

MOSAIC

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

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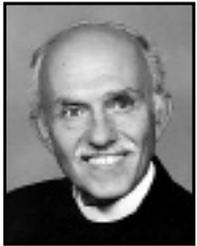
Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church 2501 S. Wolf Rd. Westchester, IL.

October 2007

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From Father Bill...



Why get married in the Church?

In his insightful and enlightening book *Marriage: An Orthodox Perspective*, John Meyendorff describes marriage in the following manner: "All Orthodox catechisms and textbooks define marriage as a sacrament or a 'mystery' of the Church." Although in our day, people have drifted from that definition, this is the definition of marriage I share with couples seeking marriage in our church. While there is agreement to this statement, either because it was given by a highly respected theologian or by me, there always remain unanswered questions in our mind.

I believe many people who choose to be married in the Church give little thought to why it is important, therefore I have chosen to write some thoughts attempting to answer the question, "Why get married in the Church?" The answer to this question is quite simple. Getting married in the Church means that we are asking God to join us together.

The decision to marry in the Lord is a highly personal one. It is to be arrived at prayerfully, in the counsel of one's heart. The freedom to choose one's own partner is restricted only by those canonical, legal, or moral impediments that would distort the purpose of the Christian marriage. While mutual consent is an essential element of the sacrament, the privilege is not absolute. Civil laws and canonical regulations guide us in our final decision to marry in the Church.

To get married outside the Church means that we do not acknowledge that we need God, the Author of our being, as the One who will bless us. It is saying, I will marry whomever I want and I don't need God or His blessings. I don't need a religious ceremony to



New Sunday school director, Joan Berg, is doing double duty as teacher for the high school class because not enough parishioners have volunteered to be teachers.

show my deep religious convictions. This is an immature understanding of our relationship with our Creator. Not only do we need God, we need to humble ourselves to accept His will. His Kingdom comes when His will is done on earth as it is in heaven. It is His will that men and women live together in honor, not adulterating their relationship as the world would have us believe. We are called upon to live with pure hearts and holy lives.

Do we have to get married in the Orthodox Church, or can we get married in another Christian Church? The choice is always in the chooser. But why? We acknowledge that elements of truth are in Christian churches, but the fullness of Christ is the Orthodox Church. The Orthodox Church has carried on the Apostolic teachings and practices inviolate through the centuries in an unbroken succession because of the presence of the Holy Spirit within the Church that has safeguarded it from error. Why go elsewhere?

The priest does not marry us, the public official does not marry us, and we are not

marrying each other. God, through the priest, is joining us together. That is the theology of marriage in the Orthodox Church. The priest never says, "I pronounce you man and wife." These words may have a familiar ring in Hollywood or television, but has no room in the church service. It is the power of God who joins two people in the Sacrament of Marriage that is the important element. We come to God's Church in front of God's people to ask Him to bless our union and to make us one. This indeed is a mystery that is pronounced by St. Paul in His Epistle to the Ephesians 5:22-32. When completing the petition to marry, the priest asks the petitioners whether a marriage was ever blessed in the Greek Orthodox Church or for that matter, in any church. If one has been previously married in the Greek Orthodox Church, it must be stressed that an ecclesiastical separation must be presented before a second or a third wedding ceremony can take place.

Being a member in good standing, that is

...See Fr. Bill on P. 6

From Father Nicholas



Living a courageous life

Saints are examples and models to us. They teach us how to live our daily Christian lives. Reviewing some of the things that they said and did instructs us even today! Saint Demetrios will be remembered and celebrated on October 26. He is a great example of courage. St. Demetrios was the son of a military commander. When Demetrios' father died, the Emperor made Demetrios the Commander in the Roman army. Emperor Maximian strongly opposed Christians. He sent Demetrios out to persecute and exterminate Christians in Thessalonica. St. Demetrios disobeyed the Emperor and openly confessed and preached about the Lord throughout the city. He was a man of great courage and faith. The Emperor was furious with Demetrios. He questioned Demetrios about his faith. St. Demetrios openly proclaimed that he was a Christian. The Emperor arrested Demetrios and had him killed. The entire time, St. Demetrios was at peace. His great courage kept him from renouncing his Christian beliefs.

