

MOSAIC

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

Vol. 14, No. 4

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

August 2009

(708) 562-2744

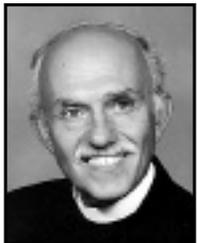
www.holyapostleschurch.com



Metropolitan Iakovos tonsures Peter Kallis, along with five other altar boys following the Holy Apostles vespers June 29.

From Father Bill

Finishing the course is what counts



Not enough is said or written today about finishing well. Lots of material is available on motivation; setting goals; establishing priorities; and developing game plans. Yet, while

all this information is insightful, seeing something through and doing it well may be even more critical.

In my association with young people, I have learned that we must extol the virtues of sticking with something until it's done. It is necessary to hang tough and be disciplined

when the excitement and fun fade. The team that shows the same tenacity and willingness to win in the fourth quarter as well as the first eight minutes of the game will be declared the winner. As a Cubs fan, I have painfully discovered the reality of loss when the Cubs have not been able to finish over their opponent.

Not losing heart, even though something has lost appeal, is a lesson to be learned by everyone. In his insightful book, *A Long Obedience In The Same Direction*, Eugene Peterson says, "Our attention spans have been conditioned by thirty second commercials. Our sense of reality has been flattened by thirty page abridgments. It is not too difficult to

get a person interested in the message of the gospel, it is terrifically difficult to sustain the interest. Millions of people in our culture make a decision for Christ, but there is a dreadful attrition rate."

At the conclusion of the Liturgy, I often wonder how many inspired hearts will maintain the glow of faith through the week. When we enter our automobiles and remember the errands to be done, as well as endure the unending attacks leashed by Satan against us, many of us forget the finish line. In our culture, anything, even news about God, can be sold if it is packaged freshly. However, when it

...See Fr. Bill on P. 6

From Father Nicholas



Preparing our Soul's Highway

Someone once said that in Chicago we only have two seasons – winter and road construction! This summer the road construction seems to be even worse. Experts say that the harsh winter caused the roads to expand and contract frequently. This caused major potholes and rough road surfaces. Now, the road crews are resurfacing and restoring them. Road crews are preparing for summer travel!

This month we will remember someone else who prepared the way. He did not prepare the way for cars but for our Lord. The beheading of St. John the Baptist is celebrated on August 29. He not only has one but four feast days throughout the church year. Why so many? He was different from us. St. John was a very ascetic person. We are told that he wore clothing made of camel's hair. John ate locusts and wild honey. What are John the Baptist's credentials? The prophet Isaiah talked about John 700 years before he was born. In the 40th chapter of Isaiah he wrote, "In the wilderness, prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God." John is called the prodromos. He is the one running ahead of Christ. A forerunner prepares the way for the Lord. The angel Gabriel told John's father, Zacharias, that his son would "go before the Lord to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." The Apolytikion that we sing on his main feast day, January 7, states that John was "proven to be more honorable than the prophets for he was deemed worthy to baptize in the river the Lord himself." We call him John the Baptist or forerunner. His prominence is shown in his icon typically being to the right of Christ in every church.

How do we prepare to receive the Lord? What would St. John say to us? The Gospel of Mark gives us the answer: "And so John came baptizing in the desert region and preaching a baptism of repentance." One saint of our church said that we have two baptisms. The first one is of water. Second, and extremely important, is the baptism of tears or repentance. John would say that we all need to repent. Something is wrong with us and it is time to change!

How would we respond to St. John's challenge? Maybe we would say to ourselves: "What does this guy know? I'm fine just the way I am – I work hard, I take care of my personal responsibilities – I'm not perfect but I'm



Gavel to Gavel



BY GEORGE CHECHOPOULOS, SECRETARY

Highlights of May & June Parish Council Meetings

Stewardship

- + As of May 31, 677 pledges have been received, down 32 for the same period last year. Total is \$604,968.67 (down \$10,000) for an average pledge of \$893.60. Amount paid is \$39,418.33.

50th Anniversary

- + 50th Anniversary Update: The cost of the adult ticket is \$100, \$40 for children 12 and under. Philips Flowers will do the flowers.

Building & Grounds

- + Argiro Tobasi has requested the resurfacing and painting of the chalkboards. A parishioner has suggested an automatic door opener for wheelchair-bound persons. Minor projects in the altar and around the church have been completed. Seal coating of both parking lots will cost approximately \$8,000.

