

Mosaic

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

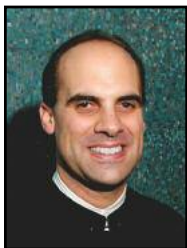
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Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church 2501 S. Wolf Rd. Westchester, IL
708.562.2744 www.holyapostleschurch.com

November 2018

From Father Nicholas

Understanding Orthodox Christian Marriage



Last month our Holy Apostles Church celebrated the last wedding for

the year. Summer is the most popular time to be married. Many couples are excitedly entering into Holy Matrimony. Unfortunately, other couples are not. Decreasing numbers of couples are being married in the Church.

They are living together but are not married.

Deciding to marry in the Church acknowledges our great need for God in our marital relationship. Some couples do not understand the great blessings that our gracious Lord bestows through the Mystery of Marriage and decide to live together and not get married. A University of Chicago report "Marriage and Cohabitation," states that today more than 60% of all marriages are preceded by some form of cohabitation. Cohabitation has risen to huge levels!

Glenn T. Stanton's book *The Ring Makes all the Difference* surveyed couples who decided to live together outside of marriage. They gave interesting reasons for living together. Some say that legal marriage is not necessary. It may even be "stifling" and spoil the "pure love" of young couples. Others say that they do not need a piece of paper to make their love meaningful. If they stayed together because of some legal form, what kind of love is that? The *Love will keep us Together* song summarizes their beliefs.

Other cohabiters have a higher view of marriage. Research indicates that Generation X and beyond saw their parents divorce in record numbers. It was very painful for them. These couples deeply desire marriage because of the family breakdown they experienced with their parents. Millennials have the "strongest desire to marry" according to the Pew Research Center.

...See Fr. Nicholas on P. 3



Parish Council President Peter Bell leads the discussion at the Parish General Assembly.

Stewards urged to own and invest in the Parish

By Ellen Dimas

The 2018 Holy Apostles General Assembly meeting was held in the multi-purpose room at noon on Sunday, October 21.

Approximately 60 stewards attended. Parish Council President Peter Bell and Secretary Tom Gregory were both nominated and voted in, respectively, as chairman and secretary of the General Assembly.

Fr. Nicholas began the meeting with a prayer. The first order of business was the approval of the 2017 General Assembly minutes, which were approved unanimously.

Next, Peter Bell reviewed some of the 2018 highlights including: implementation of the Parish Data System; the Parish Council's strategic planning retreat last February with consultant Bill Marianes in attendance; improved communication amongst our 35+ ministries via a round table discussion; completion of the Gathering Place; increase in the numbers fed through the Feed 6 ministry; regular support of the Hoppe Family, Orthodox Christian missionaries in Albania; installation of a new a/c unit and fence; new Wi-Fi, a back-up file server and firewall as well as other software improvements such as Sign-up Genius; and successful outreach programs and events such as the yellow crosses for newcomers, the macaronatha luncheon, the family picnic and the golf outing.

When discussing the spiritual growth of the community, Fr. Nicholas pointed out several examples. There has been an increase in week-day liturgies, providing more opportunities for worship. Additionally, with the installation of four new icons of 21st century saints in the exo-narthex, we are reminded that every individual has the potential to become a saint. Currently, training of more chanters is taking place at Holy Apostles. Also, Home Bible Study Groups as well as Reflections after the Lenten Heretismi services are now offered.

Then, Norm Pomrening, the Parish Council Treasurer, gave a brief overview of the 2019 proposed budget. He cited that 62% of the parish's \$1 million budget comes from fulfilled stewardship pledges.

Throughout the meeting and especially during the Stewardship Report given by Tom Gregory, those at the podium emphasized the need for each parishioner to own and invest in Holy Apostles, not only monetarily but with his/her time and talents.

