

# MOSAIC

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

Vol. 22, No. 4 Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church 2501 S. Wolf Rd. Westchester, IL  
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August 2017

From Father Nicholas



## Remembering our beloved Shepherd

Earlier this summer our beloved shepherd, and spiritual father,

Metropolitan Iakovos, passed into our Lord's Heavenly Kingdom. Some greeted me saying, "Father, I am sorry about your boss." More than a boss, he was a spiritual father.

Because some of us were very blessed to share a close relationship with him, people have asked for his teachings to be conveyed. Over these past few months, I have tried to summarize some teachings.

Many observed the public Metropolitan, sitting on the throne in the Divine Services. Apart from his public persona, he was a pious, humble servant that taught through his actions and the way he lived his life.

He passed away during the Pentecost period when we remember the Holy Spirit coming to us! Relying on the strength of the Holy Spirit, the Metropolitan actively served the church right up to the last day of his earthly life. He constantly told us: "Come to the Church. Experience the Divine Services." Worship and Liturgy is what he loved as he prepared himself to worship in God's Heavenly Kingdom!

He was a spiritual father to many of us. He taught us to love prayer and worship! The Metropolitan molded, inspired and instructed as he stood before the Holy Altar with great awe and respect.

As his deacon for many months, I never saw him lose his patience or focus. Even if a fire was burning in the altar, it would not distract the bishop from deep prayer and worship. Sometimes I would look over at him and his eyes were shut. But when it came time for him to pray his part, he did. The Metropolitan was deep in prayer!

He gave us courage and comfort as he faithfully prayed the ancient prayers of our

## Axios! A new priest ordained at Holy Apostles



Photo by Peter Bell

At the moment of ordination, the Bishop says "The divine grace, which always heals that which is infirm and completes that which is lacking, ordains the most devout Deacon Panayiotis to the office of Priest. Let us, therefore, pray for him, that the grace of the All-Holy Spirit may come upon him."

On Friday morning, June 30, the Feast Day of the Synaxis of the Twelve Holy Apostles, Deacon Panayiotis was ordained to the Holy Priesthood through the laying of hands by Bishop Demetrios of Mokissos. Also pictured (clockwise) are: Fr. John Rallis, Fr. Nicholas Jonas, and Deacon Perry Hamalis.

Faith with precision, compunction and humility. He carried the Holy Body and Blood of Christ, and all sacraments, with such reverence and diligence.

When I was first ordained a deacon, he handed me the Holy Chalice and my hands were shaking. He calmly and politely told me to put down the chalice. He whispered to me, "I hope that you will always handle the Body and Blood of Christ with such fear, reverence and respect." The Metropolitan stood next to me the entire time of Holy Communion ensur-

ing that the sacraments and deacon were okay.

He had deep love for his clergy and the Holy Sacraments. Our beloved Metropolitan imitated Christ our Great High Priest, revealed to us in St. Paul's Epistle to the Hebrews, who lives forever to make intercessions for all of us! He paid great attention to liturgical details following St. Paul's instructions: "All things to be done decently and in good order." (1 Corinthians 14:40)

As we walked the city streets, sometimes we

...See Fr. Nicholas on P. 3

From Father  
Panayiotis

## A Time for Stillness

The summer months are a beautiful time of year, but they can also be challenging. We often

approach them with a subconscious expectation that we will do many things: catch up on projects, travel places, visit friends, participate in programs and the list goes on. In past generations, neighbors often enjoyed a summer evening sitting together and conversing at length on the back porch. Today many of us pass by our neighbors and perhaps even our family members like ships in the night. Our interactions may occur when walking to or from our cars, and our conversations last not for a couple of hours but for a couple of minutes, at best.

In one of his epistles, St John asks: if a person does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? (cf. 1 Jn 4:20) We could make our own version of this verse as follows: if we cannot slow down to be present with our brother whom we have seen, how can we slow down to be present with God whom we have not seen?

Of course, it is good to take advantage of the time that God has given us and to enjoy it. However, we also need to practice slowing ourselves down a bit, making some space and time both for our neighbor and for God. The summer is a good time to make a start at this, and we should continue striving throughout each year to do so.

We may conclude here by recalling the memorable Psalm verse, "Be still and know that I am God" (Ps 45:10). Below is included the Psalm in its entirety. May we pray it from the heart this summer and throughout the coming year.

