

MOSAIC

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

Vol. 20, No. 3

Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church 2501 S. Wolf Rd. Westchester, IL
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June/July 2015

May His Memory Be Eternal

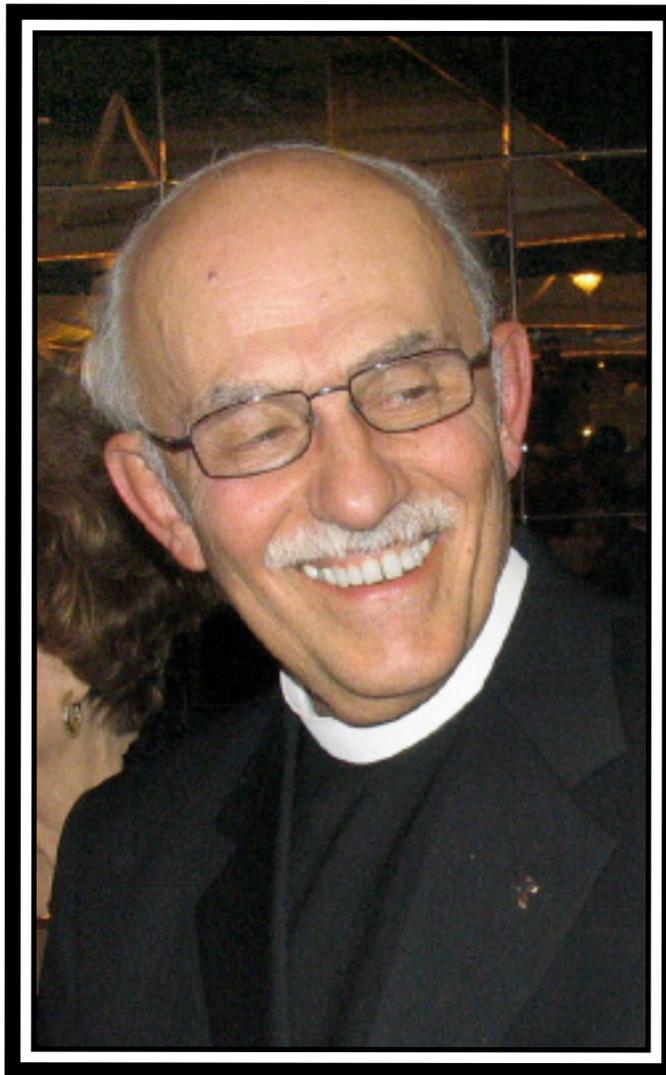
Excerpts from the transcription of Archbishop Demetrios' Eulogy at Father Bill's funeral

We have today, the funeral of a legendary person in the life of the Church. Father Vasilios Chiganos has been a legend of a priest in our Archdiocese and in our community. So this is not exactly a funeral. This is a thanksgiving service to God for having given to us this type of priest and person. It's a thanksgiving to God for giving and adorning our poor and decadent humanity with luminaries of the magnitude, strength and brilliance of Father Basil.

I remember when I was visiting this church for the first time about 1970 or 1971. At that time, the choir was a feature of strength and beauty as it was today. I was so impressed by the Liturgy that we had here and from that moment on, I knew that here was someone who exemplified the qualities of a true and genuine priest.

The first characteristic is a priest who is dedicated to prayer and worship. He was very meticulous in making sure that whatever related to prayer, individual or public, was done in the best possible way.

He was someone who created the way of proper connection with God through prayer and worship as a manifestation of the human spirit. Something that showed this was when he said to me, "We have a big shopping center relatively close, and there are plenty of people who come there continuously during the day. I should do something connecting them with prayer. How about instituting a noon service using the sixth hour and



invite the shoppers." I called him after some weeks and said, "How is the experiment?" He said, "Believe it or not, we started with 50, went to 60, and to 80." It's something that showed he was not simply advancing prayer and worship, but at the same time, caring for the people.

Then, he was the second characteristic of

the pastor, "poimen", the pastor of souls and people. He was really passionate about doing the best to lead this community and contribute to the Metropolis of Chicago in keeping the people connected with God and developing and growing in the knowledge of Christ.