Next on the agenda was the roof project. Steve Savas, Parish Council Building and Grounds Committee spokesperson, reported that after much research, it has been determined that our 54 year old building needs a new roof. A structural engineer and insurance adjusters have inspected and analyzed the

...See Roof on P. 4

From Father
Panayiotis



With One Voice and One Heart

One of the most inspiring characteristics of the early church is that the Christians “had all things in common.” (Acts 4:32) The

Christians of the apostolic times exemplify what we aspire to be as a church. Luke recounts that none of the Christians called their possessions his own, and that they “distributed to each as anyone had need.” (4:35)

However, we should be careful not to think that what they shared together was solely their material resources. What Christ and His disciples taught the people was not simply a way of governance or managing resources. Christ came to give us life, and life in abundance (cf. Jn 10:10). He fulfilled the promise uttered by the prophet Ezekiel: “A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you; and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh.” (Ez 36:26) It was the oneness of heart of the Christians which resulted in the external harmony witnessed in the community.

Consider what Luke tells us earlier in his description of the early church: “And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.” (Acts 2:42) For the Christians, all of these things (doctrine, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayers) were part of the same whole, a way of life. Perhaps this is why Luke first refers to them as those who were “of the Way.” (9:2)

Those who belong to Christ have a deep spiritual unity that makes them harmonious together. St John Chrysostom likens them to the perfectly tuned strings of a lyre, which, when played, make a harmonious sound together. This is what we are striving for as Christians, as members of a parish, and as members of the Orthodox Church.

How can we as a Church become like the lyre described above? First, we must imitate the early Christians in continuing “steadfastly in the apostolic teaching.” We grow closer to one another by growing closer to Christ, by embracing His commandments, and the holy tradition of the Church. Any steps we take toward God—whether it be reading the daily Scriptures, the lives of the saints, praying at home or at church—will bring us closer to one another. We will attract new people to the Orthodox Church not only by what we say to them when they visit, but even more by the deep faith that they see in us during the divine services. If each of us is first and foremost seeking to become close to God, then everything else will be added unto us (cf. Mt 6:33).



Gavel to Gavel



Minutes of the September/October Council Meetings BY TOM GREGORY

Meditation:

✦ Fr. Nicholas gave the meditation and discussed how a ministry-based-organization should be structured. The needs of the ministries should drive the church and the Parish Council should strive to provide the resources for the ministries. A ministry-based-organization is one that is flat, not hierarchical. St. Paul says in 1st Corinthians 14:40: “Let all things be done decently and in order.” At the Metropolis, there is now more emphasis on good process flow. Our dinner dance theme (Psalm 133:1) is “Behold how good and pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity.” Unity therefore is vital going forward. Following a process results in peace and unity. Everything we do should be in line with our church’s vision: “Our 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.” The model of being ministry-based is very decentralized and it allows volunteers to use their God-given talents. Anyone wishing to start a new project or ministry should speak directly with the Parish Council. Our stewardship ministry is in need of being revived. Our parish is somewhat following the structure of a ministry-based-organization, but not fully. EVERYONE needs to be a participant. With God’s help, we will grow in developing and implementing this ministry-based-organization.

Stewardship/Finance Report

✦ Norman Pomrening reviewed the Stewardship Report:
Revenue \$652,000. Expenses \$629,000.
Income \$22,000.
The pledged amount is down by 2.7% compared to the previous year.
The number of pledges is down by 2.7% compared to the previous year.

Updates

✦ Back Rooms: Peter Bell reported that the rooms have been approved by the Metropolis’ Building Projects Approval Committee.

- ✦ Closet (alcove): Peter Bell reported that the contractor will start the project soon.
 - ✦ Roof: Peter Bell reported that Steven Savas has obtained bids. A letter will go out to the parish with more information. The insurance coverage (policy) going forward should be replacement cost.
 - ✦ Ministry Fair. Peter Bell reported that it was a big success.
 - ✦ Parish Data System is going strong.
- ### New Business
- ✦ Door replacement: Peter Bell reported that three emergency doors need to be replaced. Steven Savas made a motion to approve expenditure of up to \$15,000 for the replacement of the three doors. The motion passed unanimously.
 - ✦ AV Needs: Peter Bell reported that Nick Kouchis is in the process of evaluating the church’s audio-visual needs. Peter Bell made a motion to spend up to \$2,200 for one projector and microphones. The motion passed unanimously.
 - ✦ George Alex made a motion to spend up to \$1,000 for GOYA to hold a fall retreat at the St. Iakovos Retreat Center. The motion passed unanimously.
 - ✦ Steven Savas made a motion to spend \$1,500 to replace the two front trees. The motion failed.
 - ✦ Nick Kirkeles reported that 1000 tickets will be sold for the February 2, 2019 Chicago Wolves game. The proceeds will go to the retreat center.

