

MOSAIC

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

Vol. 12, No.1

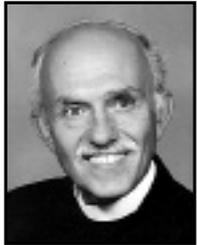
Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church 2501 S. Wolf Rd. Westchester, IL.

April 2007

(708) 562-2744

www.holyapostleschurch.com

From Father Bill...



Same date, different traditions

This is one of those rare years when Christians of the Eastern and Western Churches will celebrate Easter on the same Sunday. For those of us who fan the flames of hope for a reunited Church, Pascha is always an especially happy occasion. We may not all be entering into the mysteries of Christ's death and resurrection as one, but at least this year we are doing it at the same time. The more we venture into either tradition, the more we grasp the inseparability of both traditions of Christ's passion and glorification, His sacrifice and His victory. In the years when both Churches celebrate the great events of Christ's life at the same time, we have the opportunity to glimpse how the Churches differ in their devotions.

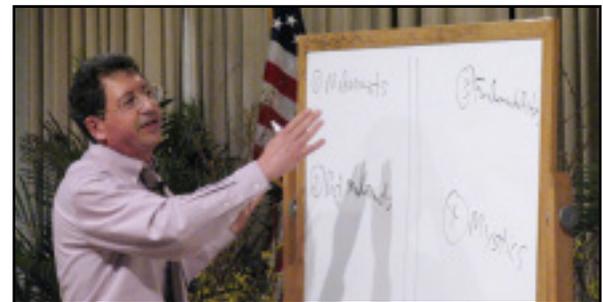
Many ancient and magnificent services take place in the Orthodox Church. These traditions proclaim Jesus' great victory, which transformed the world. The hymnology of our Church proclaims loudly that Easter is the "feast of feasts and the festival of festivals." The celebration of the Resurrection begins at midnight. All of the lights of the church are first extinguished. At that moment of highest drama, all the faithful wait in total darkness. The priest then carries a lighted candle in through the central door of the great icon screen as a symbol of the risen Christ departing from his tomb, and summons the congregation to light their candles from this flame.

I remember, as a child, watching the faithful exiting the church after the midnight Liturgy holding lighted candles. Some attempted to shield the flame from the wind, while carefully entering buses and trolley cars. The motorman and the conductor peered at them and requested that they be extra careful. One family tells the story of being stopped by the police and being asked for an explanation



Challenging talks highlight Book Week

Fr. Frank Marangos, above, contrasted the heroes of the Faith with modern pop culture heroes. Dr. John Klentos, left, discussed using the vernacular for the Liturgy, and Dr. Kyriacos Markides examined Orthodox mysticism.



as to why a lighted candle was being held in the car.

Through the years, the number of Orthodox Christians taking the flame from the unwaning light to their homes has diminished significantly. However, I don't believe the power of the midnight service at Easter has diminished in the least. Every year, at some point, we become lost in the glory of the

Gospel being announced and manifested before our eyes. Herein lies the mystery of the power that compels some individuals, who only worship once a year, to be in church, receive the light and sing Christos Anesti! Christ is Risen!

The Greek word for resurrection is anastasis, which means literally, rise up or stand up.

...see Fr. Bill on P. 5

From Father Nicholas



Investigating Christ's Resurrection

Last month, James Cameron, director of the movie *Titanic*, claimed that he found the tomb of Jesus Christ and his family. He produced a documentary that he said would "rock the foundation of Christianity".

Cameron and filmmaker archeologist Simcha Jacobovici tried to prove that the Talpiot Tomb, which was uncovered 27 years ago, once held the remains of Jesus of Nazareth and His family. The documentary, *The Lost Tomb of Jesus*, was shown on the Discovery Channel a few weeks ago.