He did something again of an innovation at that time. Back in the '70s and '80s, we had computers, but it was just the beginning of their usage. What was available were small cassettes and the portable recorders. He said to me, "I thought that we have in our community, people who grow up and go to a university, to college, away from the area. We have to keep in touch with them because colleges and universities are places where statistically a number of young people are starting to be disconnected because they are preoccupied with learning and future professional plans." He said, "What I did was record the Sunday Liturgy and the sermon as much as a cassette could contain, then I reproduced it, put it into an envelope, and mailed it to each of our students who are away." This is an unusual type of ministry. I said, "How have you thought about that?" He said, "I thought that we have to have a connection and that was available at that time." He was a pastor with ideas, a very creative kind of thinking, pastorally.

A priest has to not only be a good liturgist and praying person, but the third characteristic of a good pastor is to be a good teacher. In order to do that, he has to be connected with education continuously.

The immediate connection Fr. Bill made, in addition to sending tapes to those at institu-

...Eulogy continued on P. 3

From Father Nicholas

Remembering Fr. Bill, our beloved soldier for Christ



We thank God for our beloved spiritual father, Father Bill. Archbishop Demetrios of America beautifully said at the funeral that it was a day of thanksgiving to God

for Father Bill's ministry and life. We thank God and his loving, supportive family who shared Father Bill with us for 55 years!

The day of the funeral, we remembered St. John the Theologian. He was the beloved disciple who wrote a Gospel, three epistles and The Book of Revelation. He was a prolific writer and student of theology and Christ. Like St. John, Father Bill taught through his excellent sermons, classes and words.

He taught even more through his actions. He taught us what a Christian should be by the way he lived. He inspired us to action. St. Paul challenged Timothy to be a "good, good soldier for Jesus Christ." (2 Timothy 2:3) That was Father Bill. A soldier for Christ.

Soldiers for Christ possess many characteristics. They love and serve God's people. He loved all of us and committed his life to us. His love for his flock would cause him to scan the pews every Sunday to ensure all members of the flock were there. Father Bill's love for the flock was so evident at our 55th anniversary. He was like a little child, so excited to see all the loved ones of his Holy Apostles family.

Father Bill was so reflective and thankful for God's blessings in our church and his life. His love for children brought him to lead the Fanari Summer Camp for many, many years. He came every year to see and spend time with the kids!

His love for his family was so evident. Father Bill was constantly assisting Presbytera with whatever she needed and helping his children, grandchildren and sisters.

A soldier for Christ has a deep love for the Word of God. When I visited Father Bill right after his first major surgery, as I was leaving, he asked, "Do you have a laptop in your car?" "Why?" I asked. "I want to start working on the Bible Guides," Father Bill explained.

A soldier persists and perseveres. His great faith gave him courage and infectious enthusiasm. Soldiers for Christ love to learn. Father Bill was constantly studying. He told me, "You cannot feed the people if you are not feeding yourself." Soldiers are students of learning more about our Christian faith. His love for learning brought about the Celebration of Books.

Soldiers for Christ have a deep love for praying and celebrating the Divine Services. Right after Father Bill's 2002 surgery, I was



In 2009, Fr. Bill and Fr. Nicholas enjoy a lighthearted moment at a parish event.

still a deacon. As weak as he was, he wanted to go through the rubrics for the entire Divine Liturgy. His commitment to excellence inspired me and many others. Precision, order and discipline are the words he lived by. A soldier for Christ focuses on discipline and order. We would complete one part each day. Eventually, with perseverance, we completed the entire Divine Liturgy.

Soldiers in Christ trust God in all things. When he served the small church in Pittsfield, Massachusetts and people called from Chicago to start a small church, Father Bill did not ask about compensation. He constantly said, "God will provide." Instead of having a Greek Festival and the dues system, Father Bill again boldly said, "God will provide." When people came to donate money with stipulations, Father Bill said, "No thanks, give to God freely: God will provide."

Soldiers in Christ enable others to utilize their God-given talents. St. John Chrysostom wrote that the task of the church leader is to discern the spiritual gifts of all those under his authority and to encourage those gifts to be used for the benefit of all. Father Bill helped us to utilize these God-given talents for the benefit of our church community. This was so evident the week of the funeral. Many thanks to all who worked so hard, in a short period of time, to beautifully prepare the church for the wake and funeral and to offer hospitality, strength and support to the many people who came to the church.