Minutes Of The 2019 Budget Meeting Held on October 4, 2018

Present: Fr. Nicholas Georgiou, Fr. Panayiotis Hasiakos, Peter Bell, Terry Chiganos, Cindy Clark, Tom Gregory, Nick Kirkeles (except was excused and did not vote), Alicia Magas, Norman Pomrening, Peter Poteres, Louis Katziaris, Dan Cussick, and Jim Maragos.

✦ After lengthy discussion of all line items proposed for the 2019 operating budget, President Bell moved to approve the proposed 2019 operating budget for presentation at the October 21 Parish Assembly. The motion passed unanimously.

Let us pray for God’s help in achieving this goal together, as we pray during each divine liturgy, “that with one voice and one heart we may glorify and praise His most honored and

majestic name, of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and forever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.”

Fr. Nicholas from P. 1 Understanding Orthodox Christian Marriage...

These couples want to get it right. However, they have a deep fear of failure. They feel that cohabitating may be the best they can do. It provides an easy way out if something goes wrong. They want to “test drive” marriage.

Some say that living together before marriage leads to healthier, longer, and happier marriages. Really? Sociologists from the Universities of Chicago and Michigan investigated this question. They conducted studies in several Western countries including Canada, Sweden, New Zealand and the United States. The data indicated that people with cohabitating experience have a 50 to 80 percent higher likelihood of divorce than married couples who never cohabitated. A Canadian sociologist explained: “there is considerable empirical evidence demonstrating that premarital cohabitation is associated with lowered marital stability.” (Zheng Wu, *Journal of Family Issues* 16, 1995)

Research is discovering that cohabitating negatively influences couples who are learning to communicate, negotiate and settle differences. They learn less healthy ways because the relationship is less clearly defined. Cohabitating couples can learn to be more controlling and manipulative with each other. This leads to relational resentment and mistrust. Intimate emotional, physical and spiritual bonds are being forged, but they are not backed up by the commitment they demand. The author compares this to “walking on a tightrope without a net below.” Make a commitment and get married!

Once a couple is legally married, why should they be married in the Church? Does it really matter? Human love can keep us together, right? Some agree that they should be married in a church but why the Orthodox Church? Our Orthodox Church has preserved the apostolic teachings and practices throughout the centuries. The presence of the Holy Spirit has safeguarded it from error. God, through the priest’s hands, marries us. Notice that the priest never says, “I pronounce you man and wife.”

The power of God unites and joins two people in the Sacrament of Marriage. Receiving the blessings of an Orthodox marriage bring benefits that would otherwise be denied. An Orthodox Church marriage allows us to be a sponsor or godparent for baptisms and weddings. It allows us to receive the precious Body and Blood of Christ and an Orthodox Christian burial.

Marriage in the New Testament transcends legal contracts. St. John Chrysostom calls it “the sacrament of love”. Father John



Adventure Theater Plays Enlighten and Entertain



Adventure Theater cast members, above, presented the radio play *Out on a Limb* and will be turning their talents to a new play *Inside the Walls* in December.

By George J. Demetralis (aka Mr. D.)

On Sunday, December 2, the Adventure Theater will present an original, heartwarming and delightful play entitled *Inside the Walls* in the multi-purpose room. The playwright, Jayne Crouthamel, is a high school sophomore and a long-standing member of the Adventure Theater, who presently serves as one of the group’s directors.

The play will be preceded by a delicious luncheon. The donation is \$12. Four-year-olds and under will be admitted free of charge. You can make your reservations following The Divine Liturgy in the multi-purpose room on the following Sundays: Nov. 4, 11, 18 and 25. You can also make reservations by calling Mr. D. at 708.562.4926 or by e-mailing him at fanari@me.com.

Instead of including a play preview, I’ve decided to let you eagerly anticipate each scene as it unfolds, as I did when I first read the script. I promise that you won’t be disappointed. See you on Sunday, Dec. 2!

