

# MOSAIC

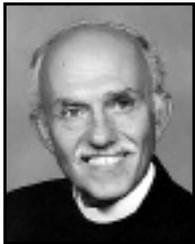
Coming together, we form an icon of God's Kingdom

Vol. 19, No. 4

Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church 2501 S. Wolf Rd. Westchester, IL  
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August 2014

From Father Bill



## Relics and their meanings

Today we face a challenge. It is the challenge of abandoning the security of worldly attitudes and lifestyles to be free from the pull of the world. It is the challenge of choosing the hard path even when an easy one is open to us. It is the challenge of living supernaturally. It is the invitation to lose our life in order to find it.

This is the general theme we developed while the recent Fanari Camp was in session. Working with the campers, often on a one to one ratio, enables us to communicate the rich meaning of our faith. Several moments of dialogue took place during our meetings together.

The camp offers unique opportunities to convey the Church's teachings. One gathering was focused on relics. Some of the priests brought relics to the camp to not only speak about them, but to also give the children the opportunity to venerate them.

First of all, for the purpose of our awareness and understanding, let's define what a relic is. Relics consist of such things as the bodily remains of saints, articles of clothing or other possessions of a saint, the instruments used in the torture and death of a martyr, or the instruments of Christ's Passion, such as the True Cross.

Fr. Stanley S. Harakas in his informative book *The Orthodox Church: 455 Questions and Answers* writes: "Relics are the material remains of a saint after his or her death, and any sacred objects which have been in contact with the saint's body. They are honored and revered by the Church and its members (Seventh Ecumenical Council and the Council of Constantinople) in 1084."

The attention of the campers was height-

## Annual golf outing was a relaxing success



Peter Athanas, winner of the Water Game Challenge.

This year's Golf Outing was a great success due to the care that the organizers and the volunteers took as well as the enthusiastic participation of our parishioners. Some of the winners are: Dennis Poulos, John Anos, Bill Paganos, and Sam Menton for the best score; Vanessa Clohessy and Phil Chiganos for the longest drive; Elesia Poteres and Tom Abrahamson for the longest putt. Thanks to some of the wonderful volunteers: Nia Kouchis, Angela Reda, Greg Vandarakis, James Fotopoulos, Peter Bell, and Louis Katziaris.

ened when the priests spoke and a question was asked if there was any basis in Scripture for the use of relics in worship. The use of relics in worship was commanded by God in the Old Testament. The Ark of the Covenant, upon which the Glory of the Lord rested, and at which God and man met (Exodus 25:22; 40:34,35). The Ark was the center of all formal worship in Israel and was kept in the Holy of Holies in the Jerusalem temple. In our last trip to Jerusalem, a rabbi told us the Ark was at the center of the national worship of Israel, and highly venerated by all pious Jews. What makes the Ark relevant is that it contained relics from the Exodus. While the Israelites were wandering in the desert, the Lord would feed them by dropping the bread-like manna on the ground at night. In Exodus

16:33,34, Moses instructs Aaron to place a jar of this manna in the Ark of the Covenant. Later, the Decalogue was placed in the Ark as well. To complete the list, Aaron's rod was placed within the Ark. In essence, the Ark, the holiest single object in Israel according to the Bible, was a large reliquary.

In our day, certain relics have been associated with miracles. Often we hear of healings occurring through the prayers of Saint Nectarios, a twentieth century saint from the island of Aegina. Some of the relics consisting of tiny bones from Saint Nectarios were shown to us at Fanari camp.

Today, Saint Nectarios is highly revered by Orthodox Christians, especially those struggling against cancer and heart disease.

...See Fr. Bill on P. 4

From Father Nicholas



## Becoming better parents

Now that school is out, our children are home. We are blessed with more time to spend with them. How can we maximize and take advantage of this precious time? How can we be better parents?

St. Porphyrios, proclaimed a saint just last year, wrote one of my favorite books titled *Wounded by Love*. It has very practical, easy-to-understand advice about living a dynamic Christian life. He wrote about raising children to be followers of Christ.

