

MOSAIC

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

Vol. 21 , No. 1

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

April 2016

From Father Nicholas



Seeing Christ in Others

Pastor Jeremiah Steepak was beginning a new church assignment. Before going to the new church, he disguised himself as a homeless person.

The pastor walked around the 10,000 member church, where he would be introduced as the head pastor that morning, for thirty minutes while it filled with people. Only 3 out of the 10,000 people greeted him. He asked parishioners for money to buy food. No one in the church gave him anything.

Pastor Jeremiah sat down in the front of the church. The ushers quickly escorted him to the back. He warmly greeted the people as they stared at him with awkward glances and disdain. Then, the church leadership excitedly introduced their new pastor: "We would like to introduce Pastor Jeremiah!" The congregation looked around as they enthusiastically clapped with joy and anticipation.

The homeless man sitting in the back stood and walked up the aisle. Clapping quickly stopped and all eyes stared at him. Then, he read the Gospel from Meatfare Sunday that precedes the Holy Lenten season: "Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me. Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, "Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?" And the King will answer and say to them, "Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did

Sunday of Orthodoxy



Children and adults alike, take part in an Orthodox Lenten tradition, the Sunday of Orthodoxy parade around the sanctuary.

it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'" (Matthew 25:34-40) The pastor in disguise is just like the Lord, Christ in disguise. When we love and serve others, we serve Christ Himself.

Many Christians focus on what they are or are not eating during Lent. The Lenten season is much more than food. How do we view and treat others? Our neighbor is a critical part of our Lenten journey. It is easy to love people who look and act like us or whom we judge worthy. What about others who do not fall into these categories?

This Lent, we will have many opportunities to live out this Gospel reading. However, if we withhold help, we keep from helping Christ Himself. We can help in small, everyday tasks, offering unconditional love. What if Christ was literally driving an old broken down car on the freeway? Would you stop to help? Some of us are just like the priest in the parable of the Good Samaritan. We would rather pass by on the other side of the road. Some of us would like to take off the Christian uniform and be like everyone else. Researcher David Kinnaman determined: "the lifestyles of

professed Christians are not much different than others. Living morally is not just obeying "Thou shalt not commands" but actively enriching the lives of those around us. By getting the focus off themselves, Americans may experience much needed transformation within their own lifestyles."

Loving others is a great challenge for us. This Gospel reading reminds us that in the Final Judgment, the Lord will return to separate the sheep from the goats. The Lord will look at whether we put our faith into action or merely professed it with our mouths.

The service He seeks is daily, basic acts of mercy such as feeding the hungry, giving the thirsty something to drink, being kind to the stranger, clothing the naked, and caring for the sick.

St. Anthony wrote something very interesting to remember during our Lenten journey: "If we have gained our neighbor, we have gained God. But, if we have scandalized our neighbor, we have sinned against God."

This Lenten season we have a choice to make. God judges us on the basis of our love

See Fr. Nicholas on P. 3

Family & Forgiveness

*“Do not talk to your children
about God, but talk to God
about your children.”*

...St. Porphyrios

The Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago Annual Family Synaxis Lenten Retreat

Saturday, April 2, 2016
8:30am - 5:00pm

St. Spyridon Greek Orthodox Church
12307 S. Ridgeland Ave.
Palos Heights, IL

Workshops by Dr.Peli Galiti, Program Manager of the International Forgiveness Institute at UW Madison

Workshop I:
Raising a Christian family
in a rapidly changing world

Workshop II:
The healing power of forgiveness

It's a retreat for the whole family!
It will feature two workshops,
discussions, breakfast, lunch,
and worship. There will also be classes,
activities, and childcare included
for children of all ages.

Register now at
www.gocfamilysynaxis.org
\$100 per family



Gavel to Gavel



Minutes of the February 18 Council Meeting

BY NICK KOUCHIS, SECRETARY

Financial/Treasurer's Report:

+ Peter Bell reviewed the financial report for the month ending January. The church for the month of January had net income of \$78,774.76, which was \$48,618.26 over budget. The church for the period ending January 16 had a net income of \$78,774.76 which was \$40,565.50 over budget. Paul Kallis moved to approve the report pending the year-end audit. The motion passed unanimously.

