

MOSAIC

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

Vol. 8, No. 6

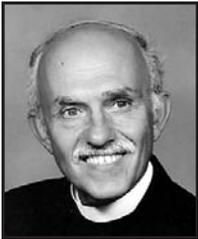
Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church 2501 S. Wolf Rd. Westchester, IL.

October 2003

(708) 562-2744

www.holyapostleschurch.com

From Father Bill...



*Orthodoxy
remains
alive and
vibrant*

Recently the lives of a couple preparing for marriage and a woman who was looking forward to spending her life in eternity with her beloved husband and family members made an impact on me. In both instances, because they lived and experienced Orthodoxy every day, they radiated a spirit of joy and gladness. One must be on the inside to see and feel it. Outsiders are probably color blind to the mysterious aura, which is made up of a multitude of little things, tangible and intangible.

Let me say a word about the couple preparing for holy marriage. I know that Orthodoxy was extremely important for them and their new beginning. They discussed and shared the beauty of the one Faith they believe in. On the day of their marriage, they manifested, in a most meaningful way, their love for Christ. Their personal witness of their love for Christ touched me deeply. They arrived at church in time for the Liturgy, allowing them sufficient time to pray and prepare to receive the Holy Gifts. More than one thousand weddings have been celebrated and recorded in the registry of this church during the 44 years of my active ministry and I confess, I have experienced this phenomenon only twice. Usually the bride and groom are celebrating in their respective homes and concerning themselves with final touches. For this exceptional couple, the beginning of their new lives would be incomplete unless and until they received Jesus Christ in the holy sacrament of Eucharist.

Their love and understanding for Orthodoxy did not end here. Carefully they orchestrated a beautiful wedding day beginning with their walk to the altar. Instead of

Privacy law keeps clergy from hospital visitations

With the advent of the new government privacy regulations, visitations to our parishioners during hospital confinement have become difficult. Hospitals will not advise us when Orthodox patients are admitted for medical care. The ultimate result is that we, the clergy, have lost touch with our flock. We are depending on our church family to assist the clergy so that patients will not be sitting in the hospital wondering when or if the clergy will visit. Please call the church office when a loved one is admitted to a hospital.



the traditional wedding march accompanied by an organ, angelic voices of three young women filled the nave with beautiful traditional hymns to the Theotokos, as the attendants made their way to the altar. Space will not permit me to continue with other details of how Orthodoxy was expressed on that day.

In the second instance, a yiayia, who loved the Lord and the Church, spoke with me from her hospital bed hours before she was carried to a place prepared for her in heaven. She knew the end of her earthly journey was drawing near, but all of her years of living Orthodoxy brought her to a place of peace and a heart ready to meet her Maker.

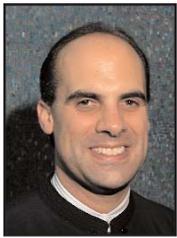
I speak now not of dogmas, nor of profound, weighty arguments in favor of Orthodoxy, but only of the deep love which some Orthodox have for their faith, their Church, their services, their religious practices. In the examples sighted above, it is obvi-

ous that these believing hearts came from an atmosphere of sights, sounds, smells, memories, emotions, and deeds.

It's the sight of crosses atop church structures, the icons of our Lord and the Blessed Virgin on the colorful iconostasion, the sweet odor and fragrant clouds of incense wafting our prayers heavenward, and the hushed awe and reverent kneeling at the moment of the consecration during the Liturgy. It is attending the beautiful services during Lent and Pascha, holding the lighted candle throughout the midnight service. It's being married at a colorful wedding ceremony when the eyes well up with tears while the priest leads the bride and groom around the wedding table. It's bringing your newborn to the church for the first time to present it to God, while the priest offers thanks for the great blessing of its good health; it's bringing it to be baptized, and knowing

...See Fr. Bill on P. 3

From Father Nicholas



Doubting Thomas

Do you remember a time in your childhood, in school or Sunday school, when you questioned a teacher or your parents? Many times a child's comeback to their parent's explanation of something is the question, "But why?" We parents sometimes respond by saying, "Don't be a doubting Thomas." This name is given to people that do not believe what they are told. Is being a doubting Thomas negative?

Recently, I read an article in National Geographic about two Swiss men who set out to be the first to circle the earth in a balloon. Their aircraft was a high-tech masterpiece, complete with solar panels and an airtight capsule for pressurized flights at high altitudes. It would enable them to fly the jet stream at 200 miles an hour. The price: \$1.5 million.

