

MOSAIC

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

Vol. 15, No. 2

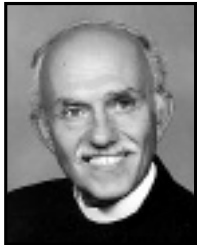
Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church 2501 S. Wolf Rd. Westchester, IL

May 2010

(708) 562-2744

www.holyapostleschurch.com

From Father Bill



Living Stones

For a period of 40 days from the Resurrection of our Lord to the Ascension,

all Orthodox Christians greet and take leave of each other with the triumphant words: "Christ is risen!" These three simple words constitute the most perfect essence of Orthodox teaching and theology.

I am not too infrequently surprised by the fact that many Christians have very little understanding of the meaning of the resurrection. We all recite together in the Creed "I believe in the resurrection of the dead." By the resurrection of the dead, we mean the raising of all those who have ever died, and their reunion with their souls, through the might and operation of almighty God.

Now, I wish to take you to the city of Jerusalem. Many of you have traveled to the Holy City as pilgrims, and the memory of the sites and holy shrines, the walk of Jesus during his last moments on earth, remain etched in your memory.

On the bus ascending to Jerusalem, one of the first things to impress visitors is the presence of stones. Stones are everywhere. One has to wonder how enough bare ground is found to grow anything, and yet we experienced and tasted the sweet flavor of home grown fruits and vegetables.

With so many stones about, it is little wonder that the Bible is filled with references to the ubiquitous little rocks. The Ten Commandments were inscribed on stone. Jacob had his famous dream of climbing a ladder to heaven using a stone for a pillow. Little David slew the giant Goliath with a stone. Jesus approached the circle of Jews ready to stone a woman who had committed adultery and challenged the crowd "Let him without sin throw the first stone." And just about every-



A Holy Apostles tradition on Holy Saturday morning, Metropolitan Iakovos throws flowers all around the nave signifying new life of the Resurrection. Children such as the Govostis sisters reverently hold out small plastic bags to receive the flowers.

thing built in Palestine from the temple wall and houses to the Temple itself and the altar of God within it were of stone.

We are reminded of the prevalence and accessibility of stones even today as we see the stone throwing between Palestinians and Jews. In Israel, one doesn't have to reach far for a weapon. That's the likely reason stoning was the Jewish method of capital punishment in Bible Times. If the Jews instead of the Romans had put Jesus to death, our faith would be symbolized by a stone instead of a cross.

Stones can kill. Stones can build. Stones of gossip can kill a reputation. Stones of cruelty can kill another's spirit. Stones of hate can kill a relationship. Stones of encouragement will

build productivity. Stones of love will build strong bonds of intimacy. Stones of creative activity will build a family.

Stones of death were hurled at Stephen. He tossed back stones of forgiveness: "Lord, do not hold this sin against them" (Acts 7:60). One of Stephen's stones hit a young rabbi by the name of Saul, whom we know by his Greek name, Paul. One commentary states that it was Stephen's prayer for his persecutors that started the questions in Paul's mind, which led to his eventual conversion. What a difference that stone made.

Standing before the Great Wall, the surviving wall of Solomon's Temple, one sees hundreds of Orthodox Jews throughout the day

See Fr. Bill on P. 3

From Father Nicholas



Relying on the Holy Spirit

For forty days after His Resurrection. Jesus appeared in various places to His disciples. He spoke, ate, and drank with them to show that He was alive!

On the fortieth day, He appeared again in Jerusalem. Jesus spoke to the disciples and gave them His last commandment: Go forth and proclaim His Name to all nations. He also commanded them to wait there together until they received power from on high, when the Holy Spirit would come upon them. Jesus led them to the Mount of Olives. He raised His hands and blessed them. Jesus was parted from them and taken up. Immediately a cloud of light, a proof of His majesty, received Him.

Jesus was taken up into Heaven. After a short time, He was concealed from the sight of the disciples. They remained where they were with their eyes fixed on Him.

At this point, two angels, in the form of men in white raiment, appeared to them and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven." (Acts 1:11). His disciples returned from the Mount of Olives to Jerusalem, rejoicing because Christ had promised to send them the Holy Spirit.

Imagine how the disciples, Christ's friends, must have felt. Their friend, Jesus, the God man, left them and ascended to heaven. Yet, the disciples rejoiced. Why? They were promised the Holy Spirit would come. We remember the coming of the Holy Spirit ten days later on the day of Pentecost, the fiftieth day after Pascha. What does this mean for us? The Holy Spirit, being part of the Holy Trinity, shares in everything that the Father and Son do and are.