Last year *The DaVinci Code* challenged our Christian faith. This year *The Lost Tomb of Christ* is suggesting that Jesus never really rose from the dead. These movies challenge us to investigate and learn more about the Resurrection of Christ. We Christians believe that Jesus Christ was crucified and died. Joseph of Arimathea took the body of Jesus, anointed it with spices, wrapped it in a clean sheet and placed it in a new tomb. The priest proclaims this during every Liturgy immediately following the Great Entrance. Next, the myrrh-bearing women rushed to the tomb early in the morning. The tomb was empty. They saw a vision of angels proclaiming, "Christ is Risen!"

You may be asking yourselves what evidence do we have proving that Jesus really rose from the dead? The Book of Acts, which the Church reads in the days immediately following the Anastasi, contains the earliest evidence of Christ's Resurrection. Luke wrote this book around the year 75 – 85 AD. We find that the Resurrection was the central proclamation of the early church from the beginning. The church did not merely endorse the teachings but was convinced that Christ was seen alive after His crucifixion. This changed the disciples' lives and they started the church. We have four Gospel descriptions of Christ's Resurrection. They are differing accounts of the same event. According to the Scriptures, Jesus appeared four times to all or most of the disciples. The first time he appeared to all except Thomas on the day of His Resurrection (John 20: 19-31). Next, eight days later, he appeared to all of the disciples. The third time He appeared they shared breakfast together (John 21:1-14). Finally, He appeared to His disciples and gave them the Great Commission to "go and make disciples of all nations." (Matthew 28:16-20)



Gavel to Gavel



BY CHRIS ZURALES. Parish Council Secretary

Parish Council meeting of Thursday, February, 15

Financial Report

✦ George T. Mannos Jr. reviewed the financial report and stated that for the month of January, the church has a negative cash flow of (\$38,840.33). The deficit is attributable, in part, to the payment of \$67,193.00 for the tuck-pointing completed in the fall of 2006.

Stewardship

✦ Ted Gregory reported that as of January 31, the church had received 404 pledges (down 41 from 2006) totaling \$399,055.02 (up \$5,879.16 from 2006) for an average pledge of \$987.76 (up \$104.22 from 2006). Amount YTD is \$193,617.52 (up \$8,948.33 from 2006). An additional \$5,308.00 was collected for 2006, leaving a balance of \$15,402. Mara Georges moved to approve the stewardship report. The motion passed unanimously.

Correspondence

- ✦ A note was received from Steve Savas, on behalf of IOCC, thanking the HA parishioners for their generosity to the Souper Bowl Drive.
- ✦ SS Constantine and Helen Church is hosting the Annual Junior Olympics on May 25-27.
- ✦ Father Bill and Father Nicholas received a thank-you note from Bishop Demetrios of Mokissos, for his ordination gift.

Suggestion Box

- ✦ The following suggestions were made: Provide a permanent area for displaying of standardized posters and church event announcements in a conspicuous place in the church or multi-purpose room; Sunday School should be scheduled for a 50 minute session to occur during the Fellowship Hour; close the nursery during the Liturgy; provide step stools in the

washrooms to accommodate children.

Meditation

✦ Father spoke about two days in the coming week: Valentines Day and Forgiveness Sunday. The connection between these two days is love. The Lenten season is our opportunity to express the love of God for one another through mutual forgiveness. Act now. Don't wait for next year. Our challenge as church leaders is to serve our church, our families and our employers with humble love. Loving humility is a strong force that serves to break down walls and barriers.

Building & Grounds

- ✦ George Alex discussed the 1994 -1995 demographic study. He and George Aravosis will conduct a new study. They are formulating a survey questionnaire.
- ✦ Three bids were received for maintaining the floors throughout the church. He recommended Skyline Building Service Co, who will service the multi-purpose room 12 times a year and the clay tile 4 times a year. Cost is \$11,716.00 the first year and \$11, 216.00 the second year. George T. Mannos moved to accept the Skyline bid, with the stipulation that we be allowed a 6-month trial, in order to adjust the service as needed. The motion passed unanimously.
- ✦ Peter Poteres reported that our current pest control company is not providing us with a usage log and maintenance manual required by law. He recommended that we solicit three new bids.
- ✦ Council president Kirkeles reported that Sandy Fiascone and Steve Savas will co-chair a committee for the renovation of the multi-purpose room.