Shortly after liftoff, calamity struck. Although the cabin was sealed tight and pressurized, the pilots suddenly smelled kerosene fumes. They quickly e-mailed the control center: "Kerosene is coming through each pipe on both inside tanks and we cannot tighten them anymore. We are in trouble... Answer quick."

The control tower told them to lower their altitude, open the capsule and hold on until they could reach the coast of Algeria. Fumes overcame the pilots and they were forced to ditch the balloon in the Mediterranean Sea. What was the cause of the kerosene leak? A small clamp had failed. The price of the clamp: \$1.16. Just a small component caused this great, state-of-the-art aircraft to fail.

Doubt can affect us the same way if we are not careful. Our gracious and merciful Lord wants us to be on a triumphant journey with Him. Sometimes we allow small things like doubt or fear to interfere in our relationship with Him. It is easy to have faith in the good times, but in times of uncertainty, disappointment, fear, and pain, doubts start to come. Is God really in control? Is God really good? Does He really love me? Is God ready to take care of me? Does God know what He is doing? Can I trust Him, even with my life? That is when the world starts to whisper in your ear, "You are on your own, God isn't there. Even if He is, He doesn't love you. He couldn't care less about you. You have to take care of yourself in this world. Look out for number one". Then, the doubt starts.

...see Fr. Nicholas on P. 5



Gavel to Gavel



BY PETER POTERES... Parish Council Secretary

Regular Parish Council meeting Thursday, August 21

Present: George Alex, Don Alexander, John Anos, George Aravosis, James Banakis, George Chechopoulos, Terry Chiganos, Sandy Fiascone, Jim Fotopoulos, Nick Kirkeles, George Mannos Jr., Peter Poteres, Dennis Poulos, Steve Savas, Peter Tomaras, and Chris Zurales.

Finance

✦ For the month of July, there was a deficit of \$14,189.46 with a total deficit of \$9,532.31 YTD. Don Alexander noted an issue with a loss in the brokerage account. Don stated he reviewed the account figures for the last year and did not note a loss. Nick Kirkeles will follow-up with the accountant. Don Alexander asked about the credit card expense, which is an expense the church incurs for utilizing credit cards for pledges and book week. George Aravosis asked where the money for the Macaronatha luncheon appears. The amount is stated under missions.

Stewardship

✦ George Mannos Jr. reported that in June, the church was down ~50 pledges from the previous year when a reminder letter was distributed. The church had 46 more pledges in July 03 vs. 02, and the church is now down ~25 pledges YTD vs. 2002. George asked the Council to remind parishioners to pay their pledge. As of July 31, the church has received 841 pledges totaling \$524,067.50 (\$425,319.25 paid for 82%), for an average pledge of \$623.15.

Correspondence

✦ Peter Poteres read a letter from the Metropolitan of Chicago announcing that the 2003 Metropolis Clergy-Laity Assembly will be hosted by The Annunciation Parish in Milwaukee beginning the evening of October 27th through October 29th. A thank you letter was received from the Foundation Orthodox Church in Korea for our \$1,000 donation.

Meditation

✦ Father Bill referred to a parable about a gardener who stated that a plant that is not doing well should be discarded. Another gardener stated: "Let me nourish the plant back to health." Just like the second gardener, we need to nourish our salvation through patience. September 1st is the beginning of the new ecclesiastical calendar year. We all need to get the spade out to dig around and nourish this

new beginning with our church.

Building and Grounds

✦ Peter Tomaras complimented Jim and Greg on the successful renovation of the women's washroom.

✦ Jim Fotopoulos reported that 7 proposals on the boiler replacement have been received to date. The present boiler is over 20 years old and is ~55% efficient. The proposed replacement would be two-750,000 BTU boilers with 4 levels of heating based on outside temperature. One boiler is enough to support the church, but with the 2-boiler system, they will alternate and increase the expected boiler life. The total cost is ~\$46,000, which includes removal of the old system. Jim also received a maintenance proposal for the system. The cost would be \$3,046, which would include the condensers, air-handling units, return fans, pumps, motors, and vents.

✦ George Alex reported that the north and south entryway projects have been sent out to the architect. A contract bid request to patch the holes in the parking lot and seal coat/stripe the North East new lot was discussed. The expected cost is estimated at \$2,000. Don Alexander made a motion to accept the proposal. The motion passed unanimously. A vendor of vigil lights for icons will be in the week of 8/28/03. A meeting has been held with the first contractor for a new folding machine.