The Holy Spirit is given to us to make us become, by grace, what Christ is by nature. This indwelling Holy Spirit is the power that makes it possible for us to act on our beliefs. He is God's power living within us! We pray in the Kneeling Prayers following the Divine Liturgy of Pentecost: "Lord Jesus Christ our God, You have bestowed Your peace on humankind, and the gift of the Holy Spirit, to be with us even in this life as a perpetual inheritance to believers never to be taken away." St. Paul's letter to the Romans reminds us: "You are not in the flesh but in the Spirit if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in

...See Fr. Nicholas on P. 6



Gavel to Gavel



BY GEORGE CHECHOPOULOS, SECRETARY

Parish Council meeting of April 15

- ✦ Last month in the Mosaic, it was incorrectly reported by the Parish Council that we were not pleased with Root Candles. We are in fact pleased with Root Candles.

Financial Report

- ✦ Steve Savas reviewed the comparative financial report dated March 31, 2009 & 2010. A motion to approve the financial statements, subject to year end review, passed unanimously.

Stewardship

- ✦ The church received 592 pledges, up 23 pledges for the same period last year, totaling \$65,125.50 (down \$5,436.50 from the same period last year), for an average pledge of \$938.53. The amount paid as of March 31 was \$341,102.45.

Correspondence

- ✦ The family of Elias P. Kusulas sent a card acknowledging their deep appreciation to the parish for the flowers sent on behalf of the falling asleep of past Council President Elias Kusulas.
- ✦ USAgain sent information about putting a clothes and shoe collection box on the church grounds. Discussion ensued. It was determined not to put the box on our grounds at this time.
- ✦ The Hellenic American Police Association sent a letter announcing its annual dinner dance on Sunday, May 16 at Chateau Ritz in Niles. The guest of honor is 4 year old Yano Pournaras, who has been fighting neuroblastoma. Holy Apostles will purchase a \$100 page ad in the HAPA ad book.

Meditation

- ✦ Fr. Bill's meditation focused on Holy Lent, Holy Week, and Bright Week. Fr. Bill and Fr. Nicholas felt attendance was not what it should have been during many of the Lenten and Holy Week services. Fr. Bill reiterated his Awakening to God message on the use of the word Pascha versus Easter. Theologically, we should use the word Pascha, as it means the passing over to a new life. Since we are still in the Pascal season, we should express "Christ is Risen" continually, so people will know that salvation by our Lord's Resurrection is for all of us.

Building & Grounds

- ✦ Thomas Tile is inspecting the crack in the center aisle of the church floor and will provide a repair bid.

- ✦ Jim Fotopoulos, Greg Vandarakis and Steve Savas have been working on items at the church that the City of Westchester pointed out. Steve Savas announced that 20% of the items have been addressed and work is being done to complete the remaining items.

- ✦ Peter Tomaras presented a report from the State of Illinois. We received positive verification on items within the church. One external item, handicap parking, still needs to be addressed. Discussion ensued on handicap parking locations.

- ✦ Heating contractors to check the church heating system are being reviewed.

- ✦ Our roof needs to be recoated with Silver UV. This coating reflects the ultra violet rays away from the roof surface, prolonging and protecting the roof. This recoating will extend the warranty for another 3 years. Also, two areas of the roof will be built up to eliminate water accumulation. A motion to complete the roofing project was made and passed.

Technical Committee

- ✦ Paul Kallis reported that a technician is working on the sound system issues.

Ways & Means

- ✦ James Kapolas distributed the golf outing announcement. In an effort to raise additional funds, an ad will appear in the Mosaic, seeking new prospects for sponsors and golfers. There are some new golfers from Harris Bank.
- ✦ Our church picnic will be Sunday, July 18.

New Business

- ✦ The Family 5K Run and Walk will be Saturday, May 8 at 8:30am. All proceeds will benefit Philoxenia House in Rochester, MN. A motion was passed to give \$2,000 towards the proceeds of the Family 5K Run and Walk.
- ✦ The 50th Anniversary photo album published online has not worked as many parishioners cannot get online. President Peter Poteres asked for someone to find a way for those parishioners to view and order the photographs. Peter Tomaras volunteered to investigate the process.
- ✦ Choir Director Nick Paloumpis asked for funds to help defray expenses for the Metropolis Junior Choir Concert to be held at Holy Apostles on April 23 & 24. A motion to provide \$750 to support the event, was passed.



April 10, was the annual Metropolis St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival. It was hosted by Holy Trinity Church in Chicago. Fotis Pappas represented Holy Apostles in the Senior Division speech program. In the Junior Division, Stephen Berg represented Holy Apostles in the speech program, and Rigas Pappas represented us in the essay program. Each of the young men will present their speech or essay on Youth Proclaim Christ Sunday, May 16.

