

MOSAIC

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

Vol. 8, No. 1

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

April 2003

(708) 562-2744

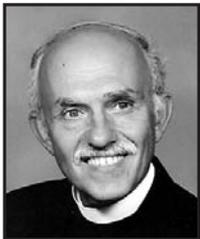
www.holyapostleschurch.com

The screenshot shows the 'ONLINE CHAPEL' section of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America website. At the top, there is a navigation menu with links for HOME, NEWS AND EVENTS, ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA, ARCHBISHOP DEMETRIOS, PARISH DIRECTORY, ONLINE CHAPEL, OUR FAITH, MINISTRY OUTREACH, MULTIMEDIA PROGRAMS, and MINISTRY RESOURCES. Below the navigation is a header for 'GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA'. The main content area is divided into three columns. The left column, titled 'SAINTS and FEASTS', features a section for 'Sunday Of Orthodoxy' with text about Holy Martyr Sabinas the Egyptian and Our Righteous Father Christodulus. Below this is 'TODAY'S READINGS' with an Epistle from St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews and a Gospel from John 1:43-51. The middle column, titled 'ONLINE CHAPEL', features a large icon of the Virgin Mary and Child Jesus, with smaller icons of the Holy Trinity and the Holy Spirit. Below the icon are four buttons: 'VIRTUAL REALITY', 'VIDEO', 'LEARN TO CHANT', and 'LITURGICAL TEXTS'. The right column, titled 'COMPLINE PRAYER', contains a prayer text, a 'REFLECTION' section by Fr. Andrew Demotzes, 'LIVE BROADCASTS', and an 'ORTHODOX CALENDAR' section with a 'MONTHLY CALENDAR OF SAINTS and FEASTS' and a 'SUBMIT YEAR' button.

Surf to Church, Online !!!

The Online Chapel is the heart and soul of the new Archdiocesan website www.goarch.org/en/chapel. Anyone can visit this site daily for spiritual nourishment. It is divided into several sections, which are gathered from the Orthodox faith and life. Included are: Saints and Feasts, Today's Readings, Daily Cycle of Prayers and Praises, Reflection, Live Broadcasts, Orthodox Calendar, Easter Calculator, Liturgical Videos, Learn to Chant, and Liturgical Texts.

The Online Chapel is not a substitute for participating in the eucharistic and liturgical life of the Church. Rather, it is intended to help sustain this experience on a daily basis.



From Father Bill... Snapshots from His last week

Recently, Presvetera suggested that we undertake a massive task... emptying our attic. Keep in mind we have lived in our present house since 1963. Can you imagine the collection of mostly useless items?

Probably the most exciting aspect of this journey into the past was the discovery of our children's toys and seeing all those old photographs. Up until that moment in the attic, I thought I hadn't changed much over the years. Boy, what a rude awakening.

It was good to see snapshots of all our friends, and I realized how many have gone to

be with the Lord and how grateful I am for those who remain with us.

Friends rub off on you. Stick around them long enough and their likes and dislikes, perspectives, and priorities influence your own. Depending on the quality of your friends, this is a good thing.

During the weeks of the Great and Holy Lent, we think of Jesus' last days before the Cross, and we remember His agony. However, tucked away in the Passion Week are also snapshots of Jesus with His dearest friends. He loved these people, and they loved Him back. He leaned hard on them for support during His last days.

Just six days before Passover, Jesus' best

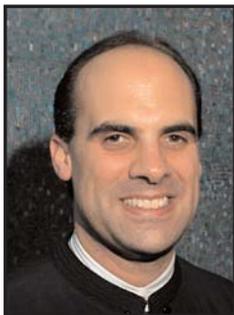
friends Mary, Martha, and Lazarus, threw a dinner in His honor. In usual fashion, Martha worked and Lazarus played host. Only Mary realized this was His going away party and believed that He was going to die. While others lived in denial, Mary did what only a friend could do. She grieved.

