

MOSAIC

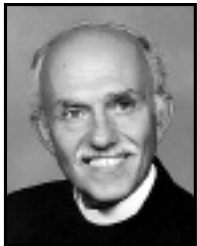
Coming together, we form an icon of God's Kingdom

Vol. 19, No. 3

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

June 2014

From Father Bill



The Brevity of Life

The story is told of a man who glanced at the obituary column in his local newspaper. To his surprise, he saw his own name, indicating that he had just died. At first, he laughed about it. Soon, the telephone rang with stunned friends and acquaintances calling to inquire and offer their sympathy.

Finally, in irritation, he called the newspaper editor and angrily reported that even though he had been reported dead in the obituary column, he was very much alive. The editor was apologetic and embarrassed. Then in a flash of inspiration, he said, "Don't worry, sir, I'll make it all right; tomorrow I'll put your name in the births column."

This may sound merely like a humorous incident, but it is also a spiritual parable. Not until we have allowed our old selves to be nailed to the cross and die, can our new selves be born again and emerge to grow up into the likeness of Christ. The Paschal Mystery informing us through the magnificent hymns, prayers and the angelic announcement, Christ has risen, opens the doors of Paradise and provides opportunity for renewal. The Bible teaches... "And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins...Therefore be imitators of God as dear children." (Eph. 2:1; 5-1)

How often we have heard or stated ourselves: Gosh, where has the time gone? Look around and take notice how the children have grown. These are tangible reminders of the brevity of life. When we find ourselves in such situations, let us remember to glorify and praise God for His blessings, too numerable to mention.

On one hand, life's brevity should challenge us. If ever we are to live for Christ and

Youth Proclaim Christ Sunday



Anastasia Kasimos and Vasilgia Chiganos maintained a candle stand on Youth Sunday, while others worked as ushers and sang in the choir. Alexandra Dreschler also gave her oratorical presentation. She will be representing the Chicago Metropolitan at the national St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival in Cleveland.

share Him with others, it must be now. Jesus said, "The night is coming when no one can work." (John 9:4)

Life's brevity should also comfort us. Life is short and before us is eternity. When sufferings overwhelm us or difficulties assail us, we know they will soon be over. Saint Paul wrote, "Our light affliction, which is for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory...for the things which are seen are temporary." (2 Cor. 4:17-18)

Reading the lives of saints will give us hope. Our church is blessed to give us a Saint for the Day to teach and provide, through love and sacrifice, the path to holiness. Perusing the daily Bible readings is always a source of wisdom and courage. While in the midst of putting words and thoughts into this present writing, the Bible reading of the day directed me to the Book of Job (May 6). You may have heard the expression "He has the

patience of Job" commonly used when one is being tried and tested. This brings to mind the incredible pain experienced by this old testament saint. It is important to remember that Job did not know what was going on behind the scenes between God and Satan. Job's friends accused him of being a sinner and a hypocrite. "There must be some terrible sin in your life," they argued, "or God would never have permitted this suffering." Job disagreed with them and maintained his innocence, but not perfection, during the entire conversation.

It is difficult to find a greater example of suffering than Job. Circumstances were against him. He lost his wealth and his health as well as his beloved children. His wife was against him, for she said, "Curse God and die." (Job 2:9) In addition, his friends accused him of being a hypocrite who deserved the judgment of God. While remembering the dif-

...See Fr. Bill on P. 4

From Father Nicholas



The Good Father

Fathers will be celebrated and remembered this month. Christian father and author James Bryan Smith wrote about taking his six-year old son to an amusement park. They decided to go on a really fast roller coaster. A teenage boy buckled them into their seats. They started the ride. During the entire ride, Mr. Smith was scared that his little son would fly out of his seat. He writes: "With white knuckles and gritted teeth I prayed the entire ninety seconds for the ride to end. I looked over at Jacob, who was laughing and having a great time."

After the ride was over, he and his son sat down on a nearby park bench. "Weren't you scared?" he asked. "That ride was pretty wild. Why did you get on a ride like that?" His son answered with childlike honesty. What this little boy said was so powerful: "Because you did, Dad."

Fathers are such examples to their children. They emulate the good things that we do and, unfortunately, the bad things!

