

# MOSAIC

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

Vol. 13, No. 9

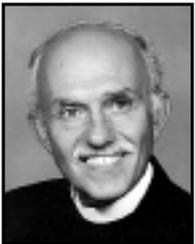
Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church 2501 S. Wolf Rd. Westchester, IL

January 2009

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www.holyapostleschurch.com

From Father Bill



## A year to celebrate

Everyone enjoys a celebration. It is perhaps one of the most characteristic traits of being a human being. We will celebrate at the drop of a hat using any excuse from a baby's first tooth to a forth-coming retirement as cause for celebration. One of the happiest expressions we can hear is the exuberant shout "This calls for a celebration!"

We have just come through (or for some should we say survived) our celebrations of Christmas and New Year's. For many they were genuinely festive occasions of rejoicing and happiness. For others, they were marked with periods of sadness and tears.

Though the word celebrate is used generally in English to refer to festive acts, it may interest you to know that essentially theologians use it to refer to the act of worship. As celebration, worship is the full and active response of the people of God, such as the Divine Liturgy. We celebrate the Sacrament of Divine Eucharist in the sense of making Christ known, and doing it in remembrance of Him. To celebrate means literally to make famous or well known. In our Orthodox vernacular, we often hear the announcement from our chief celebrant "tha eortasomen tin mnimin tou agiou...." This reference is the celebration, which is about to take place, in honor of the saint of the day.

Traditionally, Sunday, the first day of the week, is a celebration day for Christians. It was selected by the early Church Fathers to celebrate two occasions: the first day of creation when God said, "Let there be light, and there was light...So evening came and morning came, the first day" (Gen. 1:3-5), and secondly, to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. The Four Gospels are all careful to state that it was on the morning of the first day, i.e., the

## Santa makes an early appearance



Nia Dillon gets a private audience with Santa at the Communion Breakfast.

day on which creation had begun and the moment God had "separated light from darkness," that the empty tomb was discovered.

Sunday is a celebration day, and Sunday worship is a celebration act. On the first of 52 celebration days of a new year, we need to be reminded that we celebrate creative life and resurrected life on the first day of each week as we worship the Creator of life. It is a weekly reminder that once we were no people; now we are God's people. Once we lived in darkness; now we walk as children of light. Once we had no purpose; now we are ambassadors for Christ.

It was not an accident that Christianity began with angels singing, *Joy to the World!* Our Master came announcing that He wanted

us to have life abundant, and joy would be with us and in us. The record is quite clear. There is more to life than most of us claim. Jesus showed his power first at a party, a wedding feast. Paul, following his meeting with Jesus on the road to Damascus, was transformed from a legalistic head hunter running down heretics to someone who wrote that tremendous thirteenth chapter of 1 Cor. on love. He fills his writing with the desire for others to have the joy he has had. It was joy, incidentally, under some of the most trying, painfully threatening situations possible.

Celebration is a life of style. It isn't what we don. It is what we are which has caught the integrity of nature and the universe.

...See Fr. Bill on P. 3

From Father Nicholas



Coming out of  
our darkness  
into Christ's  
light

This time of year reminds me of a trip that my elementary school class took over the Christmas break. When I was in fifth grade, our class visited a famous cave in New York. No light was in the cave. Because of the great darkness, we could not even see our hands inches from our faces. Imagine the pitch-black darkness of a cave.

Perhaps some of us feel like we are in that same type of darkness this year. We may be experiencing the post-Christmas let-down. All of December is spent preparing for Christmas. After all the relatives have left, and we put the decorations away, the joy and wonder of Christmas may leave us also. Maybe we are in darkness because we lost a dear relative or friend.

The Christmas season tends to bring all the memories of that beloved person back to us. We may even be in darkness because someone has mistreated or harmed us. Darkness may come because we recently learned that we are sick or have some type of health problem. Our darkness may be caused by some failed business venture or financial challenges. All of these things and many others can contribute to our feeling like we are in the dark.

The prophet Isaiah, who lived hundreds of years before the birth of Christ, was also living in a time of darkness. He wrote during a time of tyranny and cruelty. Isaiah foretold the coming of a great light. He wrote: "The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned!" The great light that Isaiah prophesied about centuries before is our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. He comes as light into a dark world.