If you don't possess courage today, the good news is that it can be developed. We are not born with courage. A great example of this is Demetrios' friend and disciple Nestor. We celebrate his feast day the following day, October 27. The Emperor Maximian ordered vicious games and amusements for the people to enjoy. His favorite game was the gladiator fight. Maximian's favorite player was a huge, seven-foot man named Lyaios. He was huge and strong like Goliath. Lyaios destroyed every gladiator he ever faced. If no one voluntarily came forward to fight with Lyaios, the Emperor picked Christians to fight him. One day, Nestor was picked to go up against this huge, undefeated giant that annihilated his opponents. Nestor was concerned for his life. He thought that Lyaios would kill him for sure. He struggled and wrestled with going up against this mammoth Goliath. St. Demetrios visited and blessed him. He told Nestor that the Lord's power and strength could make him invincible. St. Nestor changed from fear to boldly stepping into the ring to face the giant. He boldly proclaimed the Lord's name and soundly defeated this seven-foot giant! Fear turned to courage as he placed his faith in the Lord.

Do you have any Goliaths that you are facing today? How can you overcome them? How did St. Demetrios and Nestor develop courage? First, when they were confronted



Gavel to Gavel



BY CHRIS ZURALES, SECRETARY

Parish Council meeting of Thursday, August 16

Parish Council members present included: Fr. Bill, Fr. Nicholas, George Alex, Chrisy Banakis, George Chechopoulos, Terry Chiganos, Jim Kapolas, Nick Kirkeles, George T. Mannos, Jr., Peter Poteres, Ted Gregory, Sandy Fiascone, Chris Zurales, and Peter Tomaras.

Financial Report

- ✦ George Mannos reviewed the financial report dated July 31, copies of which were given to each member present. Peter Tomaras moved to approve the financial statement. The motion passed unanimously.

Meditation

- ✦ Father Bill explained how we shape the building of a church and thereafter it shapes us. He talked about how the nave is the center of our church but that the multi-purpose room is where we gather after our participation in the Divine Liturgy. He talked about the remodeling of the multi-purpose room and how it will serve us and our families.

Building & Grounds

- ✦ It was reported that Mr. Tonelli made an attempt to clean up the icons on the ceiling starting with one of the Evangelists. However, the local man he hired was ill prepared for the task, not having the proper scaffolding, lift, or the tools. As a result the worker only stayed a few hours then left. Comments were made that we should be careful to watch whom Tonelli hires to work in our church, so as to prevent accidents as a result of the use of inappropriate safety equipment.
- ✦ The parking lot needs to be sealed and re-stripped. George Alex asked for authority to enter into a contract for this project. He also mentioned the need for a couple handicap parking spots in the east lot. George Alex made a motion for authority to do this. The motion passed.

Old Business

- ✦ Nick Kirkeles conveyed that bids were received and reviewed for the multi-purpose room remodeling project. He suggested that we approve an amount suffi-

cient to cover the bids plus an additional 5% contingency. Some discussion followed. Peter Tomaras moved for approval of the budget recommended by the President. The motion passed.

- ✦ Discussion was had regarding use of the multi-purpose room during construction. Although no formal vote was taken, a consensus was reached that we should not have sponsored fellowship hours during the construction.
- ✦ Peter Tomaras reported on the insurance policies currently held, and discussed the various provisions that were questioned in the past. He explained the extent of the coverage and defense provided by the insurance company. It was his recommendation that no additional coverage was necessary. There was some discussion.

