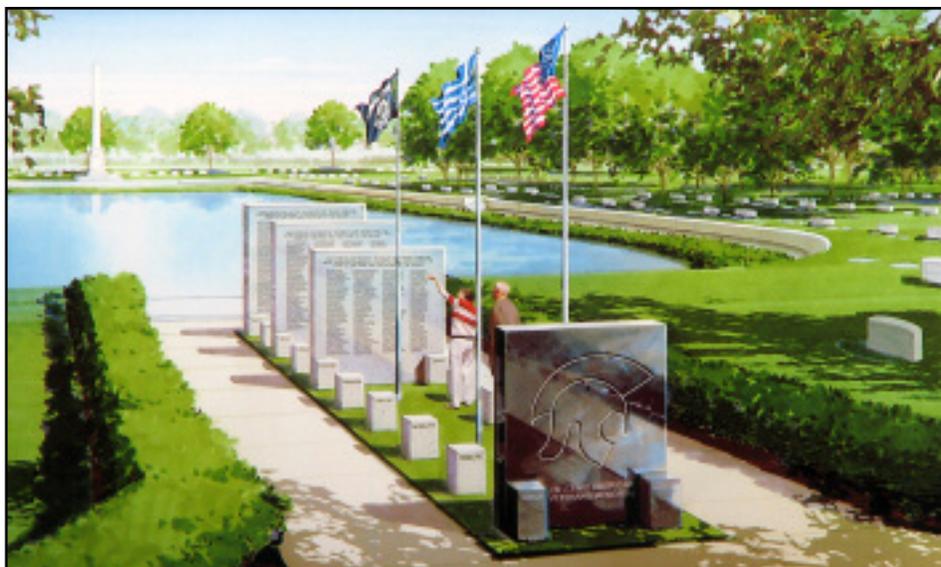
Philoptochos had its most successful Easter sale, thanks to the hard work and contributions of members, and the enthusiastic participation of everyone who purchased goodies! We sold Easter pastries, breads, and decorated candles. All proceeds will be contributed directly to various charities. There is much need at this time, and your generosity enables Philoptochos to contribute to those in need.

### Save the Date!

Save the date for this fall's luncheon fashion show that will be held at the Carlisle in Lombard on October 17. This year's theme will be A SCENTimental Journey, Celebrating 50 years. Watch for more information as invitations are scheduled to be mailed in late August.

### 50th Anniversary Vespers

Philoptochos will host a reception in honor of the 50th Anniversary of Holy Apostles following the name day Vespers on June 29. All are invited to this special event.



## Hellenic American Veterans Memorial

The members of Hellenic Post No. 343 of the American Legion feel the time has come for all veterans of Hellenic heritage who have served our country and those who have died, to be recognized.

A plot of land has been purchased by Hellenic Post No. 343 at Elmwood cemetery in River Forest. The cost of the entire project is estimated to be \$150,000. Suggested donations begin at \$100 and are tax deductible.

We need the names and pertinent information of veterans, past and present in our community. Please include branch of service, rank, serial number, which war, and status such as living, deceased, KIA/MIA. Send to A. Steve Betzelos, 5765 N. Lincoln Avenue. Chicago, 60659. You may also register online at registry@hellenicpost343.org.

Make donations payable to Hellenic Post No. 343 and send to the above address.

# At the movies



The Adventure Theater movie *The Face of Danger* premiered at a luncheon May 3. After the movie, the cast members present Mr. D. of a waffle maker.



## Greek School Headline here

Fourth graders make Easter cookies, left, and admiring the finished cookies above, are PTO mothers Georgia Kass, left, and Antella Thiakos, right.

Fr. Nicholas from P. 2

## Material wealth or spiritual wealth, which is your desire?

in his sumptuous life that he could not even see the poor man Lazarus, right outside his door. He comments that the rich man is “not the one who has collected many possessions but the one who needs few possessions. The poor man is not the one who has no possessions but the one who has many desires.”

Misplaced trust is the third danger of wealth. One of the best-known verses concerning wealth is in the Gospel of Mark: “It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.” Wealth itself is a blessing from God. The concern, according to St. Clement, is that people can “cling to the present life as if it alone was left to them, and so diverge more

from the way to the life to come.” If we trust in our riches, we may not make the proper preparation for the next life. God can become a possession alongside all of the others. The danger is in trusting our survival to cold, hard pieces of paper rather than a loving, personal God. We can turn to faith in our wealth and not to God. If we are not careful, wealth can become an idol.