When I was given the task of preaching my

first sermon with the Metropolitan in the audience, I was extremely nervous. Father Bill put his arm around me and said, "I know you will do a great job!" That is all I needed. Soldiers encourage. They endure. Father Bill's deep faith helped him endure.

His health challenged him over and over again. He was like the Energizer Bunny and kept going and going and going. With deep faith in Christ, he continually wanted to serve.

Sophia Forero wrote a beautiful poem in tribute to Father Bill and his endurance: "I watched his youth pass before my eyes, but not in his spirit, never there."

St. Paul wrote: "The sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed." (Romans 8:18) Father Bill clung to this hope.

Soldiers for Christ love and believe in the Lord in all things. Father Bill's favorite time of year was Holy Week and especially Pascha, the Resurrection of Christ. He went to the Lord's Heavenly Kingdom to be with God during his favorite season. Every Anastasi, the altar boys and others would guess how many "Christos Anestis" Father Bill would sing with his beautiful voice.

We can never sing "Christ is Risen" enough because St. Paul wrote to the Corinthians: "If Christ is not risen, your faith is futile." (1 Corinthians 15:17) On Anastasi night, Father Bill would be resurrected himself. His faith and enthusiasm transmitted to all of us.

...See Remembering on P. 3

Archbishop Demetrios praises Fr. Bill's commitment to family

tions of higher learning, was the books. Years ago, he created and instituted the well-known Celebration of Books. On one occasion, he said, "We have connected this exhibition of



books with a meeting of the young adults." I was invited to speak then and couldn't believe when I saw a huge hall filled with 800 young adults.

Everyone would think that Father Basil should have been more than busy with these things.

What happened to the family? With Presvytera Effie, he was an outstanding father of four children: Phillip, Vasilios, Marissa, and one unforgettable loss, Sophia. I remember the way he dealt with the departure of very young Sophia. He was almost devastated as a human being, but he was full of faith as a servant of God. In fact, he used this beautiful

phrase from the book of Job of the Old Testament: "The Lord gave them to me; the Lord took them to Him. May the name of the Lord be blessed." That's what Father Basil said. "Sophia left. Sophia was a gift from God. God wants her with Him. He took her. We accept the will of God."

A family man, he was very substantively involved in the development of his family, but at the same time, with a clear connection to God. There is a passage in the letter to the Ephesians of St. Paul in which we read an astonishing statement. Paul says at some point, I'm kneeling down in front of God, the Father in Heaven, from whom every family on earth is named. The name of the family on earth is coming from God. Father Basil was very conscious of that. Family is a sacred thing, as sacred as the church in which I serve, because it's an institution created by God and is something that God gave to me.

Fr. Vasilios had a very strong, alive mind and was a beautiful soul with an absolute dedication to God and to the Church. I repeat: a liturgist and praying person, pastor par excel-

lence, educator, teacher, and family man.

One more item: When I met him, after exchanging some things in Greek, I thought that he came from Greece as a child. I knew the name Chiganos from Kyparissia in Peloponnesus, where there was an outstanding priest who was their spiritual father. When they told me that Fr. Basil was born in the States and didn't come from Greece, I was amazed. There are nuances in Greek and his was perfect. It is to his credit that he became what he became.

I would like to finish the way I started, namely to say that this is a thanksgiving service to the omnipotent, merciful, almighty God, for granting us a gift for 82 or 83 years in the person of Father Vasilios Chiganos. When we proceed with what is known as the last kiss, *eleftheos epismos*, we are going to venerate a legendary person and someone who makes us so proud of being Orthodox, Greek Americans, but above all, human beings. We celebrate, ultimately, a glory of a human being, and we are thankful to God.

From Father Nicholas

Remembering Fr. Bill, our beloved soldier for Christ

Father Bill's faith and endurance was so evident even as he suffered these last few months. He taught us even in his suffering. He could be sleeping in the hospital bed and the second we started praying or singing "Christos Anesti", his eyes would open. He would move his hand to make the sign of the cross. His faith and endurance were deep inside him and could not be taken away.

