

MOSAIC

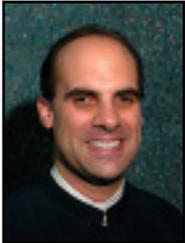
Coming together, we form an icon of God's Kingdom

Vol. 20, No. 4

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

September 2015

From Father Nicholas



Participating in Christ's Body

Wow! Where did the summer go? Didn't the children just finish school? Now, school is back in session! Fall brings school schedules, extracurricular activities, and sports, as our crazy busy life returns.

As the fall craziness begins, the Church celebrates the ecclesiastical New Year on September 1. This marks a new beginning for all of us. Regardless of what happened last year, we are given a new start!

This past year has been difficult. Our beloved shepherd, brother and priest, Fr. Bill, passed to God's heavenly Kingdom. Some founders and Holy Apostles pioneers have also gone to be with the Lord. Daily, we deeply miss Fr. Bill and those beloved people. His words are continually with us: "Keep Dancing!"

How can we keep dancing? What needs to be done? A beautiful biblical verse engraved outside our church reads: "Where there is no vision, the people perish." (Prov. 29:18) What is our vision as the new church year begins? We will follow the same vision that has been Holy Apostles' focus: "But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." (Josh. 24:15) How do we get there? "Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God." (Eph. 2:19) Salvation! Communion with God. Closer relationships with each other. Daily, hourly, minute by minute close relationship with the Lord and His Holy Church!

A Lenten Bible study began with an interesting activity. We all formed a huge circle surrounding an icon of Christ. As we moved closer to each other, the circle became smaller. We grew closer to each and closer to Christ in the middle! As we grow closer to each other,



Running kids and flying eggs highlight annual picnic games

Picnickers enjoyed beautiful weather July 26 for Holy Apostles' annual parish picnic.

Games, supervised as usual by George Alex, and food grilled by the Parish Council was enjoyed by all.



we grow closer to Christ! We are part of the Holy Apostles family, the Body of Christ! St. Paul reminds us: "Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it." (1 Cor. 12:27) The church is called the ecclesia or church of the people.

When people would ask Fr. Bill, "What do they do at YOUR church?", he would gently remind them, "This is not my church, this is the Lord's church. It is in the Lord's hands." The Lord is over all. St. Paul's letter to the Cor. reminds us: "The body of Christ is one and has many members." (1 Cor. 12:14) The Holy Spirit distributes gifts and talents to each person, each one of us individually. St. Paul reminds us: "We have diversities of activities and ministries but it is the same God who works in them all." (1 Cor. 12:6) Throughout

the years, many have offered their God given talents and served the Lord. Some are teachers. Others are administrators, the leaders of the church. Some are musicians. Others offer filoxenia or the gift of hospitality, organizing social events. We have gifted cooks. Some are very creative and artistic. Others build and fix things. Some serve the church by organizing athletic events or serving in the altar. Others are gifted working with children and serve in the various children's ministries. Some may be more quiet, behind the scenes offering words of encouragement.

The gift of helps is also mentioned in the Book of Corinthians. These are the people that love to offer a helping hand whenever possible. These gifts and talents, and many
See Fr. Nicholas on P. 3...



Gavel to Gavel



Highlights of the June Parish Council Meeting **BY NICK KOUCHIS, SECRETARY**

Meditation:

✦ Fr. Nicholas expressed his thankfulness and humility is being elevated as Protopresbyter at the Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church. He confirmed his deep love for the Holy Apostles Family. He offered that the biggest struggle in a transition is communication and that direct, verbal communication is best for understanding one's needs. He sympathized that if one member of a body suffers, all members suffer. Our one goal is salvation. Finally, he said he plans to build on the foundation that Fr. Bill created over the past 55 years.

Financial/Treasurer's Report:

✦ Peter Bell reviewed the financial report for the months ending April and May 2015. The church for period ending April had net income of \$61,636.06, which was \$44,232.05 over budget. The church for the period ending May had a net income of \$9338.54, which was \$36,556.01 over budget. George Chechopoulos moved to approve the report pending the yearend audit. The motion was passed unanimously. The year-end financials will be made available at the church office for parishioners, but will not be mailed out.

Stewardship Report:

✦ Lou Katzioris reviewed the Stewardship Report for May. Pledges to date for 2015 are 656, which is 20 lower than this period last year. Total amount pledged to date for 2015 is \$640,745.60, which is \$12,000 more than the same period last year.