"Our God is refuge and strength, a helper in afflictions which mightily befall us. Therefore shall we not fear when the earth be shaken, nor when the mountains be removed into the heart of the seas. Their waters roared and were troubled, the mountains were troubled by His might. The rushings of the river make glad the city of God; the Most High hath hallowed His tabernacle. God is in the midst of her, she shall not be shaken; God shall help her right early in the morning. The nations were troubled, kingdoms tottered, the Most High gave forth His voice, the earth was shaken.

"The Lord of hosts is with us, our helper is the God of Jacob. Come and behold the works of God, what marvels He hath wrought on the earth, making wars to cease unto the ends of

...See Fr. Panayiotis on P. 3



## Gavel to Gavel

Minutes of the May Council Meeting BY NORM POMRENING



### Meditation

✦ Fr. Nicholas reviewed an Orthodox Evangelism study conducted across all jurisdictions. This study shared characteristics of both exemplary and normal parishes. Exemplary parishes have a much higher degree of involvement of parishioners in all aspects of parish life. In 40% of exemplary parishes, evangelization and outreach efforts are perceived as the way the church community lives and sees itself. Certain strategies are employed at exemplary parishes. Creating and maintaining a variety of small interest groups was listed. Cultivating a sense of mission beyond worship services is next. Building an atmosphere of joy and close knit family as a parish is another one. Being flexible in scheduling all events, activities and ministries while accommodating everyone's needs and constraints was discussed. Assuring top quality and relevance of worship services for everyone in the church is the last characteristic. The group was challenged to think about the exemplary characteristics and determine if our church community fits these.

### Financial/Treasurer's Report

✦ Alicia Magas reviewed the financial summary for April 2017. Alicia indicated that we are \$35,000 favorable according to the budget so far this year.

### Stewardship Report

✦ Pledges to date for 2017 are 613 which are 5 less than this period last year. Total amount pledged to date for 2017 is \$618,384 which is \$14,160 less than the same period last year. The average pledge of \$1008.78 is \$14.75 less than this period last year. Percent paid to date is 73% vs. 74% for the same period last year.

### Correspondence

- ✦ Request for support from OCMC to support theological training.
- ✦ Request for support from the Westchester Fire Department. Our annual donation was approved at the February Parish Council meeting.
- ✦ A request for support from Orthodox Christian Fellowship. Nick Kirkeles made a motion that we donate \$300. Spyro Demakis seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.
- ✦ Thank you from Jim Kapolas for flowers sent to his mother's wake.
- ✦ A note expressing Paschal blessings from the Orthodox Christian Network.

### Updates

- ✦ Holy Apostles is waiting to receive a pro-

posed contract regarding the rental of parking spots in Holy Apostles' lot during a construction project.

- ✦ This year's 5K race raised more than \$12,000 for Philoxenia House. This is a 50% increase over last year.
- ✦ The Archdiocese allocation documentation has been submitted.
- ✦ Parish Council attendance at services and events has been low at times.

### Old Business

- ✦ The expected cost to finish remodeling classrooms and purchase of new desks is \$80,000. This work is to be completed over the summer. Tom Gregory made a motion that the Council approve the classroom remodeling project at an additional cost not to exceed \$80,000. The motion was passed unanimously.
- ✦ Peter Poteres reported that fundraising for the capital improvement fund will begin this Sunday with a message in the bulletin. The goal is to raise \$150,000.
- ✦ Peter Poteres reported that he met with Kevin Meyer from Chapel Hill. Peter learned that the current rate for a plot purchased directly from Chapel Hill is \$4995 not the \$4500 previously reported. The Council discussed increasing our rate to \$3995 effective September 1.
- ✦ Nick Kirkeles reviewed a revised plan for a garden honoring Father Bill and Presbyteria Effie Chiganos. The project is expected to cost \$60,000 - \$70,000 and will be privately funded and privately maintained. The project is expected to be completed in the fall after funds are raised and will take approximately one month to complete. Steven Savas made a motion that the Parish Council approve the Chiganos Memorial Garden at a total privately funded and maintained cost not to exceed \$70,000. The motion passed unanimously.

### New Business

- ✦ Peter Bell noted that the sound system in the multi-purpose room has not been working adequately. Improvements/replacement have been placed on the capital projects list.
- ✦ Jim Fotopoulos reports that the clean-up following one specific wedding took three hours because unapproved materials (confetti etc.) were used. Jim Fotopoulos made a motion that a \$100 refundable clean-up deposit be required when booking a wedding. The motion passed unanimously.