St. Porphyrios stresses the parents' home life and challenges parents to devote themselves to the love of God. Become saints, become holy, through mildness, patience and love for your children. Parental holiness will shower grace on our children. He says something very interesting. Behavior is not improved by reprimands, disciplining or strictness. If the parents do not pursue a life of holiness, they make great mistakes and transmit the faults within themselves to their children. Parents must live holy lives and display great love for each other. Love for God and each other, harmony and understanding between the parents is required to provide security and certainty for children.

Parents need to be sanctified. Children want people with lots of love who don't lecture or intimidate them at their side, providing a saintly example and praying for them.

I remember both my beloved mother and yiyia who followed this love and example parenting style. One night, I came home much later than my 11 pm curfew on a Friday night. I stood in front of Mom's night stand so she could not see the clock. She asked, "What time is it, sweetheart?" I slyly answered, "Oh, not too late Mom...just a few minutes past 11." She paused for a few minutes and said, "Nikolaki, I know it is 3 in the morning! I have been tearfully praying for you the entire night." How did that affect me? She never yelled or screamed and I never even thought about breaking curfew again. Love, prayer and example are so powerful.

St. Porphyrios tells us to continually pray. If you have to speak with your children, speak with love. If Christ is radiating in us, our children will see and experience that. St. Porphyrios encouragingly says, "Become saints and you will have no problems with your children." If you want to be a good parent, be holy.



# Gavel to Gavel



Highlights of the May Parish Council Meeting

By PAUL KALLIS, SECRETARY

Present: Fr. Bill Chiganos, Fr. Nicholas Georgiou, George Alex, Peter Bell, George Chechopoulos, Terry Chiganos, James Fotopoulos, Tom Gregory, Paul Kallis, James Kapolas, Louis Katziotis, Nick Kirkeles, Nick Kouchis, Mary Maragos, and Peter Poteres.

### Stewardship Report:

Louis Katziotis reviewed the Stewardship Report for April.

- ✦ Pledges to date for 2014 are 64, which are 12 better than this period last year. Total amount pledged to date for 2014 is \$616,879.13, which is \$27,819.88 more than the same period last year. The average pledge of \$953.45 is \$25.79 more than this period last year. Percent paid to date is 72% vs. 71% for the same period last year.

### Correspondence:

- ✦ OCMC wished us a Kalo Pascha and thanked us for our recent donation.
- ✦ HA GOYA members & advisors sent a thank you for our donation towards their Boston trip.
- ✦ The Patriarch Athenagoras Orthodox Institute sent a thank you for our donation.
- ✦ The Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America sent a letter about the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival. George Chechopoulos mentioned that Alexandra Drechsler would be representing the Chicago Metropolis.
- ✦ The Holy Eparchial Synod of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America sent a letter about the construction of the Saint Nicholas Church in Manhattan, which was destroyed on Sep. 11, 2001.

Becoming a saint, making a sincere attempt to follow Christ, is struggling and striving to follow the concrete, everyday teachings of God, no matter how difficult it may seem. We read in the Gospel of St. Matthew: "He who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me." (Matthew 10:38) Following Christ an entire lifetime is a huge challenge to all of us. Yet, it is possible with the grace, love and mercy of God.

At Pentecost, we remembered the coming of the Holy Spirit to always abide in us. The Holy Spirit creates saints from ordinary people. That could be you or me! The Holy Spirit helps Christians flower and blossom

- ✦ Pascha greetings were received from Metropolitan Ambrosios of Korea.
- ✦ A \$1,000 grant was received from the Nicholas J. Corolis Family Foundation and designated for Fanari.

### Meditation:

- ✦ Father Bill distributed a handout regarding the meeting of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and Pope Francis in Jerusalem on May 25-26. This meeting commemorated the 50th anniversary of their predecessors' meeting in 1964. Information about the meeting can be found at: [www.apostolicpilgrimage.org](http://www.apostolicpilgrimage.org).

### Building & Grounds:

- ✦ Jim Fotopoulos provided an update on maintenance activities.

### Ways & Means:

- ✦ Nick Kouchis gave an update on the Golf Outing held July 7 and the Family Picnic to be held on July 20.

