

MOSAIC

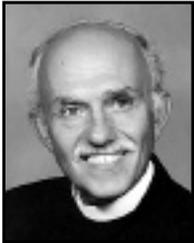
Coming together, we form an icon of God's Kingdom

Vol. 18, No. 3

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

June/July, 2013

From Father Bill



The answer is within you

A teacher wrote the first exam question on the blackboard: Which of the required readings in this course did you find least interesting? Then, after the class members had ten minutes to think about, certainly to many, was a congenial topic, the teacher wrote the second question: To what defect in yourself do you attribute this lack of interest? A benign question suddenly turned into soul-searching anguish because it required the students to look within themselves for the answer. It's tough to examine oneself. The Apostle Paul asked the Corinthians to do just that. "Examine yourselves," he told them, "to see if you are holding to your faith. Test yourselves. Do you not realize that Jesus Christ is in you?" (2 Cor. 13:5). The questions the Divine Saint asks of the Corinthians may also be relevant for most of us today.

The Church has directed our attention to our Savior, His Passion, Death and Resurrection. What remains for us is whether or not these historical moments have left us with a life-changing decision.

The bumper sticker theology that CHRIST IS THE ANSWER prompts cynics to quip: what was the question? Christ is the answer, but only when he is within a person. The real question is that which Paul asked of the Corinthian believers: "Do you not realize Jesus, the risen Lord, is within you?" We ask these questions of ourselves as we continue our post-Paschal journey. The events in my life may not have changed significantly, but I must face each day with a renewed faith and hope.

On one of his radio broadcasts, Paul Harvey told what he claimed to be a true story. It was about two bedridden men who



Youth Sunday

Above, Altar Boy Michael Hamalis, left, and Peter Savas, right, serve during the Liturgy. At left, Alexandra Ziogas, Grace Govostis, Alexandra Karafiotis at the candle stand.

Photos by Peter Bell

shared a room in a nursing home. One man occupied a bed next to a window and the other was in a bed next to the door. Because this man could not see out the window, he asked his roommate to tell him about the happenings in the outside world. Every day, the window-side man gave his friend a report. He told him about the postman who made his rounds, wearing a raincoat and boots in rainy weather and short sleeves on pretty days. He told him about the lovers who passed the window every day at noon. He described how they first held hands, then embraced and then parted. He even spoke about the backward

glances the two would give each other, showing how they longed for one another's presence once again. Truly, the door-side man lived for these reports.

One day, however, the man in the bed next to the window died, so another man was wheeled into the room to take his place. The man next to the door introduced himself and then asked his new roommate if he would tell him about the goings on outside the window. "Sure said the occupant, "only I don't know how I can. There is nothing outside the window but a brick wall."

See Fr. Bill on P. 5

From Father Nicholas



Accepting Christ's Resurrection

A few months ago, our family went shopping for Paschal items. We purchased a large lantern with a candle inside surrounded by glass and sheltered from the wind. This new solid lantern ensured that the Paschal light would not be extinguished. Presbytera joyously received the Paschal light, as we chanted: "Come receive the light." A few days after Pascha, the candle burned down and eventually, the light went out. Do you feel like that today? Pascha seems so long ago. Has your Paschal light gone out?

Our challenge is to continually receive God's light and not remain in painful darkness. How can we hold onto this Paschal light and joy? Whole-hearted acceptance of Christ's Resurrection is the key. Understanding the evidence proving that Jesus really rose from the dead will help us to accept His Resurrection.

The Book of Acts contains the earliest evidence of Christ's Resurrection. Luke wrote the book around the year 74-85 AD. Christ's Resurrection was the central proclamation of the early church from the beginning. The church did not merely endorse the teachings. They were convinced that Christ was seen alive after His crucifixion. This changed the disciples' lives, and they started the church. We have four Gospel descriptions of Christ's Resurrection. They are differing accounts of the same event.

According to the Scriptures, Jesus appeared four times to all or most of the disciples. He personally mingled with, touched, and even ate with them. The first time He appeared to all, except Thomas, was on the day of His Resurrection. Eight days later, He appeared to all the disciples and Thomas felt the wounds in His body. The third time He appeared, they all shared breakfast together. (John 21:1-14) Finally, He appeared to His disciples and charged them with the Great Commission: "Go and make disciples of all nations." (Matthew 28:16-20) Christ appeared to individuals and groups of people. The Scriptures reveal He appeared to over 500 people. (1 Corinthians 15:6)

Apart from the Gospel writers, Peter and Paul also proclaim the empty tomb in the Book of Acts. Paul wrote the first letter to the Corinthians around 55 AD. He indicates that he already discovered the creed proclaiming Christ's Resurrection. (1 Corinthians 15:1-5) The creed existed within 20 years of Christ's Resurrection!