New Business

- ✦ Nick Kirkeles presented his initial thoughts for our 50th anniversary celebration. He suggested that the celebration run through the year 2009, with various events sponsored by different groups within the parish, and ending with a formal dinner. He suggested that we consider venues in the western suburbs to assure maximum participation and reasonable costs. Committees will be formed shortly.
- ✦ A review of employee salaries was done as a result of a commitment made at the 2007 budget meeting. A motion was made by Chris Zurales to make a minor adjustment to one employee's salary. An amendment to this motion was proposed but did not pass. The motion made by Chris Zurales was voted on and passed.
- ✦ The Metropolis commitment allocation was available for all to see the amount each parish is committed to contribute. This information was made available in keeping with the Archdiocese commitment to transparency in the program.
- ✦ Peter Tomaras made a motion to make a donation to the priest retirement fund. The motion was passed.

with a challenge, they accepted it and openly followed what the Lord called them to do. This is much easier to do if we are in constant communication and fellowship with God. Praying and coming to church is so important. Courage also comes when we prioritize

and love the Lord above everything else. Both of these saints loved the Lord more than their own position and reputation. They risked the disfavor and discipline of the Emperor. At that moment they realized they

...See Fr. Nicholas on P. 6



Stacy Kinnas, center, discusses fashion show details with co-chairperson Eleni Poteres, right, and member Tamara Makris, left.

Philoptochos member of the month

Stacy Kinnas, originally from Youngstown, Ohio, has been a member of Philoptochos for 12 years and served on the Philoptochos Board for 4 years, where she held the office of Vice President. Stacy is currently co-chairperson of the annual fashion show for the third time. In Stacy's words, "I love the fashion show because it offers a wonderful afternoon

for our community while raising the funds that make Philoptochos' work possible." Stacy believes that "there's no better way to make friends than working alongside others; many genuine friendships have been forged among the women of Philoptochos."

by JoAnn Stubbings

How Seniors can make tax time less taxing

All persons who are 70 1/2 or older must take their Required Minimum Distribution from their IRA. Normally, any withdrawal from an IRA is treated as ordinary taxable income at your tax bracket. This year, the IRS gives you the opportunity to make that required minimum distribution non-taxable. If you are required to withdraw money from your IRA accounts because you are over 70 1/2, the IRS has given you the ability to withdraw up to \$100,000 from IRA accounts and have the money donated to an eligible charitable organization, such as Holy Apostles

church. These amounts are not taxable, neither are they deductible. As a rule, avoiding ordinary taxable income is a better deal than taking a charitable deduction.

You can arrange for your donation to be transferred directly to Holy Apostles Church and any other eligible charities.

Remember, you only have until December 31, 2007 to act. If you have any questions regarding this 'gift from the IRS,' check with any member of the Parish Council or your tax accountant.

by Don Alexander

Bible Study class resumes

Wednesday Night Bible Study begins October 3. This year, Barbara Pappas will offer a five-week series with further insight into the teachings of St. Paul.

Topics will include issues which are as relevant in our world today as they were in the early Church. The first session will focus on "Marriage, Celibacy & Sexuality."

Discussion begins at 7:15 pm sharp. Bring your questions and a friend.

Help a lady nail that big interview



Philoptochos will hold a Dress for Success Drive October 21 through November 4. Dress for Success is a global organization that relies on the support of people who are committed to helping disadvantaged women take charge of their lives. Please bring to church, your gently-used, cleaned fall and winter women's clothing and accessories which are appropriate for job interviews and work.

The HARC CORNER

Seeds of the Word Orthodox Thinking on Other Religions

By Fr. John Garvey

In an age when people of different faiths are likely to live side-by-side, the question is asked: how should Orthodox Christians regard non-Christian religions? Fr. John Garvey provides a concise introduction to great religious traditions, East and West, and goes on to explore how seeds of truth may be found in them.

While upholding the Orthodox Church's claim as the unique repository of Christian tradition, Fr. Garvey's broad comparative sweep of religious thought is complimented by a historic overview of the Church's encounters with faiths from Judaism to Islam. Fr. Garvey concludes with a pointed summary of how other Christian faiths approach interfaith dialogue.