Darkness came into the world because of our sins and shortcomings. In the midst of this darkness, God keeps the lamp of His presence and grace burning. Throughout the entire Old Testament, God kept promising that one day the bond of darkness would be broken. He kept His promise and came down from the heavens as light, as the Son of God – Jesus! This is what we celebrate the entire Christmas season. The Lord reminds us: "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life." (John 8:12)

We celebrate the coming of the light dur-  
...See Fr. Nicholas on P. 8



# Gavel to Gavel



BY CHRIS ZURALES

Parish Council Meeting of November 20, 2008

Present: Fr. William Chiganos, Fr. Nicholas Georgiou, George Alex, Chrysy Banakis, George Chechopoulos, Terry Chiganos, Sandy Fiascone, James Fotopoulos, Mara Georges, Ted Gregory, James Kapolas, Nick Kirkeles, George T. Mannos, Stephen Melonides, Peter Poteres, Steve Savas, Peter Tomaras, and Chris Zuales.

## Financial Report

+ George T. Mannos reviewed the financial report dated October 31 and the bank balances as of September 30. Steve Savas moved to approve the financial statement dated October 31, subject to year-end review. The motion passed unanimously.

## Stewardship Report

+ Stephen Melonides reported that as of October 31 the amount pledged was \$673,710.93; amount paid, \$590,906.17; amount due, \$82,804.76; amount paid in October, \$25,554.25. The number of pledges is 818; average pledge, \$823.61; percent paid, 88.

## Correspondence

+ Chris Zuales read the following correspondence: Metropolitan Iakovos of Chicago inviting all to attend the Annual Christmas Open House on December 14; the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America regarding the New Archdiocesan Council and National Philoptochos Board meeting in Chicago; Bishop Andonios of Phasiane thanking the parish for the contribution to the Benevolence Fund for Retired Clergy and Widowed Presbyteres; Fr. David Rucker thanking the parish for its support of OCMC. George Alex moved to donate \$1,000 for an ad in the OCMC Book. The motion passed unanimously.

## Meditation

+ Father Bill discussed stewardship. He said he was sensitive to the times. He said the second most spoken about theme in the scriptures is money. The sermon this week will focus on practical approach to our finances. He will ask us all to pray at the end of the Divine Liturgy to guide us in our commitment. He recalled that dur-

ing the recession in the 1970s stewardship was high. At Holy Apostles, we tend to give at the 1% level rather than the tithing discussed in the Bible.

## Building and Grounds

+ James Fotopoulos reported that the window repairs are going very well. He reported that they have cleaned the Pantocrator of excess grout. There was discussion about bringing in a consultant to review our sound system and give some recommendations. There have been some complaints about the conditions of the washrooms on Sunday morning and we are looking into the cause of the problem. Three proposals were received to install quarry tile in the lower level that ranged from \$22,000-\$26,000.

## Old Business

+ 50th Anniversary Party: The Dinner Dance will be held at the Westin. The contract has been signed, and the menu options have been negotiated.

+ With respect to the 50th anniversary dinner dance, it is the goal of the parish council that we strive for maximum participation of our parish and to that end, the goal is to break even including using all of the proceeds from the ad book to keep the price of the tickets as low as possible. A motion was made by Steve Savas, amended by Chris Zuales and seconded by James Fotopoulos that planning be based on these objectives. The motion passed unanimously.

## New Business

+ Nick Kirkeles reported on discussions with the insurance agent regarding small adjustments in our coverage.

+ Former custodian Wally Chase passed away. James Fotopoulos made a motion to send a \$100 gift to his family. The motion passed unanimously.

+ Dates for the picnic were discussed and George Alex will try to get a permit for the desired dates.

## Parish Council election results

Newly elected members of the Parish Council are: George Alex, Chrysy Banakis, George Chechopoulos, Terry Chiganos, Sandy Fiascone, James Fotopoulos, Mara Georges, Tom Gregory, Paul Kallis, Jim Kapolas, Stephen Melonides, George Mannos, Jr., Peter Poteres, Steve Savas, and Peter Tomaras. The incumbent president, Nicholas Kirkeles, is placed on the Council for the next two years without election.

## The **HARC** CORNER

### Face to Face

*A Guide for Orthodox Christians  
Encountering Muslims*  
By Ted Pulcini

Christianity and Islam share much common ground. Both trace their roots to Abraham. Both believe in prophecy, God's messengers (apostles), revelation, scripture, the resurrection of the dead, and the centrality of religious community. Despite these significant similarities, these two world religions have a number of significant differences.

The author discusses these differences in detail under 4 general headings: understanding of God; understanding of revelation; understanding of sin and salvation; understanding of religious community.

Muslims and Christians worship the same God (Allah is simply the Arabic word for God—designation used by Arab Christians as well as Muslims).

Finally, the author believes we should not neglect the opportunity for re-shaping Christian-Muslim relations in our part of the world so as to provide new models of cooperation for the rest of the world to emulate.