Historians also corroborate Christ's



Gavel to Gavel



Highlights of March & April Parish Council Meetings

BY PAUL KALLIS, SECRETARY

Financial/Treasurers Report:

- ✦ The comparative financial report dated February, 2013 showed that the church for two months ending February 28 was favorable \$60,762. Lou Katzioris moved to approve the financial statements dated February 28, subject to year-end review. The motion passed unanimously.
- ✦ The church for three months ending on March 31 had net revenue of \$65,380. Louis Katsioris moved to approve the financial statements dated March 31, subject to year-end review. The motion passed unanimously.

Stewardship Report:

- ✦ The stewardship report for February showed the church received 497 pledges, 13 fewer than the same time period last year, totaling \$530,387.25 paid in February, favorable \$47,191.29 for the same period last year. Percentage paid to date is 54% vs. 58% for the same period last year.
- ✦ In March, the church received 572 pledges, 6 fewer pledges for the same period last year, totaling \$554,069.25 paid in March, and favorable \$18,833.29 for the same period last year. Percentage paid to date is 63%, identical to the percentage paid for the same period last year.

Correspondence:

- ✦ Metropolitan Iakovos sent a letter regarding the fire at St. Basil. To donate for the church restoration, visit the website at www.stbasilchicago.org
- ✦ Ss. Constantine and Helen, Rockford is celebrating its 95th anniversary on June 2.

Building & Grounds:

- ✦ The most recent bid received for the RPZ valve, lower than the first, was the one accepted. Work will move forward.
- ✦ Renovation of the bathrooms is still being explored.

Ways & Means

- ✦ 333 people attended the Macaronatha Luncheon. After expenses, total donations

collected were about \$4,300. Nick Kouchis thanked all those who donated food, table décor, and other items. Steve Savas made a motion to donate \$1,000 to Orthodox missions in Korea and the remainder to OCMC for missionary work in Albania and Guadeloupe.

- ✦ The annual golf outing is scheduled for Monday, July 8.
- ✦ Our annual parish family picnic will be held on Sunday, July 21.

Outreach/Spiritual Life:

- ✦ Cindy Clark presented the following dates for photographs to be taken for the new Church Directory: July 23-27; August 7-10; August 19-22 and September 10-11. Parishioners can book their sessions online at www.holyapostleschurch.com

Old Business:

- ✦ Steve Savas made a motion to approve the expenditure of \$3,522 to purchase 50 choir robes from Regency Cap and Gown. The motion passed unanimously.
- ✦ Paul Kallis is exploring the possibility of bundling our phone, internet and cable service with one provider in order to save money.
- ✦ George Checopoulos thanked Jim Baenen, Andrew Poteres, and Zach Chiganos for taking our old chairs to the St. Iakovos Retreat Center.

New Business:

- ✦ Special thanks were given to Joan Berg and all the volunteers who assisted with the Metropolis-wide Religious Education Seminar held at Holy Apostles in March.
- ✦ Peter Poteres discussed the upcoming Pancreatic Cancer Walk. Nick Kirkeles moved to donate \$1,000 in memory of Peter Tomaras. The motion passed unanimously.
- ✦ Fr. Bill asked that we consider donating to St. Basil - Chicago towards the building restoration after its fire. Jim Fotopoulos moved to donate \$1,000. The motion passed unanimously.

Resurrection. They say the Christians and Jews knew about Jesus' tomb. If Jesus was not resurrected and the tomb was not empty, it would be impossible for a movement to be founded on Christ's Resurrection. The belief in Christ's Resurrection could not develop in the same city where He was publicly executed

and buried. The Gospels were written fast. Legend could not develop that quickly.

Women were the first to discover and proclaim that Christ had risen. In those days, testimony from women was considered worthless. They were not even allowed to serve as legal witnesses in the courts. If Christ's

...See Fr. Nicholas on P. 6

Unity is to be the theme at 30th YAL reunion in Dallas

“He called all to unity” (Kontakion of the feast of Pentecost), Pentecost was a type of reunion for the disciples, and the YAL 30th Reunion will be the same for the Orthodox young adults of the 1980’s, along with their families and friends, today.

The purpose of “Unity in CommUNITY”, is to celebrate 30 years of the national YAL conferences/retreats (July 1-4, 1983 through July 4-7, 2013) and to commemorate our church leaders at a memorial service following the Divine Liturgy.