Fr. Nicholas from P. 1

## Remembering our beloved Shepherd ...

encountered homeless people begging for money. He always stopped. One time, I told the person to leave us alone. He politely told me, "That person is Christ" citing the 25th chapter of Matthew's Gospel that is read on Meatfare Sunday. Christ says: "When I was hungry, you fed me. That homeless person is Christ, do not deny them." Many times he quoted Holy Scripture taken from within the life of the Church.

Our Metropolitan loved to offer *filoxenia* or hospitality. He loved to serve others. When we returned from a long day, he always insisted on putting together a box of sweets for me to take home to my family. As we visited his home, he wanted to serve and feed us. We were not allowed to help. Loving and serving others characterized his life.

He followed his Saint, Iakovos or James' famous phrase from the Book of James: "Faith without works is dead." (James 2:20) As a seminarian, I drove him to a church for Vespers. After vesting him, I brought him to the Bishop's Throne and was standing next to him. The Metropolitan looked over and said, "What are you doing? Do something. Don't stand next to me, go to chant or help in the altar." Do something as St. James tell us!" Then he shared: "Don't forget you do not serve the Bishop or a person, you serve the Lord."

The Metropolitan loved to serve the Lord. Last fall, part of a street near the Metropolis was named Metropolitan Iakovos Way. An exuberant reporter asked the Metropolitan what he thought of this great honor. He stuttered and paused in awkward silence. Then he launched into a sermon. "I don't like praise. We are priests. We preach to be humble and are in the service of the people. The people are too good to us. We believe we have not done what we should. We must do more. It is our duty. Whatever we do is very small as St. Paul says. We are responsible for all of you. I thank God that He gave me the health, the wisdom to be helping people and to bring people closer to Christ. We must prepare the people for the other place which is called the Kingdom of God. We are here on earth for one purpose, to follow the green light that leads from earth to heaven."

We thank God for all he has done, his example and legacy. Some of us are sad but know that our Metropolitan is, as St. Paul writes to the Corinthians: "An ambassador for Christ." St. Ignatius of Antioch wrote that a Christian is: *θεοπροσβευται*.

Metropolitan Iakovos is a heavenly ambassador, praying to Christ, and an ambassador to

## Come see who's behind the barred window

On Friday, August 4, the Adventure Theater members will begin rehearsing an exciting, original radio play entitled *The Girl in the Barred Window*. This production will be presented in our expanded radio studio, the multi-purpose room, before a studio audience following Divine Liturgy on Sunday, August 27. It will be preceded by a delicious, deluxe, continental breakfast for those who attend the program.

As was the case in the days of classic radio drama, the actors and actresses will read from scripts with a background of sound effects. You are invited to join us in the multi-purpose room on August 27, have breakfast, and share in a unique, modern-day radio experience. We are asking for a \$5.00 donation.

Since tables will be set for 100 people, seating will be on a first-come, first-served basis. You may make reservations in advance by contacting Mr. D at: 708. 562.4926 - home; 708.528.2782 - cell; or at fanari@me.com.

Preview: It was summer. Vaios, an eighth grader; his sister, Kate, a sixth grader, and their parents decided to spend a couple of weeks at a beautiful mountain resort called Lake Irene. Vaios had his own room in the hotel near his parents' and sister's rooms. In a couple of days, his friends Chris, Peter, and Rigas, plus Kate's friend, Anabella, along with their families, would arrive.

Early on the second day after Vaios and his family arrived at the resort, Vaios got out of bed and used a pair of binoculars that his grandfather had given him to look out the west window.

Beyond the lake, he noticed what appeared to be a large barn made of stone. It was at

Christ for all of us, especially for his beloved Metropolis of Chicago.

May the Lord our God remember our beloved Metropolitan Iakovos' Holy Archpriesthood in His Heavenly Kingdom.

## Registration is open for Greek School

Enroll your children in Greek School and offer them a unique language and cultural experience!

Reading and writing are offered every Tuesday and Thursday from 4:30-6:15 pm. Emphasis is placed on developing conversational skills. The children also enjoy prayers, history, geography, mythology, and Greek dancing.

This year is filled with fun programs run by our devoted PTO. For questions and more information, please call the church office or Argiro Tobasi, Director at 708.579.5251.

least two stories high with a tiny window at the very top. Vaios saw that the small window had bars across it and wondered why someone would place bars across such a high window. Suddenly, a girl of approximately his age appeared in the barred window and was looking straight at him. The rising sun shone on her tear-streaked face. She then bowed her head as if in prayer and made the sign of the cross. After a few seconds, she turned away from the window and Vaios lost sight of her.