### Old Business:

- ✦ George Chechopoulos provided an update on the Church Directory.
- ✦ Father Nicholas reported that the 5K Family Run & Walk held May 10 raised \$6,500 for the Philoxenia House.
- ✦ GOYA advisors Chris Chakonias and Agape Lamberis gave a presentation on the GOYA trip to Boston.

### New Business:

- ✦ The Westchester Fire Department requested a \$100 donation for fire safety materials for 50 children. Nick Kirkeles made a motion to make a \$100 donation. The motion passed unanimously.

into the beautiful life of a saint, but we have to allow Him into our lives. It takes synergy or working with God.

How do we become holy? The saints share some things in common. First, pray. Pray to open yourself up to experience and communicate with God. Worship. All the saints continually worshipped God in the Divine Services. Weep. St. Gregory the Theologian wrote that all the saints at times experienced blessed mourning or weeping. Be poor, not materially poor, but certainly not slaves to material concerns or possessions. Overcome idolatry. Saints overcame their

...See Fr. Nicholas on P. 3



Fr. Nicholas directs the story of Daniel, in the lions' den, above. VBS participants perform a scene from Daniel in the lion's den.



## A joyous jungle safari at H.A.

Our annual Vacation Church School recently met in June. The children went on a "Jungle Safari" and explored the nature of God. 80 children discovered the daily themes: God is our Creator, God is our provider, God is our protector, God is our Savior and God is our King. Each day commenced with a morning prayer service followed by an interactive bible study, music, athletics, crafts and snacks all focusing on the daily theme. The week ended

with a music program followed by a fun carnival of games and prizes as well as a jungle jumping balloon. In addition, our children raised \$650 to support Alexandra Drechsler and Andrew Maragos, who are serving as missionaries at Project Mexico and Kenya, respectively, this summer. Thank you to the more than 35 volunteers and especially our directors, Presbytera Michelle and Tina Karagiannis, for a wonderful, fun week of learning!

Photos by Peter Bell



Improvvised lions in their den.

### Fr. Nicholas from P. 2

## Holiness does not happen on its own

passions by allowing God to transform their lives. He will not force anyone to change or become holy. The saints allowed God to change and mold them. They were willing to serve, become a vessel of, and coworker with God.

Holiness takes much effort. It does not happen on its own. Sainthood is impossible to achieve on our own. We are not alone, how-

ever, as God is with us and ready to help us. Christ sent His Holy Spirit to dwell in us and inspire us. He has given us the Church to nourish and direct us. When we strive to do our part sincerely, He will readily do His. His part, however, is much greater than ours. We take one step forward, and He will carry us the next ten. This summer if your goal is to become a better parent, be holy.

## Adventure Theater rehearses for *The Clubhouse*

Adventure Theater members will begin rehearsing an exciting, original radio play entitled *The Clubhouse*. As was the case in the long-ago days of classic radio drama, the actors and actresses will read from scripts with a background of sound effects. The play will be presented in our expanded radio studio (the multi-purpose room) before a live audience following Divine Liturgy on Sunday, August 24. There will be a complimentary, deluxe continental breakfast provided for those who attend the program.

Since tables will be set for 100 people, seating will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

You may make reservations in advance, however, by contacting Mr. D. at 708.562.0869 or fanari@me.com.

Preview: In the town of Rock River lived two seventh-grade boys, Mike and Dick were often in bitter competition with each other. One day after school let out for the summer, they each decided to build their own clubhouses. Mayhem ensues when one is built on sand and the other on rocks, and a raging flood develops and sweeps away a helpful girl and her family's cottage.

How will this drama end? You'll just have to come on August 24 to find out.

