

MOSAIC

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

Vol. 9, No. 7

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

December 2004

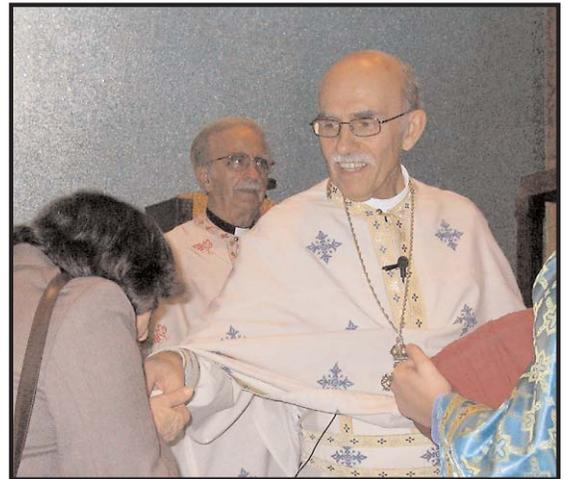
(708) 562-2744

www.holyapostleschurch.com



Welcome back, Father Bill !!!

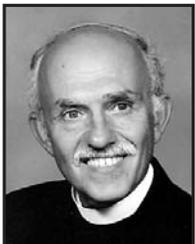
Fr. Treantefeles, Fr. Bill, and Fr. Nicholas offer an Artoclasia for Fr. Bill's health and well being during Fr. Bill's first Liturgy at Holy Apostles following his illness. The parish is very grateful for Fr. Treantefeles' and Fr. Nicholas' dedicated service during Fr. Bill's absence.



Fr. Bill breaks into smiles as he greets parishioners upon his return, and even gets a hug or two along the way.



From Father Bill...



Skipping Christmas

Holiday happenings are just around the corner! When November arrived we knew that the joyous celebrations couldn't be far away. Many who read the December Mosaic anticipate the holidays with great delight.

Families will be drawn together, fulfilling long-awaited pleasures. The sounds of music and the laughter of children's voices will echo in their homes.

Church bells will ring and our choir will fill the nave with the rich traditional sounds of Christmas. The burning embers of a nostalgic fireplace will invite friends and loved ones to linger over small talk. Yes, there is nothing to compare to those memorable days of wonder and celebration for many...but not for all.

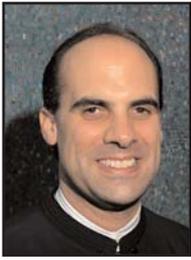
As idyllic as the holidays may be for some, they represent absolutely the toughest time of the year for others. In our Grief Support Group, we attempt to equip the mind and soul

of the bereaved for these difficult moments that must be experienced without the presence of loved ones. The loneliness, the sad memories, the absence of family togetherness, and the nagging longing for all the things many of us hold dear is almost unbearable. It is easy to forget that the very things that bring some people joy and satisfaction create enormous heartaches in the lives of those who hurt.

Someone suggested that it would be less painful if we skipped Christmas. Can you imagine what it would be like without Christmas? We would avoid crowded malls, out-of-control office parties, lopsided Christmas trees, stretched to the limit credit

...See Fr. Bill on P. 6

From Father Nicholas



Do you hear what I hear?

It's hard to believe that Christmas is almost here. This season is a wonderful opportunity for us to spend time with relatives and friends and enjoy each other's company. One of my favorite childhood traditions was gathering around the piano to sing Christmas carols. I played the piano while Mom and Dad, and sometimes my brother and sister, attempted to sing Christmas carols. We did not win any awards for our singing but treasured the opportunity to spend time together and reflect on all the blessings that God had given us. One of the songs I enjoyed singing was, "Do you hear what I hear?" I wonder sometimes if we hear what the people that witnessed the birth of Christ over 2,000 years ago heard?

What did the people hear that Christmas Day? At Christmas, we will read the Evangelist Matthew's joyous Gospel account: "When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. And when they had come into the house, they saw the Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshipped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh." This was a time of great joy. We are reminded of this joy as we sing Christmas carols, hear the church bells and listen to Christmas music that fills the air.

