

MOSAIC

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

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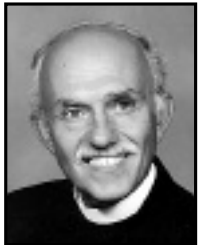
Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church 2501 S. Wolf Rd. Westchester, IL

October 2010

(708) 562-2744

www.holyapostleschurch.com

From Father Bill



Cash flow... A lesson on stewardship

Our lives are dotted with many unearned blessings. For example, the great opportunity of traveling to Israel and viewing the holy sites will always remain an integral part of my life. Each visit to this part of the world enabled me to understand with much more clarity the life and times of Jesus Christ. I shall always remember my first visit to the Sea of Galilee and the Dead Sea, two bodies of water fed by the Jordan River, other streams and numerous springs.

Indeed the Dead Sea has a daily intake of over six million tons from the Jordan alone. Yet nothing lives in the Dead Sea, where the salinity is four to six times as great as the ocean's. The Dead Sea keeps all the water it gets. By contrast the Sea of Galilee's outflow supplies water for dozens of farming settlements. Trawlers with nets harvest fish from the waters. One lake keeps, the other gives.

A pure lake is not one that contains all of its water within, but one that flows out water through the spillway. The flow is necessary to keep the water pure. Human lives are that way too, they are kept pure by flow.

We may experience the concept of cash flow in business, acknowledging the importance of maintaining a cash flow. The significance of cash flow is recorded in various stories in the Bible. The familiar story of Zacchaeus is about a man who had a "flow" problem, a cash flow problem. He was a tax collector. He collected and collected and held on to much more than he needed. The buck stopped with Zacchaeus. He was rich and miserable. His name Zacchaeus, by the way, means pure, but his actions belied the meaning of his name and warranted the label sinner.

Learning that Jesus was to pass by, he,



Greek School Begins

This year's Greek School students and teachers pause for a photo on the first day of class.

being "small of stature," climbed a tree for a better view. Surprisingly, Jesus summoned him and ate with him. That dinner was the most important of his life. Somehow when the debris was cleared from his life, the flow started again. He promised to contribute to the poor and restore fourfold those wrongfully treated, and he finally became what his name meant – pure.

The story of Zacchaeus is one of the most popular stories in Scripture. Children love to sing the Sunday school song about Zacchaeus, the "wee little man," and adults are warned by how he responded to Jesus and did a financial turnabout, returning fourfold his fortune.

This flow-through idea is central to the Biblical teaching of stewardship. We are not given things to keep, but to be caretakers over them, allowing whatever comes our way to flow through us to our benefit and the benefit of others. When we stop that flow as Zacchaeus did, all sorts of bad things start to come about.

Although his story is told only in the Lukan gospel, some legends have sprung up about Zacchaeus. According to one legend, Zacchaeus arose early every morning and left

his house. His wife, extremely curious at this unusual behavior, decided to follow him one morning. She watched as her husband took a bucket to the well, filled it with water, and then walked out of the town gates.

Zacchaeus stopped at a sycamore tree. There he set down the bucket and cleared away any debris which had accumulated around the roots. Having done this, he poured the water around the roots, caressed the trunk of the tree, and stood in seeming awe. At this point his wife came out of her hiding place and asked him what he was doing. Without hesitation Zacchaeus answered his wife's question by saying, "This is where I found Christ."

This year when you partake in stewardship, your reward among other things will be a faith-enriched experience and the discovery of Christ. God's grace will continue to flow and life will be good, knowing that you met Christ in Church and through stewardship

This flow-through idea is central to the Biblical teaching of stewardship. We are not given things to keep, but to be caretakers over it, allowing whatever comes our way to flow through us to our benefit and the benefit of others.

From Father Nicholas



Lighting Candles

My favorite Orthodox Christian children's author recent-

ly began writing a book titled: *Zoe the Lonely Candle*. The book chronicles the life and adventures of a candle. It will be used to teach children the importance and significance of lighting candles in Orthodox worship. Recently, a baptism was celebrated at our church. At the end of each sacrament, we extinguish the candles in the stands in the narthex. That day, surprisingly no one, not one person, lit a candle! Why do we use candles? What does lighting a candle have to do with praying? Why are they such an integral part of Orthodox worship? What do candles have to do with God and our faith in Him?