Meyendorff defines Christian marriage as a “unique union of two beings in love, two beings who can transcend their own humanity and thus be united not only with each other but also in Christ”. This is an eternal relationship that transcends this world; One that endures and lasts beyond the limits of time...unto the ages of ages...into eternity! Marriage is “transfiguring a natural human affection between a man and a woman into an eternal bond of love, which cannot be broken even by death” according to Fr. Meyendorff.

It is the pathway that leads the man and woman to union with God! Heaven is the goal of Christian marriage!

Father Alexander Elchaninov writes: “marriage enables us to pass beyond the normal rules of human relationship and enter a region of the miraculous - the superhuman. (Diary of a Russian priest) Having Christ at the center of our marriages brings God’s blessings, mercy, love and strength.

We need this every day.

Holy Apostles' Synaxis Hosts Pilgrimage to Saint's Relics



The holy relics of a saint are a special gift for faithful Orthodox Christians. Many in our parish have venerated relics throughout Greece, Russia, and even the Holy Lands. Yet, our own United States is home to its own glorified saints, one of whom is a short drive north in Libertyville, Illinois.

St Mardarije, born in Montenegro in 1889, was a Serbian Orthodox bishop in the early 1900's. An ordained monk, he first came to America as a missionary. Several years later, in 1926, he was ordained to the episcopacy. He was known as a tireless worker for the establishment of Orthodoxy in America. At the suggestion of the then Bishop St. Nikolai Velimirovic, he purchased land for the St. Sava Monastery in Libertyville with his own personal funds.

He organized clergy and bishops across the country to strengthen the church, and worked physically to help build it, even planting the many trees on the property by his own hands. He was known for his kind-

ness, patience, and great success in bringing unity to the Serbian Orthodox American-Canadian Diocese. His work was sadly cut short at age 46, when he died of tuberculosis.

There are many beautiful accounts of miracles during his life. After he was proclaimed a saint in 2015, St. Mardarije's body was exhumed to prepare the relics for the glorification service. Upon opening the casket, his body was found incorrupt from the knees up!

On Sunday, November 18, after Liturgy, the Holy Apostles Family Synaxis will charter a bus to bring families on a pilgrimage to visit this holy saint's relics at St. Sava Monastery in Libertyville. We will meet with Fr. Nikolaj Kostur, one of the priests who opened the relics, hear about St. Mardarije's life, and pray an Akathist Hymn together to the saint. If you would like to join us, please RSVP to the church office or to holyapostlessynaxis@gmail.com. Questions can be directed to Fr. Panayiotis or Toni Milak.

Continued from P. 1

Roof needs \$1,200,000 fix

roof; multiple bids have been provided; and a work plan and timeline are being finalized, with the project being completed in phases. This project will take 18-24 months and cost approximately \$1,200,000. While the building has been deemed structurally sound, at one point, hail damage occurred. We will receive an insurance claim of \$83,000 now and an additional \$43,000 when the roofing is complete. Steve Savas will serve as the project manager.

Parishioner Greg Vandarakis moved to have no capital expenditures until the roof project is complete. After the motion was seconded, discussion ensued. Some felt that the upcoming renovation of two meeting spaces in our building at a cost of \$40,000 plus new furnishings should be halted until the roofing project was done. Peter Bell and Steve Savas clarified that the meeting room renovations were already budgeted for and had been approved by the Parish Council and Metropolis prior to the discovery of our need for a new roof. The motion was defeated.

Stewards George Alex, Joan Berg and Lou Katzioris will lead the roof project fundraising task force. A financing plan that will include fundraising, use of our reserve funds and possibly a bank loan is under consideration. There will be another general assembly meeting in the coming months for a project update.

The 2019 Parish Council election was discussed next. It is slated for Sunday, December 16, 2018. Peter Bell acknowledged the service of one of our longstanding election judges, Ioanna Burtzos. May her memory be eternal. The three individuals who were nominated and accepted to serve on the Board of Elections are: Greg Vandarakis, Spero Kinna, and Steve Milak. 14 of the 15 current Parish Council members accepted candidacy for the upcoming election. Freida Varlas was nominated from the floor and accepted. The acceptance period for any written Parish Council nomination is from October 21-December 6, 2018. A written nomination requires the signatures of at least three stewards and the signed consent of the nominee.