Both Peter and Paul saw Jesus and He appeared to over 500 people. (1 Corinthians 15:6)

Apart from the four Gospel writers, Peter and Paul also proclaim the empty tomb in the Book of Acts. Paul wrote the first letter to the Corinthians around 55 AD. He indicates that he has already delivered the creed proclaiming Christ's resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:1-5), which would predate his visit in 51 AD. Therefore, the creed was being used very early, within 20 years of the Resurrection.

Christian historians also corroborate Christ's resurrection. They say that Christians and Jews knew about Jesus' tomb. If Jesus was

not resurrected and the tomb was not empty, it would be impossible for a movement to be founded on Christ's resurrection. The belief in Christ's Resurrection could not develop in the same city where the man was publicly executed and buried. The Gospels were written fast. Legend could not develop that quickly. Women were the first to discover and proclaim that Christ had risen. In those days, the women's testimony was considered worthless. They were not even allowed to serve as legal witnesses in a Jewish court of law. If Christ's resurrection was a fabricated legend, the people probably would have used males (who

...See Fr. Nicholas on P. 5

The **HARC** CORNER

The Fragrance of God

By Vugen Guroian

Gardeners and non-gardeners will enjoy this gifted storyteller who shares his Paradise rich with plants, stories, beauty, peace, and spirituality. He unfolds the grandeur of God's creation, the senses as 'paths' to experiencing God, and the garden as a place of birth, death, and renewal.

Softcover, \$13.00

Patmos: Isle of the Apocalypse

By Dennis Eugene Engleman

Come explore the island where St.

John was inspired to write the Book of Revelations. Visit the 11th century monastery built on the site of an ancient temple, and enter the very cave in which the Apostle prayed and heard the voice of God. This book interweaves beautiful photographs and verbal descriptions of the island's beauty, history, and people.

Softcover, \$11.00

Growing Faithful Families

By Rebecca Myerly

Growing Faithful Families is written to help families live and grow in our Christian faith. For each week of the liturgical year, the Epistle and Gospel passages are presented, together with five tasks - HEAR the work of God, SHARE thoughts and insights, PRAY together, GROW & SERVE.

Since the family is the "home church," it is vital to create an environment within which the spiritual life of the child unfolds.

Softcover, \$19.00

The Song of Francis and the Animals

By Pat Mora

With lilting verse and playful imagery, award-winning author Pat Mora celebrates the tender relationship between Saint Francis and the animals he loved. This book will encourage readers young and old to join in with the clucks of the chickens, the whirring of the cicadas, and the songs of the nightingale.

Hardbound, \$16.00

Cameras roll for a second time in Adventure Theater's new movie

On Sunday, April 22, the Adventure Theater will present its second venture into cinematography in the multi-purpose room. In April 2005, John Mercouris, who at that time was an eighth grader and a longstanding member of Adventure Theater, sent me an e-mail in which he proposed that the group produce a movie, in addition to its stage and radio performances. Following meetings of the group's directors and advisors during the summer, it was agreed that we shoot for spring, 2006. John's dream was realized last April with the presentation of our first movie.

Now, we invite you to come see the second movie produced by an almost entirely new group of gifted, trustworthy, resourceful, and enthusiastic directors, cameramen, actors, and actresses. It is entitled, *The Escapades of Three Kid Super-Sleuths*.

Reservations for the movie, and a delicious luncheon will be taken following the Divine Liturgy on Palm Sunday, and on Sunday, April 15, in the multi-purpose room. You may also call Mr. D. at 708-562-0869, or email him at fanari@sbcglobal.net

Altar boy is one busy sixth grader

Stephen Berg has been an Altar Boy since the Saturday of Lazarus, 2004. He loves serving the Church and values the friendships he has made in the Altar, in Sunday School and at Fanari Camp. Stephen is an Honor Roll student in the 6th grade at Pleasantdale Middle School. He is listed the 2007 Who's Who Among Outstanding Students in America. He is a member of Boy Scout Troop 216 and enjoys the monthly camping trips with the other boys and his Dad.