In the midst of these joyous sounds were other sounds...sounds of anguish and grief. A survey was taken a few years ago and asked, "Are you looking forward to Christmas?" Most people said definitely yes. But, far too many said no. They gave a variety of reasons: "Christmas reminds us of things that ought to be, but are not." "Christmas is a time of love, but we feel very unloved." "Christmas is a time of giving, but we don't want to give or cannot afford to give." "Christmas is a family time, but there is anger and hostility within our family circles."

Although Christmas is a time of good will and cheer, some people are at war with themselves and others. This is nothing new. We read in the Bible that after the birth of Christ, King Herod was at war with others. He was very angry that the wise men had not brought Jesus to him. King Herod was so angry that he issued a command to kill all male children (less than 2 years old) who were in Bethlehem and all its districts. When we talk about the sounds of Christmas, we should remember the joy but also the shouts of the soldiers and the cries of boys as they were taken from their



Gavel to Gavel



By PETER POTERES... Parish Council Secretary

Parish Council meeting of Thursday, October 21

Present: Fr. Nicholas Georgiou, Don Alexander, John Anos, George Aravosis, James Banakis, George Chechopoulos, Terry Chiganos, Sandy Fiascone, Jim Fotopoulos, Peter Poteres, Dennis Poulos, Steve Savas, Peter Tomaras, and Chris Zurales.

Finance

✦ Peter Tomaras stated that for the month of September, the church had a deficit of \$20,033.23. Year-to-date the church is favorable \$8,558.31. Don Alexander moved to approve the financial statement for September. The motion passed unanimously.

Stewardship

✦ George Aravosis stated that for September, the church had received 870 pledges (down 42 from 2003) totaling \$588,261 (up \$31,353.50 from 2003) for an average pledge of \$676.17 (up \$65.52 per pledge from 2003). Amount paid YTD was \$510,266.98 (up \$30,776.73 from 2003).

✦ George Aravosis stated that November 21 would be Stewardship Sunday. A discussion was held as to what the 2005 Stewardship fiscal year goal should be. The Council agreed to set the goal at \$635,000, an increase of \$10,000.

Correspondence

✦ Peter Poteres read an invitation to the 11th Annual Pan Orthodox Grand Banquet that will be held on Sunday, May 22, 2005 at the Carlisle in Lombard, IL. A letter from the Hellenic Museum and Cultural Center was read soliciting new memberships.

Meditation

✦ Fr. Nicholas stated that Fr. Bill sent his regards and offers prayers for everyone as he continues to recuperate. Fr. Nicholas also stated that the church is functioning as a team in Fr. Bill's absence. Father read the following from the Epistle of St. Paul, "Faith without works is dead". Faith and works go hand in hand. We serve

the church with our works. Father challenged the Parish Council to look back at what inspired us to become Council members and to get back to that level of faith. Remember that we are here to serve God. Father said that good, organized churches are essential, but we need to keep the faith as well. Faith and works, whether big or small, go together in serving God.

✦ Peter Tomaras acknowledged and thanked Fr. Nicholas for the tremendous job he is doing during Fr. Bill's absence.

Building and Grounds

✦ Jim Fotopoulos reported that some storage rooms have been cleaned and organized. New installations for the Nursery include cabinets and a new sink/faucet. The cross in front of the church was repaired. The flagpole project was completed and completely paid for by parishioner donations.

Ways and Means

✦ Sandy Fiascone reported that the dinner dance was a wonderful success. Thanks to the continued generosity of our community, \$67,935.40 was raised.

President's Report

✦ Peter Tomaras reported that the church phone bill was reduced by \$3,000 annually. A good portion of the savings was from eliminating Yellow Pages advertising in non-supporting communities. Dee Chiganos asked to reduce her work schedule to 3 days from her current 4 days a week. The council approved her request. Liz Dorner will work an additional day.