The Book of Exodus tells us that the "sight of the Lord's glory was like a burning fire on the top of the mountain." St. Paul's letter to the Hebrews states "our God is a consuming fire." Throughout the Gospel of St. John, Jesus is portrayed as light. He is the "light that shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it." Jesus said "I am the light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the Light of life." The flame reminds us the light of Christ illumines our souls. As we light our bees wax candles at the foot of the Holy Cross on Holy Thursday evening, the sweet scent of the bees wax fills the air. St. Nicodemus reminds us "our souls should have that sweet aroma of Divine Grace." The softness of those candles is a picture of us. Our souls should be supple and soft as the candles. The pure bees wax candles remind us our hearts should be pure. As the flame flickers, we are reminded of struggles in this life. Despite our trials and tribulations, the flame continues to burn. This shows the Lord's constant presence with us – always! Light dissolves the darkness. Christ's light banishes the fear brought on by darkness. Mice scatter when they see light. In the same way, according to Nicholas Velimirovich, "demons love obscurity and tremble in the presence of the light of Christ."

Lighting a candle draws us closer to the Lord by making us more aware of our relationship with Him. St. John of Kronstadt calls the candle a "burnt offering to the Lord. Let it be a gift to God from your whole heart. Let it remind you that you yourself should be a burning and shining light." St. Paul's letter to the Philippians instructs us to be children of God in the midst of a crooked and perverse

...See Fr. Nicholas on P. 5



Gavel to Gavel



BY STEVE SAVAS, FOR GEORGE CHECHOPOULOS, SECRETARY

Parish Council meeting of September 16

Financial Report

✦ The comparative financial report dated August 31, 2009 and 2010 was reviewed. Jim Fotopoulos moved to approve the financial statements dated August 31, 2009 and 2010, subject to year end review. The motion passed unanimously.

Stewardship

✦ George Mannos Jr. stated that the church received 752 pledges, the same amount of pledges for the same period last year, totaling \$645,287, up \$500 for an average pledge of \$858. Amount paid for August was \$27,145.50.

Correspondence

✦ George Mannos Jr. stated that the National Hellenic Museum is having their Annual Gala on October 23. For more information go to www.nationalhellenic-museum.org; Mrs. Bess Askounis sent a thank you letter for helping her when she had her accident; Mrs. Joan Berg and the Sunday School staff sent a thank you card for improving the classrooms with a new floor, blackboards, the new text books, and supplemental materials. She reported there were 236 Sunday School students in attendance on the first day of school.

Meditation

✦ Fr. Nicholas focused on the feast day of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. The Cross gives us the path of Holiness, and strength in our lives, efforts and leadership. The Cross also illumines our minds and souls and offers love. Fr. Nicholas also introduced a small book named the *ABC's of Natural Church Development* which focuses on eight essential points of a healthy parish. People are empowered to lead, able to utilize their talents, embrace the Orthodox spiritual life, and run the parish competently. People should be inspired to worship, find close community programs, reach outside the church to others and love and care for each other. The final note is that principles and teachings GROW the Church. Matthew 7:17: "Every good tree bears fruit".

Building & Grounds

✦ George Alex presented a report on purchasing a new copy machine for the office.

✦ George will pursue further sound studies for the proper placement of the speakers for the new organ, as the choir is having a problem hearing over the organ because of the speaker placement.

✦ The village of Westchester re-inspection will be coming up shortly.

✦ Jim Fotopoulos mentioned a few items that were taken care of by the Building & Grounds Committee: the kneelers in the church have been adjusted, new chalkboards were installed in the classrooms (under budget) and a voltage regulator has been installed on the sound system to prevent further electrical shorts or surges.

Technical Committee

✦ Peter Poteres said that the sound system is completed and running well. Training on the system will begin for the Parish Council and for all the organizations of the church.

✦ The Archdiocese is short of IT personnel and issues have arisen with the Internet site, although the Holy Apostles local internet site is running well.

✦ The committee has been assigned the task of setting some criteria for the notification of death notices, people who become ill etc. in order to respect those people who may not want to publicize such matters.

Old Business

✦ Parish Council retreat will be held on October 2 at the Diplomat West from 8am - 2pm.

✦ A youth director position was discussed and more discussion will follow.

✦ The State of Illinois Re-Inspection will be scheduled in the near future. There is progress in facilitating the handicap parking spaces.

New Business

✦ A motion was made by George Mannos Jr. to give George Lamberis some financial assistance to help offset his mission trip this summer to Korea. The motion passed unanimously.

