

# MOSAIC

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

Vol. 12, No.2

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

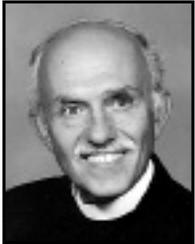
May 2007

(708) 562-2744

www.holyapostleschurch.com

From Father Bill...

## Putting Together the Pieces of Life



One of my favorite Easter stories describes the thoughts and concerns of two of Jesus' Disciples. St. Luke in the 24th chapter writes: "...on that same day two of them were on the way to a village called Emmaus, which is about seven miles from Jerusalem; and they talked with each other about all the things which had happened." This biblical account following Jesus' trial, death and Resurrection strikes a familiar chord because I have often asked myself: what impact or meaning did this year's Easter have on me?

Thinking about the Easter story often brings to my mind how most of us enjoy leftovers. A famous cook said that some of the best meals are made from leftovers.

It's like taking the good pieces of life and making sense of them. The two disciples on the road to Emmaus asked themselves pertinent questions relative to the events of Jesus' life that ended on a cross. Questions were raised. What happened to the promises He made? Was it really worth following Him and surrendering our families and possessions? We originally said yes to Him thinking that He would lead us on the road to happiness. After all, isn't that what everyone wants? Did the two Disciples discover happiness when it was all said and done?

Let me share a story with you about a little boy and his quest to discover the meaning of happiness. He trekked 40 days through the forest until he reached the mountain fortress of a wise man. When he entered the compound, he saw people from many walks of life, coming and going.

A wise man sat on a throne in a great hall offering counsel to his many visitors. After waiting several hours, the boy finally stood at



**Vanessa Clohessy, her daughter Joanna and son James eagerly wait for flowers from Metropolitan Iakovos at the First Anastasi Liturgy on Holy Saturday morning.**

the wise man's feet. Without hesitation the boy bowed and asked, "I am here to learn the secret of happiness." "Unfortunately," said the wise man, "I cannot explain that to you at this moment. But do this for me: Take a tour of my palace. Do not hurry yourself." The wise man then handed the boy a teaspoon and placed two drops of oil in it. "And take this with you, but don't spill any of it."

The boy obeyed and began to tour the rooms and grounds of the estate. He walked slowly and focused all his concentration on the oil in the spoon. After two hours, he returned to the grand hall. The wise man approached him and asked: "So, did you explore my library? What did you think of the tapestries hanging in the dining hall? Were the fragrances and textures of the garden to your liking? It took 10 years to complete, you know." The boy shook his head. He admitted that he had not looked at all the wonderful features of the home.

He began to tour again, but this time he focused his attention on the objects in the

house and less on the spoon. After many hours, he returned to the wise man and began recalling the many things he'd experienced while touring the estate. The wise man interrupted and asked, "Where are the two drops of oil that I gave you?" The boy looked at the empty spoon and reddened in embarrassment. The wise man placed a firm hand on the boy's shoulder. "You want to know the secret of happiness?" "Yes!" said the boy. "It is simple," said the wise man. "Happiness is being able to explore and appreciate the many wonders of the world without forgetting or neglecting the things that are nearest to you."

What happened to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus? The evangelist Luke informs us that as they were talking about the events surrounding the life of Jesus, the Risen Lord himself came up to them and joined them on their way. Since their eyes were focused on those events, they did not recognize Him, just as the young boy missed out on happiness.

...see Fr. Bill on P. 5

From Father Nicholas



## Investigating Christ's Resurrection

This month we will celebrate a feast that may be unknown to some. It is one of the twelve Great Feasts of the Lord and is celebrated 40 days after Pascha. The Feast of the Ascension always falls on a Thursday. Since it is a weekday Liturgy, many are unable to experience this moving celebration. It is comprised of many beautiful hymns. If we study them, we will find that they speak to us and can help us in our times of despair.

The Ascension hymns portray the emotions that the disciples experienced. A hymn from the Vespers service says: "When the Apostles saw You ascending in the clouds, O Life-giving Christ, they frowned deeply, and mourned with tears saying, leave us not orphans, O Master, Your servants whom You did love in your mercy; for You are compassionate. But Send us Your most Holy Spirit as You did promise, to illumine our souls." Why were the apostles sad? They shared a unique and intimate relationship with the Lord for 3 years. He was not an ordinary leader or teacher of the faith. Following the Lord's Resurrection, His disciples, who were previously scared and fled the second that Jesus was arrested, were now filled with strength. Jesus filled their lives with hope, peace and courage. Just when they began to learn about who Christ is, He ascended to heaven. "He was lifted up before their eyes in cloud which took Him from their sight." (Acts 1:9) This left them with feelings of deep loss and sadness. The disciples felt that they had lost a dear friend and loved one. This is why they cried out: "Leave us not orphans." They wanted something else to fill the void of losing Him.

