

MOSAIC

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

Vol. 9, No. 4

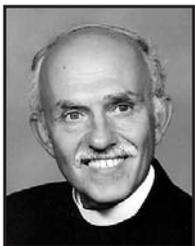
Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church 2501 S. Wolf Rd. Westchester, IL

August 2004

(708) 562-2744

www.holyapostleschurch.com

From Father Bill...



On The Other Hand

On June 10, Presvytera and four of our grandchildren joined our seniors from Holy Apostles on their trip to Drury Lane. What a delightful day. It was Seniors' Day and the theatre was overflowing with grandpas and grandmas with a reserved section for walkers and wheelchairs.

The special attraction was the classic musical *Fiddler on the Roof*, which Presvytera had seen when it appeared on stage in Chicago. The story warmly depicts the life of a Jewish community in Russia in pre-Revolution times.

While generously sprinkled with humor especially as displayed by Tevye, the production's main character, *Fiddler on the Roof* deals with several serious, complicated issues. Foremost among them is the matter of trying to live according to old ways in an increasingly modern world. Again and again his daughters, who constantly remind him that times are changing, test Tevye's faith. His inner struggles are cleverly brought out by in-depth conversations he has with himself, where he takes a firm stand according to what and how he was taught to believe, and he inevitably weakens and wavers. Tradition, as he knows it, must be modified in order to keep peace in his family, and Tevye repeatedly is forced to say, "On the other hand..." A time finally arrives when his third daughter wishes to marry outside her faith that the distraught father must finally dig in his heels and proclaim, "There is no 'other hand'!"

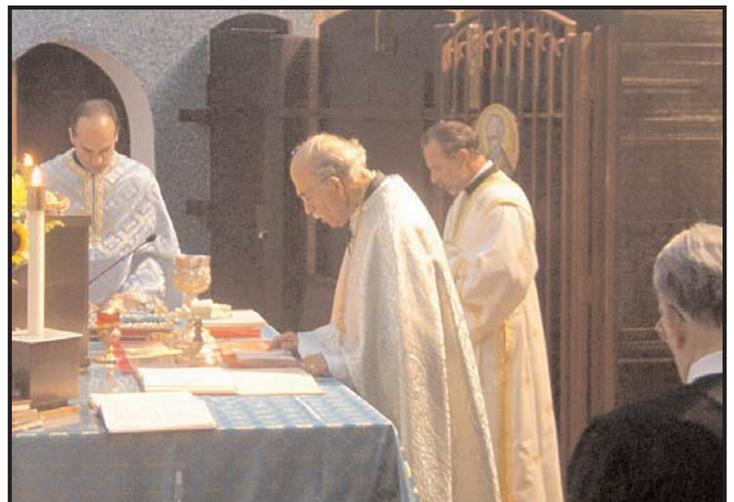
Following the entertaining performance, I began to think of the play and the message it evoked, and realized how easily *Fiddler on the Roof* could have been written about an

...See Fr. Bill on P. 6

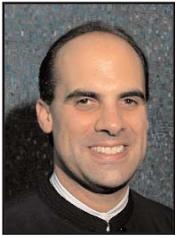


Twelve Holy Apostles remembered on church's feastday

Fr. Nicholas and Fr. Bill display the church's icon, above, and celebrate the Divine Liturgy on the Feastday of the Holy Apostles, right, assisted by Deacon Vasilios Smith from St. Athanasios, and Harry Pappas.



From Father Nicholas



Most Holy Theotokos: A Model For Us All

It is hard to believe that school will be starting in just a few short weeks. Didn't our children just get out of school? Summer is a time of good weather, sports, fun and relaxation. Even though we slow down and take time for vacation in the summer, the Lord and the Church do not. June was a busy time with Fanari Camp, Vacation Church School and our church's Name's Day.

August is another exciting month. The first 14 days we will prepare for the Kimisis or Falling Asleep of the Theotokos, which is celebrated on August 15. The church will pray the Paraklesis to Mary, the Mother of God, throughout this 14-day period. Some of us may not be familiar with this beautiful service. The Paraklesis is a service of supplication to the Theotokos, the bearer of God. Although it is typically prayed in the church, the Paraklesis can be sung in people's homes. In the service, we seek the Lord's help by asking the Theotokos to intercede for us. When I was younger, I wondered, "Why do we ask for the intercessions of the Theotokos, can't we go directly to the Lord?" Maybe some of you are wondering the same thing.