✦ George Alex will research how many cemetery plots Holy Apostles still has.

✦ The Diocese Assessment meeting was reviewed by Peter Poteres. Everything remains the same as last year.

✦ A major fundraiser is in full swing in hopes of raising over \$1 million to be presented at the Metropolitan's Dinner on October 28 at Drury Lane. Holy Apostles will buy 2 tables. Tickets are \$125/per person.

Holy Apostles' programs are in full swing this fall

Holy Apostles offers many opportunities for our children, young adults and families to learn and grow in their Orthodox Christian life and to make and nurture friendships. Following are some of the ministries that are offered this year:

TOTS (ages 2-5)

The group utilizes fun, interactive, hands-on activities for the children to learn about their Christian faith. TOTS meets bi-monthly on Tuesday mornings from 10:15-11:30 am.

THE WAY (Kindergarten-8th grade)

We share a meal together and then break into smaller discussion groups by age. Come and learn about many different areas of our Orthodox faith. This is a great way to make friends and grow together in Christ. The group meets bi-monthly on Monday evenings from 5:15-7pm.

JR. GOYA (7th-8th grade)

Jr. GOYA is holding a Bake Sale on October 17. On October 27 a service project for the U.S. troops is planned.

GOYA (9th-12th grade)

We discuss relevant topics that affect the daily lives of our teenagers. Come meet other teens and build relationships with them. Our group typically meets bi-monthly on Tuesday evenings from 7:30-9 pm. Social events and service projects are part of our program.

YAL (singles & married couples 18 years old and up)

We typically meet the first Friday of the month. Besides discussions that address current event and topics that are relevant to our daily Christian, the group also enjoys social events.

FAMILY SYNAXIS

We meet monthly on Saturday beginning with Vespers followed by dinner discussion. Our themes focus on building the marriage relationship, as well as living our Christian faith in the home. We also offer fun, social activities for the entire family.

God's countless gifts that too often go unnoticed

Have you ever stopped to consider the countless treasures we receive from God free of charge? One day, as I was walking to work, I started counting them.

To start with, there is the rain, the sunshine, and the air we breathe. God provided plant and animal life in the Garden of Eden for Adam and Eve to enjoy free of charge. Their descendants still benefit from that plant and animal life to this day.

Does God ask payment for the sound of rain falling through the leaves of the trees, the feel of snow falling against your skin, the myriad shapes the clouds take, and the various fragrances of vegetation that come to us on soft, summer breezes? In our hurried and harried lives, how often do we notice the sound of fallen leaves as we step on them during autumn

or the crunch of snow beneath our shoes in winter? Is not the sound of children's voices a gift from God?

Unfortunately, there are those who scorn everything in the world because of some of the bad things. Holy Scripture clearly distinguishes between what is evil in the world from what is good (Mt. 6:25, 28-29; Jn. 3:16-17, 17:15; 1 Jn. 2:15-17). Beware of those who refuse to acknowledge beauty, preferring to see ugliness only, or who desire the gifts of paradise while scorning God's gifts in this life.

In conclusion, take time to notice the countless treasures that come from our loving Father. Appreciate them, for they are but a hint of better things to come.

By Mr. D

HOLY APOSTLES' PAREA

Membership Night 2010-11

FRIDAY October 8th 7:00pm



*..featuring a presentation by
photographer PETER BELL*

**\$10.00 MEMBERSHIP (MAINTAINS THE
TREASURY AND MAILING LIST TO CONFIRM
YOUR INTEREST IN PARTICIPATING IN THE
ACTIVITIES.)**



An energetic group of kindergartners get down to business assembling puzzles on the first day of Sunday School.



Lilly Farsalas gets some help coloring from her teacher, Mrs. Marie Kokenis. At right, Mr. D teaches 5th and 6th graders in the multi-purpose room.



Back to Sunday School

Ella Economos enters class as her mother Martha and sister Katherine watch.

Photos by Peter Bell





At left in front, Alex Patt, Ankit Chataut, Steven Pepke, and in the back row are Gray Kafkes and Martha Madden read their lines. Above, Alex Patt and Angelo Fotopoulos.

Adventure Theater Radio presents!

The Adventure Theater Radio Players present three productions each year. "Pedimoo" is the name of the play, which is revealed near the end, as "My Child" in English.



Above, reading their lines are Alex Patt, Gray Kafkes, Demetra Fotopoulos, and Martha Madden. And at right, are Angelo Fotopoulos, Alex Patt, and Lisa Buehlos.