The disciples wanted to continue living life with the hope that they experienced when they were in His presence. They needed the Lord to be with them all the time. Once again, the Lord provided. As Jesus ascended to heaven, He told His disciples that the Holy Spirit would visit them in ten days and be with them and us always. Jesus, our Lord, returned to His Father in heaven and took His throne at the right hand of the Father. Now all humanity has access to God and the opportunity to experience eternal life with Him.

The priest prays every service, "Oh Heavenly King the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth who is in all places and fills all things,

...See Fr. Nicholas on P. 5



# Gavel to Gavel



BY CHRIS ZURALES Parish Council Secretary

Parish Council meeting of Thursday, March, 15

### Financial Report

- + Peter Poteres started a discussion of the Don Alexander Broker Account. The discussion continued regarding level of risk on investments that is appropriate and the origin of assets in that account. Steve Savas discussed money that we had donated to missions from the fund raiser at the beginning of Lent. Peter Tomaras moved to approve the financial statement. The motion passed unanimously.
- + George discussed the various options available for the church cash deposits. He requested authority to move an additional \$50,000 into a certificate of deposit in order to get 5.25%. Jim Kapolas so moved, and the motion passed unanimously.
- + Monthly payments will be made to the Archdiocese, assuming an annual assessment of \$104,000. Adjustments will be made once the Archdiocese committee completes its review of the financial information we have provided them.

### Stewardship

- + Ted Gregory reported that for February 28 the Church had received 518 pledges (down 38 from 2006) totaling \$476,178.02 (up \$9,592.16 from 2006) for an average pledge of \$919.26 (up \$80.08 from 2006). Amount paid YTD is \$275,727.52 (up \$28,162.50 from 2006). An additional \$1,443.00. was collected for 2006, leaving a balance of \$14,959.

### Correspondence

- + An invitation for a fundraiser, "An evening with Jim", for the St Nicholas Albanian Orthodox Church was received and read.
- + A letter from the Director, Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries, of the Metropolis of Chicago, requesting support for the 2007 Oratorical and Fine Arts Festival was read. Peter Tomaras moved to donate \$100. The motion passed.
- + A letter from the Archdiocese office of Parish Development was received offering assistance in fundraising.
- + Two letters from OCMC were received and read, thanking our Church for the \$2,200 donation to Hong Kong, and \$1,700 to Korea. A letter received from IOCC also thanked us for the \$1,250 donation for Souper Bowl 2007.
- + A letter was read from the Orthodox Christian Network that provides among other things the Come Receive the Light radio program. They thanked our

Church for its \$1,200 contribution.

- + Peter Poteres moved donate \$25 to the Orthodox Campus Review.

### Meditation

- + Father discussed book week and the speakers who participated. He reminded us that next year will be the 25th anniversary of Celebration of Books. Following the lead of Holy Apostles, other parishes now have bookstores.
- + He talked about reading the Bible, specifically Old Testament readings. He passed out a handout entitled the Heroes of Holy Week, in which an account of a hero is given for each day of Holy Week.

### From the Council President

- + Nick Kirkeles congratulated Barbara Pappas and the volunteers who helped make book week a great success once again.
- + Nick Kirkeles reported that as a result of a request to open insurance purchases for bid, interested persons will be offered the opportunity to bid on our liability policy that is due in November. We received some further information on health insurance options. He will try to arrange a presentation to explain some of the confusing information that was in the handout, and will poll Council members if a decision is needed before the next meeting.

### Building & Grounds

- + Steve Savas is working on the front door to correct the problem of it failing to close. He suspects that the problem is twofold, both a problem with the hinges and a problem with a section of concrete that has heaved during the cold weather. He also reported that there has been some additional problems with water in the basement and they are looking into the cause.

### New Business

- + A motion was made by Peter Tomaras to provide \$600 for the Greek School float. The motion passed.
- + A motion was made by George Chechopoulos to contribute \$500 to the Junior Olympics. The motion passed.
- + Chris Zurales distributed copies of a preliminary set of drawings by GEA architects for a new handicapped and family bathroom which will be reviewed at the next meeting.

## The **HARC** CORNER

### **Ponder These Things Praying with Icons of the Virgin**

By Archbishop Rowan Williams  
Ideal reading for all Christians,  
*Ponder These Things* invites you to explore and reflect on the depths of the meaning in three classic icons from the Eastern Christian tradition.

