

MOSAIC

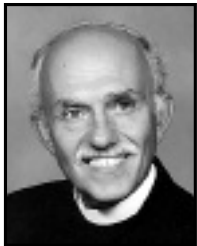
Coming together, we form an icon of God's Kingdom

Vol. 19, No. 5

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

From Father Bill



We need F.A.T. People

A concern facing both the young and old is the problem of obesity. Manufacturers of diet and exercise programs are in abundance and eager to get our attention. One of the characteristics of our century is the mania for acronyms. These acronyms are unavoidable. Think for a moment. You either use the service from A.T.&T, or competitors such as MCI, and Sprint. Every name is abbreviated. The shortened version of church names include AHEPA, GOYA, and SOYO. At the start of the new ecclesiastical year, I am suggesting that though we struggle with maintaining a healthy diet our weight changes. It is a separate challenge for each of us. While I am not recommending what to eat, I am saying: we need F.A.T people...Faithful-Available-Teachable. In a world that looms with catastrophe, we need people with such characteristics.

The first challenge for the ecclesiastical New Year is to be faithful. Mother Theresa was once asked by a reporter following a charity event if she thought her work was successful since many were to be helped and so few to do the work. The saintly missionary replied with a stern tone in her voice, "God has called us to be faithful not successful."

We are driven in our society with success-oriented goals to accomplish self-seeking goals. A story is told of a missionary and two strangers walking over the mountains of Tibet who came across a beggar dying of cold and crying for help. The strangers argued that if they would stop to help the beggar, they would freeze to death, so they continued their journey. The missionary without hesitation lifted the beggar and carried him. The

Save the Date!
55th Anniversary Luncheon

We Remember...

Sunday, November 30
at the Diplomat West in Elmhurst

Cocktails 12:30 to 1:30 pm
with lunch beginning at 1:30 pm

Apollo Dance Troupe will be performing

\$55.00 for adults
\$25.00 for children 18 years and under

A commemorative CD will be given to all who attend.
Please send your continued well wishes and support by
filling out the Commemorative Program Book
Agreement available on the HA website
or at the church office.

warmth of the beggar's body kept the missionary warm and able to survive. Later, he came across the frozen bodies of the two strangers.

The faithful missionary gained his life because he remained faithful to the words of Jesus, "Whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it."(Matthew 26:25)

St. Francis of Assisi wrote:
"O Divine Master, Grant that I may not
so much seek
To be consoled as to console;
To be understood as to understand;

To be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive;
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned."
Thomas a Kempis wrote: "On the day of Judgment, we shall not be asked what we have read, but what we have done, not how eloquently we have spoken but how holy we have lived." These are examples of faithfulness to God's commandments.

The second qualification for F.A.T. people is to be available. The Prophet Isaiah was confronted by the Lord with these words: "Whom shall I send, and who will go for me?" The

...See Fr. Bill on P. 4

From Father Nicholas



Learning Compassion

Recently, the deadly Ebola virus broke out. Tragically over 1,200 West African people have

died from this virus. Hurricanes, earthquakes, tornadoes and tsunamis and other natural disasters are called “acts of God”.

Agnostics capitalize on these cataclysmic events. When a 2004 tsunami killed 280,000 people, *Slate* magazine published an article titled: Send a Message to God: He Has Gone Too Far This Time. The author, Heather MacDonald, wrote: “It is time to boycott God.” She wrote that God sits “passively by while human life is wantonly mowed down.” Is this true? Is God passive?

We live in a fallen world. Writers of the Holy Scriptures even expressed their frustration in trying to understand challenging situations. Gideon speaking to an angel asks: “If the Lord is with us, why has all this happened to us?” Job said: “Though I cry, I get no response; though I call for help, there is no justice.” David writes in the Psalms: “Awake Lord! Why do you sleep?” The prophet Isaiah even writes: “Truly you are a God who has been hiding Himself.”

How does the Holy Bible answer these laments? When studying the Holy Scriptures, we find that almost every passage deflects the emphasis from cause to response. It is difficult for us to understand why. Yet, we can find meaning in the midst of suffering. We can offer real help to those in need.

In his book *The Problem of Pain*, C.S. Lewis wrote: “God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pains: it is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world.”

God allows suffering so we can become more attentive to crucial messages we may have ignored. Viktor Frankl, survivor of four different Nazi concentration camps, said that the search to find meaning in life is our most powerful driving force. Our response to suffering is one of the main ways to find meaning. He wrote: “Despair is suffering without meaning. Everything can be taken from a person but one thing: to choose one’s attitude in any given set of circumstances.”