Fathers play an extremely important role in our children's lives. Psychologist Dr. George Rekers writes: "A positive and continuous relationship to one's father has been found to be associated with a good self-concept, higher self-esteem, higher self-confidence in personal and social interaction, higher moral maturity, reduced rates of unwed teen pregnancy, greater internal control and higher career aspirations."

Fathers who are affectionate, nurturing and actively involved in child-rearing are more likely to have well-adjusted children." We fathers have a great impact on our children's lives.

How can fathers ensure that they are successful at home? How can they play an important role in their children's lives? Our instruction manual, the Holy Bible, provides the answer. First, make time for your family. We spell love with the letters: T – I – M – E.

St. Paul's letter to the Ephesians reminds us, "Fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord." Competing priorities make spending good, quality time with our children difficult. Trying to balance our professional, family and spiritual lives is challenging.

To train good, Christian children, we need



Gavel to Gavel



Highlights of the March Parish Council Meeting

BY STEVEN SAVAS

Present: Fr. Bill Chiganos, Fr. Nicholas Georgiou, George Alex, Peter Bell, George Chechopoulos, Terry Chiganos, Cindy Clark, Tom Gregory, James Kapolas, Nick Kirkeles, Nick Kouchis, Mary Maragos, Steven P. Savas.

Financial/Treasurers Report:

✦ The financials will be deferred to the April meeting due to a clerical error.

Stewardship Report:

✦ Tom Gregory reviewed the Stewardship report ending February 28. The church received 480 pledges, 17 less pledges for the same period last year, totaling \$81,436 paid in February, unfavorable \$4,389 for the same period last year, for an average pledge of \$1,086. Total amount paid through February 28 was \$521,612.

Building & Grounds:

✦ Steven Savas said that G.W. Plumbing was contracted to rod out the sewer lines in and out of the church to be pro-active for the large crowds expected for Holy Week. Work will be done on April 4.

Ways & Means:

✦ Dr. Nick Kouchis reported on the Macaronatha luncheon. Nick thanked all of those people who donated the food, table décor and miscellaneous items that made this function a great success.

to spend time with them. Children learn most not by what we say, but what we do.

Words are cheap. St. Porphyrios suggests praying for children and few words. Pray for your children and if you have to speak, speak with love! If we don't make the Lord and our Christian life a priority, our children will follow the same path. Our Christian example to them is important and foundational to their spiritual lives.

Good Christian fathers are compassionate. Every year, right before the Lenten season begins, we read the story of the Prodigal Son. His father is a good example to us. The father could have been justifiably angry and mad at his son for wasting the family inheritance. Instead, the loving father ran to meet his son when he returned. He rejoiced because his son came home.

The boy made some bad choices. Although that boy ruined his own life, he was still his father's son. This boy was his own flesh and blood. The father loved him with all of his heart. His father was overjoyed at his return. Do we fathers react the same way when our children go astray?

Steve Savas made a motion to donate \$3,900 to OCMC, with \$1,300 of that amount, to be specified for the church of Korea. The motion passed unanimously.

- ✦ The Golf outing is scheduled for Monday, July 7.
- ✦ The Family picnic is scheduled for Sunday, July 20.
- ✦ The Tailgate party in the fall is being discussed.

Old Business:

- ✦ Fr. Bill reflected on the three days of The Celebration of Books. There was a full house every night. The speaker, Fr. Maximos, spoke very well. Fr. Bill wanted to recognize and thank all the HARC volunteers, especially Barbara Pappas, George Pappas and Nola Vanderakis. The Goya and Philoptohos also sponsored the beverages and served. It turned out to be a wonderful event.
- ✦ 55th Anniversary Family Luncheon is scheduled for November 30 at the Diplomat West.

New Business:

- ✦ Jim Baenen was recognized for his dedicated service to the church. May his memory be eternal.

Good fathers are fair. The father of the Prodigal Son loved both of his sons equally. He pleads with his eldest son and asks him to come and celebrate his brother's return. The father did not favor one son over the other.

Recently, I read a poem that describes the ideal Christian father. Dads, does this describe you? He teaches kindness by being thoughtful and gracious even at home. He teaches patience by being gentle and understanding over and over. He teaches honesty by keeping his promises to his family even when it costs. He teaches courage by living unafraid with faith, in all circumstances. He teaches justice by being fair and dealing equally with everyone. He teaches obedience to God's Word by precept and example as he reads and prays daily with his family. He teaches love for God and His Church as he takes his family regularly to the services.