We can look to the Bible for the answer. In the Gospel of Luke, both the Archangel Gabriel and Saint Elizabeth confess to Mary, "Blessed are you among women". Why is she blessed? She conceived, carried, gave birth to and nurtured the very Savior of our souls. The Lord Jesus who occupies the heavenly throne of David and is seated regally at the right hand of God the Father, entered the human race and became our Savior through Mary's womb. Mary is the first Christian, the first person in all of history to receive and accept the Lord. She is called the first of the redeemed. We are all challenged to let the Lord live in our lives as the Theotokos did. Mary shares a very close, intimate relationship with the Lord because she is His mother.

Mary is also blessed because she found favor in the sight of God. The Gospel records, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you." Later the passage reads "Do not be afraid Mary, for you have found favor with God." How do we find favor with God? The Lord notices our acts of prayer and devotion. Mary's purity found favor with the Lord and she was chosen to bear His Son. When we seek the Lord with all of our hearts, we will find Him. When we give the Lord

...See Fr. Nicholas on P. 6



Gavel to Gavel



By **PETER POTERES...** Parish Council Secretary

Parish Council meeting of Thursday, June 24

Present: Fr. Bill, Fr. Nicholas, George Alex, Don Alexander, John Anos, James Banakis, George Chechopoulos, Terry Chiganos, Jim Fotopoulos, George Mannos Jr., Peter Poteres, Dennis Poulos, Steve Savas, and Peter Tomaras.

Finance

✦ Peter Tomaras reviewed the financial statement dated May 31 and new format was discussed. Peter said that the "Renovation-Multi Purpose Room" line item might have partially been allocated in the "Unallocated" line item. A question was raised on the validity of the "Add Prior Yrs Pledge Collections" line item. Peter will review the issue with the accountant. For the month of May, the church had a deficit of \$7,242. Year-to-date, the church is favorable \$77, 374.88. Dennis Poulos moved to approve the financial statement. The motion passed unanimously.

✦ Peter Tomaras noted that four Holy Apostles' checks to Metropolitan Nikitas were not reflected in the May bank balances. The church accountants received copies of the checks after May 31, and June's financial report will reflect the revised balances.

Stewardship

✦ George Mannos Jr. reported that as of May 31, the church has received 785 pledges (up 14 from 2003) totaling \$553,511 (up \$52,543.50 from 2003) for an average pledge of \$705.11 (up \$55.34 per pledge from 2003). Amount paid YTD is \$397,268.48 (up \$36,053.23 from 2003).

Correspondence

✦ Peter Poteres read that the Ascension of Our Lord Greek Orthodox Church Golf Outing will be held August 16, at the Highland Park Country Club. Cost is \$150 per person.

Meditation

✦ Fr. Bill said that it is wonderful to review the growth at this parish. This year we may reach 1,000 members. We all need to reach out to bring people to the church. We all should pray for salvation and it should be paramount in our thoughts. It is time to prepare ourselves for salvation. While we all have problems, we need to embark on the salvation journey. Fr. Bill requested that all Council members be present for the name day services of the church. He said that God has been good to us and to the Holy Apostles parish.

Building And Grounds

✦ Jim Fotopoulos and George Alex reported on the following summer projects: five classrooms need painting. The estimate is \$1,500. George Alex moved to have the rooms painted. The motion passed unanimously.

✦ HARC has requested a computerized inventory system. Software and hardware will be installed internally. Software should include a financial package to track sales and purchases. George Alex moved to purchase the system for a maximum of \$5,000. The motion passed unanimously.

