

# Mosaic

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

Vol. 23, No. 6

Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church 2501 S. Wolf Rd. Westchester, IL

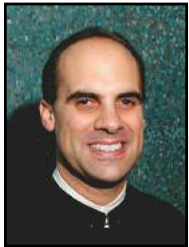
October 2018

708.562.2744

www.holyapostleschurch.com

From Father Nicholas

## Living Courageously



St. Demetrios, the myrrh streamer and wonderworker, will be remembered and celebrated on October 26.

Courage defines his life. Demetrios lived in the fourth century and was part of one of the most distinguished families of Macedonia. He was admired for his virtue, wisdom and goodness of heart. His military expertise advanced him up the ranks and he became a commander in the Roman army.

Demetrios was sent to persecute and exterminate Christians in Thessalonica. He disobeyed Emperor Maximian's command and openly confessed and courageously preached about Christ throughout the city. Many pagans came to faith. Maximian was furious because the saint utilized his official position to spread the Christian faith. Demetrios was arrested and confined to a cell in the basement of a nearby bathhouse.

Courage-filled Christians like Demetrios can encourage and strengthen others. Gladiator fights were the Emperor's favorite game. Lyaios was built like Goliath and destroyed every gladiator he ever faced. Nestor was picked to go up against this huge, undefeated giant that annihilated his opponents. The terrified Nestor visited Demetrios, who prayed over him assuring him that the Lord's power and strength would make him invincible. Nestor's attitude changed from fear to boldness as he stepped into the ring to face the giant. He boldly proclaimed the Lord's name and soundly defeated this seven-foot giant! The Emperor flew into a rage and ordered the soldiers to kill both Nestor and his mentor Demetrios. As he suffered and gave his life, Demetrios was at peace. His great courage kept him from renouncing his Christian beliefs. Martyrdom is a foreign idea to us. Imagine giving your life for Christ.

...See Fr. Nicholas on P. 3



## GOYA Barbecue Fun

Above, Steph Chiganos and Dimitri Kourafas lead the first ice breaker at the Annual GOYA BBQ. At right, Jenna Magas and Josh Glavanovits. Bottom: Ellie Chiganos, Kelly Vranas and Mia Gaddis all enjoy fellowship. More than 30 Goyans came to our annual BBQ. Our focus is on building strong friendships this year and helping to break out of our comfort zones and make new friends.



Photos  
by  
Anastasia  
Jann

From Father  
Panayiotis

## Wide Open Spaces



*And He led me forth  
into a spacious place; He  
will deliver me, because He  
hath desired me.*

-Ps 17:20 (LXX)

It is hard to believe that the psychological term 'stress' did not exist prior to the twentieth century. The term appears to have been borrowed from physics. What used to denote a physical strain or pressure in materials came to denote the human experience we call stress.

Even though the term 'stress' is relatively new, the experience of feeling the pressure or burden of life's challenges is not new. In this regard, we can say that every person from the time of Adam until now has shared in this experience. In Greek, the feeling of being upset or troubled is described as being in a "narrow space" (στενοχώρια) It's how we feel when our house is messy and we have nowhere to walk or sit. We feel inundated, overwhelmed.

The Psalms give us the language to understand these troubles we experience, along with their resolution. Consider the following prayer of David: "When I was in affliction, Thou didst make room for me" (Ps 4:2). And again, "...He led me forth into a spacious place" (Ps 17:20). The Psalmist speaks about being under the pressure of troubles, and then having that pressure alleviated by God, who opens up the walls that are closing in on us. When God blesses us, we feel free, relieved, as though in a spacious place. The Scriptural term *πλατυσμός* implies precisely that: "spaciousness" or "wideness." It means there is room for us to breathe again and be at peace.

Just as we waited in July and August this year for the unbearable heat and humidity to break, so too are we waiting for the pressures in our life to be alleviated by God. It goes in waves just as the weather does. What is required from us is patience and faith during these times, knowing that God will not test us beyond what we can handle (cf. 1 Cor 10:13).