Old Business

✦ Peter Tomaras will work with Nick Kirkeles and Harris Bank on the interest rate issue.
✦ The General Assembly meeting will be held on November 14. Committee chairpersons were reminded to have a report prepared. Parish Council elections will be held December 12. John Anos and Dennis Poulos have announced that they will not be seeking another term.

mothers. We can remember the wailing of the mothers as their sons were mercilessly taken from them.

These sounds, although not pleasant, are also a part of what God is trying to communicate to us this Christmas season. There is suffering in the world. The Good News is that Jesus, our Lord and Savior, came to bear it with us – always. We call him Emmanuel –

God with us. Anguish is still part of the Christmas scene today. There are many of us that are lonely and grieving, worrying about the future, grieving about the past. Our Lord Jesus comes to a suffering world. He does not guarantee to take away our suffering but to bear it with us. Our God is not beyond the stars, far away in the heavens. Our God came

...See Fr. Nicholas on P. 5

Attendance better than last year, but still not good at this year's Parish General Assembly

This year's annual 'state of Holy Apostles meeting,' formally known as the General Assembly, drew 43 people, which is an increase from last year's attendance of 34 stewards. Yet for a parish that serves almost 900 families, or about 4,000 individuals, and manages an annual budget of nearly \$1 million, the turnout would seem mediocre at best.

The General Assembly is the annual meeting in which the entire parish community is invited to hear a review of the past year's management of Holy Apostles and plans for the next year, as well as long-term proposals. Parishioners can ask questions, lodge complaints, register compliments and in general have the opportunity to voice their views directly to the Parish Council.

Attendance at the meetings has been chronically low. "I don't understand why people wouldn't want to know how their church is operated on a daily basis," Parish Council President Peter Tomaras said at the meeting, held Nov. 14 following the Liturgy. This year's gathering ended in about one hour and seven minutes. "The thing that boggles my mind is we have no debt at church, but we still have close to a \$1 million budget," Peter said. "I would think that somebody at church would say, 'why does it cost so much to operate the church every day?'"

Last year was a particularly robust year for the financial health of Holy Apostles, despite a sluggish economy. Net revenue for the nine months ending September 30 was up \$8,558.31 compared to the same time last year, when expenses outweighed revenue by almost \$53,000. For the first time in our church's history, more than \$600,000 in pledges were made in 2004. Also, the average pledge rose to \$672 from last year's average of \$611.

"All in all, our year to date was, I think, excellent," said Nicholas Kirkeles, Parish Council treasurer.

Spiritual growth, although difficult to measure, continues to be encouraging, said Father Nicholas. He reviewed the many programs, from the TOTs program for toddlers, to senior Bible study, and noted that Sunday school enrollment is at an all time high of 425 students.

Parish leaders outlined several significant



Parish Council President Peter Tomaras thanks and commends Fr. Nicholas for doing a great job during Fr. Bill's absence during the General Assembly.

construction projects completed in 2004, including the paving and re-striping of the parking lot, at a cost of \$85,000; new roofs on the north and south entrances, which cost \$21,000; a \$2,000 remodeling of the nursery; construction of a flagpole for \$2,500 and the leasing of office and postal equipment for about \$5,100 a year.

Projects under consideration for next year include remodeling of the community room,

an effort estimated at \$50,000; refinishing pews for about \$35,000; re-tiling the basement floor in the classroom building for about \$30,000 and installing individual heating and air conditioning units in two rooms in the church, which is expected to cost about \$10,000. As for long-range planning, Peter noted that the Parish Council may undertake a demographic study of the parish in 2005.

The HARC CORNER

Recommended Titles

Mwangi: A Young African Boy's Journey of Faith

By Renee Ritsi

Illustrations by Cameron Thorp

In an African village, young Mwangi longs to attend school but must help at home. When an Orthodox priest arrives in the village, Mwangi's life changes forever. A heartwarming story with large, beautiful illustrations — ages 5 & up.

Softbound, \$18.00

Those Whom God Calls Blessed... The Beatitudes for Everyday Living

By Anthony Coniaris

The basis for the Beatitudes is that through God, something new is about to happen.

Father Coniaris cites a myriad of scriptural

passages with practical applications to our daily lives. Truly a comforting, enlightening assembly of Christian wisdom.