Stephen has played the violin for the past 4-1/2 years and is a member of the school orchestra.

He, along with his sister Katie, who plays the cello, were chosen this past fall to be in the Illinois Music Educator Association District 1 Orchestra. He hopes to become a member of the local youth symphony next fall.

This past summer, Stephen was a member of the Illinois and Indiana delegation of the People to People Student Ambassador Program to Italy and Greece. He traveled throughout the historic sites of both countries. He particularly enjoyed his visit to the island of Crete. Stephen will be graduating from Greek school this May.

Stephen has been a great joy to have in the Altar. He has directed and helped with the Saturday of the Souls, clean-up on Good Friday, and keeping the Altar neat and clean.

He attends most of the services, and is

always willing to serve in any capacity. Stephen enjoys talking about his trips, school and his love for God. He is a pleasure to have in the Altar and is well liked. I enjoy his respect and his love for Church and God.

... by Michael Cotsilis



Stephen Berg

April Registry

Baptisms

Heidi, daughter of Anastasia & Gregory Angelopoulos
Sponsors: Heidi & Nicholas Chakos

Ava Lia, daughter of Catherine & Clement Johnson
Sponsor: Xenia Stamoudis

Clement Joseph, son of Catherine & Clement Johnson
Sponsor: Hellena Chrones

Nikolas, son of Elizabeth & Steve Fotos
Sponsors: Debbie & Phillip Chiganos

Elena, daughter of Katerina & Marc McComb
Sponsor: Tom Toullos

Weddings

None

OCN to launch 24 hour internet radio programming

The Orthodox Christian Network, is a commissioned agency of SCOBA, the Standing Conference of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in the Americas, has been directed to find effective ways to use modern media to raise awareness of our Orthodox faith in the minds of the general population and to be an "assistant" to local parish priests in keeping our faithful attached to the Church between worship services.

OCN's first effort was the nationally syndicated half hour radio program *Come Receive the Light*, which was launched in Chicago in January. It airs on Sundays at 6:30pm on WYLL (1160AM).

Now, OCN is preparing to launch two additional media options to reach out to the Orthodox faithful and religious seekers alike: *The Ark* and *The Rudder*.

The Ark is a 24 hour internet based radio outreach featuring contemporary Orthodox Christian music and more. Emmy Louvaris, the Program Director for *The Ark* states: "As a working mother of two daughters, my girls are constantly listening to music on the internet on their iPods. Our Church needs



Chuck Powell, the Development Director of the Orthodox Christian Network, explains the OCN and tells why it is important for Orthodox Christians to financially support it.

to provide an alternative to all the stuff out there. I want my children to stay connected to the Church." *The Ark* will also be a customizable ministry tool for local parishes. Every parish that becomes a Share the Light Parish in 2007 will be eligible to receive a customized version of *The Ark* for their home page. When visitors come to that parish web site, they will enjoy all the programming of *The Ark* and local parish infor-

mation.

The Rudder will feature Orthodox Christian liturgical music from around the world along with teaching programs heard on *The Ark* and the nationally syndicated radio program, *Come Receive the Light*.

To learn more about OCN and how they are using media to share the timeless beauty of Orthodoxy, go to www.receive.org.

Vacation Bible School is a virtual water park this year

The Park Director shouts, "Welcome to the Take the Plunge water park. You've entered a whirlwind adventure with twists and turns around every corner!" VBS leaders at Holy Apostles are grabbing their beach gear for a water park adventure you won't want to miss. At the Take the Plunge water park we're not just slipping and sliding, we're ready to Make a Splash with Jesus!

This water park adventure will take place daily from 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM, June 11-15, right here at Holy Apostles. Beginning each day at Lifespring Lagoon, our Park Crews will explore Bible stories where Jesus uses the common element of water to teach some uncommon lessons. Kids will be challenged to plunge into obedience, worship, courage, faith, and service.