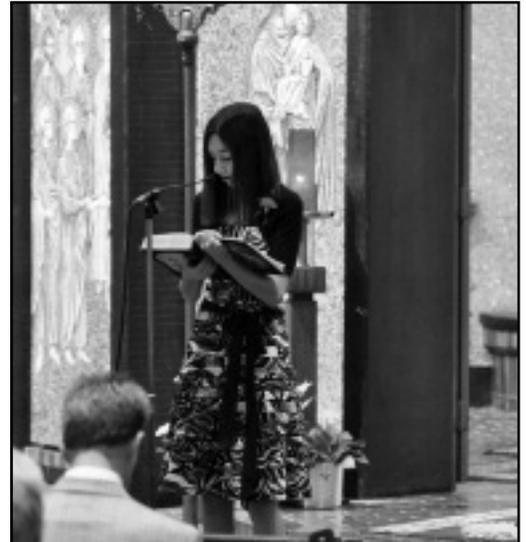
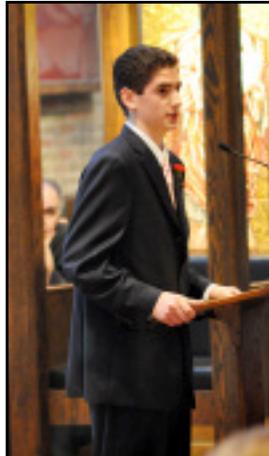
A recent article stated that stockbrokers are leaving the industry in droves. We learn from this economic unrest that even the best financial people cannot control their monetary destiny.

How do we acquire wealth? Although we may experience difficulty acquiring financial

wealth, we can build spiritual wealth. The Gospel of Matthew speaks to today’s challenging financial times: “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal.” Our earthly wealth can easily disappear.

This passage gives us another alternative or challenge: “But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.” We can acquire and build spiritual wealth. St. Cyprian challenges us to “give Christ earthly garments that we may receive heavenly clothing.” Spiritual wealth is an investment in eternity!

# Youth Proclaim Christ Sunday



Alexa Cussick, Connie Savas, and Katie Berg, left, teach Kindergarten and are preparing a poster. Above left, Rigas Pappas gives his oratorical festival speech. Above right, Alaina Kafkes reads the epistle.

*Photos by Peter Bell*



At left, Rebecca Schieber gives the homily during the Liturgy. Above, Katie Syregelas, Lia Chiganos, and Katherine Kiang present a lesson on communion to the fourth grade class.



The younger children provided a selection of Easter hymns.



Peter Kallis staffs the candle stand.

## The **HARC** CORNER

### God With Us: Critical Issues in Christian Life and Faith

By Fr. John Breck

Father John Breck's courageous reflections ponder difficult questions of moral crises and Christian responsibility. His aim is to discuss these moral, biblical, and general theological issues while remaining faithful to the sacred tradition of the Orthodox Church in an increasingly anti-Christian world. Breck delves into critical issues such as: do icons really weep, violence against women, nightmares, ova for sale, fighting burnout among clergy, and other topics.

Fr. John cites with clarity and beauty how the world belongs to God who creates, loves, and redeems it. "He frees us from an otherwise meaningless existence, whose end is corruption and annihilation." As the Church Fathers reiterate, "God became man that man might become God by grace."

Fr. John Breck is presently Professor of Biblical Interpretation at St. Sergius Theological Institute in Paris and directs the St. Silouan Retreat Center in the United States.

Softcover, \$17.00

### Seasons of Grace Reflections of the Orthodox Church Year

By Donna Farley

There is enormous tension between the desire to enter fully into the life of the Church and the many pressures of society and everyday life. The author reminds us that if we simply keep putting one foot in front of the other on our walk through the Church Year, we will surely arrive safely by grace. In God's mercy, the Church guides us through the steps, month by month and year by year as we learn the history of His love for us in God's Incarnation, Death and Resurrection, and the love of His saints.

Ms. Farley tells us to keep this lesson in mind as we begin the Church New Year and every New Year thereafter. The beauty of the Church seasons is that they teach us how to accomplish this. The Christian life is a whole and expansive life, a life in Christ, the One who gives Himself for the life of the world.

These short yet thoughtful reflections by Ms. Farley will help weave the great feasts into the fabric of your life.

Softcover, \$15.00

## Reflecting on Fathers Day

Four years old: My daddy can do anything.

Five years old: My daddy knows a whole lot.

Six years old: My dad is smarter than your dad.

