

MOSAIC

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

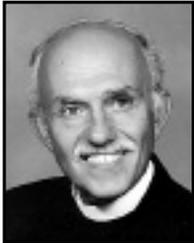
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Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church 2501 S. Wolf Rd. Westchester, IL

November 2009

(708) 562-2744 www.holyapostleschurch.com

From Father Bill



Standing Alone

Perhaps the thought of standing alone is a bit frightening to you. Standing alone is not

living alone...having little or no contact with the world about us. God is not asking us to be isolated, but insulated while surrounded by a world marching to a different drumbeat. Standing alone is survival strategy. There is a war going on. It was declared in Eden and has continued to grow in its intensity. Our enemy has not laid down his battle weapons. He clutches them more tightly now than ever before. Satan's battle is carried on by a variety of allies, usually unseen. Those opposing forces are hard at it day in, day out... in homes, on campuses, at the office, and in the churches. Wherever we are, the battle is active. If you are not aware of it, chances are you're fighting on the wrong side. The battlefield is on the earth, but the heat of the battle is in the mind.

Remember the experience of attending a youth meeting or a dance and having to walk into the room alone. It would have been such a comfort to have had a companion standing beside you.

Today, we are called upon to make decisions that are not popular. Parents need to tell their children they should not only partake in activities in school such as sports, cheerleading and the like. Time should be allocated for worship and church activities. We find ourselves having to confront coaches and leaders of school activities and informing them we are not able to partake in programs on Sunday morning. Most of the time we stand alone on such issues, because either others are not committed to church or deem sports as a priority.

Another challenge is that it has become popular to schedule wedding showers, baby

H.A. fashionistas strut their stuff



Junior models hitting the runway are l-r, Kayla Kamilis, Luke and Noah Ernst, Anastasia Anastopoulos, Kara and Nia Dillon, Andrea Berland, and Rebecca Paloumpis. See the story on page 3.

showers and luncheons at noon at locations a distance from our church. Standing alone requires courage. Be bold and refuse the invitation, or explain you will arrive late after the church service.

Consistent and victorious Christian living does not come automatically...for anyone. Surrounded by non-Christian people who embrace an opposing philosophy of life, Christians can be influenced by their empty ways. Not only must we realize that such a possibility exists, but we must also know the warning signs of impending danger along with principles that will help us to guard our walk.

G.K. Chesterton, an English-born journalist and Christian author, once declared: "Christianity has not been tried and found wanting. It has been found difficult, and not tried." The words of a wise man. Becoming a Christian is not difficult, but living the Christian life is. Temptation is the most famous battleground known to the child of God. It's a flesh-battle. For some it may rage

in the area of vanity, greed, or revenge. All the strength and zeal one gains in the worship service or at a quiet study desk with God's Word can be lost upon returning to the noisy world faced with temptations.

The transformation of one's thinking will not take place without a sincere commitment. Paul writes to the Ephesians 6:11-12 "Our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, powers, world forces of the darkness."

Preparation is painful and demanding, but necessary. It requires much more from us than does lifting weights, running laps around a track, dieting, or working long hours. Success for us, which will enable us to stand alone, will be no greater than the quality of our preparation.

Strange as it may be, standing alone is not just your personal battle. We are all engaged in the struggle. With a determined will, with changes in your lifestyle and with God's grace, we will succeed.

From Father Nicholas



Sowing Seeds

Recently I read an article detailing a special new drink called Jogging in a Jug. It is a special homemade concoction of fruit juices designed to remedy high cholesterol. Drinking this fruit cocktail supposedly keeps the system clean and operating efficiently regardless of what you eat. There is only one problem. It's never been scientifically proven to do anything but cause a grimace when drinking it. What if this drink really worked? Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could gain all the benefits from jogging without actually exercising? What if we could lower our cholesterol and improve our health with no effort? Instead of "just do it", we could say "just drink it". No getting up early. No discipline. No pain. We could drink a shot glass of this special drink and then eat and do whatever we want.

When it comes to eating, exercising and other areas of our lives, we may try to avoid the law of sowing and reaping. We try to sever the connection between action and consequence. Some of us want to enjoy the benefits without paying the price. The same holds true with money. Why is the lottery so popular? It is a chance to become wealthy without labor. Other ways exist to make money. They all involve work. Do you remember the Smith Barney commercial? "We make money the old fashioned way. We earn it."