Softcover, \$6.00

### Thinking Through Faith

By Aristotle Papanikolaou &  
Elizabeth H. Prodromou

Within these pages, a younger generation of Orthodox scholars in America takes up the perennial task of transmitting the meaning of Christianity to a particular time and culture. This collection of twelve essays is the result of six years of reflective conversation and collaboration regarding core beliefs of the Orthodox faith, and tenets that the authors present from fresh perspectives that appeal to reason and spiritual sensibilities alike.

Softcover, \$18.00

### My Shining Bible A First Bible For Children

By Tommy Nelson

Share favorite Bible stories with a child through the simple words and glittering art of *My Shining Bible*. Containing stories from the Old and New Testaments, this uniquely illustrated Bible will make learning about the Bible an engaging delight for children.

Hardbound, \$13.00



Philoptochos members I-r, Cathy Magas, Patty McKay, Alexandra Kotsakis, and Antigone Cardaras pack holiday food baskets for the needy

## Two events to begin Philoptochos' year of giving

### Vasilopita

Philoptochos will host the annual Vasilopita celebration on January 11 following the Divine Liturgy. The entire parish is invited to share in a special coffee hour in recognition of the 50 year anniversary of Holy Apostles, where each person will be given a piece of vasilopita. Donations will be taken to support St. Basil's Academy, which houses and educates underprivileged children. The Metropolis Philoptochos Vasilopita Celebration will take place on January 11 at 6 pm at St. Demetrios Church in Chicago.

### Godparents' Luncheon

Godparents and godchildren of all ages are invited to take Holy Communion and enjoy a

meal following the Divine Liturgy on February 8 in the multi-purpose room. A very special luncheon is being planned by Michael Cotsilis and his crew of volunteers. Proceeds will be donated to charities and families in need. Please come to enjoy quality time with your godchildren and support the work of Philoptochos. Reservations will be accepted in the multi-purpose room on Sundays leading up to the event, or by calling Cynthia Stathopoulos at (630) 986-0630. Payment is required prior to the event to secure the reservation. Seats are limited, so book your reservation today!

by JoAnn Stubbings

### Fr. Bill from P. 1

## Year-long celebration to culminate November 15

The Greek word is "hilaritos" which means cheerfulness or merry. From this word we get the word hilarious. Celebration is acting out publicly what we are, an expression of our wholeness.

It is true that the prophets sometimes spoke disparagingly of religious feasts and worship, but that was only when they had lost their spiritual content and sense of celebration and degenerated into an empty and worldly ritual. For the man whose heart was set on God, there was no greater joy than coming to worship him, especially in the presence of his people, as the Psalmist made so clear: "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord!'" (Ps. 122:1).

Of all the accusations against Christians, one of the most tragic came from Nietzsche when he said that Christians had no joy. True

joy is not necessarily reflected in the smile of one's face. Joy reigns in one's heart and is reflected.

For all of us at Holy Apostles, this year is a year to celebrate fifty years of spiritual life, baptisms, weddings, funerals and a host of personal encounters with the people of God. There is so much cause to celebrate and rejoice. Let us dedicate this New Year for gladness, and thanksgiving for God's guidance and love in our midst.

Many events are being planned to celebrate, and will culminate in a dinner dance on November 15. The event will include a commemorative program album containing highlights and photographs of the church's past, present and future. In the words of Saint Paul, "Rejoice evermore, pray without ceasing." Let's celebrate life!

# Annual Christmas activities bring joy to all

It's stardust time for Michael Linardakis, courtesy of his sister, Nikki as they prepare for the pageant, right.



Mara Georges, above, adjusts the halo for little angel Mia Gaddis. At right, Andrew Buehelos as Joseph, and Zoe Trujillo as Zoe watch over baby Jesus.



Star of The East, Nicole Lekatsos, shines during the pageant.



Andy Korpan, right, attempts to convince Peter Savas, center, that miracles really do occur during Adventure Theater's play *Twas the Second Day of Christmas* following a plane crash that they survived.



# Christmas events abound at Holy Apostles

Mary Psychogios, left, Bessie Tselepsi, center, and Liberty Poteres chat at the Seniors' Christmas party, above. At right, Jim Bobis and Pauline Ross sing at the party.



Pat Chiampas chats with Fr. Nicholas at the Seniors' party.



Phyllis Lukas, left, buys Greek goodies from Jennifer Govostis, right at the Philoptochos bake sale.



Greek School students sing Kalanda following the Liturgy on December 7, above. At right, Cindy Clark hands ballots to Becky Anos and Angie Andrews during the Council elections.