✦ A parking lot expansion diagram was reviewed. The committee does not support the expansion of the east lot which would cost \$150,000 for approximately 25 slots. George Alex presented bids for the removal/replacement and the partial removal/replacement of the north and south parking lots and front drive. The bid the committee supported is for \$80,000 for the partial removal of all areas stated. The budgeted amount for the parking lot in 2004 was \$40,000 for only the north lot. George Mannos Jr. moved to spend up to \$80,000 on the partial removal/replacement of the north and south parking lots and front drive and the motion passed unanimously.

✦ A new commercial coffee machine has been donated to the church.

Ways And Means

✦ Don Alexander reported that all the plans for the church picnic, July 11, are on schedule. Don distributed an update on the July 19 golf outing.

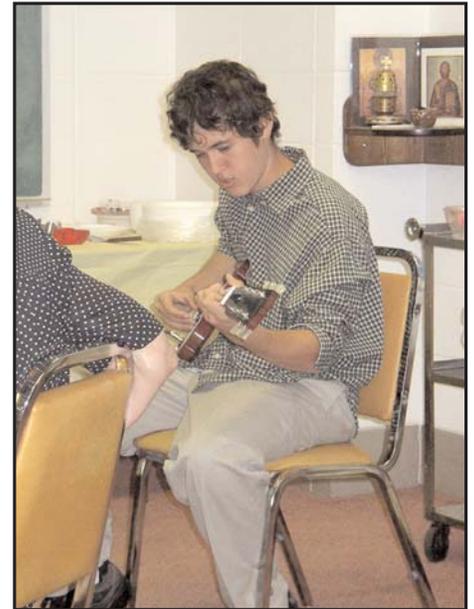
✦ Peter Tomaras reported that the invitation for the 45th Anniversary Dinner Dance has been finalized. The goal is to assemble and distribute the invitations the 3rd week in July.

Old Business

✦ Peter Tomaras met with Greek School principal, Mondo Gouvas, to review the tuition payment status for the school year 2003-04. A letter will be sent out as a reminder to all families who have not completed their tuition payments.

✦ In a month, Fr. Bill, Peter Tomaras, and Peter Poteres will be traveling to the 37th Clergy Laity Conference in New York City to represent Holy Apostles.

Meeting of the generations



Mr. D. celebrates his birthday, which occurred the previous day, at the Meeting of the Generations, left. Above, George Katerinis entertains the group with a couple of selections on his electric guitar.

On Wednesday, June 30, the ninth annual "Meeting of the Generations" took place at Holy Apostles. Boys and girls from the Adventure theater, the Lamplighters, and the Way got together with members of the seniors Bible Study group for refreshments, entertainment, and fellowship. The young people provided the entertainment with George

Katerinis playing a couple of selections on his electric guitar, and Ryan Sarelas and Michael Bitsas each playing a piece on the piano. Briana Kush coordinated the entire event. The remaining time was spent with a lively question and answer exchange between the two generations.

The **HARC** CORNER

Recommended Titles

A Guide to Biblical Sites in Greece and Turkey

by Clyde E. Fant & Mitchell G. Reddish

Here is a detailed guidebook to the most highlighted historical biblical sites written by two well-traveled biblical scholars. The book offers historical facts, scriptural references, maps and illustrations in an easy-to-understand format. A truly fascinating and helpful resource to enhance anyone's spiritual sojourn to this part of the world.

Softbound \$25.00

Confronting & Controlling Thoughts According To The Fathers Of the Philokalia

By Fr. Anthony Coniaris

Father Coniaris offers illustrative quotes from ancient writings on methods to assist the Christian in not falling prey to idle thoughts which can lead to sin. He dissects the process of controlling thoughts with corresponding analogies and prayers to help combat a problem which plagues all of us.

Softbound, \$14.00

Reviewed by Elaine Regopoulos

August Registry

August Baptisms

Ioanna Maria, daughter of
Becky & Dimitri Carrigan
Sponsors: Fr. Gabriel Karambis
& Joanne Kloris

James, son of
Kristine & Stephen Petno
Sponsor: Maria Vouros

Elizabeth, daughter of
Debra & Nicholas Savramis
Sponsor: Denise Mehos

Elise Rose, daughter of
Lisa & Peter Langas
Sponsors: Stella & Joe Athanas

August Wedding

Naomi Weinberg & James Tselepis
Sponsor: Gregory Tselepis

Holy Apostles Junior Olympians capture 28 Medals



Alex Petrus, white shirt in center lane, lines up for the finals of the 11-12 year old fifty meter dash.