The goal is to come together once again, with our families and friends, to share the experience of Pentecost which we underwent through the YAL ministry of the church.

Thirty years ago, Dallas hosted the historical 1st national conference which brought Orthodox young adults from all corners of then North and South America together, as a united community, into the fold of the body of the church.

In Dallas, we affirmed that the Beatitudes

Philoptochos Spring Update

Holy Apostles’ Feast Day

Saturday, June 29 – Coffee Reception following the Vespers Service

Sunday, June 30 – Coffee Reception following the Divine Liturgy

Volunteers are needed to assist on both days. Donations of Greek pastry or other baked goods are also needed. If you would like to help or contribute to these receptions, contact co-chairs Anne Theophilos 630.230.0579 or Elaine Paloumpis 630.629.0071.

Annual Membership Night Reception

Tuesday, September 17 –

Our Membership Reception and General Meeting will be held from 7-9 pm in the multi-purpose room at Holy Apostles. Plan to join us for a pleasant evening. More details will be coming to you over the summer months.

Annual Luncheon & Fashion Show

Saturday, October 19 – Hope you have already marked your calendar for “Aboard the Orient Express”, your special fall adventure at The Carlisle in Lombard. Cocktails & raffle sales begin at 11 am. Luncheon served at 12 pm.

Please note: Ticket reservations begin at Holy Apostles on Saturday, September 7 at 9am.

were our constitution, and in all the following conferences, we continued to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

With the passing of our dear former Archdiocesan Youth Director, Father Angelo Gavalas, many people throughout the Archdiocese simultaneously heeded a call to reunite. Father Angelo always felt that he had more work to do, and now that he is free of the earthly prisons of his sickness, we feel his earnest prayers to the Lord lighting flames in the hearts of many.

We have established YAL 30th Reunion, a New Jersey non-profit corporation, to organize this event. Any proceeds from this event will go towards the Father Angelo Gavalas Living Memorial Fund, which will help support future young adult ministries that creatively cultivate Liturgy, Witness, Service and

Fellowship.

For information, registration, and connecting, the web is the way to go with the following sites:

Website: www.YAL30thReunion.com

E-Mail: YAL30thReunion@gmail.com

Facebook/Twitter: YAL30thReunion

(Be sure to “LIKE” us on Facebook)

Photo-sharing: SmugMug.com

account: YAL30threunion@gmail.com; password: frangelo

If you cannot attend but would like to honor Father Angelo Gavalas, make a memorial offering to this living memorial event either via our website or make a check out to YAL 30th Reunion. Please write “Fr. Angelo Gavalas Living Memorial” in the memo area of your check and send it to YAL 30th Reunion, 23 West Circuit Drive, Succasunna, NJ, 07876

Annual Feed The Hungry program

Feed the Hungry is a Metropolis of Chicago Philoptochos program that takes place at the Annunciation Cathedral every other Tuesday, with all area chapters rotating responsibility. We undertake the responsibility once a year in May. Diane Hank coordinated

this year's event.

Thanks to all for your hard work both at the lunch and behind the scenes! We had 124 people come for lunch, and it all went very smoothly.

Holy Apostles Philoptochos Society

Board of Directors for 2013-2015

Officers

President – Eleftheria Parafink
1st Vice President – Anthoula Pomrening
2nd Vice President – Faye Adams
Treasurer – Eleni Poteres
Asst. Treasurer – Anne Theophilos
Corresponding Secretary – Chrisie Alex
Recording Secretary – Anna Eriotes
Advisor – Cathy Magas

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Chrisy Banakis
Tina Dillon
Aleka Ernst
Diane Hank
Patty McKay
Evelyn Paleothodoros
Elaine Paloumpis
Alyssa Petropoulos
Bess Shizas
Cynthia Stathopoulos
Mary Tsoulos
Sundy Urban

Baptisms

*Jane, daughter of
Pamela & Brian Kolar
Sponsor: Nicole Bielis*

*Dianthe, daughter of
Maria & Sarandos Spyridoulis
Sponsors: Effie & Nick Papageorge*

*Kristianna, daughter of
Emmanuela & Stuart Henning
Sponsor: George Tassaros*

*Haley, daughter of
Panagiota & Jim Ikonomou
Sponsor: Antigone & Kosta Kouvelis*

*Christian, son of
Amber & Spiro Piperi
Sponsor: Peter Pelafas*

*Sophia, daughter of
Allison & Patrick McTigue
Sponsor: Alexander Kanelos*

*Isabella, daughter of
Allison & Patrick McTigue
Sponsor: Melissa Hagele*

Weddings

None

Holy Apostles spring events



Peter Savas, left, portrays a Roman soldier as he speaks with Constantine Carrigan, center, and Stefanos Chiganos, in the Adventure Theater's production of A Letter To Tiberius.