Stewardship Report:

+ Norm Pomrenge reviewed the Stewardship Report for January. Number of pledges to date for 2016 are 462, which is 33 less than this period last year. Total amount pledged to date for 2016 is \$522,409, which is \$11,398.60 less than the same period last year. The average pledge of \$1130.76 is \$44.28 more than this period last year. Median pledge for 2016 is \$600. Percent paid to date is 60%, which is 1% more than last year.

Correspondence:

- + Greek Orthodox Church of the Assumption in Homer Glen announces their 100th Anniversary Celebration on Sunday, October 2 at the Chateau Del Mar in Hickory Hills, IL.
- + St. Spyridon Hellenic Orthodox Church announces their 100th Anniversary Gala on October 15, 2017 at Georgios Banquet in Orland Park, IL.

Meditation:

+ Father Nicholas presented an overview of the Church life cycle. He noted that Holy Apostles operates effective ministries while moving into the plateau of maintenance of services. Effort needs to be made to preserve our effectiveness with new members, growth in our goals, and mature structures in order to avoid a loss of vision or apathy. By our commitment to love one another and the Church, we can offer ministries to all of our parishioners and communities. A mission statement for the Holy Apostles Church was created that states "The Holy Apostles Church will provide a loving, caring, and welcoming community where all are nurtured and grow in our Orthodox Christian faith through worship, education, service, witness, and fellowship."

Building & Grounds & Technical

+ The Narthex was cleaned of candle soot by M&M service to prepare for the Lenten season.

- + George Alex stated that the front priest's office is being remodeled for Father Nicholas to include new carpeting, dry-wall, desk, and cabinets. Painting will be completed shortly.
- + George Alex presented a plan to remodel and update the Sunday School office and Youth Director office for a cost not to exceed \$8500. Two bids will be coming in this week.
- + Steve Savas presented an update of janitorial duties to include a deep clean of the entire church before Lent by an outside service and consider periodic deep cleaning throughout the year.
- + Nick Kouchis made a motion to install new computer wiring throughout the church to network computers and setup WiFi at a cost not to exceed \$6200. The motion was approved unanimously.

Old Business:

+ Spyro Demakis presented a recap of Mr. D's Retirement Coffee Hour. Mr. D. was very moved and stated he will remember this for all of eternity! The event was supported by a budget of \$2000 and donations of \$400.

Missions Committee:

+ Norman Pomrenge stated that Souper Bowl Sunday raised \$1780 to be donated to the IOCC for the Lighthouse of the World Orphanage in Thessaloniki, Greece.

New Business:

- + Steve Savas presented an update for establishing a Capital Fund Campaign. This fund would be used to make significant improvement to the church without affecting the annual operating budgets. A total of \$350,000 is sought to be raised for the purposes of 1) Remodeling the classrooms (\$150,000), 2) Purchasing classroom chairs, desks, and tables (\$30,000), 3) Remodeling the bathrooms in the school building (\$30,000), 4) Installing new windows (\$42,000), 5) Remodeling the front office (\$25,000), 6) Upgrading technology (\$25,000) 7) Purchasing two new Pangaria (\$5000), 8) Purchasing three new redesigned candle stands (\$18,000).
- + George Alex presented a motion to donate an additional \$10,000 in 2016 for the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Shrine in New York City at the World Trade Center. This follows a request by the Archdiocese to support its commitment to reconstruct this place of worship after its destruction on September 11, 2001. The motion passed with overwhelming majority.

Fr. Nicholas from P. 1

See Christ in the faces of those around us

for Him as we love others. A few nights ago, our family enjoyed watching a Chicago Blackhawks game. The camera panned the audience and captured the face of one of their best players, Patrick Kane, on the end of a long wooden stick. Fans hold the stick in front of their faces to look like Patrick Kane. What if we had an icon of Christ's face on a stick? Our challenge is to hold that stick up and see Christ in the other person. Do you remember the pastor, the King, the Lord in disguise? Every person we encounter, a stranger, traveler, difficult boss, friends, challenging children, teammates, even our spouses, we could hold up this icon of Christ.