Christian author Philip Yancey’s book *Why* provides an account of the Japanese peoples’ response to the 9.0 earthquake and tsunami they suffered in 2011. CNN reported it was the most costly in human lives and financial loss. Weeks after the tsunami, thousands of evacuees slept in gymnasiums and crowded halls. They stood in lines for hours to receive a bottle of water and bowl of rice. A



The Senior Division participants with Metropolitan Savas of Pittsburgh, above.

Holy Apostles parishioner takes third place at Oratorical Festival

Alexandra Drechsler placed third in the senior oratory division at the festival. She was awarded a plaque, a certificate, and a \$1000,00 college scholarship.

“It was wonderful to meet so many Orthodox young people from around the country,” she said. Two of them will be her classmates at Hellenic College this fall.

The 31st St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival took place in Cleveland, OH this year. It was hosted by the Metropolis of Pittsburgh the weekend of June 13-15.



year later, 250,000 people were still living in temporary housing.

Despite their suffering, these Japanese people were patient and enduring. Residents turned over almost \$100M of cash and valuables found in the rubble. This is a much more Christian response than the typical looting that occurs after disasters.

Responding to the needy and hurting people around us can give new meaning to life. Anthropologist Margaret Mead was asked what is the earliest sign of civilization. She held up a human femur and pointed to a thickened area where the bone healed after a fracture. The healed bone shows someone

must have cared for the injured person. We humans are judged by how we respond to the most vulnerable and suffering.

A university researching pain conducted an interesting study. They recruited volunteers to test how long they could keep their feet in buckets of freezing water. The volunteer was able to endure twice as long when someone was in the room with him.

Research shows that people connected with caring communities heal faster and better. Stress, guilt, anger, anxiety and loneliness are defeated by a compassionate community. St. Paul commented on this and wrote: “If

...See Fr. Nicholas on P. 3

Youth Programs to resume in September

As the new church and school year approaches, we are getting ready for another exciting year. We offer many opportunities for our children to learn and grow in their Orthodox Christian life and to make and nurture friendships.

TOTS, ages 2 - 5, resumes Tuesday, September 9 at 10:00 am. The group utilizes fun, interactive, hands-on activities for our children to learn about their Christian faith. Our group meets bi-monthly on Tuesdays 10:00 am – 11:30 am.

THE WAY, grades 1 - 8, resumes Monday, September 8 at 5:00 pm. We share a meal together and then break into smaller discus-

sion groups by grade. We discuss and learn about many areas of our Orthodox Christian life. This is a great way to make friends and to grow together in Christ. We meet bi-monthly on Mondays 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm.

GOYA, grades 9 - 12, resumes Tuesday, September 9 at 6:00 pm with a Kickoff Barbecue on the church grounds. We discuss relevant topics that affect the daily Christian lives of our teenagers. The group is a great place to meet other teenagers and to build friendly relationships. Our group usually meets bi-monthly on Tuesday evenings from 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm.

Philoptochos News and Events

Please join us for the Philoptochos Membership Night, Planting Kindness, Gathering Love, on Tuesday, September 16 at 7:00 pm in our Holy Apostles Community Center. Refreshments will be served.

Hear about the many lives we touch year-round. Learn about our plans for the coming year. Volunteer for a project of interest. Make new friends. RSVP by 9/10 to Chrissie Alex 630.663.0767.

Our annual fashion show & luncheon Hollywood Glam will be Saturday, October, 18 at Empress Banquets in Addison. Proceeds will benefit Hellenicare and Almost Home Kids. Tickets will first go on sale Saturday, September 6 from 9 -10 am at church. A table can be reserved with a minimum of 8 paid seats, but please note that the tables this year are larger and we will be seating 10-12 people/table. If your party is smaller, you may be seated with other people – a great opportunity to make some new friends! For reserva-

tion information contact Anna Eriotes 630.832.7839.

Donations are needed

Philoptochos still needs your help for fashion show raffle prizes & silent auction items. The fashion show is our largest fundraiser of the year. Proceeds from this event enable us to give generous donations to two charities and also help support other philanthropic endeavors throughout the year.

You can help us by donating a prize or by contacting a friend, business associate or business you personally frequent to request a prize be donated on our behalf. Your assistance with any prize donation is much appreciated. The most sought after items are 1) electronics – iPads, tablets, game systems, etc. 2) designer purses, 3) fine jewelry.

Please contact Cynthia Stathopoulos 630.986.0630 to donate items or for questions. For inclusion in our program book, all donations must be received by September 7.

Fr. Nicholas from P. 2

Christian faith best transmitted by actions

one member suffers, all the members suffer with it.” (1 Corinthians 12:26) We Christians have the opportunity to make a unique contribution to those who suffer.