Softbound, \$15.00

Two books for children:

The Bible for Young People

By Zoe Kanavas

Illustrated by Christos Gousides

An outstanding resource for parents, pastors, and teachers who are interested in introducing the young to the sacred stories of the Bible. This work gives the reader an opportunity to reflect on the Bible from a young person's perspective where the gentle love of the Lord becomes real and becomes theirs.

Hardcover, \$17.50

Basil's Search for Miracles

By Heather Zydek

Basil, an ordinary 12 year old, who dreams of being a reporter, is on a quest. He must find and report on true, modern miracles for his school newspaper. He discovers that everyday miracles can happen even in his own life. The author does a superb job of writing about deep theological truths in a manner for young people to comprehend.

Softbound, \$14.00



Families And Children Together

Steve Milak and his son Nikolas, left, roast marshmallows for s'mores at Eric & Georgia Brown's house in Wheaton. Below, the children in front are James and Joanna Clohessy. In back l-r are Melanie Pavlou, Marianna and James Georgiou, and Spiro Pavlou.

FACT's Fall Schedule of Events

September 1 @ Noon
Metropolis Family Synaxis

Saturday, October 27
Fall Fest @ 5:00pm– 8:00pm
Fr. Nicholas and
Presbytera's home in Naperville
for the whole family

Saturday, November 17
Vespers & Dinner @ 5:00pm
Discussion: 'Forgiveness'
for Parents

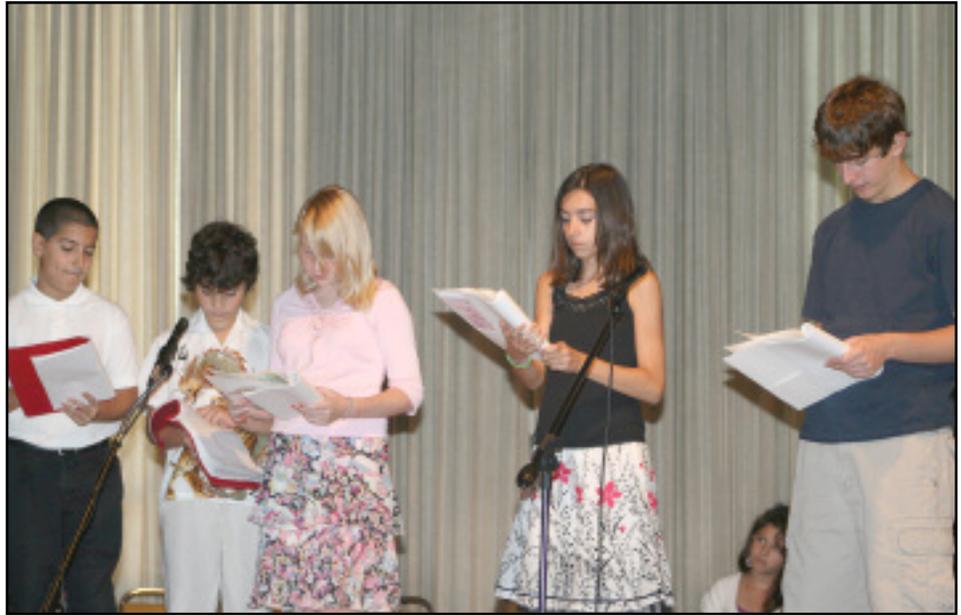
Saturday, December 15
Vespers, Dinner @ 5:00pm
Meeting: 'Preparing
for Christmas'
for the whole family



Last year, because of the growing needs of our community, Holy Apostles decided to expand and re-organize the Synaxis group. PAREA and FACT (Families and Children Together) now comprise the former Synaxis ministry. PAREA organizes various social outings and trips throughout the year. FACT is open to all and ministers to families with children still at home. Our overriding theme is "The Church in the Home". The group's focus is the family's living a daily, Orthodox Christian life. We try to meet the third Saturday evening of each month. One month, there is a discussion for cou-

ples. The alternating month is designed for the entire family. Last year some of the topics that we discussed were "Raising Balanced Children in an Unbalanced World", "Transformed by Trouble", "Managing the Christian Home" and "Spending Quality Time at Home". We have also had some fun social outings like "Sports Night" and a summer barbeque. This group is a wonderful way for families to build friendships and relationships with each other. Please review our fall schedule. We hope that you and your family can join us this year!