Archbishop Rowan reminds us that the art of the icon is a liturgical art, not merely a piece of decoration or visual aid. We do more than just look at icons or talk about them; we pray with them. This book tells us how this can be done.

Hardcover \$17.00

### **Eastern Orthodoxy Compared**

By Father Constantine Mathews  
This excellent and easy to read handbook introduces the main teachings of the Orthodox Church and contrasts them with the teachings of Roman Catholicism and the major Protestant denominations. It includes a timeline of Christian church history.

Softcover \$13.00

### **Being with God**

By Aristotle Papanikolaou  
This is an exceedingly important and well-written book on Orthodox theology of the Trinity. It not only explains the work of two major contemporary Orthodox, it also lends vital insights into the nature and character of contemporary Orthodox theology in general.

Softcover \$25.00

### **The Man and the Vine**

By Jane G. Meyer  
A rhythmic tale of a farmer and his young daughter who joyfully tend to their vineyard, then offer the fruit of the vine back to their creator in the Eucharistic Celebration. Follow the journey of the grapes from field to wine press to church where they become Holy Communion.

Hardbound \$18.00

## Metropolitan Nikitas returns to the U.S.

Berkeley, CA (for immediate release) – The Patriarch Athenagoras Orthodox Institute (PAOI) announces the appointment of His Eminence, Metropolitan Nikitas (Lulias) of Hong Kong, as Director of the Institute, effective June 1, 2007. Metropolitan Nikitas comes to the position after serving for ten years as Metropolitan of Hong Kong and South East Asia. An experienced clergyman, educator and administrator, he has studied and lived in various countries, cultures and societies. “Metropolitan Nikitas will bring his broad cultural and ecumenical experience to the PAOI and its affiliate, the Graduate Theological Union, which is the largest partnership of seminaries and graduate schools in the United States, comprised of nine denominational schools and eight academic centers.”, according to Christ Kamages, AIA, Chairman of the Institute’s Board of Trustees.

Upon ordination his first assignment was at Ss. Constantine and Helen Cathedral in Merriville, Indiana. Then, in 1994-1995 he

served as Pastor of St. Demetrios Church in Chicago. In 1987, he was appointed Chancellor of the Greek Orthodox Diocese of Chicago, and served in that position until 1995. During that time he was involved in numerous educational, community service and interfaith activities.

The Patriarch Athenagoras Orthodox Institute exists to study and disseminate Orthodox thought and culture. By decision of the Holy and Venerable Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the Institute has been designated a “Patriarchal Institute”, ecclesiastically related to the Ecumenical Patriarchate. It is the only institution in the United States so designated.

The Institute was founded in 1981 as an inter-Orthodox endeavor, supported by the various Orthodox Churches (Antiochian, Greek, OCA, Romanian, Serbian and others) in the United States.

## Upcoming May Events for Philoptochos

### **Feed the Hungry Tuesday, May 8**

Members and friends will prepare and serve a hot lunch to area homeless at the Annunciation Cathedral in downtown Chicago. To participate, please call Tessie Andreakis at 630-572-1196.

### **Spring Fashion Show & Elections Tuesday, May 15**

Please join us at 7pm in the multi-purpose room to view spring fashions from Schoen’s of Hinsdale. Everyone is welcome, so feel free to bring a friend. In addition, elections will take place for the 2007-2009 board members. If you are interested in running for a position, please contact election committee members Kim Syregelas (630) 953-0043 or Mary Athans (708) 865-8519.

### **Spring Clothing Drive**

During the month of May, Philoptochos will be collecting very gently used current style clothing to benefit the People’s Resource Center.

Items may include men and women’s spring clothing, spring coats, shoes and purses. Please make sure all items have been washed and cleaned. Then drop them off in the multi-purpose room during the month of May.

## *April Registry*

### **Baptisms**

Mary, daughter of  
Cary & Paul Zaras  
*Sponsor: Nick Zaras*

Maria, daughter of  
Maria & Jim Fotos  
*Sponsors: Stacie & George Kotrogiannis*

John, son of  
Angela & David Neboyskey  
*Sponsors: Gena & John Polihronidis*

Diana, daughter of  
Elizabeth & William Carlin  
*Sponsor: Demetri Kladis*

### **Weddings**

Alexandra Drakes & Dean Andreakis  
*Sponsor: Stacy Sotiropoulos*

Connie Kappos & Nicholas Philippas  
*Sponsor: James Papagianis*



An impressive group of altar boys take time out on Holy Friday to pose with Fr. Nicholas and Fr. Bill.