St Paul wrote: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, the things which God has prepared for those who love Him." (1 Corinthians 2:9) Father Bill clung to this. His license plate captured the goal of his ministry and his life as a soldier for Christ: "I have set before you an open door and no one can shut it. You have kept My word and have not denied My name." (Revelation 3:8)

We may be sad and hurting. Father Bill,

living as a soldier for Christ, employing those characteristics, taught and inspired us to go on. Last December, when I heard about the complications from the latest surgery, I rushed to the hospital. We were all devastated. Two days later, on Christmas Eve, Michael Cotsilis and I were in the altar with long faces and sad. We looked at each other and said: "What would Father Bill tell us? What would this soldier for Christ do? What should we do?" I had seen Father Bill in this situation many times before. He learned about his sister, Toula, being very ill, right before a wedding.

When his best friend passed away, right before another wedding, he responded the same way: "Father, that's life." We have to keep dancing, keep going, with God's strength, help and mercy. Keep dancing and building the Holy Apostles community and what he,

and so many others, worked and invested 55 years to build.

Father Bill constantly told me, "Our Church is built on the rock, the Lord, and no one, nothing can come against it. Our Church is built on Christ, the cornerstone." It has been solidly built over these 55 years with Father Bill and all of us.

Keep dancing, carry on and walk with the grace, strength and love of God. Father Bill, the blessed soldier for Christ, would tell us to do what soldiers do as St. Paul wrote: "Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us." (Hebrews 12:1) May the Lord our God remember His servant, Vasilios, our beloved brother, concelebrant, Father, and Priest, in His Heavenly Kingdom now and ever and unto the ages of ages.

A poem for Fr. Bill by Sophia Forero

O Father my Father.
He was just ... Love.
I watched his youth pass before my eyes
Not in his spirit... Never there.
In his hand.
Each year the hand I would kiss
That whole hand that touched the holy
After a singing prayer
Would let me grab his hand
With less and less forcefulness.
Surrender.
It was what he told his children
His flock

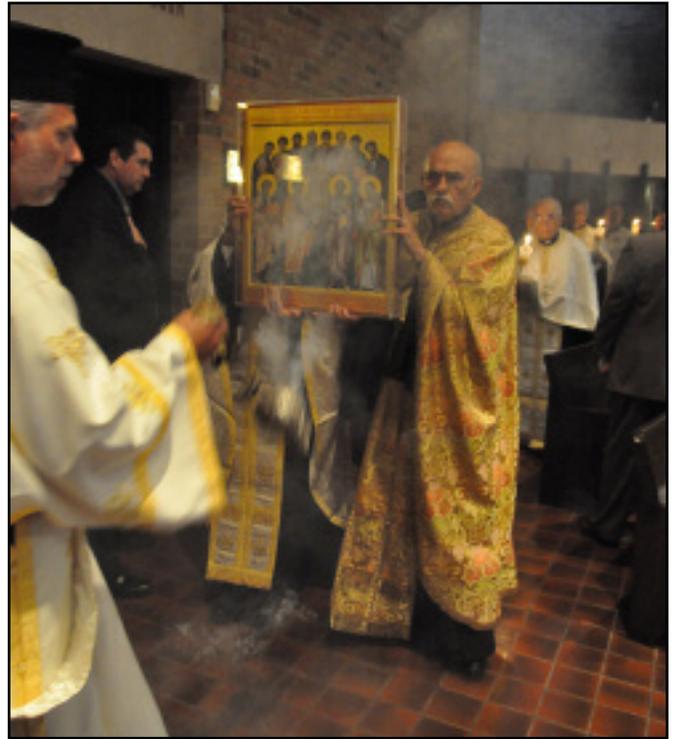
Exactly that:
Surrender.
O Father my Father.
I won't hear your voice
Anymore
The Grand Entrance
I'll keep listening for you
"May the Lord our God
Remember you all
In his kingdom
Now and always
And to the ages of ages."
Surrender.

The last time I kissed that hand
I noticed the fragility
And the soft
Surrender.
I won't touch your cloak anymore
O Father my Father.
You won't look to see
Whether each one of us is in their spot
Anymore
On Sunday.
O Father my Father.
Rise, and hear the bells.
Surrender.



Fr. Nicholas and Fr. Bill carry the Epitaphion during Holy Friday evening's service last year.

Fr. Bill, a priest's priest



Fr. Bill leads the procession at a Holy Apostles vesper service, right.



Fr. Bill sprinkles myrrh on the faithful during Holy Friday's laments service.



Fr. Bill teaches the Vacation Bible School students.



Michael Cotsilis receives a special recognition from Fr. Bill for 50 years of altar service.