Some of us may be able to acquire wealth with no labor. We may be able to reverse the effects of overeating and a sedentary life. Yet, our spiritual lives, character, relationships with God and each other are ruled by this law of sowing and reaping. In St. Paul's letter to the Galatians we read, "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a person sows, that he will also reap." We may not mock God explicitly by laughing at Him, but we mock the Lord implicitly by the way that we live. If we live with no concern or thought about God, we may think we are beating the system. St. Paul is telling us that we cannot get away with it. It will corrode our souls. Actions can destroy our integrity and relationships with each other.

More importantly, poor actions place a barrier between the perpetrators and God. What if we never get caught? Hidden sin can weaken our relationship with the Lord. If we try to conceal our sins, we are distanced from the Lord. It creates a barrier to prayer and destroys fellowship with the Lord.

Last spring our family enthusiastically pre-



Gavel to Gavel



BY GEORGE CHECHOPOULOS, SECRETARY

Parish Council Meeting of September 17

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

Stewardship

- ✦ Steve Melonides said that as of August 31, the church received 752 pledges, down 33 pledges for the same period last year, totaling \$644,848.67 (down \$14,352.26) for an average pledge of \$857.51. Amount paid for August 31 was \$23,206.

Correspondence

- ✦ His Eminence Metropolitan Iakovos of Chicago sent a letter announcing that the Church of the Annunciation in Milwaukee will host the 2009 Metropolis Clergy-Laity Assembly/ Philoptochos Assembly and the Metropolis Choir Federation at the Marriott-Milwaukee West in Waukesha. The Assembly will convene on November 5 and conclude on November 7. The Choir Federation will conclude on Sunday, November 8, following the Hierarchal Divine Liturgy.

Meditation

- ✦ It was brought to Father Bill's attention by a parishioner that copies of the Muslim Quran were being distributed throughout the neighborhood and he didn't want a copy. He said the bible says to beware of false teachings that can come into our midst. The only way to counteract things like this is by having intelligent discussions, so we need to learn and grasp our faith by attending the Liturgy, reading books available from HARC, etc., and be conscious of things going on around us.
- ✦ Father Bill read a study that said nine out of ten Greek Orthodox recently polled were born in the United States.

pared a garden. We thought that we planted good, healthy seeds and diligently watered and fertilized the vegetables. Unfortunately, the plants did not develop as we hoped. We enjoyed a few scrawny tomatoes and cucumbers from the garden. We learned that we could not control the seeds' destiny. Fortunately, our relationship with God does not work the same way. According to St. Paul's passage, good seeds will bear good fruit. The only real decision we have to make is what kind of seeds we are going to plant?

Building & Grounds

- ✦ George Alex and Jim Fotopoulos said that only one bid was received for the Handicap Door Opener. The committee is waiting for a second bid. A suggestion was made to put in a Handicap Door Check Articulator. This will allow for easy handicap access from the North door.
- ✦ Landscapers have added grass seed and completed necessary work on the area where we had the plumbing problems on the outside of the building.
- ✦ The electrical outlet has been installed for the new organ.
- ✦ The committee is getting bids for concrete by the North Entrance.

Technical Committee

- ✦ Paul Kallis said that we are still waiting to get the rest of the parts to continue work on the sound system.
- ✦ The new organ has been installed and is working well.
- ✦ Mr. Demetralis has asked for two microphones for use in the multi-purpose room as the current microphones are not working properly. He would like to make sure the sound system is working by the time Adventure Theater hosts its December 6 presentation. The Technical Committee has been advised of his request and concern.

Old Business

- ✦ A letter has been drafted and will be sent to Comcast regarding the cost of the sewer damage.

New Business

- ✦ The Parish General Assembly Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, November 22, which is also Stewardship Sunday
- ✦ Steve Savas said that the golf outing date being suggested for next year is July 12, at Indian Lakes Resort.

Choices that we make with our family, marriage, children, and relationship with God will bear fruit.

What if we are doing everything correctly and still see no apparent fruit? St. Paul continues, "let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart." Sometimes the harvest comes later than when we expect or desire. It may take months, years or even decades. We may say something to our children that stays with

...See Fr. Nicholas on P. 6



Tina Dillon, Fashion Show Co-Chairwoman, welcomes Chris Cholewa from Child's Voice to Membership Night.

Philoptochos Membership Night

Philoptochos Membership Night at Drury Lane was a wonderful success with close to 100 attendees. The theme was "A Road Well Traveled", and a beautiful slide show celebrating the past 50 years, produced by Elaine Katzioris and Angela DeFeo, was the entertainment for the evening. There was also a poster display of photos from the past 50 years. Philoptochos looks forward to a successful year and hopes to surpass last year's membership of 202 gracious ladies.