Ways and Means

✦ Don Alexander reported that the final net income from the 2003 golf outing is expected to be \$10,460 once all the sponsorships are collected. George Aravosis thanked all the Council members for their hard work. A thank you letter will be sent to all sponsors.

✦ George Aravosis thanked all the Council members for their support at the church picnic. George Alex stated 136 children participated in the activities.

✦ Sandy Fiascone reported that a deposit has been given to Drury Lane in Oak Brook for the 9/11/04 Dinner Dance.

Old Business

✦ Peter Tomaras reminded everyone of their head ushering duties. Contact Peter Poteres for a copy of the ushering duties.

New Business

✦ Peter Tomaras reported that the Hoppes

...see Parish Council on P. 6

Fr. Bill from P. 1

Orthodoxy is a lifestyle, not just a set of beliefs

that with the reception of this first Sacrament, the baby is enfolded in the loving, protecting arms of the Mother Church.

The Orthodox atmosphere is so many things, all of which contribute significantly to the life of a believer. When you put it all together, for a young couple to attend the Liturgy on their wedding day is not a great sacrifice but rather a great joy.

For a woman who has lived her life with the thymiato (censor) in hand as she is offering prayers on Saturday night or baking for special occasions, Orthodoxy becomes a reality. I believe the Holy Spirit is speaking to me and to you through these models of Orthodox living. The Orthodox atmosphere makes it all happen! Orthodoxy is alive and vibrant.



Teacher Joan Berg, seated, welcomes Debbie Clemens and her son Jordan to the kindergarten class on the first day of Sunday School. There are 325 students registered for Sunday School as of September 15.

The HARC CORNER

The Orthodox Church A to Z

By Father George Grube

This book is a wonderful handbook with a myriad of details regarding Orthodoxy. It offers an extensive glossary in addition to a calendar and the Liturgical cycle of the Church with its readings; a synopsis of differences between Orthodoxy and Roman Catholicism; information on the seven Ecumenical Councils; ranking of Saints; meaning and coloration of Icons; the Church's stance on various contemporary moral issues; synopsis of the Gospels and Epistles. This practical handbook is a useful tool in examining beliefs, sacraments, customs, theology, history and prayer for Orthodox Christians.

Softbound, \$17.00

How Do I Choose the Right Partner for Life?

By Father Deacon Stephen Holley

In this comparatively short treatise, several worthy criteria to be considered while searching for your soul mate, or prior to marrying the man/woman of your dreams are discussed. Father Deacon Holley gives scriptural references when examining areas such as respectfulness; taking leave of father and mother and cleaving to your spouse;

never taking from your spouse to satisfy your needs, but putting them first. This is truly a jumping off point to many meaningful areas which should be examined prior to committing oneself to marriage.

Softbound, \$8.00

Reviewed by Elaine Regopoulos

FOR YOUNG READERS

The Life of Saint Nina Equal to the Apostles

by Nina Seco

Illustrated by Ruth Duckworth

A young reader's illustrated story told in rhyme about Saint Nina who loved God when others worshiped idols.

Throughout her spiritual life she brought many to Christ, including royalty. A simple yet appealing story of a beloved saint.

Paperback \$7

Jacob's Gift

by Max Lucado

Illustrated by Robert Hunt

"When you give a gift to one of God's children, you give a gift to God." What is Jacob's special gift? Find out how a carpenter's young apprentice uses his talent. A

beautifully written and illustrated children's book with a surprise ending.

Hardcover \$15

The Hurt

by Teddi Doleski

Illustrated by William Hart McNichols
An enlightening story for children and adults due to its theme - the reality and importance of feelings and the need to express them appropriately. A child saved all his bad feelings and gave them to "The Hurt," an imaginary rock with a face. Find out how "The Hurt" disappears. A simple yet powerful example of how to deal with feelings.

Softbound, \$6.00

Christina Learns the Sacraments

by Maria C. Khoury, Ed.D.

Illustrated by Antonia Marshall
A well-written, practical, and informative story of a child's introduction to the seven sacraments. Beautifully illustrated and easily understood, it helps young readers feel close to God and have a better understanding of the mysteries of the Orthodox faith.