## Baptisms

*Sophia, daughter of Nicole & Craig Bielis  
Sponsor: Pamela Kolar*

*Tristan, son of Kara & Ryan Reid  
Sponsor: To be Determined*

*Zachary, son of Margo & Rex Wiseman  
Sponsor: Kathy Skalkos*

*Makayla, daughter of Heather & Donatos Sgouridis  
Sponsors: Dr. Holly Rakos & Spyridon Rakos*

## Wedding

*Maria Mendoza and Kosta Papadatos  
Sponsor: Spiros Zougras*

## H. A. parishioners return from Ionian Village

In its 44th year, the first session of Ionian Village, an Archdiocesan summer camping ministry, saw representation from several members of Holy Apostles' GOYA, Altar Boys, Adventure Theater, and the Apollo Dance Troupe. Pictured from l to r: Tess McAnally, Peter Koulos, Connie Kass, Evangelia Cucuras, Arianna Vranas, Andrew Poteres, and Marina Dimas. Second row: Gray Kafkes and Justin Glavanovits. Not pictured: Billy Christy, who, along with Justin Glavanovits, served as a counselor. In addition to visiting historic and cultural sites in Greece, campers venerated the relics of



Ss. Spyridon, Gerasimos, St. Andrew, and Dionysios, to name a few. Dates for the 45th anniversary sessions of Ionian Village will be announced in October.

## Lives of saints to be featured in Awaken to God

Fr. Bill from P. 1

Aegina is a popular tourist attraction for those who visit this beautiful serene island to experience the spirituality established by the highly revered saint and pray in the magnificent, newly-constructed church. Witnessing the simple surroundings where Nectarios slept and the desk at which he sat and read the Scriptures, conjures up warm and unforgettable memories. I have been privileged to experience these unique moments of prayer and holiness.

Relics aren't regarded as compelling God to act in a certain way, as in sorcery, nor do relics have any innate power to cause a miracle. Miraculous events which are associated with relics are simply cases in which God, according to His sovereign will, used the mementos of the saints as an avenue of grace.

The speakers at Fanari camp were careful to stress all genuine miracles come from God and not from physical objects. It was emphasized that Orthodox Christians honor those departed saints who exhibited a commitment to the gospel. We honor the relics of these saints with a veneration that is directed towards the saints themselves; and in honoring the saints we honor Christ, whose members they are (1 Corinthians 12:26).

The modern Greek used the word venerate for the relics of saints. To venerate someone or something is to show respect or reverence. Christians of nearly all confessions, for example, venerate the Bible as the word of God, reverencing it and holding it in a higher regard than any other book.

In the early Church, the Eucharist was often celebrated over the graves of the martyrs. The practice was perhaps inspired by Revelation 6:9, where the Apostle John opened the fifth seal and saw "under the altar in heaven the souls of those who had been

slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held." By the middle of the third century, the Christians were so closely associated with tombs, cemeteries, and catacombs, that Emperor Valerian in the year 257 issued an edict which prohibited Christians under the penalty of death from assembling in cemeteries.

As church buildings began to be built, they were usually constructed upon the graves of local martyrs, the actual remains usually being located in or directly under the altar. Every consecrated altar contains relics, and the Eucharist is celebrated on an antimension, a rectangular cloth depicting the dead Christ taken down from the Cross which has tiny relics sewn into the corners.

Most of our sisters and brothers were not present during the consecration of Holy Apostles in June of 1965. During the stirring holy services, Archbishop Iakovos of North and South America, was assisted by Archbishop Ezekiel of Australia and Bishop Timotheos of Chicago.

The Holy Relics were deposited into the Holy Altar: Saint Anastasia, fourth century Exorcist-Virgin, Saint Theonas, monk of Saint Anastasia Monastery, and Iakovos, monk of Saint Anastasia monastery of Chalkidiki (east of Thessaloniki). May their blessed memory be eternal.

A more detailed account of the lives of these saints will be offered at the Awaken to God segment of our Sunday worship. Meanwhile, as you visit various churches in our Metropolis, you may inquire whether relics are present in the church you plan to visit. A visit to Greece will give you the blessed opportunity to venerate the relics in monasteries and ancient churches. These are blessings that await you.

## The HARC Corner

### Sweet Song A story of St. Romanos the Melodist

by Jane G. Meyer

Illustrated by Dorrie Papademetriou  
Young Romanos is devoted to Christ and His Mother and longs to be able to sing his praises to them. When he tries, his voice croaks and the words won't come. The other cantors make fun of him until one miraculous Christmas Eve.