✦ The average pledge of \$976.75 is \$47.74 more than this period last year. Percent paid to date is 76%, which is 1% more than last year.

Correspondence:

✦ The correspondence was reviewed by Nick Kouchis. A very heartfelt thank you letter was received from Marissa Lorusso on behalf of the family of Fr. Bill Chiganos for the hard work, outpouring of love, and coordinated arrangements honoring his memory at the funeral services.

✦ Thank you from Fr. Martin Ritsi, Executive Director of OCMC, for the gift of \$1000 for the Outreach Mission in Nueva Concepcion, Guatemala.

Missions & Outreach:

✦ Nick Kouchis presented a request from Metropolitan Nikitas from the Patriarch Athenagoras Orthodox Institute for a donation to undertake repairs of bathrooms and buildings. No motion was offered and consideration for passing a tray was made.

Building & Grounds:

✦ Jim Fotopoulos presented an update on repairing/replacing failing windows in the church. He is obtaining bids that are ranging from \$40,000-\$60,000 to manufacture new windows and 10-12 weeks of time. He also is obtaining bids to replace and seal the masonry work around the church that are ranging from \$50,000 - \$70,000.

✦ Jim Fotopoulos announced that lighting in the hallways will be converted to LED.

✦ Steve Savas alerted the group that last month's water meter reading was very high and out of line with previous months and same time last year, with a cost of \$1100. He asked the water meter to be inspected for possible failure.

Old Business:

✦ Steve Savas presented an update on the

bathroom remodeling project. Meetings with contractors have been occurring and a proposal and time frame will be presented when completed.

✦ Fr. Nicholas praised the success of the 5K Walk-a-Thon Fundraiser for Philoxenia house on June 6, 2015 in raising about \$8500 and championed by Lou Kafkes and Kiki Liston.

New Business:

✦ Steve Savas requested that the Building and Grounds Committee present an update of their meeting and upcoming year plans at the August meeting.

✦ Steve Savas announced that the budget process for 2016 begins in August 2015 and be presented for approval in October, instead of waiting until January 2016.

✦ The liability insurance for the church was renewed with the Horton Group with a lower premium of \$160. The value of the church increased from 9 million to 9.2 million and the contents from 1.62 million to 1.66 million.

✦ Fr. Nicholas discussed a meeting he added with the Sunday School teachers. The anticipated attendance for the upcoming school year will be about 280. A proposal to evaluate the Sunday School structure was discussed to include the teachers, parents, and education committee.

✦ Steve Savas announced officially the elevation of Fr. Nicholas Georgiou as Protopresbyter of the Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church to be effective July 1, 2015. An email blast to all parishioners will be made.

Pastor introduces himself to his new church dramatically

Pastor Jeremiah Steepok transformed himself into a homeless person and went to the 10,000 member church that he was to be introduced to as the head pastor that morning. He walked around his soon to be church for 30 minutes while it was filling with people for service....only 3 people out of the 7-10,000 people said hello to him. He asked people for change to buy food....NO ONE in the church gave him change. He went into the sanctuary to sit down in the front of the church and was asked by the ushers if he would please sit in the back. He greeted people to be greeted back with stares and dirty looks, with people looking down on him and judging him.

As he sat in the back of the church, he listened to the church announcements and such. When all that was done, the elders went to the front and were excited to introduce the new pastor of the church to the congregation. "We would like to introduce to you to our new pastor, Jeremiah Steepok"....

The congregation looked around clapping with joy and anticipation. The homeless man sitting in the back stood up and started walking down the aisle. The clapping stopped with ALL eyes on him. He walked up the altar and took the microphone from the elders (who were in on this) and paused for a moment.... then he recited "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." Mt 25:40.

After he recited this, he looked towards the congregation and told them all what he had experienced that morning. Many began to cry and many heads were bowed in shame. Then he said today I see a gathering of people, not a church of Jesus Christ. The world has enough people, but not enough disciples. When will YOU decide to become disciples? He then dismissed the service until the following week. Being a Christian is more than something you claim. It's something you live by, and share with others.

Fr. Nicholas from P. 1

In the Body of Christ, the whole is greater than the sum of the parts.

others, come from God. They create a synergy or working with God. We are challenged in St. Paul's letter to Timothy to stir up these gifts. Each body has a spiritual head. The head is the clergy, the local Bishop, and the priests he assigns to the community. St. John Chrysostom wrote about the church leader. He said that the task of the church leader is to discern the spiritual gifts and to encourage those gifts to be used for the benefit of all.