If we want to help, we must be careful. Words, although often well intentioned, may bring more pain to an already difficult situation. Often we care and love so much that we want to offer something. In our awkwardness, we offer words that hurt. “There must be a reason” we say when someone loses a job or their home. Yes, this is true but that statement does not help the hurting person. “God does not give us more than we can bear.” Again, this is true but not constructive.

When someone passes away: “God needed your loved one more than you.” This is very hurtful to the suffering person. How about

another cliché? “God needed an angel.” Even a spiritual truth: “All things work together for good” (Romans 8:28) is true. But, again, that offers little solace for the hurting person who has lost a loved one. What is the best response? We love you and are with and praying for you. Our loving sympathetic response offers more than any words. We call this the ministry of presence.

God is alive and active. He is working in challenging situations through His hands and feet – us! Our Christian faith is transmitted most powerfully by our actions. St. James reminds us that if a brother or sister is in need and we say, “depart in peace, be warmed and filled, but do not give them the things that are needed, what does it profit?” (James 2:16)

Adventure Theater pancake breakfast

An all-you-can-eat deluxe pancake breakfast, hosted by the Adventure Theater, will be held Sunday, September 28 immediately following the Divine Liturgy. It will be sponsored by Dr. Peter Bell and his sister, Joanne Cascio, in memory of their parents. In addition to delicious pancakes, the menu will include: scrambled eggs, sausage, juice, fruit, milk and coffee.

This is Adventure Theater's main fundraiser for the year. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the Saint Iakovos Retreat Center, site of retreats and other Chicago Metropolitan activities and new home of Fanari Summer Camp beginning next year. The cost for persons aged 12 and above is \$8.00. For children ages 5 to 11 it is \$5.00 and children aged 4 and under are admitted for free.

Reservations will be taken in the multi-purpose room following the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, September 14 and 21 or you may contact Mr. D at 708.562.0869.

Did you know...

The current site of Holy Apostles at 2501 S. Wolf Rd. was a five acre plot of land purchased for \$43,000 in 1961. Construction of the edifice began on June 6, 1964 and the ‘Opening of the Doors’ occurred on June 27, 1965.

Baptisms

*Nikki Jackson, (Adult Baptism)
Sponsor: Stacy Tsihlopoulos*

*Ava, daughter of Katie & Peter Magas
Sponsor: Bob Grigoropoulos*

Weddings

*Danyelle Andrews & Eric Andrews
Sponsor: George Andrews*

*Oliana Kole and Peter Karlis
Sponsor: Leah Kazaglis*

*Nikki Jackson
& Haralambos Theodoropoulos
Sponsors: Stacy Tsihlopoulos
& Bill Tsihlopoulos*



Fun, food, and fellowship at annual family picnic

Bessie Tselepis and Marika Panton, second left, work their way down the food line, above. At left, Nick Kirkeles flips burgers on the grill.

Photos by Peter Bell

Faithful, Available, Teachable parishoners needed

Fr. Bill from P. 1

Prophet’s reply was prompt and succinct: “Here am I, send me,” (Isaiah 6:8). There was no pause for Isaiah and no hesitation. He was available and declared himself to God. We have the tendency to be judgmental with others without knowing the circumstances that others are confronting.

Ian Macieren has written: “Let us be kind to one another for most of us are fighting a hard battle.” Let us not allow ourselves to be consumed with the concerns of the world but rather make ourselves available to God’s grace and presence. Make ourselves available to think and pray while remembering the brevity of life. The scriptures say “Do what you are able to accomplish and God will bless your intentions, (1Chronicles 28:9).

The final qualification for F.A.T. church members is to be teachable.

The Lord commissioned the Disciples to go to all nations, “teaching all things I have commanded you.” The Old Testament admonishes parents to teach God’s truth.

One who is teachable is one who has the willingness to learn and be corrected, and is one who acquires the mind of Christ to absorb the commandments of God.

We are in need of people who are willing

to guard against temptation. No man can be free from temptation so long as he lives, for the source of temptation lies within our nature, and we are born with an inclination toward evil. In the Old Testament, Joseph fled from Potiphar’s wife at the moment she attempted to seduce him. We are no match from the snares of Satan.

Satan first makes himself aggressive to close the gates of the mind so that evil and destructive thoughts may attack. The church fathers teach that evil thoughts first come into the mind, followed by evil images and finally, the delight and urge for evil consent. Thus, the enemy gains mastery when he is not at first resisted. Therefore, when you are under siege by the devil, pray to God for strength. Quote scripture, any verse from the Bible, and remember the encouraging words of St. Paul: “No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able...” (1 Cor 10:13).