On Mothers' Day, Alexandar Ziogas pins a flower on Stacy Savas as her daughter Connie watches.



Secret Service agents protect the president from a possible threat in the person of Jack Parrott.



The Greek School children enjoyed a field trip to the Hellenic Museum on April 20. Imagining they are immigrants to America, they made postcards to the family back home in Greece. Here, they display those postcards.



On Holy Wednesday, Fr. Nicholas administers Holy Unction to a wide-eyed tot, above. At right, myrrhbearers participate in the Holy Friday procession. At far right, the priests and Nick Kirkeles carry the Epitaphion.

Photos by Peter Bell



Pascha at Holy Apostles touches many hearts



Tee up for the Annual Golf Outing

This year's golf outing will be Monday, July 8 at Indian Lakes Resort in Bloomingdale. Lunch and registration is at 11:00am with a shotgun start at 1:00pm.

Proceeds will benefit many of our church's ministries.



You can participate in a special way by donating raffle prizes, sponsoring a hole, and of course, playing golf!

For reservations, contact Nick Kouchis at nskouchismd@sbcglobal.net. To sponsor a hole or donate prizes, call the church office for contact info.

Fr. Bill from P. 1 Today is the day to examine yourself

This story poses an important question. It is: Was the world of the postman and outside the window a real one? The answer is: It depends on what you mean by real.

The ability to change the perception of what is and what should be is important when considering our salvation. The hymns of the church are always drawing attention to the present. Today Christ is risen. Today salvation has come. The answer to our problem lies mostly within us. It has been said: "Every man's life lies within the present; for the past is spent and done with, and the future is uncertain." (Marcus Antoninus)

Casey Stengel was manager of the mighty New York Yankees baseball team when it won

ten American League pennants and seven World Series championships. One time, Mickey Mantle, one of the Yankees' star players, was in a hitting slump. Each time he struck out, he walked down into the dugout and kicked the water cooler. After watching him do that time after time, Casey finally went over and said, "Mickey, it ain't that water cooler that's getting you out."

Like Mantle, many of us look elsewhere for answers to problems that can be resolved within us. Just as Adam blamed Eve and Eve blamed the serpent, examine yourself.

Christ is risen!

HARC

Guide to the Divine Liturgy

By Robert Krantz

Every Sunday, millions of Orthodox faithful attend church and participate in the Divine Liturgy and are so moved but feel lost when it comes to understanding the service. This book attempts to change that. The Liturgy is in Greek and English on the right-hand side of the page and on the left, there is a simple and concise explanation as to what is happening. The book is written for parents and grandparents who want not only their faith to be renewed but also assurance that their children's faith is never lost.

\$20.00

Festival of Greek Flavors A Mediterranean Culinary Adventure

The recipes in this book have been compiled and tested by the Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society of The Assumption of the Theotokos Greek Orthodox Metropolis Cathedral Denver, Colorado.

Traditional meets modern in this book. From appetizers to desserts, the recipes represent the full spectrum of Greek food and fundamentals of the Mediterranean diet. Beautifully illustrated.

\$26.00

The Woman and the Wheat

By Jane G. Meyer

Illustrated by Ned Gannon

This is a rhythmical, festive book with vibrant images about the joy of a farmer as she works to grow the wheat and bake the bread that she will offer back to her Creator in Eucharistic celebration. A companion to *The Men and the Vine*.

\$18.00

Fr. Nicholas from P. 2

Throughout the year, don't let your Paschal flame flicker

Resurrection was a fabricated legend, the people probably would have used males, who were viewed as much more credible in those days, to verify and tell the story. Some skeptics try to say that Jesus faked His death and walked out of the tomb. Archeologists tell us the tomb was a slanted groove that led to a low entrance. A large, disc-shaped stone was rolled down into the groove and lodged into place across the door. A smaller stone secured the disk. It would have taken several strong men to roll the stone back and open the tomb. Guards also secured the tomb. How could



Kathy Beshilas, 2nd right, shows the girls how to apply egg wash to the koulourakia.