Softbound, \$16.00

Daily Meditations and Prayers for the Christmas Advent Fast & Epiphany

By Presvytera Emily Harakas and Father Anthony Coniaris

This concise, convenient little book has the Epistle and Gospel readings for the day, along with meditations on related topics. There is also a reflection on the Mother of God and a pertinent scripture verse. An excellent guide for preparing for the Birth of our Lord through directed readings and writings.

Softbound 9.00

Reviewed by Elaine Regopoulos and Pauline Franks

Even though they are over there, they are here in spirit

In this holiday season, we need to remember three members of the armed services with ties to Holy Apostles. They are Airman Julia Layton, Army Specialist Joshua Dimitri, and Major Jeffrey Kazaglis, also of the Army. These are their stories.

Julia Layton had taken vacations to Germany and Greece as a young girl but a few months after her 18th birthday, she took a much longer trip. And, this was no vacation.

Julia, daughter of Holy Apostles parishoners Bill and Kathy Layton, enlisted in the

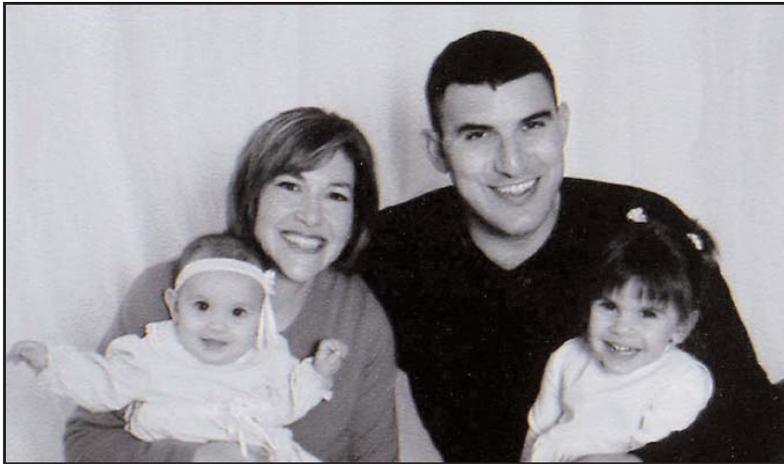
United States Air Force after her graduation from Riverside-Brookfield High School in June, 2003. After completing basic training, she was flown to Japan in December of that year. She has been there ever since, and this holiday season, while many in our parish will be celebrating with their families, Julia will be serving her country at the Yokota U.S. Air Force Base in Fussa, Japan, about a 90 minute drive from Tokyo.



Airman Julia Layton

This holiday season will mark her first Thanksgiving away from home—last year, she came home between her basic training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio and being dispatched to Japan—and her second Christmas away from home. “This year will be really different,” Kathy said. She and Bill also have a son, Carl, a student at Western Illinois University. “It’s quieter It’s kind of empty.”

Although she lives thousands of miles away, Julia remains connected to Holy Apostles, where she participated in Adventure Theater, often acting as director, and GOYA. She receives Father Bill’s sermons on tape and stays in regular contact with Lay Assistant George “Mr. D” Demetralis. In addition, she regularly attends a non-denominational church on the base. Julia graduated with honors from supply management school in basic training, and she is working in the supply department at the base. Her role with the 374 Airlift Wing is to help coordinate the distribution of aircraft supplies to different regions of the globe. “I think she was in kind



Major Jeff Kazaglis shares a happy moment with his family, wife Leah and daughters Chloe Katerina, left, and Alexandra Maria.

of a culture shock when she first got there,” said Kathy, who stays in regular contact with her daughter mostly through e-mails and phone calls. “Now, she’s in good spirits.”

In addition to seeing a lot of movies, buying a used car and traveling off the base a little more frequently, Julia has enrolled in college classes offered over the internet at University of Maryland. She is taking classes in sociology and English.

It’s unclear exactly when Julia will visit home. Air Force officials have told her she will remain in Japan until at least December of next year, which would be slightly over half of her four-year commitment to the Air Force.