Taking fragrant burial oil worth a full year's salary, she lavished it on Jesus' feet. Her sacrifice seemed small in light of what she knew He was about to do for her. She would not always have Him there, so she did all she could for Him at that difficult time.

Days later, Jesus would be stripped of everything except for the fragrance of Mary's

...See Fr. Bill on P.3

From Father Nicholas



Lenten Half Time

Did you see the Super Bowl? The actual football game was not much of a match, as the Tampa Buccaneers walked all over the Oakland Raiders and beat them 48-21.

Although the game was a bit lop-sided, the half-time show was exciting. As the entertainers were performing, both teams were probably resting and reviewing the first half. What did we do right? What mistakes did we make? How can we correct the mistakes in the second half? Most importantly, how can we finish and win the game?

We can ask ourselves the same question: How can we successfully complete our Lenten journey? Halfway through Lent, the Church offers us a Lenten half-time. The Veneration of the Cross is celebrated on the Third Sunday of Lent. Following the Divine Liturgy, we proceed around the church with the decorated Holy Cross. We are reminded of Christ's Crucifixion that will take place in a few weeks. The Cross reminds and encourages us to take up our own cross in our daily lives. The Gospel of St. Mark reminds us that "if any man would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me." We must be 'co-crucified' with Christ so that we can share in His glory when He is resurrected. Sharing in His glory will bring the Lord's beauty, power and the peace and joy of His Kingdom to our lives.

How can we be crucified with Christ? Denying ourselves is the first step. This means giving up bad habits, not cherishing bad thoughts and desires, suppressing evil thoughts and avoiding occasions of sin. It is really allowing God to control our actions. Taking up our cross is the second step; in other words, dealing with the difficulties of life with patience, faith and acceptance of our circumstances without complaint. Despite unpleasant, sad, difficult or oppressive events in life, we must try to bear them with love, joy, courage and strength. To take up our cross is to review our 'interior' crosses, examining ourselves and our lives with a repentant heart. The Synaxarion that is read during the Orthros reminds us: "Through the forty-day Fast, we too are in a way crucified, dying to the passions."

All of this may seem overwhelming. At this point in Lent (if we are seriously and consistently fasting and praying), we begin to feel the



Gavel to Gavel



BY PETER POTERES... Parish Council Secretary

Regular Parish Council meeting Thursday, February 20

Present: Fr. Nicholas, George Alex, Don Alexander, John Anos, George Aravosis, James Banakis, George Chechopoulos, Terry Chiganos, Nick Kirkeles, George Mannos Jr., Peter Poteres, Steve Savas, Peter Tomaras, Chris Zurales

Absent: Sandy Fiascone, Jim Fotopoulos, Dennis Poulos

Meditation

✦ Fr. Nicholas spoke about Tracy Bailey, who recently reviewed his life story while accepting a science achievement award. As a youth, Tracy was sentenced to five years in prison. During the sentencing, he held his head high in defiance of the indignity. In prison, Tracy turned to God, joined a prison Bible study, and began college courses. Tracy's humility grew with his faith in God. When his incarceration ended, he began teaching. The story reminds us that humility is not a sign of weakness, and that strong people should not just be admired for their accomplishments but also for humility. Humility is the challenge for us all as we move towards Lent. For without humility, it is impossible for us to become close to Our Lord.

Finance

✦ Nick Kirkeles reviewed the accountant's report. Income from tray collections and candles was down from previous years. Credit card expense usage charges were reviewed.

Stewardship

✦ As of January 31, the church has received 467 pledges totaling \$356,338 for an average pledge of \$763.04. Unpaid stewardship balances for 2002 show that the amount pledged and paid is down from previous years.