## Registry

### Baptisms

Jacqueline, daughter of  
Theodora & Nicholas Stojka  
Sponsors: Nicole & Brian Steinberg

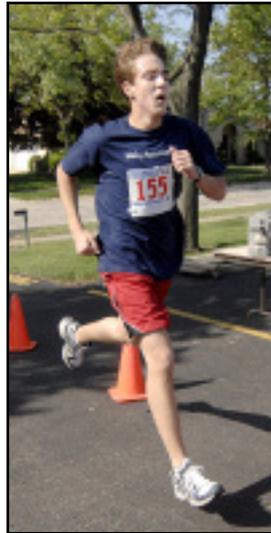
Matthew, son of  
Alexandra & John Rimmele  
Sponsors: Valerie & Michael Lamonica

### Wedding

Catherine Krenz & Allen Doan  
Sponsor: Gordon Krenz

Andrea Zurales & Warren San Luis  
Sponsors: Toni Milak  
& Christopher Chakonas

## Runner, orator, altar boy of the month



**Fotis Pappas crosses the finish line first in Holy Apostles' 2007 5K.**

Fotis Pappas has served faithfully in the altar at Holy Apostles for five years. He is a junior at Hinsdale Central High School, where many other altar boys attend. He is an honor student and is also a member of the varsity basketball team. He was also a member of the Holy Apostles basketball team, but league rules will not permit a player who also plays on a high school team to participate. He is a huge Chicago Bulls fan and tries to attend as many games with family and friends as he can. Who knows, one day we might see Fotis in a Bulls uniform.

Fotis has represented Holy Apostles for the past four years in the Oratorical Festival. He also participated in the annual 5K run to benefit The Philoxenia House in Minnesota and finished first each year in his class. He is involved in GOYA. Despite all the activities, Fotis feels that being able to serve the Lord is his greatest accomplishment. He enjoys the many friendships he has made and also the opportunity to serve each Sunday with Fr. Bill, Fr. Nicholas and Cots. He is a pleasure to have in the altar. He does anything and everything and respects the Lord's house. He enjoys the Lenten period and Holy Week. Fotis has grown closer to God while serving in the altar.

By Michael Cotsilis

## Basketball team red hot this year

The Holy Apostles basketball season is underway once again. Our team has started out hot, posting a season record of 6 wins and 0 losses.

The team looks to continue its great teamwork throughout the rest of the season. This year's team features returning players as well as many newcomers. The returning players include: Michael Bromberg, Jeremy Glavanovitz, George Kallas, Peter Kass, Spiro Kass, and Rigas Pappas.

New additions to this year's crew include: John Casio, Zack Chiganos, Peter Dimas, Connie Kass, Leia Kass, Spero Kouchis, George Koulouris, Andrew Poteres, Elesa Poteres, and Chris Syregelas. This combination of experience and young talent is a great edge that this year's team has. They have played well this season and have proved this by defeating St. Demetrios in Chicago. This has been one of the season's highlights because last season Holy Apostles lost to this same team by double digits. However, they showed their maturity and experience by winning this year by 41 to 16.

Another bit of excitement for this year's team is the fact that they now have a home gym. St. Nicholas Church in Oak Lawn has allowed the team to hold home games at its gym this season.

The team looks to continue playing hard while still maintaining the spirit of Christ. This season seems as if it will be one to remember so come and watch Coach Jim Pappas lead the way for our determined ath-

Fr. Nicholas from P. 2

## Fast Passes for our lives?

ing the Christmas season and also during the feast of Epiphany or Theophany. The Holy Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) is revealed at Theophany. St. Paul's letter to Titus reminds us: "for the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men." It is the day that we celebrate Christ's baptism in the River Jordan. Historically, this was the day that the pagan converts became Christians through Holy Baptism. Each newly baptized convert held a lit baptismal candle during the liturgy. Christians who had already been baptized brought their baptismal candles to church as well, renewing their baptismal vows and their commitment to Christ which they made at their baptism. During this Liturgy, the entire church was a sea of lights. Hence, Epiphany is called the Feast of Lights.

Epiphany reminds us that Christ, the light, is with us even in our darkest hours. The darkness of our fears, loneliness, and pain cannot overcome us. St. Paul writing to the Romans asks: "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, peril or sword? In all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us." The Psalmist who wrote the words above made his journey with the assurance that even in the

darkest hours of night, God would be watching and guiding him. This assurance is also for us.

Recently, our family visited Disney World. People may have to wait over 90 minutes to get on the most popular rides. Disney ingeniously developed a Fast Pass system. Riders can get one Fast Pass at a time. This allows them to get on the most popular rides instantly – with almost no waiting! Wouldn't it be great if we had Fast Passes for our lives? Real life does not work that way. At times, we have to wait on the Lord and trust Him. We will go through trials and tribulations. Our guarantee is that God is with us through these difficult and trying times. This is what we celebrate during the Christmas and Epiphany seasons. Christ came to be with us – always. God could have been passive and stayed in the heavens. Instead, He chose to be active, come to earth and reveal Himself to us!