Fr. Bill received the first-ever Distinguished Ministry Award from the Alumni Association of Hellenic College / Holy Cross. It was presented at the Clergy Laity Congress by President Fr. Jim Gordon, left. Also pictured are Presvytera Effie and Archbishop Demetrios.

Fr. Bill, the pastor



Kosta Kinnas and Fr. Bill perhaps discussing the merits of basketball vs. soccer at the parish picnic.



Fr. Bill leads a Greek dance at the parish's 50th anniversary dinner, with Nick Kirkeles, second left, Sandy Fiascone, and George Checkopoulos, above. At left, good friends Fr. Demetrios Treantafeles, Fr. Bill, and Fr. Jim Gordon share a moment at the dinner.



Fr. Bill receives a gift on his 50th anniversary as a priest.



Liz Dorner, above, claims the Vasilopita coin from Fr. Bill. At left, Fr. Bill blesses grandson Stefanos, left, as John Antonelli looks on at a Greek School Agiasmos service.





Kate Demakis plays a cattle rustler in the recent Adventure Theater production of "Pedimoo", a western about how a cross leads to a family reunion.

Upcoming Philoptochos Events

Holy Apostles' Feast Day

Monday, June 29 – Coffee Reception following the Vesper Service

Tuesday, June 30 – Coffee Reception following the Divine Liturgy

Volunteers are needed to assist on both days. Donations of Greek pastry, other baked goods, or fruit are also needed. If you would like to help or to contribute, contact Mary Tsoulos at 630.885.6659.

Dine Away Hunger

Wednesday, July 15 – If you would like to enjoy a delicious meal and help people in the community, then dine at one of the participating locations on this day: Barone's, Fire+Wine, Marinella, North Side Sports Bar & Grill, Santa Fe, or Shannon's Irish Pub. They will donate 10% of your bill to purchase healthy food for the People's Resource Center. Visit peoplesrc.org for more information.

Metropolis of Chicago Philoptochos Luncheon

Saturday, September 19 – Please join members of our Holy Apostles Philoptochos and attend this annual fundraising event for

the benefit of various charitable causes. This year it will be held at Café La Cave in Des Plaines. More information will be coming in the next *Mosaic* issue.

Annual Luncheon & Fashion Show

Saturday, October 17 – Have you already marked your calendar for 'A Southern Soiree' at the Empress Banquets in Addison? Cocktails & raffle sales will begin at 11 am and luncheon will be served at 12 pm. Tickets will be going on sale in early September. Beneficiaries of this year's event are both focused on improving the lives of children.

The CURED Foundation (Campaign Urging Research for Eosinophilic Disease) is focused on better understanding this complicated spectrum of digestive system disorders and finding effective treatments. This organization is based in the United States and works with top pediatric medical centers.

Paradise 4Kids in Africa is an Orthodox Christian mission organization with extensive outreach in areas with dire needs. Our fundraising efforts will be earmarked for the care of orphaned children in Sierra Leone, survivors of the ongoing Ebola epidemic.

Upcoming PAREA event for everyone

Who: Piano Man, bringing the music of Billy Joel and Elton John to life in an energetic show.

What: A FREE concert for all ages!

Where: Oak Brook Park District Central Park Performing Arts Pavillon. 1500 Forest Gate Rd. off Jorie Blvd., just north of 31st Street in Oak Brook.

When: June 25, at 7 pm.

How: Bring your blankets, chairs and picnic baskets or purchase food provided by Weber Grill and dessert from Nothing Bundt Cakes. In case of inclement weather, the concert will be held in the Family Recreation Center gym.

The HARC Corner

On Difficulties in the Church Fathers The Ambigua – Volume 1 by Maximos The Confessor

The *Ambigua* is Maximos' greatest philosophical and doctrinal work, in which his daring original, prodigious talent for speculative thinking, and analytical acumen are all on lavish display. A broad range of theological topics--cosmology, anthropology, the philosophy of mind and language, allegory, asceticism, and metaphysics--are transformed in a synthesis of Aristotelian logic, Platonic metaphysics, Stoic psychology, and the arithmetical philosophy of a revived Pythagoreanism.