Do we love God or not? If we love Him, we will demonstrate it in the most concrete way, by loving others. We are challenged: "If someone says I love God and hates his brother, he is a liar, for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?" (1 John 4:20) When we hear the cries of people and respond, we are hearing the cry of the Lord and responding out of our love for Him because He loved us first. Our response to others' needs is a reflection of His indwelling love in us. "As you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me." (Matthew 25:40)

Philoptochos Happenings for Spring

Philoptochos Membership

Did you forget to renew your membership for 2015-2016? It is not too late. You have until April 20 to sign up. Your membership fair-share dues help fund our many obligations and projects. Membership envelopes are available in the church office. If you would like more information, contact Alyssa Petropoulos at 630.790.9701.

Wednesday, April 6

The annual Lenten Dinner will be hosted by Philoptochos following the Pre-Sanctified Liturgy. A variety of Lenten foods will be offered in a potluck, buffet style. If you would like to make a dish to share, contact Sundry Urban at 708.865.7454.

Saturday, April 9

The Feed My Starving Children organization is a Christian non-profit that is committed to eliminating starvation in children throughout the world. We have a group going to the Aurora location to hand-pack specially formulated meals. Contact Emily Rehn at 708.369.9365 for more information. We are also planning to go again in mid-to-late June.

Sunday, April 10

This will be the first day of our **Easter Candle Sale**. Candles will also be sold April 17, April 23 and April 24. Godparents, get ready to buy special Pascha candles for your godchildren! If you are interested in decorating some of these candles, contact Deanna Markos at 708.246.6711.

April 10 - 22

Spring Poised for Success Collection

New and gently used spring and summer women's career clothing will be collected.

We would greatly appreciate if you could take a peek in your closets and bring any donations to the multi-purpose room. Poised for Success is a non-profit organization that provides career clothing to women who cannot afford appropriate clothes for a job interview. The women are provided two interview outfits and once they secure a job, they will receive three more so they will have a week's worth of clothing.

April 23 & April 24

Our annual Easter Bake Sale, featuring tsourekia (Easter Bread), delicious koulouria as well as other sweets. Contact Jennifer Govostis at 708.471.9482 if you are interested in baking.

April 23

Saturday of Lazarus Breakfast Our annual Saturday of Lazarus Community Lenten Breakfast will be served following the Liturgy. We hope you will attend with your families. If interested in assisting with this event or to make reservations, contact Stacy Kinnas at 630.325.4979.

May 10

Annual Feed the Hungry Service Commitment Each year Holy Apostles Philoptochos takes a turn at preparing and serving a meal for the homeless. Every chapter in the Chicago Metropolis is expected to participate in the year-round program. All meals are transported and served at the Annunciation Cathedral on LaSalle Street. If you would like to assist with this philanthropic cause or would like to make a monetary donation for supplies, contact Anne Theophilos at 630.230.0579.

Oratorical Festival coming April 10

Ready to see our youth excel this April 10? Join us right after Liturgy for the annual St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival. Our wonderful Sunday School students will be presenting their speeches, essays, poems, and icons. They have been working hard on their projects. What a reward for them to celebrate together with the members of the parish! We are looking forward to your attendance. A Lenten lunch will be served afterward for all.

JR & SR GOYA
Palm Cross Making
Tuesday, April 19, 2016
6:00PM

Please join us as we prepare the palm crosses for Palm Sunday. Everyone's help is needed! A Lenten meal will be provided. Fr. Nicholas will also be available to hear confessions of the Goyans during this time. For more information, please contact your junior or senior GOYA advisors, or contact Julie at holyapostlesministries@gmail.com.