Who was the girl in the barred window? Was she simply playing there, or was she being kept prisoner? If she was being kept up there against her will, why? Would Vaios, Kate, and their friends learn the answers to these questions? Despite their parents' reluctance to pursue the issue, would the young peoples' persistence to learn the truth pay off, or expose them to unexpected danger?

We promise that our radio play will keep you on the edge of your seat from start to finish. See you on Sunday, August 27!

Fr. Panayiotis from P. 2

## A Time for Stillness...

the earth. He will crush the bow and will shatter the weapon, and shields will He utterly burn with fire. Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth. The Lord of hosts is with us, our helper is the God of Jacob."

(Translation from *The Psalter According to the Seventy*, Brookline: Holy Transfiguration Monastery, 1997)

### Baptisms

Taryn, daughter of  
Kelly & Andreas Damianides  
Sponsor: Christiana Damianides

Antonia, daughter of  
Alexandra & Nicholas Anos  
Sponsor: Gregory Gregory

Lukas, son of  
Anna & Daniel Tondelli  
Sponsor: Ethan Nicolopoulos

Alexander, son of  
Lara & Christopher Massouras  
Sponsors: Angie & George Panagiotopoulos

### Weddings

None

# Sunday School updates for fall

## Sunday School bids farewell to staff

The Sunday School program has several staff members who have served in the classroom between 1-27 years and we would like to thank them for their time and commitment to our youth.

We have four high school students who have recently graduated and will be heading off to college in the fall.

Sophia Fotos served in the Pre-K classroom and also with our music program for three years. Sophia will be attending Illinois State University.

Grace Govostis served in our three year old classroom this past year and will be attending Columbia College in Chicago.

Kathy Karagiannis served in our Kindergarten classroom for four years. Kathy will be attending Illinois Benedictine College.

ZoeRae Lozano served in the Pre-K classroom as well as with our music program for three years. ZoeRae will be attending St. Ambrose University in Iowa.

Marianna Georgiou has served in the Kindergarten classroom for six years and has completed two years at North Central College. This fall Marianna will be attending Aoyama Gakuin University in Shibuya, Tokyo pursuing her degree in Japanese and Computer Science.

Cathy Hatzos-Skintges joined Sunday School this past year in First Grade. Cathy will be sharing her Sundays between Holy Apostles and St. Andrews Church.

Dean Chiampas has served in the Pre-K classroom for 27 years. Dean will step away from teaching but will continue to assist when he is able.

On behalf of the Sunday School staff, we thank these dedicated teachers for their years

of service in the classroom. May God continue to bless each one of them as they continue their spiritual journey.

## New changes to Sunday School

For the 2017-18 school year, some changes have been made according to Sunday School Director Mrs. Amelia Lozano.

All classes will meet on the first three Sundays of each month, unless otherwise noted.

Grades Kindergarten-High School will attend Liturgy first along with their families beginning at 9:30am. After receiving communion, students will exit church and attend Sunday School. Class will be DISMISSED at 11:30am for ALL grades.

Our 3 & 4 year old age group will attend class beginning at 9:30am. Class will conclude at 11:30am.

We ask that you please enjoy Fellowship Hour in the multi-purpose room while waiting for the 11:30am dismissal from Sunday School. This will allow our students to conclude their lesson without interruptions.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation,

## Sunday School Registration

Registration will ONLY be available at church after the Liturgy in the multi-purpose room, beginning August 6.

The \$30 Sunday School fee must be made along with the completed registration form at the time of registration. Personal check or exact cash amount will be accepted.

### Registration Dates:

August 6, 13, 20 & 27 and September 3

The FIRST day of Sunday School is September 10.

We look forward to a blessed year!!!

# Upcoming Philoptochos Events

## Philoptochos Membership Night

Keep Calm and Join Philoptochos! Please join us on Tuesday, September 19 at 7pm as we kick off a new year. We will be meeting at Millhurst Char House, 1901 S Meyers Rd in Oakbrook Terrace. Come and hear about our charitable work and other endeavors.

## Annual Luncheon & Fashion Show

Join us as we celebrate *Moroccan Nights* Saturday, October 14 at The Abbingdon in Glen Ellyn. Cocktails & raffle sales will begin at 11am and luncheon will be served at 12pm. Fashions will be presented by Zzazz Productions, including young models from Holy Apostles.