## Altar Boys among many who served during Holy Week

This month we honor all those young men who served in the Holy Altar during Lent and Holy Week. They were required to serve at Presanctified services on Wednesday nights, Heretismi services on Friday nights and the Saturday of Lazarus. Some even came on Monday nights for the Great Compline. They always came with smiles on their faces, looking to do extra work. Each one would always ask to take part in the censuring of the church.

During Holy Week, they were assigned certain nights to serve and beginning on Wednesday, they came to all services. What impressed me the most is that some of the boys have started to chant and most were following the services with their Holy Week books. They displayed their compassion by helping each other with their robes and candles.

On Holy Thursday, their long service was exemplary as they stood guard as Christ was crucified. I received many compliments from our parishioners on how well they did.

Holy Friday was special. They were assigned to read the Psalms, Epistles, and some prayers during the Royal Hours, as well as stand guard for the crucified Christ. After the morning service, it has been a custom to clean up the altar and make it ready for Christ's Resurrection. The boys



The choir put in long hours providing the inspiring hymns for Holy Week.



Fr. Bill, Fr. Nicholas and the Myrrh Bearers with Perry Hamalis and George Lamberis. Myrrh Bearers this year are Lia Chiganos, Evangeline Danos, Danielle Fattore, Demi Kallis, Katie Syregelas, and Jacklyn Tyburk.

polish the wood, vacuum, clean lanterns, sweep floors, cut candles and any other jobs that need to be done. We then all enjoyed partaking in fellowship while eating a Lenten

luncheon prepared by Barbara and Debbie Kirkeles and the altar boys' mothers, who bring food. Friday afternoon they guard the cross and then the tomb.

Saturday morning is a beautiful service with his Eminence Metropolitan Iakovas as the celebrant. He always compliments the boys for doing such a wonderful job. That evening, 32 boys came to serve in the Resurrection Service. Despite being tired, they were there because of their love for God.

I am very grateful to the parents, who faithfully bring the boys on time, which I know is sometimes difficult to do. My thanks go to Nick Kirkeles, who takes time to help in the altar, and to the chanters, who are at every service helping us. A big thanks goes to Father Bill and Father Nicholas, who allow us the privilege of serving the Church and God. CHRIST IS RISEN!

... by Michael Cotsilis



Holy Apostles Greek School students ride in the Greek Independence Day parade.

## Time's running out for Vacation Bible School Registration!

Act now, if you are interested in signing your child up for Vacation Bible School. The last day for registration is May 6.

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 6, immediately following the Divine Liturgy.

We have a limited number of spaces so register early! Three year olds through children going into the 5th grade will be accepted. The fee of \$25 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.

Fr. Bill from P. 1

### Make the joy of Pascha carry on in your lives

Jesus then asked what words are these that you are exchanging with each other as you walk? They stood with faces twisted with grief. They had traveled the road with pain and sadness and were very much into themselves that they did not recognize the passerby. When you read the biblical account, you discover that Jesus ate supper with them and when He broke bread, blessed it and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized Him. Later, when they reflected on the moment they met the Lord and heard His teaching and their eyes were opened and their hearts were burning within them.

Were your eyes opened at midnight when the unwaning light was distributed in a darkened church? Was your heart warmed when the Myrrh bearers went to the empty tomb? Was there a climax when everyone exclaimed,

Fr. Nicholas from P. 2

### Make the joy of Pascha carry on in your lives

The Treasury of Blessings, come and abide in us." As the Holy Spirit abides in us, His mind becomes our mind; His eyes, our eyes; His speech, our speech; and His actions become our actions. Our lives, just as the disciples experienced, can be transformed.

Do we want to be transformed: If not careful, we can allow our own concerns to obscure the light and hope of our souls. We can let our own preoccupations and desires stifle and keep us from the healing presence of God. The Feast of the Ascension reminds us that even in the midst of difficult times, the Lord prevails.

The Ascension icon tells the story. It portrays Jesus ascending to heaven being carried upon the clouds with two angels on each side. While the Theotokos is praying and very calm, the disciples seem amazed and even puzzled,

CHRIST IS RISEN! with raised voices? Did the Easter celebrations teach us about life and about happiness?

In the days following the Resurrection, let us not focus on the oil on the spoon, but rather embrace every moment in our lives with thanksgiving and joy. Until Pentecost, we shall sing the triumphant hymn and return often to the empty tomb because that is where "All things fit together." I can't explain it for you, and I don't know how God does it. God takes all the bits and pieces of our lives that don't make sense to us and makes them into something beautiful for His glory and for His kingdom. We must be willing to search with our eyes and have receptive hearts to discover real happiness is within our grasp.