Above, l-r, Kally Tsatsos, Bess Poulos, Presvytera Effie, Ann Lampros. At left, Diane Dietz, Denise Mannos, Sandy Urban, and Marita Urban enjoy fellowship at Membership Night.



Faye Adams delivers cards to West Suburban Senior Services Center in Bellwood.

Pillars and Rocks program begins with card delivery to seniors

September marked the launch of our Chapter Challenge, Pillars and Rocks, a program designed to assist seniors. The Chapter Challenge is an innovative assignment the national Philoptochos organization gives to one chapter every two years.

Our assignment was to develop and pilot a program, which we will then describe at the 2010 Clergy Laity-Congress for other chapters

to adopt. For the first month of Pillars and Rocks, our Sunday School children made over 100 beautiful cards, which Philoptochos First Vice President Faye Adams delivered to West Suburban Senior Services Center in Bellwood.

Philoptochos made a donation of \$1/meal to defray the cost of the subsidized meals for seniors at the center.

Fashion show a successful "Sentimental Journey"

More than 500 people enjoyed the fabulous luncheon/fashion show on October 17. Proceeds will benefit the Father William S. Chiganos Scholarship Fund and Child's Voice, an oral school for children who are deaf or hearing impaired. Chairwomen Irene Boutzarelos and Tina Dillon and their hard-working committees were dedicated to making the day a huge success. Many thanks to the sponsors, prize donors and patrons. The sponsors were:

- Dr. Pat, Lara, Steven & Clara Pappas
- John & Lily Mathews & Families
- Helen Zarcone
- Mr. & Mrs. Daniel C. McKay II
- Alyssa Petropoulos/Verizon Wireless
- Don & Jody Alexander / Elmhurst Rotary
- James & Jane Fotopoulos
- Elaine & Stephen Melonides
- Mrs. Elaine Pappas
- Prima La Pizza/ Patrisia & Nicholas Christopher

Jr. GOYANS support our troops

Fifteen Jr. Goyans experienced firsthand the joy of giving and supporting military personnel. At the October meeting, the Jr. Goyans completed their first service project, Operation Support Our Troops. Parish members contributed items which were collected over the course of several weeks. After sorting the donations into categories, the many bags and boxes were loaded into a SUV leaving room only for the driver!

The cargo headed to a collection site in Naperville, where the recipients were elated to receive the 621 pound donation along with 200 handmade, heartfelt Christmas cards. There are 159,000 American servicemen and women deployed overseas. The goods included packaged treats, toiletries, soups, socks, and other items not easily obtained overseas. Operation Support Our Troops - Illinois, with its many dropoff sites in the Chicagoland area, ships 120 boxes weekly to Iraq and Afghanistan. Check out www.osotil.org for more info.

At the meeting, the Jr. Goyans created 200 Christmas cards with personalized messages for the holiday season. The colorful cards were embellished with stickers and beautiful drawings. Many expressed their thanks for the service of the military personnel in defending our country, still others wished them a safe return.

The evening had several highlights. Parishioner Nick Anos, a former altar boy and son of Pat and John Anos, who has completed two tours of duty in Iraq, joined the Jr.



Fr. Nicholas chats with Nick Anos while Jr. Goyans make Christmas cards to the troops.

Goyans to support their work. Arriving in uniform, his presence was very motivating to our youth. Nick expressed his thanks for their work on behalf of the military personnel receiving the cards and care packages.

Fr. Nicholas beautifully linked the work of the Jr. Goyans to scripture and demonstrated that we are called to serve others and be giving. Matthew 10:8 states "Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give."

Also in the gospel of Matthew 25:35: is "For I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me." The Jr. Goyans exemplified these commissions by their work at the October meeting.

It's no coincidence that October was chosen as the month for a service project support-

ing our troops. The meeting and project were designed to share the life of St. Demetrios, whose feast day is celebrated October 26. A Christian soldier in the Imperial Army of Emperor Maximianus, a non-Christian, Demetrios demonstrated his faith and suffered martyrdom for his zeal. Fr. Nicholas displayed an icon of St. Demetrios and the Jr. Goyans learned how to 'read' the icon, looking for symbols specific to the depicted saint. In the icon, a young St. Demetrios holds a spear and shield.