Although Kathy and Bill have missed their 19-year-old daughter, they know they have something to be grateful for. “As long as she’s not in the desert,” Kathy said, “I’ll stay calm.”

Major Jeffrey Kazaglis, United States Army, physician and orthopedic surgeon, has received deployment orders for a six month period of service in Iraq. He will serve the medical needs of American soldiers and citizens of Iraq. Dr. Kazaglis is based at Irwin Army Medical Center, Fort Riley, Kansas. He resides in Manhattan, Kansas, with his wife Leah Lagios Kazaglis and two daughters Alexandra Maria (3 1/2 years) and Chloe Katerina (1 1/2 years). He is a graduate of West Point Military Academy, class of 1992, and the Pritzker School of Medicine at the University of Chicago, class of 1996. Following medical school, he served in Wurzburg, Germany for two years, which included deployments to Bosnia and Hungary. Upon his return to the States, he completed his orthopedic surgery residency at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas. Jeff was raised in the Assumption Greek Orthodox community of Oak Park. Leah was raised at Holy Apostles. They are presently members of the Mary Magdalene Antiochian

Orthodox Mission of Manhattan, Kansas.

Army Specialist Joshua Dimitri is currently serving his second tour of duty in Iraq. As a boy, Josh was an enthusiastic member of Adventure Theater and helped his family cook and serve the annual Christmas Communion Breakfast.

The Dimitri family asks that we all please remember Josh and all the service men and women in your prayers. Pray for the families of our fallen service men and women. Please pray for the POWs and their families. Above all please

pray for the safe return home of all our troops and for peace in the world.



Spec. Joshua Dimitri

Editor’s note: If you know of any additional service men or women with ties to Holy Apostles, please submit the information and photo to the Mosaic mailbox in the church office.

Here’s how you can help

The soldiers serving their country in Operation Desert Strike in Iraq are in need of some basic items. Gold Bond powder, foot spray, baby wipes (lots of these), toilet paper, hard candy, gum, snack food, eye drops, Carmex, white socks, toothpaste, razors, playing cards, magazines, deodorant, and soap are some of the items they could use. Please contact your local VFW or American Legion and volunteer.

If you would like to send a package or letter to Julia, or Josh, here are their addresses:

Airman Julia Layton
P.S.C. 78 Box 2947
APO, AP 96326
(email: wildflower162002@yahoo.com)

Specialist Dimitri, Joshua M.
2nd BDE 2 ID
HHC 1st.-503rd. Inf.Regt. Air Assalt
Unit # 15059
APO AE 09381-5059

Editor’s note: At press time, the address in Iraq for Major Kazaglis was not yet available.

God used a total stranger to work a Christmas Miracle in life of parishioner

by *Diana Delaportas*

With this holiday season upon us, and reflecting that it is a time of thanksgiving and the miraculous birth of our Savior, I have a miracle of my own that I would like to share with you. Some time ago you may have read my story in the Mosaic and that I was in need of a kidney transplant.

Since that time I did everything I could to keep healthy by exercising, eating right, being optimistic and most importantly, keeping my faith in God. My three children, family and friends gave me the strength and determination to persevere. Eventually, the time that I hoped would never come, arrived. I had to go on dialysis. That was yet another obstacle that I needed to overcome. I prayed to God for strength and guidance. It was very hard for me to go for that first treatment. It's 3 times a week for 3 hours at a time hooked up to a machine that does the job of a kidney. It removes the toxins and cleanses the blood, leaving you feeling drained. I had my share of difficulty through this time.

My search for a matching donor lasted 3 years. I took every opportunity I could to get the word out that I needed a kidney, of a healthy, Blood Type O person. Finding out that my anti-bodies level was high, the doctors told me it would even be harder to find a close match. After 20 family members and friends got tested, and finding no match, I was getting sicker and scared.