Correspondence

✦ Peter Poteres read a thank you letter from Perry Hamalis.
✦ A donation was requested from St. John

physical and spiritual effects. To endure this fatigue, we need help and encouragement. The good news is we begin to see the end of our pilgrimage. The Gospel of Mark tells us "The Son of Man will be delivered into the hands of men and they will kill Him, and when He is killed, after three days he will rise

the Baptist Church in Myrtle Beach, SC. Peter Poteres made a motion to make a \$100 donation. Motion not seconded.

Building and Grounds

✦ George Alex reported that a new telephone system is needed for the church since we are presently renting a system. Four comparative bids were reviewed, and the bidding process will be completed by March 1. George moved that the Council approve up to \$7,000 for a new system. The motion was carried with one abstention.

Ways and Means

✦ George Aravosis reported that the committee met and responsibilities were assigned.

Old Business

✦ Don Alexander recommended that we amend the September 2002 cemetery plot proposal for 50 plots at \$1,050 each to 100 plots for \$1,000 each. Fiscal options for down payments were discussed. Don will review the options with the cemetery, and report back to the Council.

✦ Fliers were distributed concerning a preschool program. John Anos moved that a feasibility study be conducted. Motion passed.

New Business

✦ Council members briefly discussed 2003 salaries, health insurance, and volunteers.

✦ As George Aravosis has formal training in long-term financial planning, he will investigate the possibility of a long-range gifting committee.

✦ Steve Savas brought up the issue of how noisy the long east/west hallway becomes during Communion lineup. We were reminded that the usher at post #1 should monitor the doorway before communion.

✦ George Chechopoulos solicited support for the St. Spyridon Mission to Mexico. Nick Kirkeles moved to donate \$100. The motion passed.

again." If we are united to Christ, we too will be victorious in our Lenten journey. We realize that we cannot take up our own cross and follow Christ unless we have the Lord's Cross which He took up to save us. On the third Sunday of Lent, the Life-Giving Cross

...see Fr. Nicholas on P. 3

Dinner Dance fun for Greek School families

Over 270 people gathered on February 16 at the Diplomat West for the Greek School Apokriatiko dinner dance. The highlight of the evening was a performance by the Olympian Dance Troupe. The evening was a tremendous success. Many thanks go to chairperson Mary Syregelas, and her hard working committee.

The not-quite-ready-for-The Olympian Dance Troupe-performers, aka Peter Dimas, Andrew Poteres, and Zachary strut their stuff at the dance.



...Fr. Nicholas from P. 2

Veneration of the Cross, Lenten half-time

is presented to us for refreshment and assurance. We are encouraged to keep struggling in our Lenten journey...the end is in sight. The Orthros tells us that the Lord is "sending His scepter, the royal symbol-the Life-Giving Cross -and it fills us with joy and makes us ready to meet" the Lord Himself who is about to show us His victory over death. The emphasis changes from our repentance and effort to what the Lord did for us and for our salvation. By utilizing the first part of Lent to purify ourselves, we can begin to contemplate and comprehend the mystery of the Cross and Christ's Resurrection.

Just as the football players rest and review the game during half time, we can utilize the Veneration of the Cross to rest and be assured that victory is in sight. The Third Sunday of Lent can be used to review our lives and to reflect on the first half of Lent. We are reminded to keep struggling, fasting and praying. If we get knocked down, stand up again. Although we may be struggling now, we know of Christ's (and ultimately our) victorious outcome. We can look forward to celebrating the Lord's Resurrection and the singing of Christ's "trampling down death by death and bestowing life on those in the tombs."

Priest finds enlightenment in West Virginia during Adventure Theater's new play

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

Make your reservations now for the Adventure Theater's Easter play, *Valley of the BC Christians*.