Holy Apostles' Joy soccer team is victorious.



Above, Holy Apostles Junior Olympians participate in the opening procession. Below, Nick Christou for winning the gold medal in the 10-K run.

Over the Memorial Day weekend, Holy Apostles Olympians produced positive results, winning a total of 29 medals. Thank you to soccer coach Spero Kinnas and swim coach Harry Petrakos and monetary contributor Sophia Petrakos. This year's Olympians had a great time.

On Friday evening, last year's bronze medal bowling team came within 40 pins of recapturing their medal. Many thanks to Briana and Jason Kush for recruiting new team members Jaclyn Peterson, Sam Failla, and Christina Michalopoulos.

The 10-K run was held immediately after the opening ceremonies on Saturday. National Merit finalist and Jr. Olympics Scholarship finalist Nick Christou won the gold medal for men. Stacy Kafkes won the silver medal for the women. Harry Theodore, Dean Klovens, Dan Cussick, and Michael Stefanos also participated in the 10K.

Six medals were earned in the Track and Field events. Sophia Petrakos won a gold medal in the shot put, and her sister Alexandra Petrakos won a silver medal. Victoria Andros won a silver in the 50 meter dash for (11-12 year olds) and Alex Petrus also made it to the finals. Katherine Rehn was the star of the one-mile run. She ran the 1-mile in the 16-18 age category just under 6 minutes and brought home the gold. After running the 10-K and playing three hours of chess, Nick Christou won the bronze medal in the one-mile run. Tony Achilles joined the track team this year and participated in three events.

Much enthusiasm was shown during the chess

and checkers event with increased participation this year. Peter May won a bronze medal in the checkers event for 8-12 years olds. Stefan Parafink won a bronze medal for chess after 2 1/2 hours of play. Nick Christou, Chris Christou, Ethan Parafink, Diana Rehn, Themio Christy, and Billy Christy put forth great efforts in the chess event and hope to bring home a medal next year.

The Joy soccer division consisted of children between the ages of 7 and 12 years old. The children worked together and were victorious in their first game. Ethan Parafink was an astute goalie blocking all potential goals by the opposing team. Alex Petrus scored the sole point of the game resulting in a 1-0 victory for our team. The children worked as a team, cooperating and rallying around each other. A wonderful mood prevailed as parents and friends watched supportively. Most importantly, friendships among parishioners, young and old developed. "This truly accomplished its goal of unity in our parish children" said coach Spero Kinnas. Coach Kinnas also anticipates more team involvement next year.

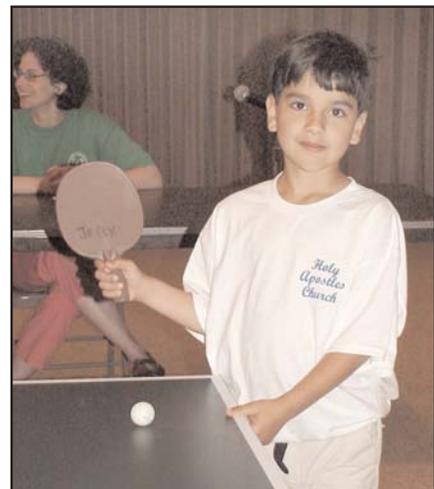
On Sunday, the 12 member swim team under the direction of team coach Harry Petrakos and team captain Alexandra Petrakos won a total of 18 medals. The girls relay team won gold medals and boys relay team won a bronze in their event. The girls swim team received gold medals in their two events for the first time. Stephanie McKay and Christa Stathopoulos welcomed Christina Michalopoulos, Arianna Cussick, Alexa Cussick, Alexandra McKay, and 6 year old Danielle

Fattore. Stephanie McKay, Christa Stathopoulos and Alexandra McKay won gold and silver medals in their individual events. Nick Stathopoulos and Michael Fattore helped the boys swim team win a bronze medal in its event. Peter May was new to the team and Michael and Nick Fattore won gold medals in their individual swim events. Many thanks for all the hard work of the participants, coaches, and supporters of this year's Jr. Olympians in making it a success.

by Elouise Kouimelis



victorious in its match at the Junior Olympics.



ians, including a four-legged mascot, get ready
Metropolitan Iakovos congratulates Nick
al in the 10K race and a bronze in the 1 mile run.