During the new business portion of the meeting, it was announced that Nia Kouchis will spearhead production of a new parish photo directory and that the Holy Apostles' 60th anniversary dinner/dance will occur at Oakbrook Hills Resort on November 10, 2019.

After a closing prayer, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:15 pm. Copies of any materials distributed are available in the church office.

Fall Parenting University Tackles Faith and Works

Nov. 9 2018 6:15 pm Paraklesis

7:00 pm Presentation

8:45 pm Fellowship

St John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church
Des Plaines, IL

Hello Families. You won't want to miss this! Our Metropolis of Chicago Family Synaxis is thrilled to announce another year of Parenting University! This fall we will be offering you a dynamic panel of speakers on a thought-provoking topic you do not want to miss!

FAITH & WORK - We are called to 'pray unceasingly' and live our faith in every aspect of our lives, but sometimes that is especially challenging in the work place. How can we as Orthodox Christians live out our faith through our work, no matter our vocation? In living out our faith in the workplace there are three key components to understand.

You won't want to miss this dynamic panel of Orthodox faithful as they wrestle with this pertinent topic that affects all of us, whether we work in corporate America, health care, social services or as a stay-at home parent.

Our panelists are: Eddie Bocanegra (social worker), Dr. Trent Orfanos (cardiologist), and Anthony Kroll (high school principal), with WBEZ's Julian Hayda moderating.

Read all about our panelists at our website: www.goc-familysynaxis.org. You can also peek ahead at future Family Synaxis events on the home page.

Please forward to anyone who may be interested. There is a flier available on the website, which you can print to hang up at your parish or pass along to friends!

Christmas Gift Drive for Needy Children

Philoptochos is collecting monetary donations from November 11 through December 2 to purchase items for the Family Shelter Service Holiday Shoppe. Philoptochos volunteers divide the money collected and each volunteer then purchases items for boys or girls of different age groups. These items are delivered to the Family Shelter Service in time for their Holiday Shoppe.

The Family Shelter Service supports victims facing domestic violence and their children. This organization provides a safe environment for parents and children to heal both physically and emotionally. These families have the opportunity, with the assistance of a counselor, to outline goals for themselves and to take the steps necessary to achieve these goals.

The Family Shelter Service operates a Holiday Shoppe every December. Domestic abuse usually means financial abuse as well and victims often do not have money to purchase Christmas gifts. This 'shop' provides an opportunity for parents to select items to be presented to their children at Christmas. These may be the only gifts these children receive. The Holiday Shoppe has a room of toys, a room of outerwear and blankets, a room of school supplies and books, and a room of gift cards (Jewel, Target, movie cards) for older children and for needs that cannot be filled from the shop. Volunteers assist parents in selecting a designated number of items from each room for each one of their children. The items are all brand new and their selections may be gift wrapped if the parent so desires. This is all provided at no cost to the parents.

Holy Apostles has supported this ministry for over 20 years. To contribute, look for the Philoptochos table after the Divine Liturgy from November 11 through December 2, send your donation to the church office, or place your donation in the Philoptochos mailbox in the church office. Please make checks out to Holy Apostles Philoptochos and mark the envelope to the attention of Dolly Pantan.

Thank you to Dolly Pantan and Angela Karras Neboyskey for spearheading this effort and thank you to the Holy Apostles Community for always supporting this ministry with your generous contributions. For more information, please contact Dolly Pantan at 708.829.2412.



SUNDAY SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE – Sunday School first grade teacher Eleni Fosses, left, shows first grader Sophia Rupp's folder to her mother, Demetra, at the open house October 14 following the Divine Liturgy.

Philoptochos November Update

Thanksgiving Food Drive

Philoptochos will continue to collect non-perishable food items through November 11 for a Thanksgiving Food Drive to benefit Loaves and Fishes. Collection bins are set up in front of HARC. Flyers with collection details are available at the candle stands and by the collection bins.

Feed My Starving Children

Please join us on Saturday, November 3 from 2-4 pm in Aurora as we help pack meals specifically formulated for malnourished children around the world. The 2 hours spent packing can make a tremendous difference in these children's lives. This is a wonderful family activity and a great way for students to earn service hours. For more information, please contact Emily Rehn at 708.369.9365 or platovalentine@hotmail.com to reserve a spot.