Adventure Theater wows em' again with an exciting radio drama called **The Clubhouse**

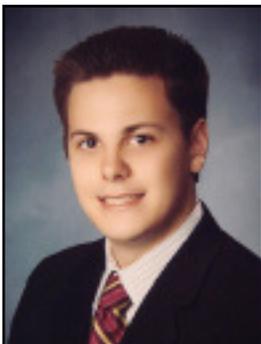


At left, Demetra Fotopoulos and Marissa Zupancic, and above from left, Peter Savas, Angelo Fotopoulos, Martha Madden, Alaina Kafkes, and Jordan Anderson read their lines.

photos by Larry Pavlou

Altar Boy of the month somehow manages to organize many interests and activities

David Schieber, currently a senior at Carl Sandburg High School, is very active in his school programs. He is a member of the National Honor Society, and Mu Alpha Theta, a math honor society. He is on the speech team, Scholastic Bowl, Math Bowl, and has traveled to different schools to compete. An editor of the



David Schieber

yearbook staff, he also takes part in numerous community service projects.

Possessing a great talent for music, he sings in the school's Men's Acapella group and has been in casts of school musicals. He enjoys playing the violin and is a member of the Symphonic Orchestra at school. His musical family includes two brothers, Michael and John, who also play the violin, and have served in the altar. Their mother Bette teaches the Sunday school children, so that they can sing in the choir for special services. David enjoys sports as well, and roots for the White Sox and the Bears.

A member of GOYA, David enjoys taking part in church activities to strengthen his love

for God. Serving in the altar, he feels a closeness to God, which I can see each time he serves. He is a great asset, and all the younger boys look up to him. David is quiet, but speaks with love about his faith. I enjoy talking with him about school, sports, and all his activities.

By Michael Cotsilis

Archdiocese mobilizes relief effort for devastating wildfires in Greece

In a continuing effort to maximize the assistance offered to the victims of the fires in Greece, the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America launched a major campaign to heighten the awareness of the general public to the devastation caused by this calamity.

Full page ads, sponsored by the Archdiocese, have run in the New York Times, USA TODAY, Chicago Tribune, and Los Angeles Times, which included an appeal from prominent Greek-Americans for assistance for the Church's Greek Fire Relief Fund.

As is known, at the onset of the disaster, the Eparchial Synod of the Holy Archdiocese of America issued a special encyclical which requested all parishes to offer special prayers on behalf of all those who have been adversely

affected by this disaster and special collections took place in all parishes for the Greek Fire Relief Fund.

Archbishop Demetrios of America has appointed a Special Committee of prominent Greek-Americans who will oversee and coordinate the collection and distribution of monies raised by the Archdiocese through the Greek Fire Relief Fund. Serving as Special Advisor to the Archbishop is Andrew Natsios, a former director of the U. S. Agency for International Development, who has tremendous experience in offering assistance to beleaguered nations.

Contributions can be made by sending a check to Holy Apostles Church or by visiting the Archdiocese website at www.goarch.org.

October Registry

Baptisms

Arthur James, son of
Kristi & Eric Landorf

Sponsors: Hannah & James Athas

Weddings

Andrea Weld & Michael Tangedahl

Sponsor: Nicole Ostendorf

Lindsey Monahan & George Zurales

Sponsor: Nicholas Chiganos

Shannon Coyne & James Messerges

Sponsor: Desi Bakalis

Somebody's raising their kids right!