But what about when we feel that the relief is nowhere in sight? What if we find ourselves saying, like David, "How long, O Lord?" (Ps 12:1) Christ tells us in the Gospel that in this life we will indeed have tribulations (cf. Jn 16:33), and "...narrow is the gate that leads to life" (Mt 7:14). This should reassure us that there is not something wrong with us if we experience such struggles. This is the path to the kingdom. And while it may not be easy, we know that on the other side of the narrow gate are wide open spaces, a place where our soul can finally be at rest. May our good Lord grant us a small portion of this even now, giving us the strength we need to continue forward. To Him be the glory, always and forever. Amen.



# Gavel to Gavel



Minutes of the August Council Meeting BY TOM GREGORY

**Present: Fr. Nicholas Georgiou, Fr. Panayiotis Hatsiakos, George Alex, Peter Bell, Terry Chiganos; Dan Cussick, Jim Fotopoulos, Tom Gregory, Louis Katzioris, Nick Kirkeles, Alicia Magas, Jim Maragos, Norman Pomrening, Peter Poteres, and Steve Savas.**

### Meditation:

✦ Fr. Nicholas gave the meditation and discussed the cross gifted by the parish to him upon his elevation to Economos. On this particular cross, Christ is depicted as crucified. Christ tells us, "Whoever wants to follow me let them deny themselves, take up their cross, and follow me." How did Christ lead? By serving others. We are servant leaders and we should always treat other people better than ourselves. Great leaders are servants. We should not be dictators or authoritarian. None of us can do by ourselves, what we can do together. Good leaders have great character. Because we are created in God's image, all of us have something to offer. Servants do what people need. Christ led by being gentle, humble, and by serving others. All of our talents should be utilized for the glory of God. The Lord can be our example as we struggle to deny ourselves.

### Stewardship/Finance Report

- ✦ Operations are favorable by almost \$13,000 through the first half of the year.
- ✦ Golf Outing Revenue was \$41,000. Expenses \$20,000. Income \$21,000.
- ✦ The pledged amount through July is down \$21,000.
- ✦ The number of pledges is down by 31.
- ✦ Average pledge is up by \$15.00.
- ✦ On an overall basis there is slight improvement in the trend.

### Updates

- ✦ Family Picnic: Peter Bell reported that nearly 400 people were in attendance.
- ✦ Parish DataSystem: Peter Bell reported that we continue to enroll parishioners in PDS.
- ✦ Multi-purpose room storage: Peter Bell reported that the perimeter cabinets are being re-organized.
- ✦ Insurance review: Peter Bell met with Steve Mannos of Horton Insurance. Our

church's coverage will be upgraded to reflect our new outside improvements. Plus, a new line item will be added in the policy to cover electronic equipment.

### Old Business

- ✦ Roof: Steve Savas reported that he is in the process of collecting information on the roof leakage which has become more frequent. There is concern over a possible active leak from the dome. The initial investigation will focus on the church edifice. Guide One Insurance is also reviewing the matter. Steve Savas made a motion to authorize expenditure up to \$10,000 to obtain structural engineer's report. 2nd Tom Gregory; motion passed unanimously.
- ✦ Closet (alcove): The parish has obtained a bid to remodel the choir closet for \$4,500. Steve Savas made a motion to authorize the expenditure of up to \$5,000 to rebuild closet. Motion passed unanimously.
- ✦ Back Room: Peter Bell reported that the designer has come up with renderings. Attempts are being made to scale the project down to the \$40,000 allocated for the project.