His steps are important because others follow. This Father's Day don't forget the words of the little boy on the roller coaster: "Because you did, Dad!"



Louka Ziogas, Constantin Carrigan, and Dimitri Mihalopoulos share a 'drink' in Adventure Theater's play, *The Valley of the B.C. Christians*.

Philoptochos upcoming events

Holy Apostles' Feast Day

Sunday, June 29 – Reception following the Vesper Service

Monday, June 30 – Reception following the Liturgy

Volunteers are needed to assist on both days. Donations of Greek pastry or other baked goods are also needed. If you would like help or contribute to these receptions, contact co-chairs Faye Kappos 708.562.8092 or Debbie Makris 630.515.1557.

Annual Membership Night Reception

Tuesday, September 16 – Our member-

ship reception and general meeting will be held from 7-9 pm. 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 18 – We hope you have already marked your calendar for "Hollywood Glam" at the Empress Banquets in Addison. Beneficiaries of this year's event are Almost Home Kids and Hellenicare. Cocktails & raffle sales begin at 11 am, luncheon served at 12 pm.

5K Family run and walk a big success, raising \$6,300

God blessed an enthusiastic group of men, women, and children with a mild, crisp, and sunny May morning - perfect weather – for Holy Apostles' 9th annual 5K Family Run and Walk to support Philoxenia House (www.philoxeniahouse.org). The House, located in Rochester, MN, provides free lodging and food to patients' families while the patient receives medical treatment at Mayo Clinic. Currently, the complex has two homes with future plans to build Philoxenia Village, which will house twenty patient families. Of course, these plans and dreams need financial support! Thanks to our many participants and sponsors, we raised \$6,300. Since its inception, this Holy Apostles' event has raised almost \$55,000! Ms. Calli Kelly and other volunteers from the Philoxenia House traveled to Westchester on race day to express their gratitude for Holy Apostles' support over the years.

Mr. Andrew Maragos was the overall win-

ner posting a solid time of 22:22. The ladies were led across the finish line by Ms. Alexandra Dreschler, who completed the course in 23:32. James Georgiou set a new course roller blading record time of 14:46!

Donations needed for fashion show raffle and auction

"Hollywood Glam," the Holy Apostles Philoptochos Annual Luncheon Fashion Show, will happen Saturday, October 18.

Here is a wish list of items needed to make the raffle and auction a success:

- ▶ Electronics, tablets or phones
- ▶ Handbags
- ▶ Jewelry
- ▶ Spa / Salon Services
- ▶ Tickets for Chicago sports teams
- ▶ Golf at private golf clubs in the area
- ▶ Gift certificates for dinner at area restaurants

Baptisms

*Dimitrios, son of
Samantha & Theoharis Georgopoulos
Sponsors: Constantina Savas
& Nicholas Dallas*

*Madelyn, daughter of
Lara & Chris Massouras
Sponsor: George Goltso*

*Anastasia, daughter of
Kristie & Nicholas Treff
Sponsor: Stacey Ball*

*Francesca, daughter of
Kristie & Nicholas Treff
Sponsor: Valerie Liarikos*

*Benjamin, son of
Sophia & Philippe Reuillon
Sponsor: to be determined*

*Andrew, son of
Jennifer & Andrew Siepker
Sponsors: Leah & Bryan Brinkmeyer*

Weddings

*Denise Chionis & Jason Kangas
Sponsor: Lily Kuchevar*

*Maria Vakos & George Kokkonas
Sponsor: John Digrindakis*

We are grateful to race director, Lou Kafkes and the Goyans who staffed the race. Thank you also to Kiki Liston, our Master of Ceremonies, and the other volunteers who made this wonderful event possible!

- ▶ Bottles of fine wine
 - ▶ Seats for symphony, opera, concerts or theater in Chicago
 - ▶ Hotel stays
 - ▶ Trips to vacation destinations
- Should you decide to contribute an item or would like to have your item picked up from your home or business, please contact Cynthia Stathopoulos 630.986.0630.