On Sunday, April 13, immediately following Divine Liturgy, the Adventure Theater will present its Easter play in the multi-purpose room, preceded by a delicious Lenten luncheon. We will be taking reservations (donation \$6.00) on Sunday, April 6 in the multi-purpose room following Divine Liturgy. You may also make your reservations by calling Mr. D. at 708- 562-0869, or emailing him at fanari@interaccess.com

Preview: Due to the tragic death of his par-

ents and two siblings, Fr. Menas Alexandrakis has serious doubts about his Christian faith, and as a result, is considering leaving the priesthood. Therefore, his bishop has granted him a month's leave of absence to pray and think things over before making a final decision.

On a stormy night, as Fr. Menas and Kelly, his wife, drive through the mountains of West Virginia, a mysterious light guides them to a town named Christodoros nestled in a small valley and to the safety of a restaurant/motel, and the kindness of Petros Johnson and his daughter. Thus, begins an exciting adventure.

Please come, and we promise an excellent meal and a play that will keep you on the edge of your seat.

...Fr. Bill from p.1

Will Jesus have a prominent place in your Holy Week snapshot album?

friendship, still clinging to Him as He hung on the cross.

Jesus' friendship with Peter probably kept Jesus smiling. He knew what was ahead for his friend. So when Peter denied Him, Jesus prayed. When Peter failed, Jesus forgave. And when Jesus suffered, Peter followed from a distance, but he followed.

Of course, Jesus had many more snapshots in His album from that last Week: His friend John, as he stood with His mother by the side of the Cross; Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus, as they took down His broken body from the cross; and Mary Magdalene, who came so early on the first day to bury His body. Then, there were Peter and John, Jesus' closest friends, who ran at full speed to get to Jesus' empty tomb that first Easter morning.

They came to protect their friend's body, yet they left in awe upon realizing the miracle of His resurrection. John later writes of their experience in the gospel: "Simon Peter therefore also came, following him, and entered the tomb; and he beheld the linen wrappings lying there, and the face-cloth, which had been on His head, not lying with the linen wrappings, but rolled up in a place by itself. They saw and believed." (John 20:6-8)

What is it that is so striking about this album? In my opinion, it is the incredible and undying love with which Jesus' friends responded to Him.. A few weeks later, after Jesus' Ascension, we read in Acts 4:13: "When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus."

So the question I raise is the following: after 40 days of prayer, spiritual reading and fasting, has Jesus' life rubbed off on you? Just as they noticed a difference in Peter and John in the temple, will your friends notice a difference when you've spent time with Jesus?

I for one, am grateful for the experience and journey to the past via those precious snapshots. Most of you know me as one who strongly believes in bite-size truths. They seem to linger longer in our mind. Now, when you attend the daily services of the Great and Holy Week, you will recognize those snapshots taken from Jesus' album and sense the power and renewed strength that come from the joy of Easter.

Kalo Pascha to everyone!

Altar crew works smoothly, thanks to Mike Cotsilis' behind-the-scenes leadership

Forty years ago, Mike Cotsilis was a nine-year-old first-time altar boy. Today, he is known as 'The General,' the 49-year-old man who runs the Holy Apostles altar boy program.

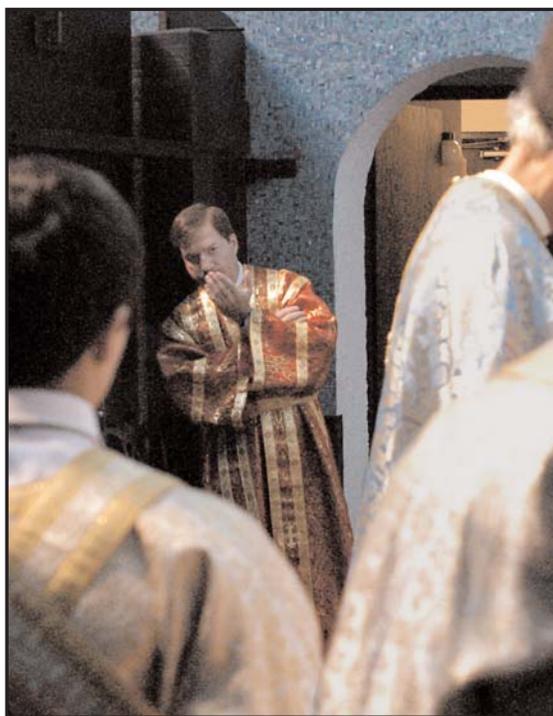
"I guess my continuing love for the Church and my relationship with Father Bill kept me going," said Mike, who has been coordinating the altar boy program for more than 20 years.