Technical Committee

- + Paul Kallis has received an invoice for \$1,307 for the wiring of the sound system; the multi-purpose room now has plaques and digital pictures for Council and

OK." The Scriptures make it clear that God is not satisfied with anything but perfection. God wants us to be the perfect husband, perfect wife, perfect son, perfect daughter, perfect mother or perfect father. We need to be perfect workers at our jobs. We need to be perfectly loving, perfectly patient, perfectly kind, and perfectly generous, in our actions and thinking. We are challenged to be perfect Christians, perfect people of prayer and perfect worshippers. Our challenge is to have perfect priorities. The Lord challenges in the Bible, "Be perfect as your Heavenly Father is perfect."

How do we become perfect? Actions that don't bring us closer to God will push us farther away. Sins are anything that clouds our relationship with God. One favorite GOYA project is taking an icon of Christ and putting a piece of clear plastic on top. We have the kids write black lines on the plastic. These lines represent sin in our lives. Eventually there are so many black lines that we cannot see Christ underneath the plastic. Our sin has blurred our relationship with Him. Repentance takes away the lines so that we can see Christ again!

You may be asking yourself, where can I find strength to change and reform my life? How does this take place? What did John the Baptist say? "After me will come one more

Philoptochos past presidents.

- + The cost of a new organ, bench and delivery is \$28,800. There will be additional costs incurred for electrical work, new/enhanced supports and a custom stain. Nick Kirkeles made a motion to purchase the 658C organ, including the staining and electrical upgrade not to exceed \$35,000. The motion was approved unanimously.

Old Business

- + Insurance coverage will be raised to include icons. Mr. Tonelli met with Peter Poteres and suggested that the Pantocrator is not lit properly. He was asked for his suggestions.

New Business

- + A Jr. Goya group has been formed with the help of Maria Kallis. A bowling event was held and 32 Jr. Goyans participated. The next event will be miniature golf. Peter Poteres extended a special thank you to Maria for her help and hard work.

powerful than I, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie." Someone is coming that is greater than you and greater than me. He will give you courage to confess all your sins to God. Jesus is the one that will take every one of your sins away. He is the one who will strengthen us, take away our infirmities, heal us, and change us into new persons! Recently, I read a beautiful poem that we can make our own personal prayer. It is titled *Lord, it keeps appening and Happening*. "O God, You have driven me into a corner, where I cannot escape. I come to You penitently for today I've sinned grievously, I have betrayed my highest ideals. I have been false to my inner convictions. I know I have broken Your heart. Thank you for dealing with me in the privacy of Your personal Presence for my sin has been against You alone. Cleanse me, Lord, Change me. Renew me. Amen."

A note from Bob

Our custodian Bob would like to thank all the people of Holy Apostles who were so kind and thoughtful in sending all the cards, cookies and prayers after his hip surgery. He says, "Your kindness and consideration was truly and deeply appreciated. God bless you all and thank you."

Philoptochos

News

New Philoptochos Board Sworn In

A new Philoptochos Board was sworn in on May 31. Members of the Board and officers include: Cathy Magas, President; Faye Adams, First Vice President; JoAnn Stubbings, Second Vice President; Tina Dillon, Recording Secretary; Alyssa Petropoulos, Corresponding Secretary; Terry Parafink, Treasurer; Mary Tsoulos, Assistant Treasurer; Eleni Poteres, Advisor. Board Members: Chrisie Alex, Mary Jean Angelos, Chrisy Banakis, Sandra Efstathiou, Anna Eriotes, Beth Fotos, Jennifer Govostis, Patty McKay, Evelyn Paleothodoros, Elaine Paloumpis, and Anthoula Pomrening.

Greek American Nursing Home Visit

On Saturday, June 13, Mary Maragos organized a trip to the Greek American Nursing and Rehabilitation Centre to celebrate the birthdays and namedays of all the June celebrants. Philoptochos members served birthday cake, fruit and Greek pastries to all the residents. Then, several Holy Apostles children provided singing entertainment, which was the highlight of the afternoon. In attendance were: Tasia



Charlotte Hank, right, visits with Mary Poulos during a Philoptochos visit to the Greek American Nursing and Rehabilitation Centre in Wheeling.

Arzoumanidis, Faye Demakis, Pauline Franks, Diane Hank, Mary Maragos, Cathy Magas, Mimi Natsis, Elaine Paloumpis, and Eleni Poteres. Young people attending were: Kate Demakis, the Hank children (Jeffrey, Charlotte and Evan), and Elesa Poteres.

Fashion Show

This year's luncheon fashion show will be held at the Carlisle in Lombard on October 17. The theme is *A SCENTimental Journey, Celebrating 50 Years*. Proceeds will benefit Child's Voice, a non-public oral deaf school for hearing impaired children, and the Father William S. Chiganos Scholarship Fund for the

Holy Cross School of Theology in MA. Watch for your invitation to arrive in late August and don't forget to save the date!