My sister Maria, became friends with a neighbor named Kathie Hiatt. After a period of time she told her friend of my plight in trying to find a suitable donor for a kidney. Kathie took it upon herself to get tested but unfortunately she wasn't a match. Kathie mentioned to her husband Steve, that he should consider getting tested as a potential donor. I know bringing one's self to do so in a situation like that is not only a soul searching

Fr. Nicholas from p. 2

Don't let the dinosaur steal your Christmas

to be with us, suffering with us and hurting with us. This is the message of our Lord's birth. Emmanuel – God with us – always!

I read a story about a family that was putting a Nativity scene in their front yard. All of the children carried out the statues and put them into place. When they were finished, little Johnny brought his favorite toy, an inflatable Tyrannosaurus Rex and placed it behind the Nativity scene. It towered over all of the other statues. Johnny's father said, "Johnny, you have to take that down because dinosaurs don't belong in the Nativity scene." Little Johnny argued with his father.

Reluctantly, they left the dinosaur next to



Diana Delaportas spends some time with Steve Hiatt and his dog after she received one of Steve's kidneys following an unusual non-relative match.

decision but scary for anyone. One day, Steve decided to follow his conscience and heart and decided to get tested, thinking he would never be a match.

The interesting fact is that Steve didn't know his blood type before testing. Then on April 23, 2004, I received a telephone call that changed my life, and that of my children. My prayers had been answered and thank God I received my miracle. My matching donor was found. On July 1, Steve and I went to Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago to have our surgeries done. Our donor/recipient transplant surgeries were successful.

Steve is back to work and doing the things he likes to do like being with his family, and golfing. Steve says, and I quote, "To be able to make such a difference in someone's life has truly been a gift to me!" I am also back to my hectic schedule and living life to its fullest with my three children and loving every minute of

it, as this experience has changed my life forever. I am on anti-rejection medication for life. I go for blood work every week right now as well as close follow-ups with my transplant team, doing everything to keep my new kidney and myself healthy and to prevent rejection.

Every day, I thank God for this miracle of life and for the courage, unselfishness, and love of God's special angel, Steve. I believe in the power of prayer and the faith that my family, friends, and many supporters exhibited over these past several years.

So I ask, do you believe in miracles? I certainly do.

December Registry

Baptisms

Alexander, son of
Michele & John Jackson
Sponsor: Harry Fournier

Amanda, daughter of
Maryanne & Jay Sygnator
Sponsor: Kathy Mirmingos

Christopher, son of
Elizabeth & William Carlin
Sponsor: Gus Rozos

Weddings

None

the Nativity scene. The family stepped back and realized that the dinosaur was much more meaningful than they realized. For each of us, this menacing character (the dinosaur which can be grief and anguish) threatens to rob us of our joy, peace and closeness with God. The birth of our Lord reminds us that God became incarnate to be with us – always! Don't allow dinosaurs to take away the peace and joy that only God can bring.

Do you hear what I hear? I hope that you hear the phrase that ends the song, "A Child, a Child, sleeping in the night, He will bring us goodness and light." He will bring us goodness, peacefulness, and light.



Kristi Athas, left, and Carol Kusulas, center, look over new Christmas cards created by Presvytera Michelle, right, which will be among the gift items featured in HARC this year.

Shop at HARC for special Christmas gifts

With Christmas only days away, the HARC staff has been busy filling the shelves with many new and interesting gift ideas including: books, icons, stockings, advent calendars, unique ornaments, candles, music, Christmas cards, some of which were designed by Presvytera Michelle Georgiou in conjunction with iconographer Jane Fotopoulos, and much more.

Drop in after Liturgy each Sunday or during the week and let the staff help you choose some special gifts.

Welcome Holy Apostles' new maintenance man

Holy Apostles welcomes Bob Mraz as our new custodian. Bob resides in Lombard with his wife and two children. We are excited to have Bob join us. He is already hard at work.

Former custodian Wally Chase decided to pursue other options effective November 15. We wish him well in his new endeavors.



Bob Mraz

Fr. Bill from p. 1 **Make Christ the reason for the season in your life**

cards. We wouldn't have to pretend that we are joyful, or that exchanging presents brings us happiness. Does this mean by leaping over this stressful season, you will actually have a shot at experiencing peace on earth, goodwill to all and maybe even Silent Night?