Baptisms

None

Weddings

None



GOYA visits myrrh flowing icon

Recently our high school GOYA group and many adults travelled to the Assumption Greek Orthodox Church in Homer Glen. The quick 30 minute bus trip brought us to the myrrh streaming icon of St. John the Baptist. Fr. Sam Dimitriou, the pastor, warmly welcomed our large group. He shared that the oil has been flowing since mid-July, 2015. The icon is on the iconostasis, the icon screen that separates the altar from the nave. Fr. Sam didn't know why the icon was streaming oil. Some say it is a good sign that they are not tears. Others say that it is concerning because St. John is known for warning people to "Repent! For the Kingdom of heaven is at hand." One parishioner went to Mt. Athos to ask an elder, "Why St. John, usually the myrrh flows from Panagia (the Mother of God)?" The astute elder answered, "Why

not?" Fr. Sam shared, "This is definitely a blessing for our community. St. John has allowed his presence to be known." He shared many stories of people being healed through this flowing myrrh. Sophisticated scientists have visited and declared the substance is a myrrh-like substance. He shared a very moving story of an atheist that came to disprove this myrrh flowing icon. She is a scientist and brought a very sophisticated camera to capture images. When she reviewed the pictures, she cried, and told the priest she wanted to commit her life to Christ and become an Orthodox Christian!

The icon was written over 20 years ago by Mr. Panayiotis Mihalopoulos, a parishioner of the Assumption Greek Orthodox Church. It was installed on the screen in its previous location in Olympia Fields. Today, the icon is in



the Homer Glen parish. If you would like to visit the church and the icon, you can call the church office at 708.645.0652.

Make your reservations for Adventure Theater's Easter performance

On Sunday, April 17, the Adventure Theater will present an original stage play, "A Letter To Tiberius", in the multi-purpose room. The performance will be preceded by a delicious Lenten luncheon for a donation of \$10. You can make your reservations in the multi-purpose room following Divine Liturgy on Sunday, April 3 or 10. You can also make them by contacting Mr. D. at: 708.562.4926 or at: fanari@me.com.

Preview: Elli Panagiotis, President of the United States, has gone to Israel in a last-ditch attempt to stop a devastating war that threatens to involve countries in the eastern Mediterranean and Persian Gulf, including Israel, Greece, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, and New Persia, formerly Iran. As the gallant President

watches her efforts begin to fail, a young Palestinian boy named Jonathan brings a very special gift to her hotel room. It is this unique gift, which includes two ancient scrolls, that transports our audience; President Panagiotis; her national security advisor; two Secret Service agents; Jonathan; and an archeologist and her old high school sweetheart, Michael Koulos, back in time almost two thousand years.

Besides the President and those gathered with her on the eve of a terrible war, you are going to be introduced to Tribune Antonius, a Roman army officer, as he travels to Palestine to obtain information about Pontius Pilate and Jesus for Emperor Tiberius Caesar. You are also going to meet Antonius' seriously ill

daughter Julia; his friend Philianus; a Jewish girl named Rebecca; and the Virgin Mary, to name a few. You will also witness Christ's crucifixion and resurrection through Antonius' eyes.