Fr. Nicholas from P. 2

Candles must be lit to be useful to the soul

generation. Shine among the people as lights in the world. St. Paul's letter to the Romans urges us "cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light." We are commanded to "walk (daily) as children of light." The candle illumines a person in darkness. As Christians, the light of the virtues, love and peace, should characterize us. Just like the candle does not light without the help of our hands, our heart's inner light can only light with the help of God. The effort of our virtues is the fuel. In the Book of Proverbs, we read "the spirit of man is the candle of the Lord." Our souls will not be satisfied until the

divine flame touches them. Candles must be lit to be useful. The wax that feeds the wick and keeps it burning consists of our prayers and contact with the Lord through the Sacraments, the Bible and Divine Liturgy. The wick is the soul. Finally, the flame or fire is the Holy Spirit who lights the wick and keeps it aflame. We work with the Lord.

Protecting the flame is our challenge. Don't quench it. Keep the wick burning. St. John Climacus urges that the life of a repentant person be constantly aflame. The Christian should not allow this inner fire to be extinguished. We must constantly kindle the

flame! It is an inner fire. This fire is God's love poured out in Christ and shed in our hearts by the Holy Spirit. St. Seraphim of Sarov wrote: "when both the intellect and heart are united in prayer, and when the thoughts of the soul are not scattered, the heart is warmed by a spiritual heat, the Light of Christ enlightens it and fills the interior person with peace and joy." As we light our candles, we can pray as St. Gregory Palamas did: "Lord, enlighten my darkness." Don't forget to light your candle!

The **HARC** CORNER

Orthodoxy at Work Saved through the Sacraments

By Fr. Evagoras Constantinides

This book goes into explicit detail to explain the sacraments which are Holy Services and practices, established by our Lord Jesus directly or through His Apostles.

There are seven sacraments, starting with baptism. The book lists the remaining six. The first four sacraments are obligatory for all Orthodox Christians. Three of the seven were instituted by Christ directly; Baptism, Holy Communion, and Penance.

After reading this beautifully written book, the conclusion is obvious; that the grace of God which is conveyed through the sacraments is absolutely necessary for our salvation.

Softbound, \$11.50

St. Gerasimos and the Lion

By Georgia Kalogerakis

Children and animals have a great affinity. The Saints of God, by stripping themselves of worldly vanity, have regained the ability to relate to God's creatures as children, with open hearts. This is the story of one well-known saint and his animal companion.

Softbound, \$12.00

Pictures of God

A child's guide to understanding icons

By John Kosmas Skinas

This little book brings God and His saints vividly into children's lives through icons, explaining in the simplest terms what each icon means and what the role of these holy pictures – and the holy stories and people they depict – can be in our lives. The colorful pages are perfect for occupying little hands in church and for read-aloud time with little ones at home.

Softbound, \$11.00

Life Is a Gift

Today, before you think of saying
an unkind word,
Think of someone who can't speak.

Before you complain about the taste
of your food,
Think of someone who has nothing to eat.

Before you complain about your husband
or wife, Think of someone who's crying out
to God for a companion.

Today before you complain about life,
Think of someone who went too early
to heaven.

Before you complain about your children -
Think of someone who desires children
but they're barren.

Before you argue about your dirty house
someone didn't clean or sweep, think of the
people who are living in the streets.

Before whining about the distance you drive -
Think of someone who walks the same
distance with his feet.

And when you are tired and complain about
your job - Think of the unemployed, the dis-
abled and those who wished they had your
job.

But before you think of pointing the finger or
condemning another - Remember that not
one of us is without sin
and we all answer to one maker.

And when depressing thoughts seem to get
you down - Put a smile on your face and
thank God you're alive and still around.

Life is a gift.
Live it.
Enjoy it.
Celebrate it.
Fulfill it.

RELISH THE MOMENT,
IT MAY NOT COME AROUND AGAIN.