The priest is the spiritual quarterback helping people employ and utilize their gifts and talents. Everything passes through the head. If a foot hurts or pain, head knows what happening in body. The head helps the members work together.

This summer our family visited Disney World. Why do people travel from all over the world to visit Mickey Mouse? Disney offers something for everyone. They offer activities for young, old, active, inactive, adventure seekers, parents, children, grandparents, toddlers. Disney has so many ways for people to participate and enjoy their time. In the same way, participation in the Body of Christ, brings us closer to God and each other. Some missionaries just returned from their first mission trip. They enthusiastically said, "Father, when we left for this third world country, we thought we were going to give so much to these poor people. But we found that they, although so poor, provided and gave us so much more than we gave them!" When we serve others, we serve Christ Himself!

The more we participate in the Body of Christ, the more of the Lord's joy we will experience. My boyhood priest would say often, "You cannot out-give God!" We will try to provide more and more ways to participate in the life of the Church. How can all ages and genders participate more? Children, parents, adults, men, women, grandparents, boys and girls. How can we help people participate more in the Church life by providing opportunities to serve in the ministries, sing or chant? By providing more church services? The Lord does not look at our ability but our availability to serve. What gift or talent can you offer this church year? As it is, there are many parts, but one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!" (1 Cor. 12:20-21) We need all the parts of the body participating together. "If one member suffers,

all suffer." (1 Cor. 12:26)

A very detailed-oriented parishioner recently provided some interesting statistics. He said, "Father, I have some numbers for you: 25%, 50%, 100%, 50%." I was confused. He further explained that 25% of the Body is present for the sermon, 50% after the sermon, 100% for Holy Communion and 50% after Holy Communion. The Body is best served when all are present. Timely participation is important. When members of Christ's Body are missing or late, we miss you. If one member suffers, all suffer!

As the Body of Christ, the whole is greater than the sum of the parts. The Chicago Blackhawks exemplify this. They barely made the playoffs this year. Now, they are world champions for the third time in six years! How did they do it! Was it their superstars Patrick Kane and Jonathan Toews? No. Little known players like Antoinne Vermette and Brandon Saad saved the Hawks from being eliminated many times. How about Scott Darling, the backup goalie who stepped up and kept the Hawks from getting knocked out the first playoff series? Great plays came from all the players. They won with everyone contributing, not just their superstars. The priest is like Jonathan Toews - the captain. He relies on people and encourages all to utilize their God-given strengths and gifts. Participation at all levels is crucial. Do you have a God given talent to offer this year? The Lord will receive and multiply it!

ONE GOAL is the Blackhawks' slogan. This past ecclesiastical year, we have sadly experienced a record number of funerals. But we also have had a record number of baptisms and weddings! Our Body of Christ has lost members but gained others. Many of the founders have gone to be with the Lord. But others have joined our beloved Holy Apostles community.

Our Body of Christ composition and needs may be changing. Our ONE GOAL is the same that it has been for 55 years: Salvation and a building up of the Body of Christ by offering our gifts and participating in the Body.

Going forward in this new church year, with God's help, we can build on the foundation that Fr. Bill and our founders so solidly established, with his prayers and the grace of God!

The HARC Corner

A Child's Guide to the Divine Liturgy

This small book can be used as an aid during the Divine Liturgy or simply as a tool for learning more about the Church and our Orthodox Faith. It is divided into color-coded sections so that each part is easy to find. The reduced amount of text encourages attention toward the altar. Illustrations and vocabulary for the very young child are included. The glossary at the end defines terms and vocabulary. "A helpful children's guide to understanding our faith."

\$20.00

The Experience of God, Vol 3 The Person of Jesus Christ as God and Savior

**Orthodox Dogmatic Theology
by Dumitru Staniloae**

The present volume dealing with Christology is a happy testimony to the manner in which Fr. Staniloae affirms the dynamic aspect of Orthodox tradition and the missionary vocation of theology as a science of salvation and of eternal life. The treatment of Christology, of the Person and work of our Lord Jesus Christ, an account that, though certainly deeply traditional and Orthodox, is challenging and even revolutionary in its approach.