In every story, kids will soak up the Son and hear stories filled with Jesus' power and love. Kids will be encouraged to soak up God's Word as they travel to different sites: Oceans of Motion (games), the Snack Shack, Craft-Away Cove, and Bibleland Bay. And



they'll "Plunge Right In" at Raise the Reef Praises and "Make a Splash!" as they discover that God is "The Source."

Our penguin mascot puppet, JP—Just Plunge, knows the coolest place to be this summer is in the Son! His unique point of view delights everyone he meets.

Your kids won't want to miss the ride of their lives at the Take the Plunge water park! Secure their positions on the Park Crew today! Let's put on our bathing suits and grab our beach towels. It's time to dive in and Make a Splash with Jesus!

Please sign up at the registration tables on April 22, 29, and May 7, immediately following the Divine Liturgy.

We have a limited number of spaces. After May 31, all registrations will be closed - so register early! Three year olds through children going into the 5th grade will be accepted. The fee of \$25.00 includes a t-shirt, CD, and the crafts that are made each day. Join us for a fun-filled, interactive week of learning about our Orthodox Christian faith.

Gulf Coast struggling but not forgotten

Baltimore (IOCC) — The media's spotlight may have faded from the Gulf Coast, but International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) has not forgotten that there are whole communities where people are still living in tents, motels and FEMA trailers. IOCC will be sending volunteer crews to the area every month through July 2007 to build new homes as part of its comprehensive \$4 million relief and reconstruction program for the Gulf Coast. The first wave of IOCC volunteers have already completed a week-long assignment in Covington, Louisiana.

"Housing is the most critical need," says IOCC U.S. Programs Coordinator Nicholas Chakos. "You have to get people back into homes in order to stimulate the return of schools and businesses," he said. Volunteer help is greatly needed considering the extreme shortage of skilled laborers on the Gulf Coast and land values that have doubled and tripled.

IOCC is building new homes in partnership with local Orthodox churches and Habitat for Humanity. Teams will put up dry wall and install windows and insulation.



Communities in New Orleans and parts of Mississippi will also benefit from IOCC's home-building initiative.

If you would like to volunteer to help build new homes with IOCC on the Gulf Coast, please visit our web site at www.iocc.org to complete an on-line application, or call toll free at 1-877-803-IOCC (4622).

IOCC was founded in 1992 as the official humanitarian aid agency of the Standing Conference of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in the Americas (SCOBA). Since then, it has implemented over \$226 million in relief and development programs in 30 countries around the world.

Be an Olympian this Memorial Day

Junior Olympics... This year's Junior Olympics competition is fast approaching. The Olympics is for all the Orthodox youth in the Chicago Metropolis and offers many competitive track and field events as well as swimming and tennis.

This event is held annually on Memorial Day Weekend (May 25 – May 27) at Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church in Palos Heights. It is a wonderful way for our children to participate in various sporting events while getting to know and build friendships with other Orthodox chil-

Time to register for a fantastic summer experience

Registration to attend Ionian Village this summer is now available. Participants will enjoy a three-week stay at our camp facility on the Ionian Coast, participate in our Christ-centered camp program, and make excursions to some of Greece's most beautiful and significant religious and cultural sites. Activities at camp include catechetical discussions, athletics, arts and crafts, and swimming in the Ionian Sea.

Travel excursions include Meteora, Kalavrita, Kefalonia, and a three-night stay in

dren in the Chicago Metropolis.

Please consider participating in this year's events and proudly representing our Holy Apostles community. Registration materials are available in the church office. Please register early so that the Olympics Committee and our coaches can plan accordingly.

Our parish coordinator is Ernie Davis. If you have any questions, please contact Ernie at (630) 655-8586. We look forward to a great turnout this year.

Athens where campers will visit the Acropolis and shop in Monastiraki and Plaka. Both summer sessions I and II will be open for campers in 8th-12th grade. Children entering 8th grade in fall 2007 through those will complete 12th grade in spring 2007 are welcome. Session I will be held from June 28 - July 17 and Session II will be July 24 - August 12.