Membership Night at Drury Lane

Membership Night will be on September 28 at Drury Lane. Please note, the event will be on Monday this year. It promises to be another lovely start to the new Philoptochos year. All members old and new are invited. Philoptochos would like to thank our 200-plus members for their donations and contributions of time and talent. We look forward to continued membership growth in the coming year.

By JoAnn Stubbings

August's face of Philoptochos

This month's Face of Philoptochos spotlights a gentle, loving woman who has been active in Philoptochos for fifty years, Tessie Andreakis. She and her husband Tony have been members of Holy Apostles since it was founded. All of their children and most of their grandchildren have been baptized at Holy Apostles. Tessie taught Sunday School for many years and Joan Berg, the current

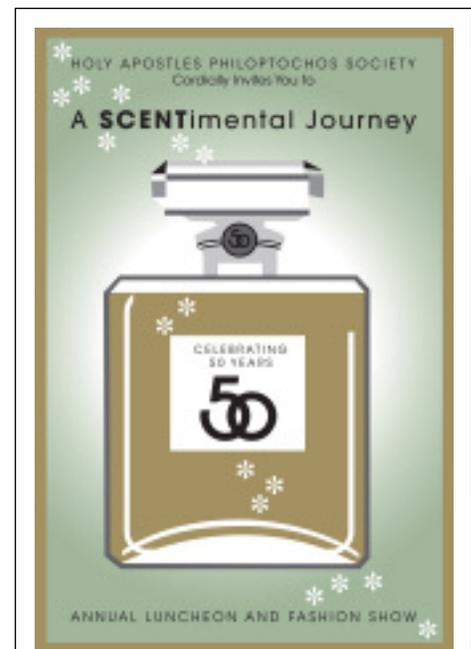


Director of the Sunday School has commented about Tessie's influence on her. Tessie has been on the Philoptochos Board for over 25 years until her recent 'retirement' and held the executive positions of Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, and 1st and 2nd Vice President. She served as the Welfare Committee chairwoman for several years and participated in Feed the Hungry and Vesper Services. Along with Theodora Demetralis, Tessie organized hospital visits to comfort patients and attend worship services with

them. On one hospital visit, Tessie befriended a young patient, and they regularly sent each other cards between visits. Tessie has been on the Metropolis Philoptochos Board over 10 years, served as Corresponding Secretary, and has had a special interest in The Christmas Open House and Metropolis Luncheon in September. She also served on the

Philanthropy Committee, as she takes a special interest in doing everything she can to help those in need. She attended many Clergy-Laity Conferences.

Tessie's daughter, Francine, points out that her mother "is always one of the first people to jump in and help for both Holy Apostles as well as Metropolis events." Tessie states that, to her, "church and family are entwined." Tessie is a role model for all women in Philoptochos. Her kindness shines through in every encounter.



October, 17
Plan to be
there!

Vacation Bible School



Presvytera Michelle leads the children in a closing song, above. At left, Chris Chakonas, our Studio Go! game show host, sings along with some junior volunteers.



VBS students portray the Holy Apostles as they re-enact Bible stories, above. Fr. Nicholas teaches the children in the Primetime Bible Challenge center, about how the Holy Apostles served Christ, above right.



With over 40 volunteers and 92 children, the Vacation Bible School was an exciting week! From 9-noon the children sang hymns in the church, had a lesson everyday from Fr. Bill and Fr. Nicholas, sang contemporary songs, made crafts, did philanthropy for the community and created many fond memories with their friends and teachers. The theme this year taught the children how to serve Christ by leading, telling, obeying, and taking a risk to stand up for their faith. The last day was celebrated with a carnival which included a dunking booth, two moonwalks, and many treats and games.

Photos by Peter Bell



Connie Panton, first grade teacher, helps the class make its crafts in Spotlight Creations, above. The 4th graders, right, enjoy tossing water balloons during Backstage Fun.





Jr. GOYA members enjoyed their first event by bowling at Willowbrook Lanes.



Proud parents gather with Metropolitan Iakovos, Fr. Bill, and Fr. Nicholas after six altar boys were tonsured following vespers. Left to right, the boys are Michael Tomaras, Rigas Pappas, Eric Thompson, John Stathopoulos, Stephen Berg, and Peter Kallis.

A summer photo gallery



The Holy Apostles vespers procession above, and Seniors Bible Class Spring luncheon, right.



Philoptochos members Tasia Arzoumanidis, Mimi Natsis, and Elaine Paloumpis, along with Kate Demakis and Jeffrey Hank, visit with Helen Goetsalitis at Greek-American Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Wheeling.