We thank you for your consideration of our request for raffle prizes and appreciate your generosity and assistance in making "Hollywood Glam" a financial success!

GOYA puts faith into practice by packing meals

Recently, Goyans went on an outreach project at Feed My Starving Children in Aurora. They helped pack potato-based meals specially formulated for children 7-12 months of age. By the end of the session, along with other volunteers, they had packed 44 boxes of food, creating 19,008 meals for children in need around the world!



Chris Kateyiannes, Lily Chrones, and Gabe Drechsler help pack and weigh the manna packs.

Our sundial is the Word of God

Fr. Bill from P. 1

facilities encountered by Job, we must not forget the sacrificial lives of our great martyrs and saints, men and women, who chose not to live but to die for Christ. "Let all those who choose to follow Christ, deny themselves, take up their cross and follow me." These were the saints who kept heaven in view and remained serene and cheerful in the darkest day. Our daily temptations and irritations are minor compared with what the great saints have borne. Those who have gone further on the path to holiness continue to teach and inspire us.

If the glories of heaven were more real to us, if we lived less for material things and more for things eternal and spiritual, we would be less easily disturbed by the brevity of life and worry. "Worry," said a contemporary preacher, "is like sitting in a rocking chair. It will give you something to do, but it won't get you anywhere."

I once read about a sundial on which was inscribed the cryptic message, "It is later than you think." Travelers would often pause to meditate on the meaning of that phrase. Its author undoubtedly wanted to remind others of the shortness and uncertainty of life.

Our sundial is the Word of God and the

Sacred and holy Tradition of our Orthodox Church. From Genesis to Revelation, it bears the warning: "It is later than you think." Writing to the Christians of his day, Saint Paul said, "It is already the hour for you to awaken from sleep; for now salvation is nearer to us than when we believed. The night is almost gone and the day is at hand. Let us therefore lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light." (Rev. 13:11-12)

Saint Paul looked forward to death with great anticipation. He said, "For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." (Phil. 1:2) For him, death was not an enemy to be feared, but a reality to be welcomed, in God's time.

Never doubt that you are in the midst of a spiritual battle with Satan, who will do everything he can to discourage and defeat you. Never underestimate his determination or misunderstand his intentions.

Like being committed to a regular workout schedule with a physical trainer, we must be diligent in its application. God has not promised to shield us from trouble. Most of all, never forget that because of Christ's death and resurrection, Satan is already defeated and someday the war will be over.

Parish students excel in orations

Holy Apostles had 8 participants at the parish level participate in the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical and Fine Arts Festival. Five of our participants moved on to the Metropolis level held on April 26 at St. John the Baptist Church in Des Plaines. Three of them placed. We are thrilled to announce that Lisa Buhelos, a high school sophomore, placed 2nd in the Senior Division Iconography and Nicholas Drechsler, a sev-

enth grader, placed 3rd in the Junior Division Iconography.

Alexandra Drechsler, a high school senior placed 1st in the Senior Division Speech and will move on to the National level competition in Cleveland, Ohio in June. We are proud of all our 2014 Oratorical participants. Our warmest congratulations to these fine youth of Holy Apostles.

By Amelia Lozano, Oratorical Chairperson

The HARC Corner

The Man and the Vine

by Jane G. Meyer

Illustrated by Ned Gannon

There once was a man who planted a vine...

So begins Meyer's rhythmic tale of a farmer and his young daughter joyfully tending their vineyard and offering the fruit of the vine back to their Creator in Eucharistic celebration. Meyer invites children to follow the journey of the grapes from field to wine press and from wine cellar to church, where they become the wine of Holy Communion.

\$18.00

Thank You God

by Kathleen Long Bostrom

Illustrated by Elena Kucharik

God made fish and God made whales, fins, sprouts, and scales...

Brightly-colored, energetic illustrations accompany this upbeat, rhythmic addition to the Little Blessings line. It's so much fun that when you read it with your children, they'll want to say over and over again, "Thank you, God! Read it again!"

\$7.00

Becoming Human Meditations on Christian Anthropology in Word and Image

by John Behr

This book reflects upon various dimensions and implications of the astounding fact that Christ shows us what it is to be God by the way he dies as a human being and, in so doing, simultaneously shows us what it is to be a human being.