Please visit "ionianvillage.org" or the multi-purpose room for more information and registration materials.

Fr. Bill from P.1

Not hello or goodbye, but Christos Anesti!

The reason given for the prohibition of kneeling in the early canons was "to honor the Resurrection of Christ." With heads and hearts bowed, we stand during this joyous season of Easter, even at the consecration of the Holy Gifts. During this period of Pascha, there are no hellos or goodbyes. The only greetings and farewells are Christos Anesti, Christ is Risen, and Alithos Anesti, Truly He is Risen.

Let us continue on the road to Emmaus, as we walk with the Risen Lord in our risen life.

Fr. Nicholas from P.2

Heavy stones of doubt can be rolled away

were viewed as much more credible in those days) to verify and tell the story. Some skeptics try to say that Jesus faked His death and walked out of the tomb. According to archeologists, the tomb was a slanted groove that led to a low entrance. A large, disc shaped stone was rolled down into the groove and lodged into place across the door. Then, a smaller stone secured the disk. They say that it would take several men to roll the stone back and open the grave. The Gospel of Matthew tells us that guards also secured the tomb. How could Jesus fake his death, move the stone and walk out of the guarded tomb?

Our ultimate proof is the way the disciples responded to Christ's resurrection. When Jesus died, they fled in fear. The disciples were depressed and discouraged. The Christian movement was stopped in its tracks. After a short time, the disciples were reunited, and committed themselves to spreading the Good News of Christ. These previous cowards went without food and sometimes slept outside. They were ridiculed, beaten and imprisoned. Some were tortured and even executed in barbaric ways. They refused to renounce Christ. Why? They had seen the Risen Christ!

The Lost Tomb of Christ is a documentary that challenges the resurrection of Christ. Our Holy Scriptures tell us that "...if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins." (1 Corinthians 15:17) Understanding and defending Christ's resurrection is so important. His Resurrection is our eternal lifeline. By Christ "came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive." (1 Corinthians 15:21-22) Once we understand and participate in Christ's resurrection, we can joyously sing, "Christ is risen from the dead, trampling death by death, and bestowing life to those in the tombs."

Mr. D discovers buried treasure in a story with a twist

Many years ago, when you could turn on your radio and listen to stories of suspense, adventure, mystery, comedy, and romance, there was a radio program called *Family Theater*, which originated in Hollywood. It featured stories of family, love, and faith in which Hollywood stars often appeared.

It had two memorable slogans which began and ended every broadcast. "A family that prays together stays together," and "More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of."

Nowadays, rebroadcasts of classic radio programs like *Family Theater* can still be heard on satellite radio (where stations are called channels) and a few AM and FM stations throughout the United States.

Early one morning a couple of weeks ago, I tuned my XM Satellite radio to their classic radio channel and listened to a story on Family Theater from January 1953, which I'd like to share with you. The hostess that night was Natalie Wood. The story was about a man whose name was Alex Mahoney, but who was affectionately known to the citizens of Middle Falls simply as Mr. Alex. He worked as a guard in a bank for 35 years, and the time for retirement had come.

Mr. Alex loved to tell stories, especially to children, that were for the most part about pirates and finding buried treasure. He would

often be seen with groups of children and even adults as they listened attentively to his tales.

When Mr. Alex was 25 and newly married, his wife advised him to buy retirement insurance. His wife was now dead, and his retirement insurance policy had matured, rewarding him with a check of five thousand dollars. When he was asked by his many friends what he was going to do with the money, he told them that he was going on a long trip to places like the Caribbean, Key West, and the desert of the American southwest. "But why," they asked. "Well," he responded, "to hunt for buried treasure, of course."

Now there was a little boy named Billy, whose mother owned the rooming house where Mr. Alex lived, who urgently needed a delicate operation on his spine. There was also a talented girl named Julie who wanted to go to art school, but couldn't get a loan because she didn't have collateral, and there was a gifted, young doctor whose clinic didn't have modern equipment. The story ended with little Billy getting his operation, with Julie going to art school, and with the doctor receiving funds from Mr. Alex and other townspeople.