\$30.00

In God's Hands A mother's journey through her infant's critical illness by Elissa D. Bjeletich

In God's Hands is a beautifully written testimony to Christ's faithfulness in the midst of trials and uncertainty. The author takes her readers on a narrative journey from fear to hope, weaving in many profound insights on patience, peace, and prayer along the way. This book is a balm for any weary soul in need of assurance that God's mercies are inexhaustible.

\$19.00

The Hidden Garden a story of the heart by Jane G. Meyer Illustrated by Masha Lobastov

Within every heart is a hidden garden. We can neglect it until the weeds take over and the flowers wither and die. Or, with the help of Christ, we can care for it and make it a place of beauty, grace, and joy. This charming parable will encourage children and adults to open the gate to Christ and tend the garden of their heart with loving care.

\$19.00

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	DAY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT 8:00am Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy	7:30pm Apollo Dance Troupe Rehearsal	1:00pm Adult Christian Fellowship & Bible Study			7:30am 5k Run & Walk Registration 8:30am 5K Run & Walk Begins
Graduates Sunday 8:00am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy Fellowship Hour	1	2 6:00pm GOYA End Of Year Dinner	3 1:00pm Adult Christian Fellowship & Bible Study	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
8:00am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy Fellowship Hour	Fanari Camp 9:00am Vacation Church School	Fanari Camp 9:00am Vacation Church School	Fanari Camp 9:00am Vacation Church School	Fanari Camp 9:00am Vacation Church School 7:30pm Parish Council Meeting	Fanari Camp 9:00am Vacation Church School	Fanari Camp
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Fathers Day Fanari Camp 8:00am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy Fellowship Hour	Fanari Camp	Fanari Camp 7:30pm Apollo Dance Troupe Rehearsal	Fanari Camp	Fanari Camp	Fanari Camp	Fanari Camp
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Fanari Camp 8:00am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy Fellowship Hour	7:00pm Hierarchical Vespers For Feast Day Of Holy Apostles	FEAST DAY OF HOLY APOSTLES 8:00am Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 7:30pm Apollo Dance Troupe Rehearsal				
28	29	30	<p><i>It's Summer and that means it's picnic time!</i></p> <p>Mark your calendar for the Church Family Picnic on Sunday, July 26. It will be held at the church immediately following the Divine Liturgy.</p>			

Memorials

Archbishop Iakovos
Michael Christofidis
Bess Efstathiou
Sam Gordon
John Gramas
Nick Zografos
Penelope Vlahos
Harriet Annas
Thomas Agoranos
Rosemary Agoranos
Christopher Franks

Funerals

Rev. William Chiganos
Harriet Annas
Estelle Golemis
Irene Tuntas
Thomas Tselepis
Thomas Chakos
Vasiliki Papadimas
Donald Busch

Baptisms

Gabriella, daughter of
Nicole and Elias Shaheen
Sponsor: Rhonna Vinke

Leo, son of
Nicole and Martin Keller
Sponsor: Thomas Chiampas

Robert, son of
Kristin and Timothy Beavers
Sponsor: Leah Brinkmeyer

Joanna, daughter of
Georgia and Demetrios Tsantilis
Sponsors: Nicole and Peter Demarakis

Charles, son of
Christina and Robert Welbourn
Sponsor: Jessica Burdeaux
Sponsor: Theo Yfanti

Weddings

Daniella Kole and John Canzonere
Sponsor: Sophia Neri

Eleni Failla and Andrew Hayden
Sponsor: Ross Failla, Jr.

Stephany Newton and Tyler O' Donnell
Sponsor: Nicole Twito

Nika Plattos and Ryan Morton
Sponsor: Alexandra Plattos

Tianna Galang and William Rous
Sponsor: Paul Rous

Arika Argianis and Brett Bartos
Sponsor: James Argianis

Weekday Services

See the calendar on P. 7

Time again to get into the swing of things

Please join us for the Holy Apostles golf outing on Monday, July 13 at Seven Bridges Golf Club in Woodridge. Lunch and registration will begin at 11 am with a shotgun start at 12:30 pm. Proceeds will benefit our church's many ministries. For reservations, donations, and sponsorships, please contact Nick Kouchis at nskouchismd@sbcglobal.net 630. 244.7656 or Alicia Magas at amagas@panterra-group.com We look forward to seeing you there!

Mosaic Deadline

The deadline for
the August Mosaic
is Wednesday, July 8.

Postmaster: Please deliver by the 3rd of June

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