Softbound, \$10.00

Reviewed by Pauline Franks

Parishioner Georgia Vlagos goes on mission to Alaska

BY GEORGIA VLAGOS

This past summer, I was blessed to have been part of a short-term mission team to Kodiak, Alaska, where I spent time teaching and sharing the Orthodox faith with the Alutiik Eskimo. Why Alaska? Alaska was actually the first place in America to receive the fullness of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In fact, Russian missionaries first brought Orthodoxy to Alaska in 1794.

However, when the United States purchased Alaska, the government attempted to 'Americanize' the native Alaskans. Parents were forced to send their children to Protestant boarding schools where they were not allowed to speak their native language nor practice their Orthodox faith (a faith that was central to the lives of many native Alaskans by this time).

Due to past aggressive assimilation policies, misdirected education efforts, and welfare, our Orthodox brothers and sisters in Alaska are struggling. They continually face high unemployment, alcoholism, substance abuse, and suicide. Additionally, there is a shortage of priests in Alaska. While there are 90 Orthodox churches and chapels, there are only 35 priests. This means that many Orthodox in Alaska may see a priest once a month or maybe even once a year.

My team's goal in Kodiak was to provide the teachings of the Orthodox faith to the native Alaskans, as well as offer encouragement to their brothers and sisters. The OCMC short-term team consisted of 13 people. We ranged in age from 25 to 65 and represented the lower 48 quite well including California, New York, Florida, Illinois, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. One member of the team was not even from the USA, but from Uganda.

This was the first OCMC mission team to Kodiak Island and we were blessed to spend time with the people in the villages of Ouzinkie and Port Lions. The people of Ouzinkie and Port Lions are Orthodox but due to a shortage, a priest could only come once a year, until recently, or at most, once a month. These children have never had the option of going to Sunday School or Vacation Church School, something we often take for granted. In working with the children and teenagers, I realized that these kids really do



The OCMC Kodiak Mission Team gathers for a group photo, above. Georgia Vlagos, center below, with two new friends in Ouzinkie, Alaska.



not know much about their faith. To illustrate my point, many kids did not know how to do the sign of the cross, recite the Lord's Prayer, or identify the Virgin Mary in icons.

Although the children's knowledge of Orthodoxy was minimal, the kids had a thirst to learn during Vacation Church School hosted by the team. The kids learned about Orthodoxy through puppet shows, songs, crafts, stories, and icons. They made crosses out of beads, mounted paper icons on rocks, and even put on a skit about the Prodigal Son. In each town, we also set time aside to take the children to their church. Once inside the church, the kids practiced doing the sign of the cross and learned how to properly venerate icons.

At the end of each day, many kids stayed and wanted to spend time with the team whether it was to play basketball, make more icons, or talk to a new friend. It was during this time that I really started to grasp the hardships these kids faced. At the end of the first day in Ouzinkie, on our walk home, one girl shared with me that her 14-year old cousin had committed suicide. I was caught completely off guard, but God helped me in this situation. I'm not an expert on suicide, so I just tried being a friend. I gave her a hug

and let her know that I would pray for her cousin. There were other kids who had family members struggling with alcoholism and some had parents in jail.

In addition to working with the children, members of the team spoke with adults. One session was for mothers and they discussed raising children in the Orthodox faith. The team also brought Orthodox bibles, books, pamphlets, icons, and compact discs that were distributed to the people of Ouzinkie and Port Lions free of charge. Many people could not believe that we were giving out the materials for free.

Right before leaving Port Lions, two adults made some comments that will remain with me. One adult said that she was really encouraged by Vacation Church School, and that now that she knows how Vacation Church School runs, she prays that the Orthodox faithful in Port Lions will host Vacation Church School next year. Another Orthodox woman with tears in her eyes thanked the team for coming to Port Lions and said, "I really needed this... we all needed this." This was the first time an Orthodox group reached out to them.

Clearly, these communities have struggles that cannot be fixed overnight. Praise be to God that both Ouzinkie and Port Lions will have permanent priests starting in September. I pray that our team helped teach the Alutiik about their faith so that they can take full advantage of having a priest on a regular basis. I am praying for our Orthodox brothers and sisters in Alaska and I ask that you keep the people of Ouzinkie and Port Lions in your prayers as well.

A special thanks to the Holy Apostles GOYA for donating all the proceeds from the car wash to this mission and to members of the YAL. It's people like you that make short-term missions possible.