CHRIST IS RISEN! TRULY HE IS RISEN!

as they are moving about, talking and gazing up at heaven. Despite their concerns, the Lord sits above the cares of this world at the center of the heavens. The icon shows that the Lord is in control of all things, and His Kingdom rules over all. We may not see Him, but He is visible and vital to the life of our souls. Will we allow our loving Lord to help us overcome sadness as the disciples did?

As we celebrate the Lord's Ascension, we recite the following hymn: "You ascended in glory O Christ our Lord and God, and Your disciples were filled with joy, by the promise of the Holy Spirit unto them. And through this blessing You did thus assure them, you are truly Son of God and the Redeemer of our souls." (*Feast of the Ascension Apolytikion*)

**Holy Apostles Happenings**

**VBS Registration**  
Register after Liturgy. Deadline is May 6. Cost \$25.00

**Youth Sunday**  
Youth Proclaim Christ Sunday will be May 6.

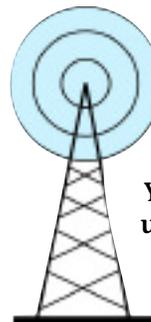
**Last Day Of Sunday School**  
will be Sunday, May 20.

**Holy Apostles Walk & Run**  
Run or walk for charity with other church members **Friday, May 11**. Registration is open till May 6, but you can sign up at the last minute on race day at 7:30am. Proceeds will benefit Philoxenia House by the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN.

**Junior Olympics**  
This year's Junior Olympics is set to begin Friday, May 25 at SS. Constantine & Helen Church. Contact Ernie Davis at 630 655-8586 to register.

**Wanted!**  
Volunteers are needed to bring flowers that adorn the altar every Sunday. Contact Maria Lagios at (630) 420-8131 regarding the schedule.

**An evening of fellowship in support of The Orthodox Christian Network**



Hosted by St. Andrew Church  
May 24  
at 7:30 pm

Your gifts will allow us to continue airing  
Come Receive the Light every Sunday at 6:30pm on WYLL 1160 AM

Reservations at St. Andrew's at 773-334-4515, or OCN Headquarters in Florida at 877-273-2348. Seating is limited so make your reservations today. You may also make your reservations on line at [www.receive.org](http://www.receive.org)

Join us in developing a national, effective and sustainable voice for Orthodoxy in America

**Why God made moms**

According to 2nd graders

- ☞ God made mothers mostly to clean the house, and to help us out of there, when we were getting born.
- ☞ God made mothers using dirt, just like for the rest of us.
- ☞ What ingredients are mothers made of? God makes mothers out of clouds and angel hair and everything nice in the world and one dab of mean.
- ☞ What kind of little girl was your mom? My guess is that she was pretty bossy. They say she used to be nice.
- ☞ What did mom need to know about dad before she married him? Did he say NO to drugs and YES to chores.
- ☞ What does your mom do in her spare time? Mothers don't do spare time.
- ☞ If you could change one thing about your mom, what would it be? I'd make my mom smarter. Then she would know it was my sister who did it and not me. I would like for her to get rid of those invisible eyes on her back.



## Weekday Services

### Vespers

Saturday, May 5  
Saturday, May 19  
5:00pm

### Ascension

Thursday, May 17  
8:00am Orthros  
9:00am Divine Liturgy

### Feast Day Of SS Constantine & Helen

Monday, May 21  
8:00am Orthros  
9:00am Divine Liturgy

### Saturday of Souls

Saturday, May 26  
8:00am Orthros  
9:00am Divine Liturgy

## Adult Fellowship

### Adult Christian Fellowship Annual Salad Luncheon



*Wednesday, May 9  
at noon.  
Please bring  
your favorite salad*

## Memorials

*Helen Bobis  
Bessie Boulahanis  
Thomas Melko  
Virginia Santis  
Helen Barnardi  
Peter Bobis*

## Funerals

*none*

## Fanari Camp

Our diocesan youth camp will be held at the Green Lake Conference Center in Green Lake, WI from June 17 to June 23. This year's theme is Christian Love. Registration forms can be obtained online at [www.gochicagoyouth.goarch.org](http://www.gochicagoyouth.goarch.org)

## Mosaic Deadline

The deadline for the June/July Mosaic is Monday, May 7.

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

Address Service Requested

Postmaster: Please deliver by 2nd of May.

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
BELLWOOD, IL.  
PERMIT NO. 157