F.A.T. people are needed in the Church. Let us lift up our cross and follow our Lord who by his death conquered evil and sin and established the church and opened the gates of paradise.

The HARC Corner

**One Flesh
Salvation through marriage
in the Orthodox Church**
by Fr. Lawrence R. Farley

Is the Church too negative about sex? Beginning with this provocative question, Fr. Farley explores the history of the Church’s attitude toward sex and marriage from the Old Testament through the Church Fathers. He persuasively makes the case both for traditional morality and for a positive acceptance of marriage as a viable path to theosis. \$16

The enemy has a face
by Cloriz D. Miklowitz

“Adam didn’t come home last night,” Mom says. And now Dad’s speaking to the police... Something bad has happened to my brother. I know it and feel helpless. In this thoughtful and suspenseful book, Gloria Miklowitz explores issues of Middle Eastern relationships through the eyes of young people on both sides of the age-old conflict. \$8

*A look at Islam
from an
Orthodox Christian
perspective*

What is the history of the Islamic faith? Do Muslims worship the same God as we do? What do they believe about Jesus Christ? Why are they often associated with violence?

If you have ever pondered these or other questions, join us as Barbara Pappas explores this topic.

This timely series will be offered on Wednesday evenings from 7:15pm to about 8:30pm from October 1 through November 12, in the multi-purpose room.

Spread the word!

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

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|--|---|--|--------------------------|---|
| | Labor Day Office Closed | 4:30pm Greek School | 1:00pm Adult Christian Fellowship & Bible Study | 4:30pm Greek School | 4:30pm Adventure Theater | |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| First Day Of Sunday School 8:00am Orthros 9:15am Awaken To God 9:30am Divine Liturgy Fellowship Hour | 8 NAIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS 8:00am Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 5:15pm The Way | 10:00am TOTIS 4:30pm Greek School 6:00pm GOYA Kickoff BBQ 7:30pm Philoptochos Board Meeting | 1:00pm Adult Christian Fellowship & Bible Study | 4:30pm Greek School | 4:30pm Adventure Theater | 10:00am GOYA Car Wash |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| ELEVATION OF THE CROSS 8:00am Orthros 9:15am Awaken To God 9:30am Divine Liturgy Fellowship Hour | 15 | 4:30pm Greek School 7:00pm Philoptochos Membership Night | FEAST DAY OF ST. SOPHIA, FAITH, HOPE & AGAPE 8:00am Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 1:00pm Adult Christian Fellowship & Bible Study 7:30pm Catechism | 4:30pm Greek School 7:00pm Parish Council Meeting | 4:30pm Adventure Theater | 9:00am Choir Federation Meeting |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 8:00am Orthros 9:15am Awaken To God 9:30am Divine Liturgy Fellowship Hour | 5:15pm The Way | 10:00am TOTIS 4:30pm Greek School | 1:00pm Adult Christian Fellowship & Bible Study 7:30pm Catechism 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal | 4:30pm Greek School | 4:30pm Adventure Theater | 9:30am Department Of Religious Education Seminar |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 8:00am Orthros 9:15am Awaken To God 9:30am Divine Liturgy Adventure Theater Pancake Breakfast | 29 | 4:30pm Greek School 7:30pm GOYA Meeting | | | | |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | <p>“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven...”</p> <p>including a new school year ! Best wishes to all our students this year.</p> | | | |

Memorials

*Christopher Franks
Stella Sigalos
Peter Bobis
Helen Bobis
Bess Kuchuris
Mary Zarcone
Antonia Nikolaidis
Peter Kosmopoulos
Steven Pappas
Pat Chiampas*

Funerals

None

Modern Greek Lecture

Toward a more penetrating and enlightened understanding of the past, present and future of Hellas, the University of Chicago Division of the Humanities is presenting a lecture by Harvard Professor Michael Herzfeld.

Professor Herzfeld has doctorates from Oxford University (Social Anthropology) and the University of Birmingham (Modern Greek Studies), as well as a non-degreed program in Greek Folklore.

His lecture subject is "Crisis or Judgment: Exasperation and Obligation in Greece Today." where he will inculcate his understanding of the processes at work in cultural identity construction in modern Greece.

This free lecture will be held Thursday, October 9 from 6 pm -7:30 pm at the University of Chicago, Social Science Research Building, Room 122, 1126 E. 59th St, Chicago, Illinois.

Weekday Services

Nativity Of The Theotokos

*Monday, September 8
Orthros 8am
Divine Liturgy 9am*

Feast Day Of Ss. Sophia, Faith, Hope, & Agape

*Wednesday, September 17
Orthros 8am
Divine Liturgy 9am*

Church Directories

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

Mosaic Deadline

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

Postmaster: Please deliver by the 3rd of September

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