Philoptohos fall events

By CYNTHIA STATHOPOULOS

October General Meeting

A general meeting will be held on October 21st at 7:30pm. Pam Paziotopoulos will be the guest speaker. Pam is an attorney – researcher who is a consultant for protecting women from domestic abuse, and protecting workers from workplace related violence. She has consulted at seminars across thirty-eight states, and has appeared on many national television programs. Pam is a founding member of the Hellenic Orthodox Women’s Services, a group dedicated to assisting victims of domestic violence. The group’s long-term goal is to eventually establish a shelter for Orthodox women. Pam was written up in Today’s Chicago Woman as one of the top 100 women making a difference in Chicago today. Pam’s resume includes working as a State’s Attorney for eleven years and supervisor of the Domestic Violence Division for Cook County. In addition, she was sent to Albania by the Department of Justice to train police chiefs. Please make every effort to attend and hear her inspirational lecture on a problem that affects more people than is imagined.

Make a Difference Day

This year, Philoptohos will celebrate “Make a Difference Day” with a coat drive. Gently used adult and children’s coats, hats, scarves, gloves, boots, and blankets are to be brought to the multi-purpose room the week of October 19th to the 26th. The outerwear will benefit the People’s Resource Center of DuPage, Hellenic Family and Community Services, and PADS, a multi-church effort that supports suburban homeless shelters. The focus of “Make a Difference Day” is a united effort across the USA to help others.

Arts and Crafts and Bake Sale

The annual Arts & Crafts and Bake Sale will be held November 1st and 2nd. The artists and crafters will display and sell their specialty items on Saturday, November 1st only. A delicious lunch will be served on Saturday from 11am to 2pm. The bake sale will offer traditional Greek delicacies both days. Hours of the sale: Saturday from 9am to 3pm; Sunday following Liturgy. Volunteers are needed at the church to help bake baklava, galactobourekos, and dips. Everyone’s help is needed to bring baked goods from home, to sell baked items, and to help with the luncheon. To assist, call Liz Dorner at the church office.

Fr. Nicholas from P. 2

Doubt may result in a stronger faith

St. Thomas, whose feast day is celebrated October 6th, is remembered for doubting that Christ reappeared after He was crucified. The disciples saw the Risen Lord and told Thomas, “We have seen the Lord.” Thomas did not believe them and said, “Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe.” The Lord appeared to Thomas the following week. Thomas then realized He was the risen Lord and exclaimed, “My Lord and My God.” Our Lord does not want to reject anyone who earnestly seeks Him. He came to restore and strengthen us.

Doubt is not sin. We all wrestle with doubt from time to time. Unbelief and doubt are not the same. Unbelief is deliberate denial, disobedience, rebellion and resistance. Doubt is a sincere question. Unbelief is not willing to take the answer. Doubting the resurrection was probably not that uncommon. Dead people rarely get up and live again. So, Thomas had a sincere question.

By questioning the Lord and his own faith, Thomas grew closer to the Lord. The harder we struggle to grow closer to the Lord, the more doubt there is to overcome. Thomas proceeded to make great missionary achieve-

ments. He enthusiastically accepted the challenge to do missionary work on the edge of civilization...in India. He firmly established Christianity in one of the least spiritually fertile lands. Thomas was ultimately martyred for his Christian beliefs and missionary efforts. This apostle who initially doubted Christ’s resurrection, struggled to overcome the doubt and became a great saint of the Church and enthusiastically spread Christianity to remote lands.

Is it negative to be a doubting Thomas? We can try to be more like Thomas, willing to ask the difficult questions and accepting the answers with open hearts and minds. Today we may be struggling with doubt and things that we do not understand. Our faith needs to go through these struggles to bring us closer to the Lord. We should pray and ask the Lord, “I believe, help my unbelief.”

Do you ever wonder where our Sunday flowers come from?

Every Sunday, fresh flowers adorn the altar and the icons of the Virgin Mary and Lord Jesus Christ. Who puts them there? This small gesture becomes an opportunity for parishioners to volunteer and contribute to the beauty and worship at Holy Apostles, in an individual and creative manner. For many years, Katherine Adrian assumed this responsibility EVERY Sunday. God bless her! She has moved to St. Charles and now worships at St. Athanasios. She set a fine example.