"Always in the back of my mind, I wanted to become a priest but never did. This is maybe the next best way to serve the church."

He remembers attending church every Sunday with his mother and father in the early days of Holy Apostles, when Liturgies were held in the gymnasium of Nixon School in Broadview. At the time, he recalled being taken with the ornate and beautiful robes of the priests and altar boys. "I always loved the different colored priest vestments," Mike recalled. From those early days, he has continued serving. Mike estimates that he



After giving the altar boys last minute instructions prior to the Liturgy, Mike Cotsilis shares a light moment with the boys.



Showing a continuous eye for details, Mike signals for an altar boy to hold the hot water for Communion a little higher for Fr. Bill.



A minor adjustment to an altar boy's vestments makes for a perfect look.



Above, Mike more than a few years ago, and today at right.

has missed perhaps 20 Sundays throughout his service as an altar boy.

Over the years, he has participated in three Patriarchal Liturgies--two on Navy Pier and one in Grant Park--and has groomed a group of altar boys that routinely receives high praise from Metropolitan Iakovos. After a visit to Holy Apostles, the Metropolitan always makes a point to thank the altar boys and

has said they are among the best in the U.S.

Mike estimates that he has trained perhaps 100 altar boys over the years. And, while qualifications to become an altar boy have eased somewhat, it is a job that still requires a boy to memorize and recite the creed in front of Father Bill or Father Nicholas. Altar boys must be at least 9 years old and agree to attend Sunday

...See Mike on P.5



Quilters and egg wrappers needed for upcoming Philoptohos events.

BY CYNTHIA STATHOPOULOS

On Saturday April 5, from 9:30am to 4:00pm, Ss. Peter and Paul Church in Glenview will host the annual Quilt-A-Thon, the Metropolitan's Task Force Lenten Project for our Philoptohos Diocese. Help is needed to make quilts that will be distributed to area hospitals and social agencies. Knowledge of sewing is not necessary; you only need to bring a pair of scissors. Materials and lunch will be provided.

Wednesday, April 9, Philoptohos will host a buffet-style Lenten dinner in the multipurpose room. Help from those attending is welcome.

... Mike from P.4

Altar boys form friendships that last for years

school every other Sunday. In addition, they are required to arrive 20 minutes before Liturgy--sometimes to receive additional religious education or simply to take the necessary time to organize their work. "I think it's great discipline for the children," Mike said. "It's a great breed of boys who are called and who want to serve God."

Many of those boys develop strong relationships with their fellow altar boys. Brothers and cousins serve with each other. Close friendships are formed. Some become in-laws and godfathers. The sons of former altar boys serve as well. In fact, Mike's two sons, Nicholas and Christopher, are altar boys, as is Father Bill's grandson, Lee Stefanos. Both of Father Bill's sons, Philip and Bill, have also served.

Mike demands reverence for the altar but the boys also enjoy themselves, sometimes a little mischievously. The veteran altar boys often tell the newest ones to get a soda from a vending machine located in the back of one of the wardrobe closets. When the boys venture deep into the closet, they not only find that no machine exists but that they have been locked inside. The boys have also been known to play a little floor hockey and garbage can basketball during slow periods.

It is perhaps that mix of love for serving God and camaraderie that inspire the altar boys to continue serving for many years. They've attended sporting events together, and Mike has held two reunions. He's hoping to



Stacy Savas and Mary Syregelas, part of the *This Light of Mine* committee are shown making Easter Candles for godchildren. The candles will be sold starting two weeks before Easter. If you have a creative interest, and would like to participate, please call Ann Lampros at (630) 887-1641.

