

# MOSAIC

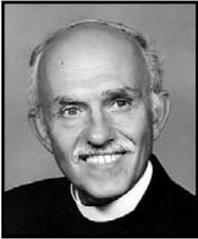
Coming together, we form an icon of God's Kingdom

Vol. 6, No. 8

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

January 2002

From Father Bill ...



## Delivery At Your Doorstep

If your days are anything like mine, then you're probably reading this in the evening. Maybe you've just come from work or finally have the kids in bed. Now, you've picked up the mail and are reading what Father Bill and the volunteers who prepared the Mosaic have to say.

Like you, I am sitting back and asking the same question we all ask this time of year. Where has the year has flown? What a year to remember!

It is time for us to move on with our lives. God had something in mind when He gave you today. What do you think it was? If my calculations are correct, each of us was given 1,440 minutes. They arrived this morning cleverly wrapped in a package of challenging opportunities. We were taught to always say thank you when receiving a gift. Having remembered our good manners, the question is, what will we do with those opportunities?

Of all the verses in the Bible that talk about the value of today (and there's a truckload of them!), lately I've felt drawn to Psalm 46:1-2 in times of trouble when life delivers those unexpected, unwanted challenging packages. The Psalm says: "God is our refuge and strength...a very present help...Therefore we will not fear"

Month after month, we have talked about and focused on the importance of walking closer with the Lord. As we prepare for a new year our thoughts should focus on 5 important aspects of our lives:

+ Prayer: Recently a woman came to my office and openly discussed some personal problems in her marriage. After listening to her for some time, I asked her: "Have you prayed about any of this?" She replied:



## Santa visits Holy Apostles

Holy Apostles' annual Liturgy and Communion Breakfast on December 8 was a great success. Many children of the parish were especially happy to see Santa and Mrs. Claus who dropped by with goodies during the breakfast which followed the Divine Liturgy. Prior to the arrival of the visitors from the North Pole, everyone enjoyed pancakes prepared by the Dimitri Family.

"How am I to pray?" I told her begin by meeting alone with the Lord every day. The first opportunity given to us is the privilege of speaking and listening to God.

Several years ago I read about a Puritan preacher who began his prayer with long and colorful language. His introduction went on and on, until a lady in the choir reached over, tugged on his robe, and said: "Psst! Just call Him Father and ask for something." That was precisely my advice to my visitor and to you. Get to know Him and speak candidly to Him. And remember to listen.

+ Study: I then asked my visitor if she was spending meaningful time in the Scriptures. Scripture is the means by which our Father speaks to us, and we should make these visits daily.

+Faith: Are you relying more confidently on the Lord, so that you have fewer worries and fears? This morning, in that package of opportunities left on you doorstep, God presented you with ways to live out your faith. When you encouraged your husband or wife, you demonstrated your faith. You should treasure the sacredness of those 'ordinary' expressions of faith.

+Outreach: Do you look for ways to share the hope of Christ with others? During this past year of tragedy and war on terrorism, opportunities to help each other cope with our fears and uncertainties came regularly.

+Accountability: Are you in close touch with a few individuals who are committed to your moral purity and spiritual maturity? It behooves us to share the same moral standards with those who are part of our daily lives. The deacon, shortly before the opening blessing of the Divine Liturgy, says to the celebrating priest: "Kairos tou poiesai to Kyrio." This sentence taken from Psalm 119:126 may best be translated as "It is time for the Lord to act." It is time for us to act and seize the opportunities God makes known to us.

What have been the outstanding features in our Orthodox witness over the past 12 months? What have we done, and what have we left undone? As we enter the New Year, let us vigorously pursue the daily opportunities delivered to our doorstep. "The day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night." (1 Thes.5:2), and so we have to be constantly watchful. It is time for us to act! May the Holy Spirit guide us through the New Year!

From Father Peter.



**Being resolute  
in our resolution  
to God**

These past few months I have heard the word 'resolute' from our government numerous times, when they reference our response to the terrorist attacks. Every time it has been said, I noticed the look of determination on the faces of the one who said it, and it is unique. Whether it is Donald Rumsfeld or President Bush, they say it with a firm lip and a glare of determination. They are sincere in saying that they will follow through with their plans.