One day a 6 year old girl was sitting in a classroom. The teacher was going to explain evolution to the children. The teacher asked a little boy: "Tommy, do you see the tree outside?"

TOMMY: Yes.

TEACHER: Tommy, do you see the grass outside?

TOMMY: Yes.

TEACHER: Go outside and look up and see if you can see the sky.

TOMMY: Okay. (He returned a few minutes later). Yes, I saw the sky.

TEACHER: Did you see God up there?

TOMMY: No.

TEACHER: That's my point. We can't see God because He isn't there. Possibly He just doesn't exist. A little girl spoke up and wanted to ask the boy some questions. The teacher agreed and the little girl asked the boy: Tommy, do you see the tree outside?

TOMMY: Yes.

LITTLE GIRL: Tommy, do you see the grass outside?

TOMMY: Yesssss!

LITTLE GIRL: Did you see the sky?

TOMMY: Yessss!

LITTLE GIRL: Tommy, do you see the teacher?

TOMMY: Yes.

LITTLE GIRL: Do you see her brain?

TOMMY: No.

LITTLE GIRL: Then according to what we were taught today in school, she possibly may not even have one!

FOR WE WALK BY FAITH, NOT BY SIGHT (II Corinthians 5:7)



Pardon our dust. The multi-purpose room at Holy Apostles is undergoing renovations. We ask for your patience while the changes and improvements are being made. Fellowship Hour will not take place and HARC is closed until major construction is complete. Please avoid entry into the area to protect yourselves from any injury from tools and materials.

Fr. Nicholas from p. 2

Sometimes growing in courage involves a leap of faith

loved the Lord above everything else. Besides surrounding ourselves with the Lord's life and actions and setting priorities, courage comes when we are willing to sacrifice. St. Nestor was willing to sacrifice because he believed so much in the Lord. Courage comes easier if sacrifice is a way of life for us. Lastly, courage comes when we accept the truth even if we do not understand it. Nestor was a small man. When St. Demetrios told him, "the Lord is with you and the power of God will prevail", he must have been confused. He probably thought this does not make any sense. How can a small man overtake and beat a huge, seven-foot giant that has severely beaten and killed so many other men? St. Nestor accepted the truth of God and faced a giant even though it probably did not make much sense to him. Many times in life we allow our lack of understanding to be an excuse for not acting courageously.

If you are struggling with living courageously, who can help you? God can. We must make room for the Lord in our lives if we want to develop courage. Allow a place for him to abide in our hearts and souls. All

of the answers of life may not be available to us. Although we may not fully understand, we proceed with courage. To grow in courage, we must take a step. Saints Demetrios and Nestor are great saints of courage. They are examples to us. Although they did not understand all that God revealed to them, they acted and took a step of faith. That is our challenge today! The Book of Psalms encourages us to "be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart, all you who hope in the Lord." (Psalm 31:24)

Fr. Bill from p. 1

The benefits of a marriage blessed in the Church

having had a marriage blessed in the church, brings with it certain privileges that might otherwise be denied. For instance, a church marriage allows one to be a sponsor in the Church during baptisms and weddings. Having a marriage blessed in the church allows you to receive the precious Sacrament of Holy Communion and finally, an Orthodox Christian burial. Choosing to marry outside the Church clearly reveals an unwillingness to submit ourselves to the rule of the Church, which is Christ. We are falling prey to the sin of pride and arrogance that separated Adam and Eve from their pristine existence and oneness with God. Getting married in the Church acknowledges that our betrothed is a gift from God. He or she is that special person God cultivated to be our partner to grow together in love, to experience the fullness of life together.

It has been said that there is no perfect marriage, but rather two people struggling to make their marriage perfect. May God's love flow into your hearts and grant you perfect love, peace and harmony.