A group of volunteers is needed to wrap the red Easter eggs in tulle and red ribbon, which have been brought in by parishioners. The eggs are wrapped with white tulle and red ribbon to be distributed at the Anastasi and

Agape Services. The wrapping session will follow the Royal Hours Service on Good Friday morning.

Philoptohos extends a heartfelt Kali Anastasi and Happy Easter to everyone.

organize another one this summer.

Mike said, "I'll probably be here for another 20 years. Father Bill and I kid each other

that we have a contract. One can't leave without the other."

Escape plan needed for the church

BY GEORGE J. DEMETRALIS

A recent fire in a Rhode Island nightclub and a stampede in a Chicago nightclub, resulting in a combined death toll of over 100 people, should make us stop, think, and plan. May I make the following suggestions:

When in a restaurant, theater, department store, or other public building or gathering place, make careful note of the exits' locations and agree on an outside meeting place in case your group gets separated in an evacuation.

Parish Council members of this church and for that matter, every church, should make an evacuation plan for the sanctuary in the event of a fire, explosion, or approaching tornado.

For years now, I've made plans for getting my students safely outside the building in case of a fire, or into the basement in the event of a tornado warning. In light of the recent nightclub tragedies and terrorist alerts, we must make plans and even hold drills, in case the 'what if' or 'unlikely event' becomes reality.

Field trip to highlight this year's Vacation Church School

Journeys for Jesus is the theme of this year's Vacation Church School. The dates will be June 9-13 from 9am to 11:30am. We will be studying St. Paul, his dramatic conversion, and the various cities and the epistles which he wrote to them. This year, VCS will be taking a field trip to demonstrate our travel on behalf of spreading the word of Jesus Christ. Since some school districts aren't being dismissed until June 10, some of our staff will

not be able to teach.

If you are interested in participating in this worthwhile and spiritually uplifting week, please call Elaine Regopoulos (847) 991-0711, Patty McKay (630) 789-1707 or Presvytera Michelle (630) 428-1525.

Registration dates will be April 6, 13, and May 4. The fee is \$15. This year's grade levels will include 3 year olds, through 5 grade. Please call if you have any questions.

Youth News at Holy Apostles

Oratorical Festival

The St. John Chrysostom Oratorical and Arts Festival will take place at Holy Apostles on Sunday, April 6. The Diocesan Festival will be on Saturday, May 3 at St. George in Rock Island.

This year's theme is derived from the Greek words *orthos* (correct) and *praxis* (acts). *Orthopraxis* refers to the way that Orthodox Christians should act to carry out our faith. It is not an end in itself, but a means to help us obtain salvation.

The fourth, fifth and sixth grades compete at the parish level. Seventh grade through high school compete at the parish, diocesan and national levels.

The Festival offers young people the opportunity for spiritual growth, fellowship and fun. Join in spreading the light of our Orthodox faith to all who will listen, by speaking, writing or painting an icon.

Youth Sunday

As part of the Diocese Youth Sunday celebration on May 18, Holy Apostles is observing *Youth Proclaim Christ*. The youth of our parish will be readers, ushers, assistant Sunday School teachers, and will sing with the Choir. The Way will host the coffee hour on that Sunday.

Fanari Camp

Fanari Camp is offering two one-week sessions. The first session will be June 15-21 and the second will be June 22-28. All interested 6th through 11th graders can pick up applications in the church office, and submit them as soon as possible. The registration deadline is May 15.

Junior Olympics

This year's Junior Olympics competition is fast approaching. The Olympics is for all the Orthodox youth in the Chicago Diocese, and offers many competitive track and field events, as well as swimming and tennis. Held annually on Memorial Day Weekend (May 23-25) at Ss. Constantine and Helen church in Palos Hills, it is a wonderful way to participate in sporting events while getting to know and build friendships with other Orthodox children. Please consider representing our Holy Apostles community. Coordinators are Elouise Koumelis and Connie Antoniou. For questions, contact Father Nicholas or the coordinators.