The five thousand dollars was spent, and Mr. Alex went back to work part time as a bank guard. "What about your treasure hunt?" people asked him. "Oh," Mr. Alex replied, "I found my treasure right here in Middle Falls,

and I didn't have to dig very deep for it, either."

This story is an illustration of what St. Matthew says in his Gospel: "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Mt. 6:19-21).

... by George J. Demetralis (aka Mr. D.)

Time to plan for 2nd annual 5K

Runners, joggers, fast and even slow walkers of all ages, mark your calendars and join us at the Holy Apostles 5K Family Run and Walk. The event will take place on Saturday, May 12 at 8:30 AM. Our course will begin and end at the church.

All proceeds will go to the Philoxenia House in Rochester, MN. This house provides free accommodations and meals for people that are traveling to the Mayo Clinic for medical treatment. Fr. Nicholas Kasemeotes and the community of Holy Anagyroi Church in Rochester established and take care of the house and its residents.

The age divisions will be 9 and under, 10-14, 15-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59 and 60 and over and male and female. Ribbons will be awarded to the fastest finishers in each division. The entry fees (\$20/person or \$50/immediate family) include a t-shirt, light healthy snacks, water, and a gift bag for each participant.

This event gives us an opportunity to walk together and to support and raise money for our brothers and sisters that are less fortunate than us. Whether you are a fast sprinter or a slow walker, please join us on that day.

Registration tables will be set up in the multi-purpose room on the Sundays preceding the event. Forms will be available at the church office or on the Holy Apostles website (www.holyapostleschurch.com). Registration will also be open at 7:30 AM the day of the race.

We are offering two levels of sponsorship this year. Our platinum sponsorship is \$250. Platinum sponsor names and logos will be printed on the shirts that will be given to each 5K participant. Sponsor names will also be included in promotional material. If businesses would like to support this great philanthropic cause in another way, they can donate items for gift bags. Each 5K participant will be given one of these bags. If you are interested in sponsorship opportunities, please contact Steve Savas at (708) 387-2080.

Philoptochos news and a history refresher

The next Philoptochos meeting is Tuesday, May 15. Elections will be held that night and anyone interested in becoming a Board Member should definitely attend. Philoptochos is a great way to meet fellow parishioners, while helping to raise funds for charitable causes. There are a variety of projects throughout the year with opportunities for you to bring forth your special talents. You can help us enrich current programs or develop new ones. There is always room to grow. Watch for more details in the May Mosaic and Sunday bulletins.

The beginning of the Philoptochos Society can be traced to the late nineteenth century when hundreds of immigrants were arriving daily into the United States. In 1894, the focus of the ladies was to welcome newcomers and help them adjust to their new environment.

In 1909, the first Philoptochos Society was founded at Hull House in Chicago with the encouragement of Jane Addams, a devoted friend of Greek immigrants. This group became the prototype for many other Philoptochos societies established in the city.

The purpose of the organization was to provide fellowship to its members, visit the sick, help the poor and establish Sunday school and evening school programs.

In 1931, Archbishop Athenagoras identi-

fied the urgency of providing philanthropic and relief services to the poor and to those struggling to assimilate in the American way of life. He established the National Philoptochos Society as the official philanthropic arm of the Church. Hundreds of existing chapters were merged to function under the Archdiocese (national) Constitution with specific bylaws.

He also asked that Saints Cosmas and Damianos be designated as the patron saints of all chapters. Saint Cosmas and his twin brother Saint Damianos were physicians who offered services freely to the needy much like the ladies of Philoptochos. The saints were referred to as the "wonder workers."

As time passed, the Greek Orthodox population grew, more churches were built and dioceses were formed as the regional governing arms of the Archdiocese. The Chicago Diocese, now known as the Metropolis of Chicago has the distinction of being home to that first Ladies Philoptochos, "Friends of the Poor" organized in 1909 at Hull House.