If one were to judge by attendance at our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Liturgies, it would appear that many have found skipping Christmas is not that difficult. In fact, for many this has become routine. How is it possible to skip Christmas and experience any hope?

I have exhorted parishioners and families alike to put an end to their family tradition of meeting on Christmas Eve to exchange Christmas gifts while ignoring the Christmas Eve worship. On Christmas Day, many remain at home while the Divine Liturgy and Eucharist is being celebrated at church. So regardless of the parties, the merriment, and

going through all the motions of observing Christmas, many, knowingly or unknowingly, end up skipping Christmas and the birth of our Saviour.

Recently, a group of Orthodox priests was returning home from a meeting. It had been a long day, and the heavy traffic in the city they were encountering was a sure sign that, to paraphrase the words of Robert Frost, they still had... miles to go before they slept! Fortunately, the clergymen had an I-PASS, thus shortening their delay at the toll booth. One of the priests wondered aloud, "Do you think there is an I-PASS lane to Heaven?"

The question, though asked facetiously, was really quite profound. If there was an I-PASS lane to heaven, we could live our lives differently. We could indulge in all the pleasures of life, including during the Nativity Season, and using the I-PASS lane, make our way into heaven without any difficulty. This would fit

well in a society constantly seeking shortcuts.

Alter your traditional plans and realize that that we can't skip Christmas and expect smooth sailing on the pathway to heaven. Like it or not, most of us are going to do the mall thing and the Christmas tree thing, the present thing and the decorations thing. In the midst of all this frantic activity, there's a strong chance we're going to be skipping Christmas after all! Are we going to miss the fact that this holiday is really about the moment when the Son of God stepped out of heaven to be with us?

Let's make the right decisions and allocate time for the things of God. After all, it is His birthday. So go ahead: put your Frosty on the roof, and clear a path for Santa. Don't miss the opportunity to focus your attention on the coming of Jesus. If you miss it, you'll be skipping Christmas.

Seasonal Happenings

Prayer Breakfast

Saturday, December 4. Paul Kuchuris, a cancer survivor, will be sharing and discussing the courage, faith and hope that he continues to find in Jesus Christ. Please join us for the Divine Liturgy followed by a delicious breakfast and this interesting, inspiring presentation.

Communion Breakfast

All children and their families are invited to attend the annual Christmas Communion Breakfast on Saturday, December 11. Nine o'clock Liturgy is followed by a pancake breakfast, and a special guest from the North Pole will visit with each child. Families are asked to bring a new unwrapped toy to place under the tree in the narthex. The toys will be sent to the DuPage County Family Shelter Service Holiday Shop, to create a brighter Christmas for children of abused mothers. The Holiday Shop is expecting a significant increase in clients this year. Everyone's gift donation will be greatly appreciated. Thanks to Mary Velisaris who will chair the breakfast. For reservations, please call Maria Kallis at 603/455-1688 or stop by the reservations table following Sunday Liturgy.

Christmas Party

The Philoptohos Christmas Party will be held on Tuesday, December 14 at 7:00pm. Festivities include a light dinner and an optional \$5.00 grab bag gift exchange. Musical entertainment will be provided by the Glenbard South Madrigals. Join us so we can enjoy the spirit of Christmas together.

Metropolitan Open House

Metropolitan Iakovos invites the Orthodox faithful to the Metropolitan's Open House, 40 Burton Place, Chicago, Sunday, December 12, at 5pm, for its annual Christmas Open House, hosted by the Philoptohos Board. Appetizers and sweets will be served to the hundreds of guests in attendance. Come share in the blessings of the holiday season.