Ionian Village

The Ionian Village program offers a unique experience to see Greece from an Orthodox perspective. Staff and campers return to their homes with strengthened faith and a greater appreciation for the Church and the Greek culture and heritage. The Summer Travel Camp (7-9 grades) will be offered June 30-July 17. A Byzantine Venture (10-12 grades) will be July 23-Aug 9. Spiritual Odyssey (ages 19-30) will be July 13-July 29. For information, call (646) 519-6190 or visit the website at www.ionianvillage.org.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		12:00pm Sixth Hour 4:30pm Greek School	1:00pm Adult Christian Fellowship And Study Group 6:00pm Presanctified Liturgy	12:00pm Sixth Hour 4:30pm Greek School	4:30pm Adventure Theater 7:00pm 4th Salutations 8:00pm Choir Rehearsal	5:00pm Great Vespers
		1	2	3	4	5
8:00am Orthros 9:15am Awaken To God 9:30am Divine Liturgy Coffee Hour	4:30pm Adventure Theater 6:30pm Compline Service	9:45am TOTS Program 12:00pm Sixth Hour 4:30pm Greek School 7:30pm GOYA Meeting	1:00pm Seniors Social Movie Day 6:00pm Presanctified Liturgy 7:00pm Philoptchos Lenten Dinner	12:00pm Sixth Hour 4:30pm Greek School	4:30pm Adventure Theater 7:00pm 5th Salutations 8:00pm Choir Rehearsal	1:00pm Adventure Theater Dress Rehearsal 5:00pm Great Vespers
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
8:00am Orthros 9:15am Awaken To God 9:30am Divine Liturgy Adventure Theater Luncheon & Presentation	5:15pm The Way 6:30pm Compline Service	12:00pm Sixth Hour 4:30pm Greek School	1:00pm Adult Christian Fellowship And Study Group 6:00pm Presanctified Liturgy 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	12:00pm Sixth Hour 4:30pm Greek School 7:30pm Parish Council Meeting		SATURDAY OF LAZARUS 8:00am Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
PALM SUNDAY 8:00am Orthros 9:15am Awaken To God 9:30am Divine Liturgy Coffee Hour 7:00pm Nymphios Service	HOLY MONDAY 7:00pm Nymphios Service	HOLY TUESDAY 9:45am TOTS Program 7:00pm Nymphios Service 8:30pm Choir Rehearsal	HOLY WEDNESDAY 10:00am Holy Unction 3:30pm Holy Unction 7:00pm Holy Unction	HOLY THURSDAY 6:30am Divine Liturgy 7:00pm Twelve Gospel Readings	HOLY FRIDAY 9:00am Royal Hours 3:00pm Apokathelosis 7:00pm Epitaphios	HOLY SATURDAY 8:00am Divine Liturgy 10:30pm Choir Easter Concert 11:00pm Easter Service 12:00am Resurrection Service 12:15am Divine Liturgy
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
EASTER SUNDAY 11:00am Agape Service 	FEAST DAY OF ST. GEORGE CELEBRATION 8:00am Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy	4:30pm Greek School	<p>THE MOSAIC NEEDS HELP!</p> <p>The Mosaic mailing crew is in dire need of assistance. Would you consider helping out just one day a month for ninety minutes at Church? We also need someone to take the Mosaics to the post office for mailing. Please call Teri and Greg Kafkes at (708) 354-8955 to volunteer.</p>			
27	28	29				

Holy Week Services

April 19 Saturday of Lazarus

On the Saturday of Lazarus (**Orthros 8am, Liturgy 9am**), we commemorate the divine love that brought Lazarus back to life - the same love that Christ offers to each one of us today.