This time of year, so fresh and so new, I think about the clean slate ahead. Our New Year's resolutions are on the tip of our tongues and we are eager to leave behind some of our bad habits, even if we know we will have a tough time steering clear of them. In fact, January, almost feels like we just received confession. We are starting anew.

The wise men and women of our church always say it is not what you did, but what you are doing that is important. Do we have that same determination for our own personal victory that our leaders have for the victory of freedom? I hope that we do. It would be so nice if our top resolution was to remain steadfast to our commitment to God. Forget watching what we eat, bad habits, or spending. Our chief resolution should be to act in truth and honesty to God and dedicate ourselves to Him. If we cling to God and really make an effort to know the Omnipotent One, omnipresent in our minds and hearts, then all the other abuses in our lives will become subject to this new commitment to God.

One resolution for us can be that I promise to pray to God every day, no exceptions. I will tell Him the highs and low of my day, what I did wrong. What I tried to do for others and God Himself should also be part of my prayers of thanksgiving and forgiveness.

Those who pray every day should step up to reading the Bible passages with regularity. Make a commitment to read on a schedule the daily Bible readings we distribute each year. Another great idea is to read the Gospel reading for Sunday prior to Sunday, so that when you hear it from the pulpit, you know where the reading is going and have thought about your needs as well.

Another resolution is to make an effort to follow the life of the Church. I am not just talking about Sundays. We are not a Sunday only Church!!!! Thank God. We have many



## Gavel to Gavel



BY NICK KIRKELES... Parish Council Secretary

### Regular Parish Council meeting Thursday, November 15th

Present: Father Bill Chiganos, Father Peter Spiro, Jim Banakis, Peter Tomaras, Peter Poteres, Dennis Poulos, Terry Chiganos, Jim Fotopoulos, John Anos, George Mannos, George Beshilas, Mike Stefanos, Nick Christy, George Alex.

Absent: Nick Kirkeles, Spero Kinnas, Sandy Fiascone, Don Alexander

#### Meditation

✦ Fr. Bill spoke on the topic of Thanksgiving. He alluded to our duty and requirement to continue to give thanks to the Lord for all that we have. He also referred to today's very difficult times and how that should provide for greater individual and family thanksgiving.

#### Finance

✦ Peter Tomaras reported that the church is reporting a deficit of \$124,195 for the 10 months ending 10/31/01. This is primarily made up of HVAC initial expenses of \$48,325 and parking lot improvements of \$23,800. Bank balances for 10/31/01 total \$316,203 as compared to \$424,566 on January 1, 2001, which indicates a decrease of \$108,363 or 26%. The financial report was approved unanimously.

#### Stewardship

✦ Mike Stefanos reported that through 10/31/01, pledges totaled \$531,898 or \$594 per steward, which is a 2% increase from last year. Outstanding pledges total \$56,316 which is \$10,706 or 19% higher than in 2000. The total number of pledges is also down 2%.

#### Building and Grounds

✦ Jim Fotopoulos reported that the HVAC project was on schedule and within budget. Completion is targeted for the end of November with complete payment due

around 1/1/02. In addition to the original scope of the project were two additional tasks: the complete duct cleaning job (\$7,700) and additional electrical service to accommodate increased power requirements (\$3,500). He also is gathering bids for the roof project (partial or complete), which is projected for spring 2002.

#### Fundraising (Candle to Candle)

✦ Nick Christy reported on the progress of the Candle-to-Candle Program. The committee met with an outside source, Stewardship Advocates, whose mission is to advance the understanding and practices of stewardship in the Orthodox Church. This group will address questions, issues, and practices at the December meeting.

#### Long Range Planning

✦ Terry Chiganos indicated that a follow-up meeting would be scheduled in December with the possibility of combining it with the presentation from Stewardship Advocates.

#### Old Business

✦ Jim Banakis reviewed the agenda and topics for the Parish General Assembly Meeting set for 11/25/01.

#### New Business

✦ Stewardship goal for 2002 will remain at \$560,000. Peter Tomaras read the letter from the Chicago Diocese Office indicating that our Archdiocese commitment for 2002 has been set at \$85,000 annually or \$7,083 per month. Motions made in both amounts were approved unanimously.