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

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

<p>The best things to give: <i>To your friend, your heart. To your child, a good example. To your enemy, forgiveness. To all people, love.</i></p>			1:00pm Adult Christian Fellowship And Study Group 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	4:30pm Greek School	4:30pm Adventure Theater 7:30pm YAL Christmas Party	8:00am Divine Liturgy Prayer Breakfast Following The Liturgy 12:30pm Adventure Theater Till 5pm 4:00pm Altar Boys Meeting 5:00pm Vesper Service
8:00am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy Jr. Choir Christmas Program Adventure Theater Play <i>The Star Of Bethlehem Manor</i> And Luncheon	FEAST DAY OF ST. NICHOLAS 8:00am Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 5:15pm The Way	9:45am TOTS 4:30pm Greek School 6:30pm Sunday School Teachers Meeting 7:30pm GOYA Meeting	1:00pm Seniors Luncheon and Grab Bag 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	4:30pm Greek School		8:00am Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy Philoptohos Communion Breakfast
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
FEAST DAY OF ST. SPYRIDON 8:00am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy Sunday School Christmas Pageant Parish Council Election Fellowship Hour Metropolis Open House	5:15pm The Way	9:45am TOTS Christmas Party 4:30pm Greek School 7:00pm Philoptohos Christmas Party	1:00pm Adult Christian Fellowship And Study Group 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm GOYA Christmas party	4:30pm Greek School 7:30pm Parish Council Meeting		11:00am Adventure Theater Christmas Outing 5:00pm Vesper Service
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
8:00am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy Fellowship Hour Greek School Kalanda NO SUNDAY SCHOOL		NO GREEK SCHOOL 7:00pm Philoptohos General Meeting	7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	NO GREEK SCHOOL	CHRISTMAS EVE 9:00am Royal Hours 6:30pm Christmas Choir Concert 7:00pm Vespereal Liturgy	CHRISTMAS DAY 9:00am Orthros 10:00am Divine Liturgy 
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
8:00am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy Fellowship Hour NO Sunday School	FEAST DAY OF ST. STEPHEN 8:00am Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy	NO GREEK SCHOOL		NO GREEK SCHOOL	NEW YEARS EVE 7:00pm Vespers At St. Basil's	NEW YEAR'S DAY 9:00am Orthros 10:00am Divine Liturgy
26	27	28	29	30	31	1

Weekday Services

Vespers

Saturday, December 4
Saturday December 18
5:00pm

Prayer Breakfast Liturgy

Saturday, December 4
8:00am

Feast Day of St. Nicholas

Monday, December 6
8:00am Orthros
9:00am Divine Liturgy

Communion Breakfast Liturgy

Saturday, December 11
8:00am Orthros
9:00am Divine Liturgy

Christmas Eve

Friday, December 24
9:00am Royal Hours
6:30pm Christmas Choir Concert
7:00pm Vesperal Divine Liturgy

Weekday Services

Christmas Day

Saturday, December 25
9:00am Orthros
10:00am Divine Liturgy

Feast Day of St. Stephen

Monday, December 27
8:00am Orthros
9:00am Divine Liturgy

New Year's Eve

Friday, December 31
7:00pm Vespers
At St. Basil's Church

Greek School News

We appreciate the community's support of our annual Bake Sale. The proceeds will be used to enhance the school program with various activities and/or additional educational materials.

Mark your calendar: December 5 after the Liturgy, the students, along with their parents and teachers, will visit the Greek Rehabilitation and Nursing Home in Wheeling to sing carols for the residents. Parish members are welcome to join us (please make reservations at the office).

To celebrate the joyous and holy days, our students are going to sing the kalanda on December 19 after the Liturgy.

The faculty and students of our Greek School wish you all Merry Christmas and a Happy, Joyous and Prosperous New Year.

Mosaic Deadline

The deadline
for the January Mosaic is
Tuesday, December 7.

A Reminder

November was stewardship month. If you have not received your 2005 pledge card, please pick one up in the church office.

Memorials

*Bessie Demos
Toula Kokonas
George Kapolas
Estelle Kyros
James Peplos
Mary Fotopoulos
Michael Bitsas
Themestoklis Kokos*

*Alexandra Kokos
George Maduros
Bob Vakos
Pauline Toscas
Michael Sfikas
Helen Sfikas
Demitri Vandarakis
Perry Deimer
Marika Boyaris*

*Nick Tzoumas
Margarita Collas
John Collas
Angelo Magas
Dr. Louis G. Poulos
Brian Katsaros*

Funerals

None

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

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