\$25.00

Bishop Gerasimos of Abydos The Spiritual Elder of America Edited by Fr. Peter A. Chamberas

When His Grace Bishop Gerasimos of Abydos fell asleep in the Lord in 1995, many people recalled his holiness and simplicity of life, referring to him in saintly terms. They remembered his zeal for learning and theological inquiry. Among his personal belongings, papers were found with the title "My Life" as well as a study of the hierarchical prayer of Jesus Christ in the Gospel of John. These works by him are included here along with a biography by his nephew, Stylianos G. Papadopoulos.

\$15.00

***If you appear to be doing something strange
for a good reason,
remind people that it wasn't raining
when Noah started building the Ark !***

Upcoming Philoptochos events and news

Membership Night

Please join us for our annual Membership Night, "It's Time for Philoptochos", on Tuesday, September 22 at 7:00 pm. We will be meeting at Millhouse Charhouse, 1901 S Meyers Rd in Oakbrook Terrace. Appetizers and sweets will be served.

Come and hear about the exciting things our Philoptochos Ladies do in our community. Learn about our plans for the coming year. Volunteer for a project of interest and make new friends. RSVP by September 18 to Aleka Ernst 630.561.1660.

Our Annual Fashion Show & Luncheon

"A Southern Soiree" will be Saturday, October 17 at Empress Banquets in Addison. Proceeds will benefit CURED (Campaign Urging Research for Eosinophilic Disease) and Paradise 4 Kids. Tickets will first go on sale

Saturday, September 12 from 9-10 am at church. For reservation information, contact Nia Kouchis at 630.910.8224.

The fashion show is our largest fundraiser of the year. Proceeds from this event enable us to give generous donations to the two charities and also help support other philanthropic endeavors throughout the year.

We still need your help for fashion show raffle prizes and silent auction items. 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.

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

Bring a healthy appetite to church on September 27

An all-you-can-eat, deluxe pancake breakfast, hosted by the Adventure Theater, will take place on Sunday, September 27 immediately following Divine Liturgy. In addition to our delicious pancakes, the menu will include:

scrambled eggs, sausage, juice, fruit, milk, and coffee.

This is Adventure Theatre's main fundraiser for the year. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the Saint Iakovos Retreat Center building fund. Fanari summer camp was held there for the first time this year and where other Chicago Metropolis' retreats and activities are being held.

The cost for people ages 12 and older is \$10; for those ages 5 to 11, it is \$5, and for children 4 and under, it is free of charge.

Reservations will be taken by Adventure Theater members in the multi-purpose room following Divine Liturgy beginning on Sunday, September 13 and again, on September 20. You may also contact Mr. D. at his direct number 708.562.0869 or at fanari@me.com. See you on Sept. 27!

Baptisms

*Freya, daughter of
Heidi & Nicholas Wendland
Sponsors: Linnea Elbing & Kjerstin Quinn*

*Sameeran Panda
Sponsor: Kara Houston*

*Eduardo, son of
Clementina & Gregory Kuchuris
Sponsor: Luke Kopulos*

*Georgia, daughter of
Kalliopi & Peter Syregelas
Sponsors: Michelle & Peter Panos*

Weddings

*Marsela Kole & Sameeran Panda
Sponsor: Kara Houston*

*Sarah Areti Karones & Michael Joseph Danek
Sponsor: Pamela Economos*

*Ivy Lambino & Kosta Vlangos
Sponsors: Panayiota & John Vlangos*

*Alexis Wonais & Jordan Myers
Sponsor: Lance Kumis*

National Hellenic Museum Happenings

**Transcending Boundaries:
The Art of Anthony Quinn
June 2015 - October 2015
Calamos Great Hall**

Inspired by the role that defined his life and career, Anthony Quinn's spirit was marked by relentless determination, despite his fierce fear of failure. In his own words: "Zorba has a message for us. He tells us, don't be afraid of failure. I was terrified of failure. But no more."

**Monumental: A children's Interactive Exhibit Exploring Ancient Greek Architecture
March - October 2015**

Halikias Family Exhibition Gallery
This exhibit is specifically geared towards children and families. Explore the masterpieces of ancient Greek culture in a hands-on exhibit that introduces children to the science, technology engineering, art, and mathematical principles of architecture. The exhibit explores the Parthenon and other buildings on the Acropolis. Visitors can construct their own temple using blocks and stones. Costumes and props provide opportunities for dramatic play.

**Oral History Project
Stories worth preserving,
stories worth telling**

Build a legacy; share your story and the story of your ancestors with the National Hellenic Museum. Contact John Anagnostopoulos at the Museum, 312.655.1234 ext. 31, to set up an appointment and leave your legacy for your family and your community.