If you are struggling in darkness, a verse from the Theophany Orthros service offers encouragement: "An undying light has dawned for him who was in black and darkened light. It is no longer night, but always day. Morning has dawned for him. He who fell at eventide has found release from darkness and has come to a morning which has dawned and enlightened all today."

letes. As always, may God bless the athletes as they display their love for God and the game.

Upcoming Games

1-11 @ St. Haralambos

1-17 Ss. Constantine and Helen

1-25 St. Demetrios, Elmhurst

1-31 St. Andrew

2-15 Holy Trinity

All Home Games are Played at  
St. Nicholas Church

10301 S. Kolmar Ave. Oak Lawn, IL

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin: 0 auto; width: 80%;"> <p><b>Holiday Wisdom</b></p> <p>Your Merry Christmas may depend on what others do for you. But your Happy New Year depends on what you do for others.</p> </div>						
<b>8:00am Orthros</b> <b>9:15am Awaken To God</b> <b>9:30am Divine Liturgy</b> Fellowship Hour 6:00pm YAL Christmas Party	<b>EVE OF EPIPHANY</b> <b>6:00pm Vespers Divine Liturgy</b>	<b>HOLY EPIPHANY</b> <b>8:00am Orthros</b> <b>9:00am Divine Liturgy &amp; Blessing Of The Water</b>	<b>FEAST DAY OF ST. JOHN</b> <b>8:00am Orthros</b> <b>9:00am Divine Liturgy</b>	<b>FEAST DAY OF ST. BASIL</b> <b>8:00am Orthros</b> <b>10:00am Divine Liturgy</b>	2	3
<b>8:00am Orthros</b> <b>9:15am Awaken To God</b> <b>9:30am Divine Liturgy</b> Vasilopita in Church Fellowship Hour	5:15pm The Way	10:00am TOTIS 4:30pm Greek School 7:30pm GOYA	1:00pm Adult Bible Study 7:30pm Catechism Class	4:30pm Greek School	4:30pm Adventure Theater	10
<b>FEAST DAY OF ST. ATHANASIOS</b> <b>8:00am Orthros</b> <b>9:15am Awaken To God</b> <b>9:30am Divine Liturgy</b> Fellowship Hour	12	13	14	15	16	17
<b>FEAST DAY OF ST. GREGORY</b> <b>8:00am Orthros</b> <b>9:15am Awaken To God</b> <b>9:30am Divine Liturgy</b> Fellowship Hour	19	20	21	22	23	24
					<b>FEAST DAY OF THREE HIERARCHS</b> <b>8:00am Orthros</b> <b>9:00am Divine Liturgy</b> 4:30pm Adventure Theater	31

## Memorials

*Rev. Nicholas Trivelas  
Joseph Zarcone  
Betty Tomaras  
Fotini Karapas  
Harry Psimos  
Nicholas Ganakos  
George Papazickos  
Agnes Papazickos  
Dr. Nicholas T. Poulos  
Dr. Louis G. Poulos  
Demetra Booras  
Eleas Pavlopoulos  
George Anos  
Danielle Poulos  
Sam Poulos  
Sandy Poulos Capenigro  
Steve Chechopoulos  
Mary Ramos  
Constantine Kasson*

## Funeral

*Paul Horemotes*

## Weekday Services

### Feast Day Of St. Basil

Thursday, January 1  
9:00am Orthros  
10:00am Divine Liturgy

### Eve Of Epiphany

Monday, January 5  
6:00pm Vesperal Divine Liturgy

### Holy Epiphany

Tuesday, January 6  
8:00am Orthros  
9:00am Divine Liturgy  
& Blessing Of The Water

## Weekday Services

### Feast Day Of St. John

Wednesday, January 7  
8:00am Orthros  
9:00am Divine Liturgy

### Feast Day Of St. Anthony

Saturday, January 17  
8:00am Orthros  
9:00am Divine Liturgy

### Feast Day Of Three Hierarchs

Friday, January 30  
8:00am Orthros  
9:00am Divine Liturgy

## Mosaic Deadline

The deadline for the February Mosaic is Tuesday, January 6.

## How do we know?

that men, not women, made  
the coffee in Biblical Times?  
It clearly states that  
HE brews!

## Many Thanks

Holy Apostles thanks  
Stella Athanas for her beautiful  
artwork on this year's  
Parish Christmas Card.

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