### New Business

- ✦ Chanter: Peter Bell reported that John Anton, a recent Hellenic College graduate with a certificate in Byzantine Chanting, is being considered as a second chanter at Holy Apostles for Sundays. George Alex made a motion to approve the employment of John Anton as a 2nd chanter to assist on Sundays through the year-end at \$125/Sunday. The motion passed.
- ✦ Chanter Classes: Starting September 22, 2018 Holy Apostles will be the host for the Metropolis Byzantine chant class.
- ✦ Metropolis meeting: Holy Apostles will host a Metropolis strategic planning meeting on November 2-4-. George Alex made a motion to approve the expenditure of up to \$5,000 to host the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.
- ✦ Education: A request for 15 new, high school, basketball uniforms at \$35 each was submitted. Nick Kirkeles made a motion for provisional approval to spend up to \$600 for new uniforms. The motion passed unanimously.

**BTW:** It's time to start work on a new Parish Directory and volunteers are needed. If you are interested contact Peter Bell at dokphoto@yahoo.com.



Fr. Nicholas from P. 1

## Living Courageously...

Long before Demetrios was martyred, St. Paul wrote a pastoral Epistle (65-67 AD) to his young friend and disciple Timothy that addresses the tension Demetrios probably experienced. It is the struggle between a person's citizenship on earth and citizenship in heaven. "You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No one engaged in warfare entangles themselves with the affairs of this life, that they may please him who enlisted him as a soldier." (2 Timothy 2:3-4) Paul is not talking about a real army or commander. He is discussing Christ's claim on those who profess faith in Him. Although we are citizens of this world, our eyes are fixed on heaven. Christians have "no lasting city, but we seek the one to come." (Hebrews 13:14) We are "citizens of heaven." (Philippians 3:20)

Demetrios' martyrdom is a witness to all of us. Enduring extreme physical pain shows the great martyr's deep faith in Christ. Paul understood the difficulty we face as Christians living under the pressures of the world. Demetrios clung to Christ as he peacefully and faithfully endured these tortures. He clung to Paul's words: "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." (2 Corinthians 12:9) Life can be very challenging, hostile and destructive at times. Paul reminds us of the strength that God provides. Readers of these words will not fall into self-pity or wallow in despair. We will realize that "all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose." (Romans 8:28)

Paul was certainly familiar with struggles, challenges and difficulties. He was "beaten three times with rods, stoned once, shipwrecked three times." (2 Corinthians 11:25). No insurance company would ever offer him coverage. He was a bad risk. But Paul and Demetrios did not need insurance policies for security. The Lord's strength was as real to Paul as the disasters he faced. Paul's prophetic words span across generations. The Lord's presence lightened the dungeons for Christ's faithful martyrs. Our Lord sustained the martyrs in humiliation and pain as He walked with them into the arena against Caesar.

Today, we probably will not face dungeons or martyrdom. But other situations can overtake us. Paul reminds us: "If God is for us, who is against us?" (Romans 8:31) Demetrios pondered Paul's words: "For if we died with Him, We shall also live with Him. If we endure, we shall reign with Him. If we deny Him, He also will deny us. If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself." (2 Timothy 2:11-13) Some of the people did not persevere. Martyrdom is the final test of

## Chicago Orthodox Christian Synergy 2018 Annual Symposium

# The Nones: Who are They and How Do We Reach Them?

Dr. Nathan Jacobs, Director of the documentary *Becoming Truly Human*, will talk about the increasing number of "Nones" (those describing themselves as religiously unaffiliated) and what the Church and its members can do to connect with them and bring them back into the faith.

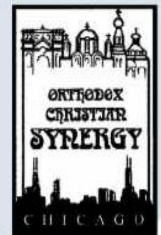
### Where:

St. John the Baptist Greek  
Orthodox Church  
2350 E. Dempster Street  
Des Plaines, IL

### When:

Saturday, October 20, 2018  
9:30am-1:30pm

For more information or to register, go to  
[www.chicagosynergy.org](http://www.chicagosynergy.org)



the Christian faith and its greatest triumph. The Christian Church was temporarily weakened by those who left and defected when faced with martyrdom. The Church found new sources of vitality and strength. Many marveled at the incredible courage of the martyrs who faced death faithfully and peacefully and they converted to Christianity. Historian Will Durant wrote: "There is no greater drama in human record than the sight of a few Christians, scorned and oppressed by a succession of emperors, bearing all trials with a fierce tenacity, multiplying quietly, building order while their enemies generated chaos,

fighting the sword with the word, brutality with hope."