Artoclasia for Veteran's Day

Philoptochos will honor our military veterans with an Artoclasia on Sunday, November 11. We encourage all veterans to attend this special blessing following the Liturgy.

Koukla's Kafenio

All seniors are invited to Koukla's Kafenio on Tuesday, November 13 at noon. The Kafenio begins at noon. Bill & Costas will entertain us with Greek music. We will also honor our parish veterans. Please RSVP by Wednesday, November 7 to Bess Shizas at 630.834.2186.

We will once again be collecting items for the Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans. Donations of new toiletries (hand soap,

deodorant, shampoo, conditioner, and disposable razors) would be greatly appreciated.

Christmas Gift Drive for Needy Children

Philoptochos will be collecting monetary donations on Sundays after the Liturgy from November 11-December 2 to purchase items for the Family Shelter Service which supports victims of domestic abuse. To contribute, look for the Philoptochos table after church or send your donation to the church office. Please make checks out to Holy Apostles Philoptochos and mark the envelope to the attention of Dolly Pantan. For more information, please contact Dolly Pantan at 708.829.2412 or Angela Karras Neboyskey at 773.719.2619.

Mark your calendars

Holy Apostles families - please join us on Sunday, December 9 after the Liturgy and Christmas Pageant for our annual Christmas Communion Breakfast.

Christmas Party

Philoptochos members please join us for our General Meeting & Christmas Party on Tuesday, December 11.

Membership

It is not too late to join Philoptochos! We welcome new and returning members. Membership envelopes and volunteer forms are available in the multi-purpose room and on the Philoptochos page of the Holy Apostles website. For more information, please contact Membership Chair Chrisie Alex at 630.272.0737 or chrisievalex@sbcglobal.net.

HARC CORNER

Touching Heaven

*Discovering Orthodox
Christianity on the
Island of Valaam*

By John Oliver

Touching Heaven is a finely written account of what drew John Oliver, a young American, into the deeper waters of Christianity to become an Orthodox Christian. His journey takes him to Valaam, an ancient Russian monastery, where he finds a place of peace and a place of struggle. This inspiring book is a spiritual autobiography as well as a description of what Orthodox spirituality can be.

Softbound, \$15

Beautiful Things

*An Orthodox Coloring Book
for Children*

The Orthodox Christian experience is infused with beauty. While children color the Good Shepherd or The Jesus Prayer, they are cultivating their own sensibility to beauty while learning to recognize some meaningful symbols of the Church.

Softbound, \$10

Parenting toward the Kingdom

*Orthodox Christian Principles
of Child-Rearing*

By Philip Mamalakis, PhD

Parenting toward the Kingdom realistically describes how being a conscientious parent brings blessings upon the whole family. This book combines high Christian ideals with everyday practical tips that everyone can learn to apply.

A beautiful goal, as expressed by the great teacher of pedagogy, St John Chrysostom, would be that all parents have the aim of making their home a 'microchurch.'

Softbound, \$21

A Potpourri of Parish Projects

Feed 6 Outreach Ministry

Be sure to mark your calendars for Saturday, January 12, 2019 for Holy Apostles annual Feed 6 event. This will be our third year packing 100,000+ nutritious meals to help our neighbors in need. Contact Norman Pomrening at pomrening@comcast.net or 708.588.0258 if you are interested in supporting this awesome project!

Wreath Sale

Our basketball teams are selling wreaths again this year. We will be selling after church on Sundays, in the multi-purpose room. Te pickup for your orders is Sunday, December 2 after church. We hope you'll consider supporting our teams and decorating your home for the Christmas season! Any questions, please call Aleka Ernst 630.561.1660 or email alekaernst@aol.com.

Holy Apostles Greek School PTO Tiropites & Spanakopites Sale

The holidays are right around the corner...make sure to stock up on delicious tiropites & spanakopites for all your entertaining needs! Order now and receive them before Thanksgiving. They are a perfect addition to your holiday menu.

The cost is \$25 per tray and all proceeds benefit the Holy Apostles Greek School. Cash, credit card or check (made payable to Holy Apostles Greek School PTO) accepted.