Registry

Baptisms

*Demetra, Daughter of
Joanna & Jason Gatzulis
Sponsor: Kathryn Liston*

*Vitas, Son of
Jolita & Daniel Vlahos
Sponsors: Maria & Zach Bousies*

*Athanasia, Daughter of
Panayiota & Jim Ikononou
Sponsor: Georgia O'Meara*

*Zoey, Daughter of
Christina & Brian Houdek
Sponsor info not available*

Weddings

Diane Bakiunas & Paul Kresser
Sponsor: Pauline Bisch

Deanne Choporis & John Funteas
Sponsor Lee Stefanos

Marianna Shubalis & Alfredo Minniti
Sponsor: Rebecca Voutiritsas

Philoptochos News for May

Fund Raising

Philoptochos thanks everyone who supported the Easter Bake Sale and Candle Sale for their extraordinary efforts during the Easter Season. Proceeds will be used for philanthropic endeavors for the remainder of the year.

Feed the Hungry

On May 11, Philoptochos will prepare and serve a hot meal for the Metropolis Feed the Hungry program at the Annunciation Cathedral in Chicago. Diane Hank will chair this event with the help of many volunteers. For information about helping with this event, please contact Diane Hank at 708.246.3391.

May Meeting

Please mark your calendar for the final meeting of the 2009-2010 year on Tuesday, May 18 at 7 pm. Philoptochos invites you to enjoy a program featuring our very own parishioner, Sophia Forero, a designer of fine jewelry. Sophia will share the global experiences that inspired her to pursue her love of designing fine jewelry. Please join us for a most interesting program. Bring a friend!

Help wanted !

We are in need of Sunday School teachers for the 2010-2011 school year, as some of our teachers are retiring. If you are interested, there are openings in the lower grades for part-time (one Sunday a month) or full time (three Sundays a month). Please contact Joan Berg at jberg@harrisonheld.com.

Fr. Bill from P. 1

Living stones a metaphor for us

and night moving forward and backward reciting prayers. At the conclusion of their prayer, they insert tiny pieces of paper in the cracks in the wall which contain the names for whom prayers were offered. You leave a changed person after standing before this massive stone wall.

Jesus is called a living stone, a daring metaphor seemingly absurd, for stones do not live. And Peter extends the stone imagery in a remarkable and daring way in portraying not only Christ but also Christians as stones that live and perform. Even more remarkable, these living stones are being built into a spiritual house. Thus further emphasizing the amazing fact that these humble believers, like Christ, have become living stones precious to God.

Every guided tour in Washington, D.C. stops at two great stone monuments. The highest stone monument ever built to the memory of a man is 555 feet high. It is in memory of the richest man in the colonies, George Washington. He was dedicated to lead the new colonies to freedom and gave his personal leadership knowing the penalty for being an unsuccessful rebel against the king.

The next stop on a guided tour is usually in front of a beautiful monument with a spacious reflecting pool in front of it. It is the widest stone monument ever constructed to commemorate a life. This one was built to the memory of a poor man, who was born in a log cabin in Kentucky. He came to the capital city just when the great battle for the Union was to be fought. Before that was finished, he had given everything for his fellow citizens, including his life.

In 1799, Napoleon's troops, near the Egyptian City of Rosetta, found a large stone inscribed by priests of Ptolemy containing messages in hieroglyphic and Greek. The stone now rests in the British museum and, in a sense, is a living stone in that it provided scholars with the key to translating ancient Egyptian hieroglyphic. It is a stone with a message.

A stone monument, which is even greater than the highest in the world or the widest in the world, is the church of the Risen Lord. He was born in greater poverty than Lincoln. And everyone who calls upon the name of Jesus can become like a living stone built into a spiritual house.

When some Pharisees asked Jesus to silence his disciples, he answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out." (Luke 19:40) CHRIST IS RISEN!

Father Nicholas, annoints Isabella Kirsch with Holy Unction on Holy Wednesday, right. The Holy Thursday evening procession, far right.



Father Bill and Father Nicholas bless the faithful with myrrh on Holy Friday night, above. On Holy Saturday morning, right, the youth scramble is on for flowers on the floor.

Highlights...



Photos by Peter Bell

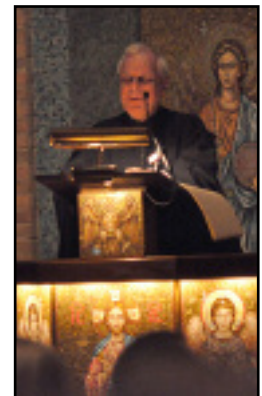


The myrrhbearers, Marianna Georgiou, Alana Kafkes, Diana Kafkes, above. At right, the faithful venerate the Crucifixion on Holy Thursday evening.