The Jr. GOYA thanks the parishioners who contributed to the drive. Jr. GOYA is comprised of 7th and 8th graders. It's never too late to join Jr. GOYA! Check out the weekly bulletin and *Mosaic* for future meeting dates!

by Stacy Kinnas



After packing all sorts of goodies for the troops, above, all 621 pounds are loaded up for transport to a dropoff site in Naperville, at right.



Good times at Holy Apostles



The senior choir performs in the multi-purpose room after the Liturgy on Sunday, October 11, above. At left, Elvis, a.k.a. Nick Paloumpis, makes a surprise appearance much to the delight of Fr. Bill and Fr. Nicholas.



It was Dancing with the Campers at the Fanari reunion dance, above and right.



Above, Martha Madden, left, Ari Harris, center, and Will Dimas, right, call other friends to come and enjoy in the fun. At left, two other party-goers enjoy the evening.



Photos by Peter Bell



Loukoumades sell fast

Thanks to the generosity of Peter Bell and Joanne Cascio who donated all the supplies in memory of their parents, it was the most successful sale ever. Above, Aspasia and Agape Lamberis do the cooking, while Will Dimas and Jordan, right, are the quality control experts.

Reservations for Adventure Theater Christmas play available now

On November 8 and on the three following Sundays, members of the Adventure Theater will be taking reservations in the multi-purpose room following Divine Liturgy for their play *The Unwanted*, which will be presented immediately following Divine Liturgy on Sunday, December 6, and will be

preceded by a delicious luncheon. We are asking a \$10 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: Stephen Skouris, the president of a company that's manufacturing the air control system for mankind's first moon base and bidding on supplying the air control systems for the undersea resorts off Japan, Florida, and Greece, is a very wealthy young man. He also owns a thirty-acre estate, a 20-room house (not counting the five bathrooms), and a small cottage where he goes when he doesn't want to be disturbed. It is in the living room of this cottage where our story takes place.

Although Stephen Skouris is rich in material things, he feels especially poor and empty spiritually this Christmas season. Besides having no family to spend Christmas with, Stephen knows that any day now, Jack Finley,

whose sister Jean's death Stephen accidentally caused eleven years ago, will be released from prison and might try to avenge her. Stephen, however, refuses to share this terrible secret with anyone, not with Fr. Bill Apostolakis, and not even with Marina Medakis, the girl who is in love with him, and who is harboring a secret pain of her own.

Will an angel, a talking Christmas tree, a compassionate clergyman, and eight unwanted children be able to help fill Stephen's lonely life? Will Jack Finley try to get even with Stephen for causing his sister's death? Will Marina's love for Stephen go unanswered? And, who is ten-year-old Laura Holmes, and what startling revelation does she bring to our story? You will learn the answers to these and other questions by the time the play is over.

This is a story that incorporates mystery, fantasy, comedy, drama, a bundle of surprises, and a bit of romance, too.

Registry

Baptisms

Gavin, Son of
Mimi and Ray Schmitz
Sponsor: Effie O'Connell

Susanna, Daughter of
Georgia and Eric Brown
Sponsor: Matthew Brown

Sophia, Daughter of
Arturo and Natalie Hollis
Sponsor: Paul Nikolaou

Evan, Son of
Angela and David Neboyskey
Sponsor: Jason Vranas

Konstantinos Ioannis, Son of
John Vatianou and Andria Pihos
Sponsor: John and Gena Polihronidis

Weddings

Stephanie Lekas & William Leider
Sponsor: James Bobis

Liliana Fernandez & Warner DeJulio
Sponsor: Patrice DeJulio

Jennifer Markatos & Justin Landeen
Sponsor: Robert Markatos

Fr. Nicholas from P. 2

God provides fruits of the harvest

them for years. The harvest may even come too late for us to see it. Remember Moses died before entering the Promised Land. We may even be unaware of those people we have influenced. The fruit appears and we are not around to see it. Our harvest may not come in this life at all. The reward could be those cherished words, "Well done, thou faithful and good servant."

If we are looking for the fruits of the harvest, they may appear in a form that we do not recognize. Maybe we plant strawberries and harvest cucumbers. Sometimes obeying God and planting good seeds does not improve our immediate circumstances. Instead, it provides a strengthened faith and

refined character. The Lord, in His wisdom, defines good fruit for us. We may be looking for something totally different. So, if you are sowing good seeds, don't give up. Keep going. The Lord will produce a good harvest. Through His power and grace, the good fruit comes.