Your order will be available for pick up beginning the week of November 12. For any additional questions, please contact Tina Sparagis 630.205.4310.

Thank you for your support of our Greek School!

An Open Letter to the Parish (edited for space)

We would like to inform you of some upcoming projects to improve our church building. The back corner room behind HARC, once a classroom, has not been utilized for a long time. The walls and floors are worn and dingy. This room has become a miscellaneous storage area. It is time to get this prime space back into operation. The Philoptochos room is currently set up as a conference room and storage room.

The plan is to reformulate these spaces, one as an up-to-date conference room and the other as an informal meeting room. This will be particularly useful for our youth programs. By removing clutter, relocating file drawers, getting more functional furniture, and providing modern data and AV connectivity, these rooms will receive a much needed update and have their usefulness improved.

This project will be accomplished in two steps. The first step will be the construction phase, and will include repairing walls and floors, replacing cabinetry and lighting, installing wiring, drywall, and painting. The Parish Council has approved \$40,000 toward the construction phase which was money from a 2017 operations surplus. We are receiving bids from contractors and would like to start work in early November. New furniture, the second step, is estimated to cost \$15,000 to \$20,000 and will be purchased as money is provided through both donations and fundraising. We will use the existing furniture in the meantime.

In preparing the corner room for its makeover all sorts of odds and ends had to be removed and stored elsewhere. This project will cost \$4,500 and will be paid with money from our Building Fund.

The third and final project is on a much, much bigger scale, involving the entire build-

ing. We need a completely new roof over our heads. Our current roof is about 20 years old, which is typical. Our roof is a complex structure, consisting of three copper domes and fifteen flat roofs of varying elevations, and was built with rare construction techniques.

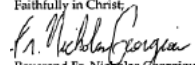
Every year has brought usual, and sometimes unusual (a severe hail storm), wear and tear that has been diligently repaired. Now, patching and repairing are no longer sufficient. The old roof needs to be removed and replaced by a new one. The Parish Council has already done much research. A structural engineer and insurance adjusters have inspected and analyzed the roof. Copper and roofing contractors have provided multiple bids.

A work plan and timeline are being finalized with the project to be done in phases. This will be a long and expensive project expected to take 18-24 months and cost approximately \$1,200,000. While the price is daunting, the Holy Apostles community has always risen to the challenge.

The Parish Council is preparing a financing plan that will include special fundraising, use of our reserve funds, and possibly a bank loan.

So there you have it – meeting spaces, a closet and roof. These are three very different projects but with a common purpose. They will provide our community with a modern, versatile and functional place where we can gather and grow closer to the Lord and each other.

We are excited about these latest improvement to our church and ask you to walk with us and participate in this exciting journey.

Faithfully in Christ,

Reverend Fr. Nicholas Georgiou
Presiding Priest


Peter Bell
Parish Council President

Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church November 2018 2501 S. Wolf Rd. Westchester, Illinois