Yianni Kinnas competes in the table tennis tournament, above, and Katherine Rehn, left, receives a gold medal from Metropolitan Iakovos for the 1 mile run in the 16-18 year old division.

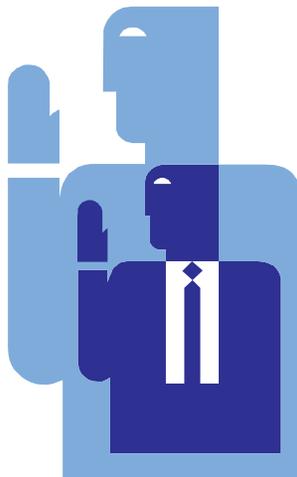
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Kathryn Liston, left, is ready for some serious checkers action.

ADVENTURE THEATER REJUVENATES RADIO DRAMA!

On My Word of Honor,
an original radio play,
will be presented on
Sunday, August 29 in the
multi-purpose room
following Divine Liturgy.
A continental breakfast
will be served and
admission is free.



Fr. Bill from P. 1 **The Church is the connection**

Orthodox Christian community. Tradition is an important word for us as well, and preserving it can be a constant struggle. We tend, however, to overlook a most important point. There is "Tradition" and there is also "tradition" in our Holy Orthodox Church. Although many of our Orthodox friends have matured and grown in their faith, they tend to confuse the two terms. Sadly, these "traditions" are often viewed more passionately than the "Sacred Tradition" of the Church itself. One wonders how many people have left their parish or perhaps even forsaken their Orthodox faith because things were no longer being done the way they were brought up to do them in their church.

Some families confuse the traditions and customs. Often we encounter mixed marriages in the Church today. When an Orthodox person marries outside our Church, he desires to know if it is true that he or she cannot receive Holy Communion for six years in the Orthodox Church. I haven't a clue as to where this information was received. Some attempt to argue that laws pertaining to mixed marriages were written centuries ago and therefore are obsolete and have no relevance in today's society. Perhaps such thinking is predicated on "traditions" with a small "t" which is different from Sacred Tradition when we speak about truth proclaimed in Scriptures and by our Lord Himself. Discussing matters

pertaining to marriage is not a tradition. There are the traditions of Greek Orthodoxy with clear and understandable explanations of the meaning behind them. Over time a vast "Holy Tradition" developed. Timothy Ware explains that Tradition "means the books of the Bible; it means the Creed; it means the decrees of the Ecumenical Councils and the writings of the Fathers; it means the Canons, the Service Books, the Holy Icons in fact, the whole system of doctrine, Church government, worship, and art which Orthodoxy has articulated over the ages."

When a priest is asked questions pertaining to matters of customs that have been introduced into the Church, he must exercise care and concern that the answer is Orthodox. These are times when we must dig in our heels and take a stand, for what is true today was true yesterday, and will be true tomorrow as well. This is what we truly mean when we preach a "changeless Christ for a changing world."

I personally have empathy for people facing intermarriage. On the one hand, I understand their pain and frustration. "On the other hand" there is only one truth the church can proclaim. Know the Faith and practice the Faith.

Fr. Nicholas from P. 2

Let the Paraklesis Services bring you closer to the Theotokos

everything we have, our very life, we will be favored by God. The Theotokos gave the Lord everything she had and that is why she is considered the greatest woman that ever lived.

Besides being blessed, the Theotokos is a model and example for all of us. Do you remember the Annunciation when the Archangel explained to Mary that she would bear a Son? He said, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God." Mary had a decision to make. Was she willing to bear the Son of God? Was she willing to disregard the potential trouble she could get in for being an unwed mother? Listen to her answer and the secret to a life of spiritual service: "Behold the maidservant of the Lord. Let it be to me according to your word." Even if we are sincere in our desire to follow the Lord, He will never force us. Like Mary, the Mother of God, we are to choose to obey Him and do His will. Her purity is also an example to us.