... By Alyssa Petropoulos

Mosaic Deadline

The deadline for the May Mosaic is
Tuesday, April 10.

Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church **April 2007** 2501 S. Wolf Rd. Westchester, Illinois

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| PALM SUNDAY 8:00am Orthros 9:15am Awaken To God 9:30am Divine Liturgy Fellowship Hour 7:00pm Nymphios Service 1 | HOLY MONDAY 7:00pm Nymphios Service 2 | HOLY TUESDAY 4:30pm Greek School 7:00pm Nymphios Service 8:30pm Choir Rehearsal 4:30pm Greek School 3 | HOLY WEDNESDAY 10:00am Holy Unction 3:30pm Holy Unction 7:00pm Orthros Of Holy Thursday And Anointing With Holy Unction 4 | HOLY THURSDAY 6:30am Divine Liturgy 7:00pm 12 Gospel Readings No Greek School 4:30pm Greek School 5 | HOLY FRIDAY 9:00am Royal Hours 3:00pm Apokathelosis 7:00pm Lamentations 4:30pm Adventure Theater 7:30pm YAL Anastasi Dinner 6 | HOLY SATURDAY 8:00am 1st Anastasi Liturgy 10:30pm Choir Concert 11:00pm Easter Service 12:00am Sunday Resurrection Liturgy 7 |
| Bright Week. No fasting | | | | | | |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| SUNDAY OF ST. THOMAS 8:00am Orthros 9:15am Awaken To God 9:30am Divine Liturgy Fellowship Hour 15 | 5:15pm The WAY 10:00am TOTIS 4:30pm Greek School 6:30pm GOYA Anastasi Dinner 16 | 1:00pm Adult Christian Fellowship And Study Group 17 | 1:00pm Adult Christian Fellowship And Study Group 18 | 4:30pm Greek School 7:30pm Parish Council Meeting 19 | 4:30pm Greek School 7:00pm Pre-Marital Seminar 20 | 9:30am Pre-Marital Seminar 21 |
| 8:00am Orthros 9:15am Awaken To God 9:30am Divine Liturgy Adventure Theater Luncheon & Movie 2:00pm FACT Soup Kitchen 22 | FEAST DAY OF ST. GEORGE 8:00am Orthros 9:00am Awaken To God 23 | 4:30pm Greek School 7:00pm Pre-Marital Seminar 24 | 1:00pm Adult Christian Fellowship And Study Group 25 | 4:30pm Greek School 26 | 4:30pm Greek School 27 | 9:30am Pre-Marital Seminar 28 |
| 8:00am Orthros 9:15am Awaken To God 9:30am Divine Liturgy Fellowship Hour 29 | 30 |  <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Live as if Christ died yesterday, arose this morning, and is coming back tomorrow.</i></p>  | | | | |

Holy Week Services

March 31 Saturday of Lazarus

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

April 1 Palm Sunday

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

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

April 2 Holy Monday

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

the bridegroom. Those with empty lamps were shut out of the marriage feast.

April 3 Holy Tuesday

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

April 4 Holy Wednesday

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

The Orthros for Thursday morning (**7pm**) followed by anointing with Holy Unction.

April 5 Holy Thursday

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

On Holy Thursday evening (**12 Gospel Readings 7pm**), we commemorate The Cru-

cifixion of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ who died to take away our sins.

April 6 Holy Friday

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

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

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

April 7 Holy Saturday

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

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

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

April 8 Easter Sunday

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

Memorials

*Gus Zakos
Dorothy Gialelis
Ted Patrinos
Peter Giannopoulos
Angelo Papadourakis
Evelyn Mitchell
Louis Couretas*

Memorials

*John Pekras
Penelope Pekras
Angeline Peletis
George Peletis
George Papantonatos
Melia Papantonatos
Spiro Papantonatos*

Memorials

*Chris Peletis
Anita Garbis
Konstantinos Pavlakos
David Azar*

Funerals

Helen Bernardi

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