Eight years old: My dad doesn't know exactly everything.

Ten years old: In the olden days, when my dad grew up, things were sure different.

Twelve years old: Oh, well, naturally, Dad doesn't know anything about that. He is too old to remember his childhood.

Fourteen years old: Don't pay any attention to my dad. He is so old-fashioned.

Twenty-one years old: Him? My Lord, he's hopelessly out of date.

Twenty-five years old: Dad knows about it, but then he should, because he has been around so long.

Thirty years old: Maybe we should ask Dad what he thinks. After all, he's had a lot of experience.

Thirty-five years old: I'm not doing a single thing until I talk to Dad.

Forty years old: I wonder how Dad would have handled it. He was so wise.

Fifty years old: I'd give anything if Dad were here now so I could talk this over with him. Too bad I didn't appreciate how smart he was. I could have learned a lot from him.

## Involvement is the word for this month's altar boy

Jeremy Glavonovits is in 7th grade at Lisle Junior High School. He is currently on the honor roll there. Not only is he a good student, but he participates on many athletic teams. He plays power forward for his school basketball team as well as starting forward for the Holy Apostles basketball team. He is also the pitcher for his school team and when not pitching, he likes playing first base.

Jeremy enjoys serving in the altar. He is very attentive and helpful. He takes pride in assisting the younger boys and likes serving during Great Lent and Holy Week. In addition to the friendships he has made on the court or the field, he appreciates the friends he has made in the altar. He looks up to his brother, Justin and his cousin, Michael Fikaris, both fellow altar boys. The 'Cooking with Cots' sessions are also a favorite of his. Jeremy thanks Father Bill, Father Nicholas, and Cots for their leadership and guidance in serving in God's holy altar.

By Michael Cotsilis

## Registry

### Baptisms

*Christopher, son of  
Elina & Orlando Fonesca  
Sponsor: Charis Tsikkou*

*Chase, son of  
Christina & Brian Houdek  
Sponsor: Natalie Hollis*

*Paulette, daughter of  
Stephanie & Christopher Olson  
Sponsors: Connie & Scott Willsey*

*Dean, son of  
Angela & John Deligiannis  
Sponsor: Harry Deligiannis*

*William Joseph, son of  
Alexandria & Michael Errera  
Sponsor: Angela Newboyskey*

*Mikalīs, son of  
Malinda & George Vasilakopoulos  
Sponsors: Bridgette & Jerry Kyriazis*

*Grace, daughter of  
Tiffany & Michael Howard  
Sponsors: Deanna & Peter Markos*

### Weddings

*Valerie Yant & Matthew Bolt  
Sponsor:s: Amy Yant & Lukas Yant*

*Marilynn Pieretti & Thomas Ulrich  
Sponsor: Peter Fikaris Jr.*

*Sherry Laniosz & Kyle Corcoran  
Sponsor: Ryan Corcoran*

*Erica Lynn & Michael Daly  
Sponsor: William Angelos*

*Laura Ruffolo & John Highland  
Sponsor: Kara Kapernakes*





## Memorials

*Evanthia Tsiganos  
Dr. Nicholas Patinos  
Rosemary Agoranos  
Thomas Agoranos  
Argiro Stamatopoulos  
Demos Stamatopoulos  
Peter Zougras  
Diamondo Varlas Kleronomos  
Anthony Antoniou  
James Doris  
George Anos  
Louis Nicholas  
Vickie Nicholas  
Sophia Stefanos*

## Funerals

*Dr. Nicholas Patinos  
George Sotiros  
Charles Brightly*

## Weekday Services

### Saturday Of The Souls

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

### Hierarchical Vespers

Monday, June 29  
7:00pm

### Feast Day Of Holy Apostles

Tuesday, June 30  
8:00am Orthros  
9:00am Divine Liturgy

## Mosaic Deadline

As always, there is no July issue. The deadline for the August issue is Tuesday, July 7.

## Attention Grads

Graduate Sunday is June 14. Please call or email the church office with your information so you can be recognized for your achievement.

## Senior Choir Reunion

A Reunion Sunday for all former members of the Holy Apostles Senior Choir is being planned to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the parish. Sunday, September 20, the choir is inviting all its former members to join them in the choir loft to worship and sing at the Liturgy. Nick Paloumpis, Director, asks that interested singers call the church office or contact him at [holyapostleschoir2009@yahoo.com](mailto:holyapostleschoir2009@yahoo.com) so preparations can be made for music books. Please direct your questions to Nick through this email address.

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