Remember our parish's troops in Iraq



Several young adults from our parish are serving our country in the armed forces. Since April, Marine Lance Corporal Nick Anos has been deployed in Iraq. Nick was due to leave Iraq on September 10. After several stops, he should be back in San Diego by November 18. He will be home with his family for the holidays before leaving again for Iraq.

May God continue to keep him and all our troops in His care.

Sunday **Monday** **Tuesday** **Wednesday** **Thursday** **Friday** **Saturday**

	5:15pm The Way	10:00am TOTS 4:30pm Greek School 6:00pm GOYA Meeting 7:00pm Philoptochos Membership Meeting At Drury Lane	1:00pm Adult Christian Fellowship And Study Group Bible Study 7:30pm Catechism Instruction 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	4:30pm Greek School	4:30pm Adventure Theater 7:00pm YAL	4:00pm Altar Boys Meeting 5:00pm Vespers
1			2	3	4	5
7		4:30pm Greek School School Pictures	1:00pm Adult Christian Fellowship And Study Group Bible Study 7:30pm Catechism Instruction 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	4:30pm Greek School	4:30pm Adventure Theater	
8			9	10	11	12
14	5:15pm The Way	10:00am TOTS 4:30pm Greek School 6:00pm GOYA Meeting	1:00pm Adult Christian Fellowship And Study Group Bible Study 7:30pm Catechism Instruction 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	4:30pm Greek School 7:30pm Parish Council Meeting	4:30pm Adventure Theater	11:00am Philoptochos Luncheon & Fashion Show At The Carlisle 5:00pm Vespers
15			16	17	18	19
21		4:30pm Greek School	1:00pm Adult Christian Fellowship And Study Group Bible Study 7:30pm Catechism Instruction 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	4:30pm Greek School	FEAST DAY OF ST. DEMETRIOS 8:00am Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 4:30pm Adventure Theater	5:00pm FACT Fall Fest
22			23	24	25	26
28		4:30pm Greek School	1:00pm Adult Christian Fellowship And Study Group Bible Study 7:30pm Catechism Instruction 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	4:30pm Greek School	<p>New Master Calendar</p> <p>The Parish Council has begun using a master calendar to facilitate the posting of events and to eliminate the possibility of scheduling conflicts. Scheduling of events must be submitted 30 days in advance, when possible, in order to clear the event for posting to the master calendar. Forms may be obtained in the church office, and are available now. Thank you.</p>	
29			30	31		27

Weekday Services

Vespers

Saturday, October 6
Saturday, October 20
5:00pm

Feast Day of St. Demetrios

8:00am Orthros
9:00am Divine Liturgy

Mosaic Deadline

The deadline for the November
Mosaic is Tuesday, October 9.
Please try hard to meet this deadline.
Thanks.

Festival of Sacred Arts

Icons, Music, Crafts, Gifts, Food
Saturday, October 6
Most Holy Mother Of God
Serbian Orthodox Monastery
Grayslake, IL
12pm - 6pm

September Memorials

Constance Patsavos
Peter Kusulas
Effie Fikaris
Nick Fikaris
Michael Pihos
Keriakoula Stratigos
Anthippe Stratigos
Spero Stratigos
Gus Stratigos
Michael Stratigos
Tom Economos
Chris Economos
George Economos
Ann Principato
James Principato
Frances Louizos
Lamberios Kokonis
Chris Kirkeles
Harold Vakos
Mihalis Frankeski

Funeral

Gus Ardamis

October Memorials

Lazaros Dali
George Athas
James Athas
Pauline Athas
James Carres
Margaret Carres
Bessie Boulahanis
Ted Vanias
Nancy Laguari
Betty Gatsos

Sign up now for basketball

Boys and girls in grades 6-8, and boys and girls in grades 9-12 will be playing for our church again this year. Practices will be once a week, and the games will be on Saturdays or Sundays beginning October, 20. Contact Maria and Paul Kallis (630) 455-1688 or akallis@aol.com to sign up.

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Postmaster: Please deliver by 4th of October.

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