Life's struggles are inevitable. Although many of life's answers many not be available to us, we proceed with courage. St. Demetrios is an example to us. He did not fully understand all that God revealed but acted and took a stand and step for Christ. This is our challenge. We are encouraged in the Book of Psalms: "be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart, all you who hope in the Lord." (Psalm 31:24)



The Sunday Adult Education with Michael Haldas has begun on the Orthodox Christian Network. It is live at 11:30 a.m. EST with interactive video and available as an archived video later.

This year’s theme is The Shared Experience of the Orthodox Christian Faith.

In the first class, was called Experiencing the Presence of Christ was explored. Interactive viewers can share personal experiences of the presence of Christ in their lives.

The full class description is at: <http://myocn.net/adult-education-shared-experience-orthodox-christian-faith/>

## Bring Your Bibles

The Wednesday Night Bible Study led by Barbara Pappas will resume on Wednesday, October 3. Discussions will center around the beginning of the Bible and of our entire cosmos, with the dramatic & eye-opening Book of Genesis. Everyone is invited to participate. Just bring a Bible.

### Topics will include

- Creation of the Heavens and the Earth: “Spontaneous” or Intelligent Design?
- Angels & their roles in our lives.
- Heaven on earth in the Divine Liturgy.
- What God breathed into man.
- God’s Divine Plan: Is it outdated?
- The unique, God-given roles of men & women and much, much more!

Sessions will take place on the following Wednesday evenings: October 3, 10, 17; November 7, 14, 28; and December 5.

Due to scheduling conflicts, please note that the sessions will not be held consecutively. Discussions will begin promptly at 7:15 p.m. and conclude around 8:30 p.m.

# Philoptochos Happenings

## Annual Luncheon & Fashion Show

*Under the Big Top* will be held Saturday, October 20, at Abington Banquets in Glen Ellyn. Cocktails and raffle sales begin at 11am followed by the luncheon at 12pm. This year’s beneficiaries are Gigi’s Playhouse and the Philoxenia House. Fashions will be presented by Zzazz Productions and models will include children from Holy Apostles.

Tickets are available for purchase in the multi-purpose room after the Divine Liturgy on Sundays and are priced \$55 for adults and \$30 for children 12 and under. Please contact Nia Kouchis at 630-363-7430 for reservation information.

## Collection Drives

Our goal is to host one collection drive per month with each drive benefitting a different organization. September was a *Rise and Shine* breakfast food drive to benefit the Peoples Resource Center (PRC).

In October, we will collect gently-used, clean coats for men, women, and children. There will be a collections box set up in the multi-purpose room from October 7-21.

This November, Philoptochos is partnering with Loaves and Fishes to help provide Thanksgiving dinners to needy families in the area. Please put non-perishable items in the green collection crates outside of HARC from October 28-November 18. Flyers with suggested donation items will be available by the candle stands and HARC beginning in late October.

In December, we will have our annual Toy Collection Drive for the Family Shelter Service.

Philoptochos is sincerely grateful for the generous support we have always received from our Holy Apostles family.