For the past six months, a committee of nine women has delivered flowers of their choice from their gardens or merchant of choice (Jewel, Dominicks, Costco, etc.) on Friday to adorn the altar through the weekend. Parishioners living close to the church find this a particularly satisfying way to serve. Commitment to this ministry involves donating five times a year. Those presently fulfilling this need include Maria Lagios, Mary Alex, Antigone Cardaras, Mimi Natsis, Paula Sabbia-Madden, Cindy Clark, Dee Manolis, and Mary Galinski.

Additional volunteers are needed for the upcoming winter months. Interested in serving? Call Maria Lagios at 630-420-8131.

October Registry

Baptisms

Luke, son of
Carolyn & John Kordomenos
Sponsor: James Kordomenos

Theoni, daughter of
Olga & Theodore Verveniotes
Sponsors: Helen & Celia Horemiotes

Terra, daughter of
Detra & John Torres
Sponsor: Rebecca Katsulis

Catherine, daughter of
Kimberly & William Karr
Sponsors: Eyyan & George Maniatis

Anastasia, daughter of
Beth & Adam Gregule
Sponsor: Kristen Kalivas

Andrew, son of
Stacy & James Kuncl
Sponsor: Gina Graziano

Weddings

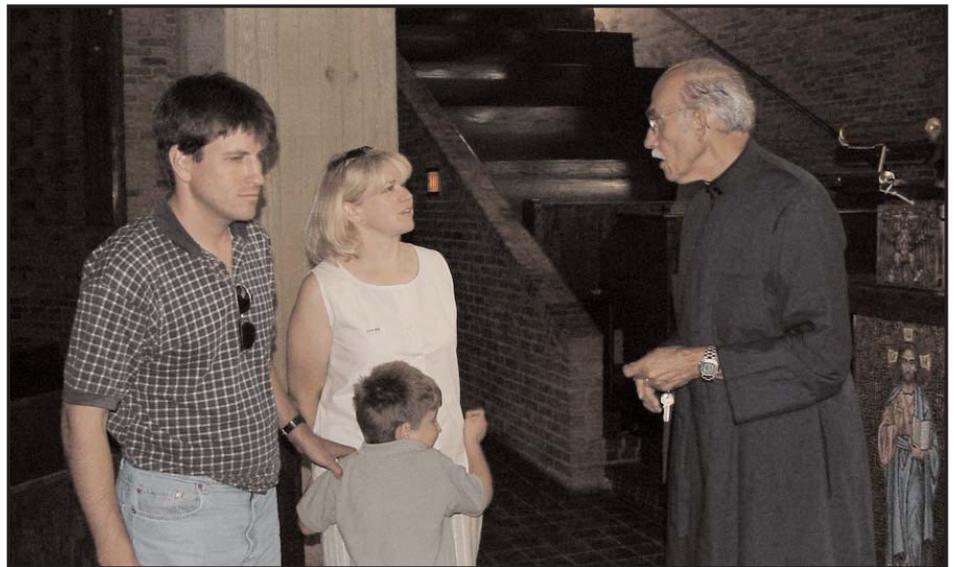
None

Synaxis calendar is a busy one for the fall

- ✦ Saturday, October 25, 9 am – 1 pm
We will attend the seminar at St. George Antiochian Church in Cicero. Fr. John Mack and Fr. Frank Marangos will speak. The topic is “Relationships as Sacrament” given by the Orthodox Christian Synergy. Cost is \$30 per person and includes coffee and lunch. Meet at Holy Apostles Church at 8:30 am to carpool to Cicero.
- ✦ Saturday, November 15
Pot Luck at church. It is the beginning of Advent and Fr. Bill will be speaking. Main course will be provided.
- ✦ Saturday, January 17
Catered dinner at church. Fr. Bill will give a tour of the church with special emphasis on the new icons.
- ✦ Saturday, February 21
Dinner in Greektown
- ✦ Tuesday, March 9
We will provide refreshments for Book Fair
- ✦ Saturday, June 5
Trip to St. John Chrysostom monastery in Kenosha
Watch the Sunday bulletins and future Mosaics for more details. If you have questions regarding Synaxis, call Chris and Cathy Zurales at 630-832-9584.

Parish Council from P. 2

- will be delivering a presentation on Orthodox issues in Albania this Sunday after Liturgy. A motion was made by George Alex to donate \$1,000 to the mission. The motion was passed unanimously.
- ✦ “Come Receive the Light” is a radio program based out of Fort Lauderdale, Florida. The program is an Orthodox Radio Ministry. The subscription is \$1,200. The board will be investigating how the program is administered.
 - ✦ The church received a letter in late July from the Diocese requesting that we consider tendering the remainder of our 2003 pledge in full by 9/1/03. George Alex moved to tender the full amount. The motion passed unanimously.