Beneficiaries of this year's event play important roles in our community. A Silver Lining Foundation ensures that socioeconomic status does not affect an individual's ability to obtain information, timely cancer screening

and diagnosis.

The funds will be earmarked for the program, Buy a Mom a Mammogram, providing free screening mammograms and diagnostic evaluation for uninsured women.

Fanari Camp is a ministry of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago. It offers the 6th to 11th grade youth of the Metropolis the ability to share their common faith and heritage through its many programs and activities at the St. Iakovos Retreat Center. Young Orthodox Christians develop friendships and create memories that can last a lifetime. The funds will offer opportunities for families with financial need to send their children to camp.

Tickets will go on sale in person at Holy Apostles Church on Saturday, September 9 at 9am. For reservation information, please contact Jennifer Govostis at 708.471.9482 beginning September 11.

## The HARC Corner

### Saint Christopher

By Dionysios &  
Egle-Ekaterine Potamitis

Illustrated by  
Egle-Ekaterine Potamitis

We know that Saint Christopher is the protector of those who pray to him when they are driving, traveling, or just going from one place to another. Do you know that he was born a savage who harassed travelers and ended up protecting them and becoming a saint? His life shows us that it makes no difference what we are like before we come to know Christ. We should pray to Him to intercede with Christ for us and our loved ones.

\$20.00 CD included

### When God Made You

By Jane G. Meyer

Illustrated by  
Megan Elizabeth Gilbert

Every child around the globe is specially made by God with a unique set of virtues, talents, and interests. What beautiful things was God thinking when He made YOU? This is a beautiful children's picture book with the message of the Gospel which every child needs to hear on a daily basis: You are loved!

\$19.00

### When God Is Not There

By Nikolaos, Metropolitan  
of Mesogaia & Lavreotiki

The world we live in is ruled by the devil. God is nowhere to be seen. In this book, however, we see the human struggle to discover the person of God even when He is not visible due to the logic of this world, our limited understanding, and our arrogant pretensions. Its aim is to convey the persuasive presence of God precisely where He is not visible: in pain, in the tragedies of life, in death, and in the true events in the lives of real people.

\$25.00

## Deadline

The deadline for  
the September Mosaic  
is Saturday, August 5.

Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church **August 2017** 2501 S. Wolf Rd. Westchester, Illinois

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		7:00pm Paraklesis Service	2	6:30pm Jr. Dance Troupe 7:00pm Paraklesis Service	4:30pm Adventure Theater	5
TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD 8:15am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy Fellowship Hour	7:00pm Paraklesis Service		7:00pm Paraklesis Service		4:30pm Adventure Theater 7:00pm Paraklesis Service	12
6	7	8	9	10	11	
8:15am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy Fellowship Hour		FALLING ASLEEP OF THE THEOTOKOS 8:00am Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 5:00pm Adventure Theater BBQ	16	7:30pm Parish Council Meeting	4:30pm Adventure Theater	19
13	14	15	16	17	18	
8:15am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy Fellowship Hour					4:30pm Adventure Theater	26
20	21	22	23	24	25	
8:15am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy Adventure Theater Radio Play and Breakfast		BEHEADING OF JOHN THE BATIST 8:00am Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy	30	4:30pm First Day Of Greek School		
27	28	29	30	31		

# Funerals

*Sam Kouchis*

# Memorials

- Ted Patrinos*
- Katherine Lewis*
- Terry Lewis*
- Bessie Apostolas*
- Zoe Peplos*
- Constance Kosiara*
- Helen Nassos*
- Ernest P. Nassos*
- Elaine Alex*
- Nicholas Beshilas*
- Sam Kouchis*
- Kostas Michalopoulos*
- Presvytera Penelope Selimos*
- Gus Loukas*
- Sophia Loukas*
- John Karras*
- Betty Karras*
- Bill Yant*
- Peggy Yant*
- Demetrius Fotios Baenen*
- Penelope Spirrisson*
- Nicholas Phillips*
- Terry Savide*
- Patricia Vlahos*

# Summer fun at Holy Apostles



VBS participants enjoy a week of learning and fun.



Peter Magas and his brother Evan Magas keep their eyes on the ball at the Holy Apostles Golf Outing July 12 at Seven Bridges Golf Club in Woodridge.

**Photos by Peter Bell**

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