Of Holy Week

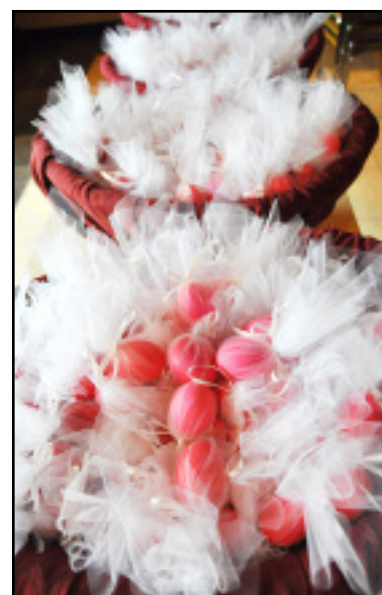
Parishioners venerate the Epitaphion Holy Friday afternoon, right. Fr. Bill and Fr. Nicholas carry the epitaphion in procession Holy Friday afternoon, far right.



Above, Mr. D. starts the Holy Saturday night services by reading from the Book of Revelation. At left, Fr. Bill and Fr. Nicholas bring the light of Christ from the altar chanting "Come receive the Light..." Holy Saturday night.



On Holy Friday Evening, Fr. Bill distributes small flowers to the faithful, above. At right, red-dyed eggs are arranged in the shape of a cross after being wrapped by volunteers Holy Friday morning.



George 'Mike' Chianakas



1942



Now

Athletic parishioner in hall of fame

George Chianakas, better known as Mike, was recently inducted into the Greater Peoria Sports Hall of Fame. Mike was unarguably the greatest athlete to ever come out of the town of Eureka, Illinois. No one else ever won 16 athletic letters at Eureka High. No one else ever ran back 13 interceptions for touchdowns in one season. In his senior year, Mike won a gold medal at the 1943 IHSA track meet by winning the discus throw.

After a hitch in the U.S. Navy during WWII, he nearly went to the U of I before deciding on Bradley. He didn't do quite as well at Bradley, where he won 10 letters- 4 in track, 4 in basketball and 2 in football. It

seems that the track coach would not let him play baseball during the track season.

Mike will always be remembered for his part in bringing Bradley into the world of major college sports during that magical time after the war. Mike obtained his degree and spent his adult life working with youths through the YMCA movement in Peoria, Canton and Freeport. He also spent a year working with youths in Greece as a Fulbright Scholar recipient.

After retiring, Mike and his late wife Sophia, moved to Lisle and found Holy Apostles.

Local basketball star Toni Kokenis receives media honors



Named to the Tribune and Sun-Times All-State girl's basket ball first team, parishioner Toni Kokenis capped a stellar career at Hinsdale Central. She was a member of the Daily Herald's All-Area team for four years. A four-year varsity standout, Kokenis goes down as the all-time leading scorer at Hinsdale Central, boys or girls.

Despite constant pressure this winter, she managed to average 19.3 points, 6.1 assists and 3.6 steals per game. The Stanford-bound guard shot 45 percent from the floor while knocking down 83 percent of her free throws and had an assist-to-turnover ratio of almost 3 to 1. She broke her own record for most points scored in a single season (620) while also going over the 2,000-point

Toni Kokenis shoots a 3-point basket to break the school record for total points scored by either a girl or boy at Hinsdale Central, 2,031.

Fr. Nicholas from P. 2 The Holy Spirit meets us in our exiles

you.” (Romans 8:9) The Holy Spirit becomes as integral to our real Christian living as blood flowing through our veins. This is most powerful for those of us who are hurting.

The Holy Spirit shares our hurts in an intimate way. Hurting can bring painful feelings of being isolated and distant from God. The Holy Spirit sighs in rhythm with our pain and reaches out to God for us!

When we are struggling in life, if we are not careful, we may view God in a very limited, one-dimensional way. We may approach Him for help or someone to blame. If we ask for help, we expect the divine cavalry to rush and rescue us. We assume that God does not want us in the challenging situation. Or, looking for someone to blame, we see God as an uncaring being who sees our pain and will not help. Finding someone else to blame may be strangely comforting because we do not have to examine ourselves!