Registry

September / October

Baptisms

*Theodore, Son of
Constance & Konstantine Sparagis
Sponsor: Kimberly Adams*

*Thanasaki, Son of
Dena & Jimmy Visvardis
Sponsor: Koula Michalopoulos*

*Daniella, Daughter of
Caryn & John Delabadia
Sponsors: Katherine & Louis Pastorello*

*Daniella, Daughter of
Maria & Donald Stephans
Sponsor: Anastasia Gasperini*

*Jett, Son of
Christine & Michael Jacklin
Sponsor: William Jacklin*

*Joseph, Son of
Kristin & Stephen Chicoine
Sponsor: Mathew Refakes*

*Gus, Son of
Hannah & James Athas
Sponsors: Maria & John Livaditis
Maureen Mochon & Anthony Chippas
Sponsor: Stephen Spanos*

Weddings

*Nicole Bell & Jimmy Chino
Sponsor: Theodore Chino*

*Amber Deftos & William Deftos
Sponsors: Kristen & Ameen Haddad*

New and Gently Used Fall and Winter Women's Career Clothing Needed

Philoptochos will hold a clothing drive from October 31-November 11 for Poised for Success, a non-profit organization serving the suburban Chicagoland area. It provides career clothing to women who cannot afford appropriate clothes for a job interview and also provides assistance with interview skills and job placement. The women are provided two interview outfits and once they secure a job, they are provided three more so they will

have a week's worth of clothing. Some of these women can barely afford the basic necessities of life. Just think, the suit or slacks hanging in your closet could lead to a new life for a struggling woman and her family! We would greatly appreciate if you could take a peek at your closets and bring any donations to the multi-purpose room any day of the week during the above noted days. Thank you in advance for helping ease the lives of others in need.

Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church **October 2010** 2501 S. Wolf Rd. Westchester, Illinois

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	5:15pm The Way	10:15am TOTs 4:30pm Greek School 7:30pm GOYA Meeting	1:00pm Adult Christian Fellowship And Study Group 7:15pm Bible Study 7:30pm Catechism	4:30pm Greek School	4:30pm Adventure Theater	12:00pm Parish Council Retreat
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
8:00am Orthros 9:15am Awaken To God 9:30am Divine Liturgy Fellowship Hour Fonari Reunion Dinner 7:30pm		4:30pm Greek School	1:00pm Adult Christian Fellowship And Study Group 7:15pm Bible Study 7:30pm Catechism	4:30pm Greek School	4:30pm Adventure Theater Para Membership Nighr 7:00pm	4:00pm Altar Boys Meeting 5:00pm Vespers
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
8:00am Orthros 9:15am Awaken To God 9:30am Divine Liturgy Fellowship Hour Jr. GOYA Bake Sale		10:15am TOTs 4:30pm Greek School	1:00pm Adult Christian Fellowship And Study Group 7:15pm Bible Study 7:30pm Catechism	4:30pm Greek School	4:30pm Adventure Theater	11:00am Philoptochos Fashion Show
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
8:00am Orthros 9:15am Awaken To God 9:30am Divine Liturgy Fellowship Hour GOYA Taffy Apple Sale		FEAST DAY OF ST. DEMETRIOS 8:00am Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 4:30pm Greek School	1:00pm Adult Christian Fellowship And Study Group 7:00pm Jr. GOYA 7:15pm Bible Study 7:30pm Catechism 7:30pm Parish Council Meeting	4:30pm Greek School 6:00pm Metropolitan's Dinner At Diury Lane	4:30pm Adventure Theater	10:00am GOYA Yard Cleanup Service Project
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
8:00am Orthros 9:15am Awaken To God 9:30am Divine Liturgy Fellowship Hour						
31	<p><i>To get something you never had, you have to do something you never did.</i> <i>When God takes something from your grasp, He's not punishing you,</i> <i>but merely opening your hands to receive something better.</i> <i>The will of God will never take you where the Grace of God will not protect you.</i></p>					

Weekday Services

Feast Day of St. Demetrios

Tuesday, October 26
8:00am Orthros
9:00am Divine Liturgy

Funerals

Antonia Kringas

Mosaic Deadline

The deadline for the November issue
of the Mosaic is Tuesday, October 5.

Memorials

Efthimios Tsokas
George Futris
Sophia Petrakos
Nicholas Petrakos
Dr. Harry Petrakos
Haralambos Vakos

Parea is going to the Fireside Playhouse in Fort Atkinson, WI. to see **The Child – The Story Of The First Christmas**

Sunday, November 7

11:45am after the Divine Liturgy

Returning at 9:30pm

Cost is \$85.00 for dinner, play, and transportation

RSVP (w/payment) by October, 17

Call Eve Vasilion for reservations at 630.968.7624

Send checks to Holy Apostles, Attn: Parea
or Sundays after the Divine Liturgy

Postmaster: Please deliver by the 3rd of October

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