Will President Elli Panagiotis be able to stop a war that could result in the death of millions of people? Will Antonius' search for the truth and his growing love for Rebecca open his embittered heart to Christ? In order to get answers to these questions, you'll need to attend our April 17 Lenten luncheon and performance. This play, full of suspense, excitement, a smattering of comedy, and a bit of romance, will hopefully help you prepare for Holy and Great Week and the celebration of our Lord's resurrection.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Pascha <i>Sunday, May 1</i> <i>Agape Service 10am</i></p>						
<p>ELEVATION OF THE CROSS 8:15am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy Celebration Of Books Fellowship Hour</p> <p style="text-align: right;">3</p>	<p>6:30pm Great Compline</p>	<p>10:00am TOTIS 12:00pm Sixth Hour 4:30pm Greek School 7:30pm Apollo Dance Troupe Rehearsal</p> <p style="text-align: right;">5</p>	<p>1:00pm Adult Christian Fellowship & Bible Study 6:00pm Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 7:30pm Philoptochos Lenten Dinner</p> <p style="text-align: right;">6</p>	<p>12:00pm Sixth Hour 4:30pm Greek School</p>	<p>CELEBRATION OF BOOKS 4:30pm Adventure Theater 7:00pm Heretismi Service 8:30pm Choir Rehearsal</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1</p>	<p>CELEBRATION OF BOOKS 8:30am Metropolis Family Synaxis Retreat At St. Spyridon</p> <p style="text-align: right;">2</p>
<p>8:15am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy Fellowship Hour Oratorical Festival 12pm</p> <p style="text-align: right;">10</p>	<p>6:30pm Great Compline</p>	<p>10:00am Clergy Synodesmos Meeting 4:30pm Greek School 6pm Philoptochos Board Meeting 7:30pm Apollo Dance Troupe Rehearsal</p> <p style="text-align: right;">12</p>	<p>1:00pm Adult Christian Fellowship & Bible Study 6:00pm The Way At Pre-Sanctified Liturgy And Dinner 6:00pm Pre-Sanctified Liturgy</p> <p style="text-align: right;">13</p>	<p>12:00pm Sixth Hour 4:30pm Greek School</p>	<p>4:30pm Adventure Theater 7:00pm Heretismi Service 8:30pm Choir Rehearsal</p> <p style="text-align: right;">15</p>	<p>11:00am Adventure Theater Dress Rehearsal</p> <p style="text-align: right;">16</p>
<p>8:15am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy 11:30am Adventure Theater Luncheon & Play 2:30pm Greek Parade</p> <p style="text-align: right;">17</p>	<p>6:30pm Great Compline</p>	<p>10:00am TOTIS 12:00pm Sixth Hour 4:30pm Greek School 6:00pm Jr. & Sr. GOYA Cross Making</p> <p style="text-align: right;">19</p>	<p>1:00pm Adult Christian Fellowship & Bible Study 6:00pm Pre-Sanctified Liturgy</p> <p style="text-align: right;">20</p>	<p>12:00pm Sixth Hour 4:30pm Greek School & Koulouria Baking</p>	<p>4:30pm Adventure Theater</p> <p style="text-align: right;">22</p>	<p>SATURDAY OF LAZARUS 8:00am Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 10:30am Lenten Breakfast Philoptochos Candle & Bake Sale</p> <p style="text-align: right;">23</p>
<p>PALM SUNDAY 8:15am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy Fellowship Hour Philoptochos Easter Candle & Bake Sale 7:00pm Nymphios Service</p> <p style="text-align: right;">24</p>	<p>HOLY MONDAY 7:00pm Nymphios Service And Hymn Of Kassiani</p> <p style="text-align: right;">25</p>	<p>HOLY TUESDAY 4:30pm Greek School 7:00pm Nymphios Service</p> <p style="text-align: right;">26</p>	<p>HOLY WEDNESDAY 10:00am Holy Unction 3:30pm Holy Unction 7:00pm Orthros of Holy Thursday & Anointing Of Holy Unction</p> <p style="text-align: right;">27</p>	<p>HOLY THURSDAY NO Greek School 6:30am Divine Liturgy 7:00pm Twelve Holy Gospels</p> <p style="text-align: right;">28</p>	<p>HOLY FRIDAY Good Friday Retreat 9:00am Royal Hours 3:00pm Apokathelosis 7:00pm Lamentations</p> <p style="text-align: right;">29</p>	<p>HOLY SATURDAY 8:00am First Anastasi Liturgy 10:30pm Choir Concert 11:00pm Pre-Pascha Service & Resurrection Liturgy</p> <p style="text-align: right;">30</p>

Memorials

*Father William Chiganos
Bess Efsthathiou
Gus Lykos
Rita Vasiliades
Peter Skoubis
George Mannos
Mary Dangles
Aggeliki Tsamoulos
Stella Tsamoulos
Gail Patinos
Dr. Nicholas Patinos
George Gangas*

Praying for others during Lent

Prayer cards are available at the Exo-Narthex. If you would like someone to pray for you, please take one, write your name on it, and drop it in the prayer card basket. If you would like to pray for someone during Lent, take cards out of the basket and pray for those people.

Funeral

Bess Askounis

Mosaic Deadline

The deadline for the May Mosaic is Wednesday, April 6.

Postmaster: Please deliver by the 3rd of April

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
BELLWOOD, IL.
PERMIT NO. 157

Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church
2501 S. Wolf Rd.
Westchester, IL 60154
(708) 562-2744
Address Service Requested