✦ Father Peter reported that Nikki Giancola is the recipient of the Holy Apostles College Scholarship.

programs that are geared for every walk of life. What we all need to do, however, is to prioritize the happenings of the Church over some of the transient distractions that our secular lives dictate. Following the life of the Church means to follow the fasts, and other religious feast days throughout the year. Get acquainted with the cycle of the Church. It will greatly edify your growth and religious education.

Let's all begin this new year with that same firm lip and glare of determination and say to

others: this year I am going to become closer to God than ever before. We can do it, because we too need to win the spiritual war around us. Make a resolution to God this year and you will grow in ways you thought impossible.

I wish to thank you all for your love and support through this past year. Because of you, it has been wonderful and edifying. I wish you a Happy New Year full of God's grace and love.



## Nikki Giancola wins Holy Apostles College Scholarship

Congratulations to Nikki Giancola, a freshman at the University of Illinois, who is the recipient of the new Holy Apostles College Scholarship for 2001. Nikki was thrilled to win the \$1,000. At Holy Apostles, she has served as a director of Adventure Theater and as a Senior Leader for GOYA.

## The HARC CORNER

### The Inner Kingdom, Volume 1

By Bishop Kallistos Ware

When I heard that Bishop Ware had written a new book, or soon to be series of books, I was most excited at the prospect of reading all of them. After reading Volume 1, I can say that I was not disappointed.

Unlike his more historical or informative works that I have read, Bishop Ware concentrates more on the issues of spirituality and worship. Relying on many of the older writing and teachings, Bishop Ware

adapts the information regarding worship, prayer, death and salvation into a concise and contemporary manner.

I found his chapter on "The Fool in Christ as Prophet and Apostle" most interesting and insightful. He brought to life the mindset of St. Symeon the Fool in Christ and of John, their conversion and subsequent journeys. This being one of the first writings I have read on those who have

become a Fool in Christ, I developed a new insight into those persons who have completely changed their lives for Christ in a manner not common to most of us.

Knowing that this is the first in a series of writings, I am looking forward to each volume with a renewed interest and craving for the spiritual guidance that I have come to expect from Bishop Ware.

...reviewed by Don David Singleton

### Recommended Readings in HARC

#### Journey to the Kingdom

#### Reflections on the Sunday Gospels

by Father John Mack

*Journey to the Kingdom* chronicles 35 Sunday Gospel readings taking us through the cycle of Pentecost, pre-Lent, Lent, the Transfiguration and the Nativity. Each reading has a homily which correlates with the Gospel lesson of that day. The sermons are insightful, as well as a convenience to anyone who may be unable to attend Sunday services.

Softbound \$14.00

#### The Living God

#### A Catechism Volumes 1 & 2

*The Living God* was originally written in French and was translated by Olga Dunlop. It covers very thoroughly, in an understandable style, the basic teachings of the Orthodox Church. It brings together scripture, theology, iconography, hymns, feasts and liturgy illustrating the complete Liturgical cycle. In several chapters, it takes on the seeker (question) and sage (answer) format. Volume 1 begins with the explanation of the Creation through the Resurrection of Christ. Volume 2 continues with the Feast of the Ascension through Revelation, and concludes with the Sacraments and Prayers. This is an excellent resource for the answers to the details of the Orthodox Faith.

Softbound \$25.00 / set

#### Sing a New Song, A Book of Psalms

by Bijou Le Tord

"Let the earth be happy." Psalm 97:1.

This award-winning author for young readers combines simple Psalms and delicate watercolors in revealing the wonders of nature through God's Word. The miracle of little seeds, the wings of a dove, and the sun shining on the universe are all of God's glorious creation. When reading these joyful and sacred poems, one almost needs to whisper or sing them in a song.

Hardbound \$15.00

#### The Wonderful Life of Russia's Saint, Sergius of Rodonezh

by Alvin Alexsi Currier

illustrated by Nadezda Glazunove

A simple yet vivid story for young readers about the life of a great saint who founded Holy Trinity Monastery. His life touched and inspired countless others to follow the path of Christ. As a young illiterate boy, his first introduction to monastic life was through a monk who showed him not to despair but that he could read and write. The story reveals Saint Sergius' many miracles and his steadfast faith and love. A brave yet humble man, and a good model for young people, he sought out the lowest tasks such as sowing seeds or hoeing weeds. This book has beautiful pictures full of color, life and joy which reflect the traditions of Orthodoxy. Together the author and illustrator bring the spirit of Saint Sergius to life.