Our spiritual life does not grow instantaneously. We cannot take a pill and instantly grow closer to God. The relationship takes time and effort. St. Paul reminds us: "those who sow sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully." (2 Corinthians 9:6) Keep working, keep sowing the seeds and the good harvest will come!

Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church **November 2009** 2501 S. Wolf Rd. Westchester, Illinois

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
8:00am Orthros 9:15am Awaken To God 9:30am Divine Liturgy Fellowship Hour	5:15pm The Way 2	10:00am TOTS 4:30pm Greek School 6:00pm GOYA 7:00pm Philoptochos Board Meeting 3	1:00pm Adult Christian Fellowship And Study Group 7:00pm Catechism 7:15pm Bible Study 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal 4	4:30pm Greek School 5	4:30pm Adventure Theater 6	5:00pm Vespers 6:00pm Family Synaxis 7
FEAST DAY OF THE ARCHANGELS GABRIEL AND MICHAEL 8:00am Orthros 9:15am Awaken To God 9:30am Divine Liturgy Fellowship Hour Jr. GOYA bake sale 8	FEAST DAY OF ST. NECTARIOS 8:00am Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 9	4:30pm Greek School 10	1:00pm Adult Christian Fellowship And Study Group 7:00pm Catechism 7:15pm Bible Study 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal 11	4:30pm Greek School 12	FEAST DAY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM 8:00am Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 4:30pm Adventure Theater 13	14
8:00am Orthros 9:15am Awaken To God 9:30am Divine Liturgy Fellowship Hour 50th Anniversary Dinner Dance 15	5:15pm The Way 16	10:00am TOTS 7:30pm GOYA No Greek School (Conferences) 17	1:00pm Adult Christian Fellowship And Study Group 7:00pm Jr. GOYA Meeting 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal 18	4:30pm Greek School 19	4:30pm Adventure Theater 20	PRESENTATION OF THE THEOTOKOS 8:00am Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 4:00pm Altar Boy Meeting 5:00pm Vespers 21
STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY 8:00am Orthros 9:15am Awaken To God 9:30am Divine Liturgy Fellowship Hour Greek School Bake Sale General Assembly Meeting 22	23	4:30pm Greek School 24	EVE OF THANKSGIVING 6:00pm Divine Liturgy 25	THANKSGIVING DAY 26	Office Closed 27	28
8:00am Orthros 9:15am Awaken To God 9:30am Divine Liturgy Fellowship Hour No Sunday School 29	FEAST DAY OF ST. ANDREW 8:00am Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 4:30pm Adventure Theater 30	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <h3>A prayer for you</h3> <p>May today be all you need it to be. May the peace of God and the freshness of the Holy Spirit rest in your thoughts, rule in your dreams tonight, and conquer all your fears. May God manifest himself today in ways you have never experienced. I pray that faith enters a new height for you. I pray for peace, healing, health, happiness, prosperity, joy, true and undying love for God.</p> </div>				

Memorials

John Kamenko
Gus Ardamis
Rev. Nicholas Trivelas
Gus Vessol
Sophia Chiganos
Soterios Chiganos
Leon Savide
Gus Snoply
Nikolaos Sahlas
Vasiliki Kargianes
Demetra Dravillas
Harry Dravillas

Funerals

Lillian Pavis
Helen Zakos

Mosaic Deadline

The deadline for the December Mosaic is Tuesday, November 4.

Weekday Services

Vespers

Saturday, November 7 & 21
5:00pm

Feast Day of St. Nectarios

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

Feast Day of St. John Chrysostom

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

Presentation of The Theotokos

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

Feast Day of St. Andrew

Monday, November 30
8:00am Orthros
9:00am Divine Liturgy

Gifts of Appreciated Securities

Are you tired of paying those high taxes on your Capital Gains in the stock market? There is an alternative: Gift a stock to meet your stewardship commitment and lower your taxes for the charitable donation.

A gift of appreciated securities is an easy and mutually beneficial giving opportunity for individuals who wish to make a charitable contribution to Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church and minimize capital gains taxes on securities that have appreciated in value. There's even a way to make a tax-free donation if your stocks have gone down in value.

All transactions are at no cost to Holy Apostles or to the donor and are totally confidential. Commissions are waived.

For details, call Liz in the church office at (708) 562-2744, any member of the Parish Council Stewardship Committee, and Don Alexander or Don Singleton at (630) 954-2911.

Postmaster: Please deliver by the 4th of November

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