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

<p>Happy Thanksgiving <i>Blessed are those who can give without remembering, and receive without forgetting.</i></p>					
<p>METROPOLIS STRATEGIC MEETING 8:15am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy Fellowship Hour</p> <p>4</p>	<p>THE DEADLINE FOR THE DECEMBER MOSAIC IS TODAY!</p> <p>5</p>	<p>10:00am TOTIS 4:30pm Greek School 7:00pm Philoptochos Board Mtg. 7:00pm VAL Film & Discussion</p> <p>6</p>	<p>1:00pm Adult Fellowship & Bible Study 5:30pm Scout Religious Emblem Program 7:15pm Bible Study 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>7</p>	<p>NO Greek School SYNTAXIS OF THE ARCHANGELS 8:00am Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 4:30pm Jr. Dance Troupe Rehearsal</p> <p>8</p>	<p>METROPOLIS STRATEGIC MEETING 2:00pm Philoptochos-Feed My Starving Children 4:00pm Metropolis Byzantine Music School Set Your Clocks Back One Hour Tonight!</p> <p>3</p>
<p>ARTOCLASIA 8:15am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy Fellowship Hour</p> <p>11</p>	<p>FEAST DAY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM 8:00am Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 12:00pm Koukia's Kafanio 4:30pm Greek School 6:15pm The Way 6:30pm GOYA Shopping</p> <p>13</p>	<p>FEAST DAY OF ST. PHILLIP THE APOSTLE 8:00am Orthros/Divine Liturgy 1:00pm Adult Fellowship/Bible Study 5:30pm Scout Religious Emblem Program 7:15pm Bible Study 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>14</p>	<p>Greek School 4:30pm Jr. Dance Troupe Rehearsal</p> <p>15</p>	<p>FEAST DAY OF ST. NECTARIOS 8:00am Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 4:30pm Adventure Theater 7:00PM Jr. GOYA Dinner</p> <p>9</p>	<p>METROPOLIS STRATEGIC MEETING 4:30pm Adventure Theater</p> <p>2</p>
<p>CHILDREN IN THE LOFT 8:15am Orthros 10:00am Divine Liturgy Fellowship Hour 12:00pm Family Synaxis Outing to St. Sava in Libertyville</p> <p>18</p>	<p>ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS INTO THE TEMPLE 8:00am Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 1:00pm Adult Fellowship & Bible Study 6:00pm Thanksgiving Eve Divine Liturgy</p> <p>20</p>	<p>1:00pm Adult Fellowship & Bible Study 7:15pm Bible Study 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>21</p>	<p>OFFICE CLOSED</p> <p>23</p>	<p>FEAST DAY OF ST. ANDREW 8:00am Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 4:30pm Adventure Theater</p> <p>30</p>	<p>METROPOLIS STRATEGIC MEETING 2:00pm Philoptochos-Feed My Starving Children 4:00pm Metropolis Byzantine Music School Set Your Clocks Back One Hour Tonight!</p> <p>3</p>
<p>FEAST DAY OF ST. KATHARINE 8:15am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy Fellowship Hour</p> <p>25</p>	<p>Greek School 4:30pm GOYA Gift Wrap for Needy Families</p> <p>27</p>	<p>THANKSGIVING DAY</p> <p>22</p>	<p>THANKSGIVING DAY</p> <p>22</p>	<p>FEAST DAY OF ST. ANDREW 8:00am Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 4:30pm Adventure Theater</p> <p>30</p>	<p>METROPOLIS STRATEGIC MEETING 2:00pm Philoptochos-Feed My Starving Children 4:00pm Metropolis Byzantine Music School Set Your Clocks Back One Hour Tonight!</p> <p>3</p>

This calendar is accurate as of publication date.

Weddings

None in November

Baptisms

Charlotte, daughter of
Jennifer & Jeremy Carr
Sponsor: Julie Zendol

James, son of
Ashley & Daniel Logan
Sponsors: Olga & Nicholas Logan

Memorials

Michael Pihos
Daniel Koutsis
Julis Stavropoulos
Mary D. Fotopoulos
Constance Patsavos
George Verros
Panagiotis Roumbos
Sofia Roumbos
Dina Dimitropoulos
Marlene Ladas
Sophia Petrakos
Dr. Harry Petrakos
Nicholas Petrakos
Irene Messerges
Aristidis Karalis
Paraskevas Kokinis
Christos Kontogiorgas
Athanasia Kontogiorgas
Gianoula Mentakis

Memorials

John Chulos
Rita Chulos
Gus Lekatsos
Jean Colias
Betty Becvar
Ida Trakadas
Anastasia Papadakis
Nicholas Papadakis
Peter Kyriazis
Jane Adams
Peter Assimakopoulos
Ioanna Burtzos
Ekaterini Andrianakos
Constandinos Andrianakos
Georgia Tasoulis
Evangelos Tasoulis
Vasiliki Tasoulis
Constandinos Tasoulis
Michael Cotsilis

Funerals

Peter Kyriazis
Ioanna Burtzos
Peter Gangas
Nicoletta Anos
Joyce Zitek
Nicholas Marlowe
Florence Angelacos

The Parish Council has announced a cemetery plot price increase at Chapel Hill Gardens West from \$4,000 to \$4,500 beginning January 1, 2019. To secure your plot(s) at the current price contact the church office before the end of the year.

Postmaster: Please deliver by the 3rd of November

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