Parish ministries resume in September

As the new church and school year approach, we are preparing for another exciting year. We offer many opportunities for our children and adults to learn and grow in their Orthodox Christian life and to make and nurture friendships. Following are a few of the ministries that will be offered:

TOTS (ages 2 through 5): Resumes Tuesday, September 22 at 10 am. Mary is Born will be the topic for the day.

THE WAY (Kindergarten through 8th grade): Resumes Monday, September 21 at 5 pm. We share a meal together and then break into smaller discussion groups (Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade, 3rd and 4th grade, 5th

and 6th grade, 7th and 8th grade). The groups discuss and learn about many different areas of our Orthodox Christian life.

GOYA (9th through 12th grade) will be hosting a barbeque on Tuesday, September 15 at 6 pm.

Family Synaxis (married couples and families): Our first event will be a family hayride in October.

Registration and information for these ministries will be available on Sunday, September 13 following the Divine Liturgy. Please register so that we can plan the year accordingly.

Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church **September 2015** 2501 S. Wolf Rd. Westchester, Illinois

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|--|--|---|--------------------------|---|
| | | | | | | |
| 8:00am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy Fellowship Hour Family Synaxis Retreat | Family Synaxis Retrea Office Closed | NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS 8:00am Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 4:30pm Greek School | 1:00pm Adult Christian Fellowship & Bible Study | 10:00am Adult Christian Fellowship & Bible Study Luncheon | 4:30pm Adventure Theater | Family Synaxis Retreat |
| 6 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 8:00am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy Fellowship Hour First Day Of Sunday School | ELEVATION OF THE CROSS 8:00am Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy | 4:30pm Greek School 6:00pm GOYA BBQ | 1:00pm Adult Christian Fellowship & Bible Study | FEAST DAY OF ST. SOPHIA, FAITH, HOPE & AGAPE 8:00am Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 4:30pm Greek School 5:00pm Greek School PTO Meeting 7:30pm Parish Council Meeting | 4:30pm Adventure Theater | 7:00pm Murder/Mystery Dinner At Millhouse Banquets |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 8:00am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy Fellowship Hour | 5:15pm The Way | 10:00am TOTIS 4:30pm Greek School 5:00pm Greek School Open House 7:00pm Philoptochos Membership Night At Millhouse Banquets | 1:00pm Adult Christian Fellowship & Bible Study 7:30pm Catechism | 4:30pm Greek School | 4:30pm Adventure Theater | |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 8:00am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy Fellowship Hour | 4:30pm Greek School | 1:00pm Adult Christian Fellowship & Bible Study 7:30pm Catechism 7:30pm Choir Federation Meeting | | | | |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | Happy moments, PRAISE GOD Difficult moments, SEEK GOD. Quiet moments, WORSHIP GOD Painful moments, TRUST GOD Every moment, THANK GOD | | |

Funerals

Dr. Michael Govostis

Mary Dangles

Memorials

Steven Pappas

Efthimios Tsokas

Stella Sigalos

Betty Contopoulos

Terri Katsulis

Dr. Michael Govostis

Mary Nassos-McKavis

George Pappas

Georgia Pappas

Aphrodite-Georgia Tsatsos

Mary Karr

Sofia Stefanos

Peter Sfikas

Mary Dangles

To continue, Fellowship Hour needs you!

The Fellowship Hour is a favorite tradition of our church and is held each Sunday directly after the Liturgy in the multi-purpose room. It's a time of offering hospitality to everyone with beverages, coffee, snacks, breakfast and brunch treats. Fellowship Hour offers us an opportunity to pause for a while from our busy schedules and catch up with each other, chat and visit with old and new friends while building and strengthening Christian fellowship.

The church is asking for all of us to participate in this tradition by hosting a Fellowship Hour one Sunday of the year. It is recommended that you share the responsibilities with other friends and family. You will find the details on our website by clicking on the "Fellowship Hour" link or you may call the church office at 708.562.2744. The Sundays that are available are listed on the "sign up sheet" located on the wall by the kitchen door.

Thank you in advance for your participation!

Stewardship

There isn't much time left before Christmas shopping gets into full swing. Now is the time to fulfill your stewardship pledge so you can shop without being tormented by stewardship guilt!

Mosaic Deadline

The deadline for the October Mosaic is Tuesday, September 8.

Postmaster: Please deliver by the 3rd of September

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