\$26.00

NO Fellowship Hour

Due to a lack of sponsorship, there will be no more fellowship hours following The Divine Liturgy until September. This could change, but only if volunteers step up to host them. The church needs you to get involved. If interested, you will find the details on our website by clicking on the Fellowship Hour link or you may call the church office. The sign-up sheet is located on the wall by the kitchen door.

Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church **June 2014** 2501 S. Wolf Rd. Westchester, Illinois

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

<p>8:00am Orthros 9:15am Awaken To God 9:30am Divine Liturgy Fellowship Hour</p> <p>1</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>7:30pm Apollo Dance Troupe Rehearsal</p> <p>3</p>	<p>1:00pm Adult Christian Fellowship & Bible Study</p> <p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>SATURDAY OF THE SOULS 8:00am Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy</p> <p>7</p>
<p>PENTECOST GRADUATES SUNDAY 8:00am Orthros 9:15am Awaken To God 9:30am Divine Liturgy Fellowship Hour</p> <p>8</p>	<p>DAY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT 8:00am Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy</p> <p>9</p>	<p>6:00pm GOYA Dinner At The Greek Islands</p> <p>10</p>	<p>1:00pm Adult Christian Fellowship & Bible Study</p> <p>11</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>FATHERS DAY 8:00am Orthros 9:15am Awaken To God 9:30am Divine Liturgy Fellowship Hour Campers Leave For Fanari Camp</p> <p>15</p>	<p>Fanari Camp</p> <p>16</p>	<p>7:30pm Apollo Dance Troupe Rehearsal</p> <p>Fanari Camp</p> <p>17</p>	<p>Fanari Camp</p> <p>18</p>	<p>Fanari Camp</p> <p>19</p>	<p>Fanari Camp</p> <p>20</p>	<p>Campers Return From Fanari Camp</p> <p>21</p>
<p>8:00am Orthros 9:15am Awaken To God 9:30am Divine Liturgy Fellowship Hour</p> <p>22</p>	<p>9:00am Vacation Church School</p> <p>23</p>	<p>9:00am Vacation Church School</p> <p>24</p>	<p>9:00am Vacation Church School</p> <p>25</p>	<p>9:00am Vacation Church School</p> <p>26</p>	<p>9:00am Vacation Church School</p> <p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>8:00am Orthros 9:15am Awaken To God 9:30am Divine Liturgy Fellowship Hour 7:00pm Hierarchical Vespers</p> <p>29</p>	<p>FEAST DAY OF HOLY APOSTLES 8:00am Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy</p> <p>30</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">A FATHER'S LOVE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">A father is respected because he gives his children leadership... Valued because he gives his children time... Loved because he gives his children the one thing they treasure most – himself.</p>				

Memorials

*Helen Meros
Peter Calamos
Mary Calamos
Dorothy Nichols
Thomas Dres
John Gramas
John Pekras
Penelope Pekras
George Pekras
Georgia Pekras
Demetrios Pekras
Chris Couretas
Louis Kouretas
Alexandra Kouretas
Angeline Patsavas
Nick Zografos
Lulu Passias
Paraskevas Kokinis
Christos Condos
Athanasia Condos
Angelo Bilder
Lelica Bilder
Mary Andritsis
Harry Andritsis
Mary Kulidas*

Funeral

Penny Vlahos

METROPOLIS OF CHICAGO
55th Annual Golf Outing
Monday, July 7, 2014
Seven Bridges Golf Club
Woodridge, IL



Vacation Church School

You are encouraged to join the Holy Apostles Vacation Church School from June 23-27. This year's theme is "Jungle Safari". The children will participate in a life changing adventure that will lead them on a search for the priceless treasure! Our many volunteers, beautiful signs, and inspirational messages will help make Vacation Church School a fun-filled week your children will never forget. Secure their places on the safari! Preschool: 9-11:30 am; Kindergarten through 5th grade 9am-12pm. Please have your child/children bring a tote bag and bottled water every day. Sign up after Liturgy or download the application from the Holy Apostles website.

The August Mosaic Deadline is EARLY!

Due to an unusual staffing situation, copy must be received by Wednesday, June 25.

Church Family Picnic

The annual picnic will be held
Sunday, July 20

Postmaster: Please deliver by the 3rd of June

Address Service Requested

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