Hardbound \$18.00

...reviewed by Pauline Franks and Elaine Regopoulos



One of the wisemen, Peter Kallis, gets some help with his crown, from Barb Lampros.



Stacy Kafkes helps her niece Zoe Kafkes, left, and her daughter Alaina Kafkes, right with their costumes prior to lining up to go 'on stage'.

**Many hours of hard work from dedicated volunteers pays off in successful Christmas Pageant**



The full cast sings the finale as the pageant draws to a close.



Pageant Director Sandy Pihos cues the performers from her spot on the floor in front of the first pew.



One of the main features of each year's pageant is the entrance of the performers as the Christmas story unfolds through narration and song.

## Synaxis to be busy with two very rewarding events in February

Synaxis has planned a marriage enrichment program and potluck dinner for 7:00 pm, Friday, February 1, with Father Bill conducting an open forum to discuss aspects of marriage and our faith. For instance, in our inter-faith marriages, does the faith of the couple, that is believing in the same doctrine, have a direct effect on the marriage? Is our prayer life consistent with the tradition of our faith? You may call Cindy and Joe Clark at 708-246-6651 to let them know you will attend and will bring a favorite meatless dish to share.

On Saturday, February 16, Synaxis couples are invited to attend the Joint Professionals' 72nd Annual Valentine's Day Dinner Dance at the Chateau Ritz. The cost is \$45 per person if reservations are made before February 1; the cost for dancing only is \$20 per person. Invitations with a reply card are being sent to Synaxis members, and you should indicate that you would like to sit with the Synaxis group from Holy Apostles. Tom and Kathy Obmascik are taking reservations at 630-322-9866. The Joint Professionals include the Greek Women's University Club, Hellenic Bar, Hellenic Dental, and Hellenic Professional Society of Illinois.

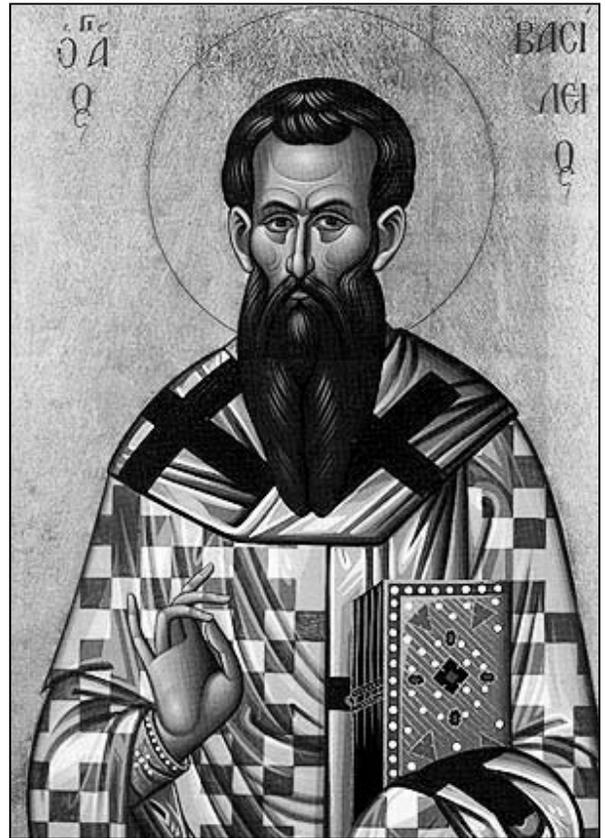
## Philoptohos to host Vasilopita Celebration

On January 13th following the Divine Liturgy, Philoptohos will host the annual Vasilopita Celebration in the multi-purpose room. A collection is also taken to support St. Basil's Academy, which houses and educates underprivileged children.

Vasilopita is made to honor St. Basil's acts of charity to the poor. To ensure the needy would have money for life's necessities, St. Basil had the ladies of his church bake sweet bread with coins baked into them. By modern-day tradition, the one who receives the coin is especially blessed for the year.

The city-wide Philoptohos Vasilopita Celebration will take place at St. Nicholas Church in Oak Lawn on Sunday, January 13th at 6pm.

...by Cynthia Stathopoulos



St. Basil is honored during the annual Vasilopita Ceremony, January 13th.