Teen girls learn to 'Bake like Yiayia'

by Demi Kallis

On Saturday, April 20, the multi-purpose room was filled with teenage girls learning to bake Greek sweets. The workshop was called "Bake Like Yiayia" and went from 9-11:30 am. A total of sixteen girls from Holy Apostles attended and made 200 koulourakia and 100 galaktobouriko rolls. The focus of this event was to pass down the cultural traditions of our Greek ancestors from the older generation to the younger. Mrs. Kathy Beshilas and Ms. Mary Psychogios guided the girls with their baking expertise. Mrs. Boutzarelos, Mrs. Spitzer, and Mrs. Kallis



Preschool sisters Christina and Vivian Mitropoulos show their excitement as they prepare to make their koulourakia.

also helped with the workshop. Everyone had fun, and we hope to continue this as a tradition for many years to come!

Jesus fake His death, move the stone and walk out of the guarded tomb?

Out ultimate proof is the disciples' response to Christ's Resurrection. When Jesus died, they fled in fear. The disciples were depressed and discouraged. The Christian movement was stopped in its tracks. After a short time, the disciples were united, and committed themselves to spreading the Good News of Christ. These previous cowards went without food and sometimes slept outside. They were ridiculed, beaten and imprisoned. Some were tortured and executed in barbaric ways. They

refused to renounce Christ. Why? They had seen and experienced the Risen Christ!

If we fully, personally, and whole-heartedly accept the Lord's Resurrection, we will realize this life's struggles are not final. Life exists beyond the grave. Eternal life is available to us if we believe the Lord has conquered death by His Death. When Christ invites us, we should not waver in doubt nor dismiss His love for us. Don't let your Paschal flame flicker. "Come receive the Light from the unwaning Light, and glorify Christ, Who has risen from the dead."

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
8:00am Orthros 9:15am Awaken To God 9:30am Divine Liturgy Fellowship Hour		7:30pm Apollo Dance Troupe	1:00pm Adult Bible Study And Fellowship 7:30pm Choir Federation Rehearsal			10:30am Choir Federation Board Meeting 8:00am 5K Family Run & Walk
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
GRADUATES' SUNDAY 8:00am Orthros 9:15am Awaken To God 9:30am Divine Liturgy Fellowship Hour	9:00am Vacation Church School	9:00am Vacation Church School	9:00am Vacation Church School	ASCENSION 8:00am Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 9:00am Vacation Church School 7:30pm Parish Council Meeting	9:00am Vacation Church School 6:00pm Fanari Counselor Orientation	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
FATHERS' DAY 8:00am Orthros 9:15am Awaken To God 9:30am Divine Liturgy 1:00pm Campers Leave For Fanari Camp						SATURDAY OF THE SOULS 8:00am Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 1:00pm Campers Return From Fanari Camp
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
PENTECOST 8:00am Orthros 9:15am Awaken To God 9:30am Divine Liturgy Fellowship Hour	DAY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT 8:00am Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy	7:30pm Apollo Dance Troupe	1:00pm Adult Bible Study And Fellowship			7:00pm Hierarchical Vespers
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
FEAST DAY OF HOLY APOSTLES 8:00am Orthros 9:15am Awaken To God 9:30am Divine Liturgy Fellowship Hour	<p style="text-align: center;">Time for food fellowship and fun at this year's picnic</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Join your fellow parishioners on the church lawn, or indoors, July 21 after the Divine Liturgy for burgers, kabobs, and other tasty treats. Bring your own favorite picnic sides and beverages. There will be games and prizes for the kids. Casual attire is ok for The Liturgy, but no shorts please.</p>					
30						

Memorials

James Halikias
Georgia Niketopoulos
Zoe Peplos
James Peplos
Helen Meros
Jimmy Lekas
James Michas
Antonia Michas

Funerals

*Georgia Niketopoulos
Helen Meros*

Mosaic Deadline

The August Mosaic deadline
is Tuesday, July 10.

Sign up now for the new Holy Apostles Church Photo Directory

Our new photo directory will be updated and printed next year! The dates for family pictures are July 23- 27, August 7-10, August 19-22 and September 10 and 11.

The first 100 to sign up will receive an extra bonus of \$10.00 off any photo order. Seniors, 60 years and older, will receive 20% off their photos.

Sign up by going to the church website (www.holyapostleschurch.com) and click on the registration link. Enter the number of people in your group and the dates will be highlighted for your selection.

Weekday Services

Ascension

Thursday, June 13

8:00am Orthros

9:00am Divine Liturgy

Saturday of the Souls

Saturday, June 22

8:00am Orthros

9:00am Divine Liturgy

Hierarchical Vespers

Saturday, June 29

7:00pm Vespers

Postmaster: Please deliver by the 3rd of June

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