Orthodox Christian Mission Center, OCMC, missionaries Nathan and Lynette Hoppe and their son Tristan, visit with Fr. Bill during their recent fundraising visit. Nathan is a lay instructor in Tirana, Albania and Lynette is an assistant to Archbishop Anastasios in Tirana. They've served there for more than five years. After a recent Liturgy, Nathan told parishioners about the exciting and incredible accomplishments of Archbishop Anastasios in Albania.

A book I highly recommend for students

BY GEORGE J. DEMETRALIS

I once knew someone who, because of deteriorating vision, learned Braille at the age of 15. The first Braille book his parents bought for him was the Holy Bible.

At that time, this young fellow lived far from an Orthodox church and never attended Sunday School. Nevertheless, beginning at the Gospel of Matthew, he read through the entire New Testament. Although he didn't understand everything, he was able to learn after that first reading that Jesus Christ, born of a virgin, began His mission at the age of 30. He taught, healed the sick, told beautiful parables, and died on a cross and rose from the dead on the third day.

Furthermore, that same Jesus was not only a man, but also God, through Whom the universe and everything in it was created. “Wow,” that teenager thought, “the same One who created the universe loves me so much that He died for me and even knows me by name.

This teenager then read the entire Old Testament. Although he found much of it difficult, he was nevertheless impressed by its beauty. The Ten Commandments were there (Ex. 20:1-17), as well as numerous symbols and prophecies referring to the coming of Jesus Christ and His mission of salvation.

By the age of 17, he had read through the New Testament a second time, uncovering

countless new treasures. After reading Christ's words “...I have come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly” (Jn. 10:10), he was convinced that through Christ, a friendship grew more precious, a rose smelled more beautiful, and love became more genuine and perfect.

By his senior year of high school, this young fellow saw Christianity not as a religion only, but a way of life that could be lived by anyone who desired it, even a high school boy or girl. Far from being a gloomy and boring existence, Christianity was a life of faith, but also required works of love, joy, and compassion. One of the Scripture passages that impressed him the most was Christ's description of His second coming and the final judgment (Mt. 25:31-46).

Therefore, my beloved young students, I urge you to begin reading the Bible without delay. Choose a Bible written in modern English like the New King James Version. Today, you have access to reference books like the Orthodox Study Bible, Bible dictionaries and atlases to help you, and if you have questions, you can always ask your parish priests or Sunday School teachers. That young fellow mentioned in this article had no access to these things. You have no excuse. To paraphrase the immortal words of Todd Beamer, one of the heroes of 9-11, get yourself a Bible and start rolling. Your life depends on it.

Memorials

*Mae Alexis
Olympia Alexis
James Konos
Frances Xinos
Helen Sievers
William Panagakis
Carne Faulkner
John Faulkner
William P. Tselepis Jr.
Eftihia Deimer
Nancy Liguari
Theodore Vantias
Jim Poulos
Peter Lallas
Chris N. Kirkeles
George C. Kopolas*

*Harry C. Kopolas
Mary Kopolas-Paleologos
Michael Pihos
Kay Passiales
John Rustames
Eleftheria Pantellis
John Pantellis
Pauline Athas
George Athas
James Athas
James Carres*

Funerals

*Bertha Balodimas
Helen Karkazis*

Weekday Services

Great Vespers

Every Saturday in October
5:00pm

Correction

The September Mosaic didn't give credit to all the committee members. The Golf Outing Committee, chaired by Don Alexander, consisted of John Anos, George Aravossis, George and Karen Mannos Jr., Peter Poteres, Dennis Poulos. All the Parish Council members helped in some way.

The Mosaic regrets the omission.

Seniors Outing

The next Seniors Social outing is scheduled for Wednesday, October 8. We will meet at the church at 9am and drive to Brodhead, Wisconsin to visit The Garden of the Most Holy Mother of God monastery. Lunch will be served at the monastery.

Save This Date

Holy Apostles 45th anniversary dinner dance will be held Saturday, September 11, 2004 at Drury Lane in Oak Brook. Watch for further announcements.

Mosaic Deadline

The deadline for the November Mosaic is Tuesday, October 7.

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