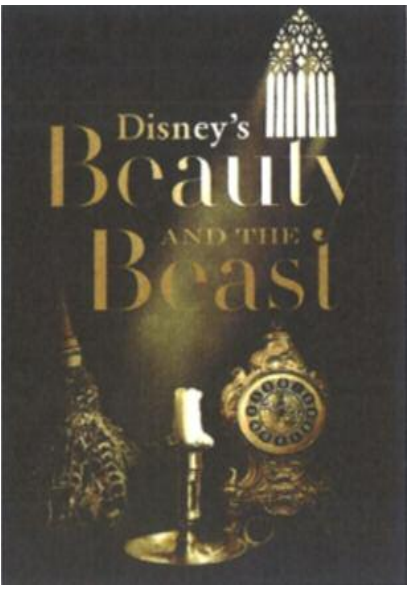
## Engaging Orthodoxy Annual Conference

Deacon Perry Hamalis is one of the guest speakers on Saturday, October 6 at the 3rd Annual Engaging Orthodoxy Conference at North Park University in Chicago. The theme is *Engaging Orthodoxy What-Does-It-Mean-To-Be-Human?*

A panel of leading Eastern Orthodox theologians and ethicists will gather to discuss the mystery of the human person formed in the image of God, and contemporary challenges facing the Church. Keynote Speakers will be: Bishop Anthony Michaels (Antiochian Orthodox Church); Rev. Dr. Perry Hamalis (Deacon, Greek Orthodox Church and Professor at North Central College, IL); Dr. Nicole Roccas (Professor of Orthodox Studies, Trinity College, Toronto). The respondents will be: Dr. William Abraham (Professor of Theology, Southern Methodist University); and Dr. Matthew Levering (Professor of Theology, St. Mary of the Lake Seminary). The admission is free and it will be live-streamed.

It will be held from 9:30 a.m to 12:30 p.m. The location is North Park University, Anderson Chapel, 3225 W. Foster Ave. Chicago. The website for the event is:

<https://www.northpark.edu/event/engaging-orthodoxy-what-does-it-mean-to-be-human/>



**PAREA Invites You**

**To Drury Lane**

**To See Disney's**

*Beauty And The Beast*

**On Wednesday, December 5,**

**Lunch and Play \$50 Per Person**

**LIMITED SEATING**

**Contact Mary Athans**

**708.865.8519**

**By November 1**



### Weddings

*Dawn Pizarroz & Nicholas Maragos  
Sponsor: Michael Maragos*

*Gia Russo & Connor Peckhart  
Sponsor: Marissa Kirsch*

*Maria Fikaris & Quinn Revak  
Sponsor: Michael Fikaris  
Theodoros, son of Leigh-Ann*

### Baptisms

*& Dean Theophilos  
Sponsor: George Theophilos*

*Zoe, daughter of Kelly & Harry Petrakos  
Sponsor: George Chiligris*

*Theodore, son of Mary & William Shea  
Sponsor: Catherine Johnson*

### Funerals

*Betty Jane Becvar  
Jean Collias*

## Lots of Fun Stuff coming up for Jr. GOYA

### Jr. GOYA Calendar of Events

New Email:

Jrgoya@holyapostleschurch.com

#### October 5, 7:00pm

Holy Apostles

Dinner, Activity, & Fireside with Fr. P.

#### November 9, 7:00pm

Holy Apostles

Dinner, Cards & Banners for the Troops,  
Fireside with Fr. P.

#### November 10, 11:00am

Locations TBD

Stuff Stockings for the Troops and Lunch

#### December 7, 7:00pm

Holy Apostles

### Memorials

*John Curtis  
Anna Malleris  
Frank Malleris  
James P. Verros  
Philip Pekras*

Dinner, Christmas Cards for Shut-ins  
Fireside with Fr. P

#### January 10, 6:30pm

The Katzioris' Family Home  
Dinner, Gift Exchange and Party

#### February 8, 7:00pm

Holy Apostles

Dinner, Blanket Making,  
Fireside with Fr. P.

#### March 8 or 9

Movie Theater  
Movie & Pizza

#### April 16, 6:00

Holy Apostles

Pasta & Palm Crosses

#### May 10, 5:00pm

Holy Apostles

Dinner, Olympics, & Fireside with Fr. P.

#### June 14, 6:00pm

Location TBD

Pizza and Putt Putt

Postmaster: Please deliver by the 3rd of October

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