## What's Mr. D wishing for this new year?

BY GEORGE J. DEMETRALIS (alias Mr. D.)

Below is my wish list for the New Year. All wishes are anchored in Holy Scripture, the sacred tradition of the early church, and the Constitution of the United States of America. Therefore, my wishes are:

- that the ancient practice of ordaining men and women as permanent deacons and deaconesses in the church be universally reinstated. They are urgently needed.

- that girls, as well as boys, be allowed to serve in the altar.

- that all Orthodox Christian churches emulate Holy Apostles' example, rooted in ancient tradition, of encouraging active participation of the faithful in the responses, hymn singing, etc. in the Divine Liturgy as well as the greeting "Christ is in our midst; He is and always shall be."

- that the leadership of the church concentrates more on Christianizing the people rather than Hellenizing them.

- that we never forget that we are Christians first and foremost, and for us

Orthodox Christians, "Orthodox" must remain an adjective, not a noun.

- that more parents and kids in our parish make a greater effort to support our youth programs.

- that all Americans, young and old alike, read and reread the United States Constitution and take a greater interest in our Government, local, state, and federal. May the revival of patriotism that began on September 11th be sustained. I fear that most Americans are oblivious to how close we are to losing what so many fought so hard to secure for us.

- that families devote at least one day a week, preferably Sunday, to worshiping God more fervently and taking more time to listen to and enjoy one another. For one day at least, throw away the appointment books and turn off cell phones, beepers, TV, computers, etc., and turn on fellowship and companionship with family members and friends.

- that you, the greatest friends, students, and supporters one could ask for, live long and prosper in the love, joy, and peace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. God bless and save America.

## January Registry

### Baptisms

Anthony & Christian, sons of Doris & Kenneth Sullivan  
Sponsor: Antonia Contocra

Daniel Parrott  
Sponsor: Steven Savas

James, son of Michelle & Mark Lekas  
Sponsor: George Manolis

### Wedding

Lara Schieffer & Dr. Patroklos Pappas  
Sponsor: James Psychogios

## What's Happenin' at Holy Apostles

### Adventure Theater

Adventure Theater: On January 11<sup>th</sup>, rehearsals for the Paschal stage play entitled "The Moment Christ Died" will begin.

Radio Tapes for Sale. The Adventure Theater is offering for sale at \$4 per play, all radio plays produced from 1980 through August, 2001. Contact Mr. D.

**Philoptochos**  
There will be no January General Meeting.

### Seniors Social

Jan. 9, 1 pm,  
parea and games,  
weather permitting

### Godparents' Luncheon

February 3<sup>rd</sup>, following Liturgy. This is an opportunity for children and adults to take Communion and enjoy a meal with their Godparents and Godchildren. Prices are as follows: adults—\$11; children (ages 4-18)—\$6; ages 4 and under—\$2. For reservations, call Cynthia Stathopoulos (630)986-0630.

### New York Trip

There is still space available for the trip to New York. The dates are July 14-21, 2002. Contact Fr. Peter for details. The trip is open to students 9<sup>th</sup> grade through college age. The cost is \$1,000, all inclusive.

### Synaxis

Marriage enrichment program Friday, Feb. 1, at 7pm.  
Valentine's Day dinner dance Saturday, Feb. 16.

### Talent Show

Talent Show, Friday, February 8 at 6:30 pm  
Registration forms for the 'Rock Solid' show can be obtained in the church office and must be returned by January 27. Open to all ages. Contact Fr. Peter for details.

Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church **January 2002** 2501 S. Wolf Rd. Westchester, Illinois