So can Mary, the Theotokos and Mother of God, save us? She saved us by bringing the Lord into this world. She is pure and holy and prays for us. Because she shares a unique mother-son relationship with her Son, the Lord, we seek her prayers for us. Hopefully this year you can take advantage of the beautiful Paraklesis service that is offered. The service gives us a wonderful opportunity to ask for the Theotokos to intercede or speak to the Lord on our behalf and helps us to prepare for her feast day on August 15th.

Greek School begins with Agiasmo service

The beautiful and carefree summer is coming to an end. Soon, the joyful days of summer vacation will be just a sweet memory.

If you have not registered your children yet for the coming school year, please do so now at the Church office.

Our Greek school will begin on September 7. The school year will commence with the blessing of the church. On this day, we will have Agiasmo, and would ask all the students and their parents to arrive promptly at 4:30pm.

We look forward to another successful year.

Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church August 2004 2501 S. Wolf Rd. Westchester, Illinois

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

8:00am Orthros 9:15am Awaken To God 9:30am Divine Liturgy Fellowship Hour	1		2	3	4	5	6	7
8:00am Orthros 9:15am Awaken To God 9:30am Divine Liturgy Fellowship Hour	8	7:00pm Paraklesis Service	9	10	11	12	13	14
FALLING ASLEEP OF THE THEOTOKOS 8:00am Orthros 9:15am Awaken To God 9:30am Divine Liturgy Fellowship Hour Adventure Theater BBQ	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
8:00am Orthros 9:15am Awaken To God 9:30am Divine Liturgy Fellowship Hour	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
BEHEADING OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST 8:00am Orthros 9:15am Awaken To God 9:30am Divine Liturgy Fellowship Hour	30	31	Fasting Periods The Church sets aside August 1 through 14 as a period of prayer and fasting. This is for the purpose of invoking Divine help through the Mother of God in cases of personal difficulties or spiritual illness. Also, the Beheading of John the Baptist on August 29, is observed as a strict fast day.					

Memorials

Thomas Kalyvas

Nicholas Anos

Peter Chechopoulos

Mary Chechopoulos

James Chechopoulos

John Bapes

Nick Tzoumas

Demetra Bertzos

Rudolph Dorner

Angela Paleothodoros

Shari Zougras

Gregory Kafkes

Lulu Passias

Mary Theodosis

Diamondo-Mae Kleronomos

Frances Xinos

Bill Bockos

Angelo Magas

Bertha Pavlou

James Konos

Anna Karras

Funeral

Anna Karras

The Lighter Side

As the Priest's sermon dragged on and on a little girl became restless. Finally she leaned over to her mom and whispered, "Mommy, if we give him money now, will he let us go?"

Two boys were walking home from church after hearing a strong preaching on the devil. One said to the other, "What do you think about all this Satan stuff?" The other boy replied, "Well, you know how Santa Claus turned out. It's probably just your dad."

A little boy in church for the first time watched as the ushers passed around the offering plates. When they came near his pew, the boy said loudly, "Don't pay for me, Daddy. I'm under five."

"Do you believe in life after death?" the boss asked one of his employees. "Yes, sir," the new employee replied. "Well, then, that makes everything just fine, the boss went on. "After you left early yesterday to go to your grandmother's funeral, she stopped in to see you!"

A Sunday school class was studying the Ten Commandments. They were ready to discuss the last one. The teacher asked if anyone could tell her what it was. Susie raised her hand, stood tall, and quoted, "Thou shall not take the covers off the neighbor's wife."

Weekday Services

Paraklesis

Note: Times tentative at press time.

Check with the church office.

Tuesday, August 3

Thursday, August 5

Monday, August 9,

Wednesday, August 11

Friday, August 13

All at 7:00pm

Transfiguration Of Our Lord

Friday, August 6

8:00am Orthros

9:00am Divine Liturgy

Mosaic Deadline

The deadline for the September Mosaic is Wednesday, August 4.

Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church
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