April 20 Palm Sunday

On Palm Sunday (**Orthros 8:00am, Liturgy 9:30am**), we commemorate Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem.

On Palm Sunday evening (**Nymphios Service 7pm**), we commemorate: 1) Christ the Bridegroom by singing *The Hymn of the Bridegroom*, warning us to be prepared for Christ's coming. We behold Christ as the Bridegroom of the Church, bearing the marks of suffering, yet preparing a marriage feast for us in God's Kingdom. 2) The Blessed Joseph who was thrown into a pit and sold into slavery by his brothers, and who later became a powerful ruler. In the same way, Christ was rejected, betrayed and crowned with glory in God's Kingdom. 3) The Barren Fig Tree which Christ cursed and withered because it bore no fruit. The tree is like those who have heard God's word but fail to bear fruit by not obeying it.

April 21 Holy Monday

On Holy Monday evening (**Nymphios Service 7pm**), we commemorate The Parable of the Ten Virgins. The maidens who filled their lamps with oil were prepared to receive the bridegroom. Those with empty lamps were

shut out of the marriage feast. So each of us should light our lives with faith and good works and be ready to receive Christ.

April 22 Holy Tuesday

On Holy Tuesday evening (**Nymphios Service 7pm**), we commemorate The Sinful Woman who anointed Christ in anticipation of His death. Her repentance and love for Christ is the theme of the Hymn of Kassiani.

April 23 Holy Wednesday

The Sacrament of Holy Unction (**10:00am, 3:30pm and 7pm**) is celebrated when we confess our sins and seek to be reconciled by God. The priest anoints us with holy oil so that we may be healed physically and spiritually.

April 24 Holy Thursday

On Holy Thursday morning (**Divine Liturgy 6:30am**), we commemorate: 1) The Washing of the Disciples' Feet - This is an example of Christian humility and love. 2) The Betrayal - Jesus announced that a traitor (Judas Iscariot) was among the twelve. 3) The Last Supper - when Jesus offered Himself as the food for all of us. The bread and wine of this meal became the Body and Blood that gives us eternal life. 4) Christ's Vigil In The Garden - Before Jesus was arrested, He prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane and endured the agony of His impending death. On Holy Thursday evening (**12 Gospel Readings 7pm**), we commemorate The Crucifixion of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ who died to

take away our sins!

April 25 Holy Friday

On Holy Friday morning (**Royal Hours 9am**), we commemorate the story of Christ's passion.

On Holy Friday afternoon (**Apokathelosis 3pm**), we commemorate the un-nailing of the crucified Christ and His burial.

On Holy Friday evening (**Lamentations 7pm**), we commemorate the burial of the Divine Body, and the descent of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to Hades through which He restored our kind from corruption and transplanted it to eternal life.

April 26 Holy Saturday

On Holy Saturday morning (**Divine Liturgy 8am**), we commemorate Christ's descent into hell so that death itself might be destroyed. We also anticipate the Resurrection.

At the Easter (**11pm**) & Resurrection Services (**midnight**), the faithful hear the good news of Christ's triumph over death.

Immediately following, **the Paschal Liturgy 12:15am** invites us to take part in the Feast of the Resurrection and to receive Holy Communion.

April 27 Easter Sunday

At the Agape Service (**11am**), faithful celebrate Christ's gift of new life with each other. The Gospel is proclaimed in several languages.

Memorials

Theodore Theodore
George Adams
Louis Adams
Lambrini Adams
Peter Giannopoulos
Thomas Kafkes
Antigone Kafkes
Pauline Katsulis

George Panos
Efstathia Gogakos
Rosemary Agoranos
Harry Chrisopoulos

Mosaic Deadline

The deadline for the May
Mosaic is Monday, April 7.

Funerals

Edna Laciak
Bee Georges
Bessie Economides
Kay Passiales
Elaine Janakas

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