\$19.00

### An Inner Step Toward God Writings and Teachings on Prayer

by Father Alexander Men

Available for the first time in English, this collection of Fr. Men's prayers, teachings, and writings on prayer, center on the theme of taking an inner step of faith toward God. Many topics are covered including prayer as a loving response to God, the body and prayer, prayer as sacramental encounter, meditation in prayer, and exercises that may enhance prayer.

\$18.00

### Yiayia and the Prosporon

by Potamitis Publishing

Our Orthodox faith provides us with the opportunity to take an active part in the Divine Liturgy. Without our offering, the Prosporon, no Divine Liturgy can be celebrated. In this story, Yiayia shares with her grandchildren and us the joy of offering to the true Triune God!

\$22.00

## Did you know...

Our parish was consecrated  
by Archbishop Iakovos,  
Greek Orthodox Archdiocese  
of North and South America,  
on June 1, 1965.

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

**Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday**

<b>8:00am Orthros</b> <b>9:15am Awaken To God</b> <b>9:30am Divine Liturgy</b> Fellowship Hour	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD 8:00am Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy	<b>7</b> 7:00pm Paraklesis	<b>1</b> 4:30pm Adventure Theater <b>7:00pm Paraklesis</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>8:00am Orthros</b> <b>9:15am Awaken To God</b> <b>9:30am Divine Liturgy</b> Fellowship Hour	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 7:00pm Paraklesis	<b>14</b> 7:00pm Vespers At Assumption Church, Chicago	<b>15</b> FALLING ASLEEP OF THE THEOTOKOS 8:00am Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 4:30pm Adventure Theater	<b>16</b> 5:00pm Adventure Theater BBQ
<b>8:00am Orthros</b> <b>9:15am Awaken To God</b> <b>9:30am Divine Liturgy</b> Fellowship Hour	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 7:00pm Parish Council Meeting	<b>22</b> 4:30pm Adventure Theater	<b>23</b>
<b>8:00am Orthros</b> <b>9:15am Awaken To God</b> <b>9:30am Divine Liturgy</b> Adventure Theater Luncheon & Radio Play	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 4:30pm First Day Of Greek School	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>8:00am Orthros</b> <b>9:15am Awaken To God</b> <b>9:30am Divine Liturgy</b> Fellowship Hour	<b>31</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Holy Apostles Greek School</b></p> <p>Our Greek School offers small class sizes, experienced and qualified teachers, emphasis on conversational skills and Greek dancing. Preschoolers - sixth grade classes meet on Tuesday and Thursday 4:30pm to 6:15pm.                  For more information, call Argiro Tobasi at 708.579.5251 or email her at <a href="mailto:atobasi@msn.com">atobasi@msn.com</a>.</p>					

## Memorials

*Sotirios Verveniotis  
James Kulidas  
Efthimios Tsokas  
Penny Vlahos  
Helen Alex  
Nicholas Beshilas  
Anastasios Papadakis  
Eleni Papadakis  
Panagiotis Papadakis  
William Sedares*

## Funerals

*Pauline Ross  
Christopher Franks  
Steven Pappas*

## Jr. GOYA



Jr. Goya gathered on Saturday, July 13 for a Cookout welcoming new 7th graders to the group and wishing farewell to the former 8th graders who are heading to high school.

All 7th and 8th graders are invited to join Jr. Goya. A variety of service projects and social events are planned throughout the year. Stay tuned for upcoming Jr. Goya activities!

## Weekday Services

**Transfiguration of Our Lord**  
Wednesday, August 6  
Orthros 8am, Divine Liturgy 9am

**Falling Asleep of the Theotokos**  
Friday, August 15  
Orthros 8am, Divine Liturgy 9am

**Paraklesis**  
Friday, August 1  
Tuesday, August 5  
Thursday, August 7  
Monday, August 11  
Wednesday, August 13  
7pm

## Church Directories

Directories are now available for pickup after Liturgy Sundays, or weekdays in the church office.

## Mosaic Deadline

The deadline for the September Mosaic is Wednesday, August 6.

Postmaster: Please deliver by the 3rd of August

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