To deal with suffering in a Christian way, we must learn to see God as He really is. In Christ's passion, we remember God experienced pain in its hideous totality. God hurts with us and for us. We remember the Holy Spirit is always with us when we pray: “Oh Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, who is in all places and fills all things, the Treasurer of blessings and Giver of Life, come and abide in us. Cleanse us from our sins and save our souls O Gracious Lord. Amen”

plateau for her career.

Though her list of individual achievement is eye-popping, the always unselfish senior is most proud of how her team did when she was on the court. “Playing for Hinsdale Central was an amazing experience,” she said. “I am so proud and honored to wear a Hinsdale Central jersey for four years and to be part of an excellent program. I was with great coaches who are even better people and the same with the girls. Having four years with amazing teammates was unbelievable.”

Toni's accolades go beyond basketball into soccer. Her highlight was winning the Illinois AAA state championship in June. She scored the winning goals in both the semifinal and final games. Hinsdale Central ranked 11th in the nation as a result.

In the school's record book, for 2008 and 2009, Toni led the team in goals scored, assists, and points.

She was selected as a member of 2009's NSCAA Addidas High School Scholar All-region Soccer team for the Central Region.

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
8:00am Orthros 9:15am Awaken To God 9:30am Divine Liturgy Fellowship Hour	5:30pm The Way	10:00am TOIS 4:30pm Greek School	1:00pm Adult Christian Fellowship And Study Group	4:30pm Greek School		1 8:30am 5K Family Run
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
MOTHERS DAY 8:00am Orthros 9:15am Awaken To God 9:30am Divine Liturgy Fellowship Hour		Philoctochos Feed The Hungry 4:30pm Greek School	APODOSIS TAKE LEAVE OF PASCHA 8:00am Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 1:00pm Adult Christian Fellowship Sofod Luncheon	ASCENSION OF OUR LORD 8:00am Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 4:30pm Greek School		15
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
YOUTH SUNDAY 8:00am Orthros 9:15am Awaken To God 9:30am Divine Liturgy Fellowship Hour	5:30pm The Way Barbeque	10:00am TOIS 4:30pm Greek School Picnic 7:30pm Philoctochos General Mtg	1:00pm Adult Christian Fellowship And Study Group	4:30pm Greek School Last Day 7:30pm Parish Council Meeting	FEAST DAY OF SS. CONSTANTINE & HELEN 8:00am Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 4:30pm Adventure Theater Lock-In	22
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
PENTECOST 8:00am Orthros 9:15am Awaken To God 9:30am Divine Liturgy Fellowship Hour		6:00pm Greek School Graduation	1:00pm Adult Christian Fellowship And Study Group		JUNIOR OLYMPICS	JUNIOR OLYMPICS
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
8:00am Orthros 9:15am Awaken To God 9:30am Divine Liturgy Fellowship Hour 12:00pm Junior Olympics	MEMORIAL DAY OFFICE CLOSED					
30	31	<p><i>A mother's motto</i> It is better to wear out doing good, than to rust out doing little or nothing.</p>				

Weekday Services

Apodosis

Take Leave of Pascha

Wednesday, May 12
8:00am Orthros
9:00am Divine Liturgy

Ascension of Our Lord

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

Feast Day Of

SS. Constantine & Helen

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

Saturday Of The Souls

Saturday, May 22
8:00am Orthros
9:00am Divine Liturgy

The **HARC** CORNER

The Miracle of Christ

By Archbishop Dmitri Royster
This book is the newest in a series of New Testament stories by the author. The present study is a commentary on all the miracles and wonders and signs of Christ as recorded in the four Gospels.

Two basic convictions shape this study – any preaching about Christ that omits His miracles or marginalizes their significance makes for a defective and distorted picture “of His works as the Redeemer. The miracles reveal the truth about Jesus’ life and person, proving beyond doubt that He is what He claimed to be, the Son of God incarnate.”

The careful and at times word-by-word commentary of biblical text stirs readers to reckon themselves among the characters in the Gospel stories: young and old, men and women, those afflicted with spiritual and physical pain, those with great faith and those far from belief.

With love and compassion, Archbishop Royster studies the miracles of Jesus within the framework of the lectionary of the Orthodox Church.

Softbound \$16

Memorials

*Elias Kusulas
Anthony Antoniou
Peter Loli
George Varlas
Theodore Varlas
Demetra Dravillas
Harry Dravillas
Anastasios Mouroukas
George Mouroukas
Stamata Mouroukas*

Funerals

*Phyllis Chilis
Sophia Rendas
Christine Svarkonis*

Mosaic Deadline

The deadline for the June / July Mosaic is Monday, May 10.

Stewardship

Please remember to fulfill your pledges.
The church needs your dough
for its spiritual baking!

Postmaster: Please deliver by the 3rd of May

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