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>NEW YEAR'S DAY FEAST DAY OF ST. BASIL</b> 10:00am Divine Liturgy		6:30am Prayer Breakfast		<b>EVE OF EPIPHANY</b> 8:00am Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy Strict Abstinence
<b>HOLY EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD</b> 8:00am Orthros 9:15am Awaken To God 9:30am Divine Liturgy Coffee Hour	<b>FEAST DAY OF ST. JOHN</b> 8:00am Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 5:15pm The Way	4:30pm Greek School 6:00pm GOYA Senior Leaders 7:30pm GOYA Meeting	10:00am TOT's Program 1:00pm Seniors Social	4:30pm Greek School	4:30pm Adventure Theater	4:00pm The Lamplighters 5:00pm Great Vespers
8:00am Orthros 9:15am Awaken To God 9:30am Divine Liturgy Vasilopita Celebration	4:30pm Greek School	4:30pm Greek School	1:00pm Adult Christian Fellowship And Study Group 7:00pm Catechism Instruction	<b>FEAST DAY OF ST. ANTHONY</b> 8:00am Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 4:30pm Greek School 8:00pm Parish Council Meeting	<b>FEAST DAY OF ST. ATHANASIOS</b> 8:00am Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 4:30pm Adventure Theater	5:00pm Great Vespers
8:00am Orthros 9:15am Awaken To God 9:30am Divine Liturgy Coffee Hour	5:15pm The Way	4:30pm Greek School 7:00pm Adult Greek School	10:00am TOT's Program 1:00pm Adult Christian Fellowship And Study Group 7:30pm Catechism Instruction	4:30pm Greek School	<b>FEAST DAY OF ST. GREGORY</b> 8:00am Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 4:30pm Adventure Theater	5:00pm Great Vespers
8:00am Orthros 9:15am Awaken To God 9:30am Divine Liturgy Coffee Hour	<b>TALENT SHOW REGISTRATION DEADLINE</b>	4:30pm Greek School	<b>FEAST DAY OF THE THREE HIERARCHIS</b> 8:00am Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 10:00am Adult Christian Fellowship And Study Group 7:00pm Catechism Instruction	4:30pm Greek School	<b>Mosaic Deadline for the February issue is Wednesday, January 9.</b>	

## Weekday Services

### Feast Day Of St. Basil

Tuesday January 1  
10:00am Divine Liturgy

### Eve Of Epiphany

Saturday January 5  
8:00am Orthros  
9:00am Divine Liturgy

### Feast Day Of St. John

Monday January 7  
8:00am Orthros  
9:00am Divine Liturgy

### Feast Day Of St. Anthony

Thursday January 17  
8:00am Orthros  
9:00am Divine Liturgy

## Weekday Services

### Feast Day Of St. Athanasios

Friday January 18  
8:00am Orthros  
9:00am Divine Liturgy

### Feast Day Of St. Gregory

Friday January 25  
8:00am Orthros  
9:00am Divine Liturgy

### Feast Day Of The Three Hierarchs

Wednesday January 30  
8:00am Orthros  
9:00am Divine Liturgy

### Great Vespers

All Saturdays (Except Jan. 5)  
5:00pm

## Memorials

*Demetri Vandarakis  
Kleomenis Adamopoulos  
Demetrios Angelos  
Panayiota Angelos  
Diane Stamatelos  
Gregory Stamatelos  
Eugenia Sieritis  
Michael Sieritis  
Panayioti Bobis  
Angelo Kentes  
Sotirios Chiganos  
Sophia Chiganos  
Theodore Vanias  
Nicolette Makris  
Stella Kakridas  
George Kakridas  
George Lekas  
George Kringas  
Agnes Papazickos  
George Papazickos  
Nicholas Gianakos  
Marie Jordan  
Betty Tomaras  
Paul G. Kuchuris Sr.  
Dr. Louis G. Poulos  
Katherine Skoubis  
Pauline Vlangos  
Gus Vlangos  
Harry Psimos  
Fotini Karapas  
Helen Yannias  
George Karrison  
Robert Wiciak  
James Messerges  
Dr. Christos Patsavos*

## Funerals

*Kleomenis Adamopoulos  
George Karrison*

## Philoptohos needs YOU to fulfill its mission

Philoptohos membership is ongoing throughout the year. You can support Philoptohos either as an active member or as a supportive member. For those too busy to attend a monthly meeting, membership fair share is also a meaningful way to participate.

Philoptohos accomplishes its philanthropic mission with love and dedication. Seventy years ago Philoptohos was established by the late Patriarch Athenogoras. While serving as Archbishop of our church, he stated that women were being asked to undertake an awesome task as the philanthropic arm of the church. The primary function is to offer assistance to those in need. Holy Apostles Philoptohos serves both the church and the outside community. Help us to help others by becoming a Philoptohos member of the largest Christian women's philanthropic organization in America!

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

Address Service Requested

NONPROFIT ORG.

U.S. POSTAGE

**PAID**

MAYWOOD, IL.  
PERMIT NO. 157

Postmaster: Please deliver by 3rd of month.