Graduates from college, high school, and grammar school were honored following the Liturgy June, 14.



See Fr. Bill from P. 1

Reflecting on the race of life

loses its novelty, it goes on the garbage heap. There is little patience in our world to follow the apprenticeship in what early generations called holiness.

I suspect our generation has come dangerously near the "I'm getting tired, so let's just quit" mentality. Since losing weight is difficult, we opt not to. Cultivating close relationships is painful, so we back off. Working through conflicts in marriage demands humility and love, so we opt to walk away. Sticking with an occupation is tough, so we look elsewhere. Worries, illness, job loss, and other unforeseen crises will occur. Yet, if you enter each day with faith in Jesus Christ, it will sustain you. Remember the timeless words of the Prophet Isaiah, "Trust in the Lord forever, for He is an everlasting rock." (Isaiah 6:4)

In times of discouragement, we never know how close we may be to the goal we are seeking. Three notions suggest the nature of failure: "almost", "nearly", and "not quite." A little more discipline or dedication could mark the difference between triumph and defeat. Quitting too soon is to sacrifice the possibility of finally arriving at the goal we have set.

Lou Holtz, a former coach of the New York Jets, once told the story of when he and a boyhood friend tried to swim across the Ohio River from East Liverpool, OH, to West Virginia. Three quarters of the way across, the other boy found the going rough and wanted to turn back. Holtz urged his friend to

keep on because the West Virginia side was closer. The other lad thought it was easier to turn back and did. "He swam a mile and a half, and I swam a mile," Holtz said, "and he didn't get to where he had wanted to go."

A marathon runner might well remember the words his high school track coach told him. "What I am asking you to do today is finish. You may slow down, or even stop for a bit, but you will not quit. Once you start, I want you to cross this finish line, no matter what!"

I vividly recall sitting in a classroom, ready to take a final exam, and the professor saying, "You must complete all the questions in the exam. Incomplete answers will affect the final grade."

The Book of Hebrews encourages us to complete the race. In Verse 1, St. Paul writes, "Let us run with steadfast endurance the course that is marked out for us and, as we do so, let us keep our gaze fixed on Jesus..." William Barclay, in an insightful commentary, adds, "In the Christian life we have a goal. The Christian is not an unconcerned stroller along the byways of life; he is a wayfarer on the high road. He is not a tourist, who returns each night to the place from which he starts; he is a pilgrim who is forever on the way. The goal is nothing less than crossing the finish line." A Christian's life is meant to be dynamic not static. It would serve us well if, at each day's end, we were to ask ourselves, "Am I any farther on?"

Two important announcements

Senior Choir Plans Reunion Sunday

A Reunion Sunday for former members of the Senior Choir is being planned as part of the 50th anniversary of the parish. Sunday, September 20, the choir is inviting its former members to join them in the choir loft to worship and sing at the Divine Liturgy. Director Nick Paloumpis, asks that interested singers call the church office or contact him at holyapostleschoir2009@yahoo.com so preparations can be made for music books. Please direct your questions to Nick through this email address.

A special memorial will be offered in memory of the souls of departed choir members. The choir is asking your help in compiling a

list of names of those who at one time sang with the choir and have since passed away. Please email Nick with the names and year they passed. The choir will host the Fellowship Hour.

50th Anniversary Gala

Our Holy Apostles Church half century milestone will be honored with a gala, "As Time Goes By." Come enjoy the 50th anniversary dinner dance of our parish with music by The Chris Sarlas Orchestra on the evening of November 15 at The Westin Lombard Yorktown Center.

Tickets for this celebration of a lifetime are \$100 per adult and \$40 per child under 12 years of age.

Adventure Theater radio play rehearsals begin

On Friday, August 7, the members of the Adventure Theater will begin rehearsing an exciting, original radio play entitled *A Lesson I Learned on the Scariest Night of My Life*, based on the parable of the Prodigal Son. It will be presented in our expanded radio studio (the multi-purpose room) following the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, August 30, and will be preceded by a delicious, deluxe, continental breakfast for those who attend the program.

Activities abound for this month's altar boy

Peter Savas has served faithfully in the altar for the past three years. He is a junior



helper for Vacation Bible School and involved in Adventure Theater where he performs during the year. He will enter eighth grade this fall at Park Jr. High School in La Grange Park. Peter is a remarkable young man who helps out in a tutoring program for kids at his old grammar school at Congress Park.

Peter loves playing all sports and has been on the cross-country, basketball, and volleyball teams for the Park Patriots, his Jr High School team. He also has been involved with the Junior Olympics program for soccer and track for the last few years. His favorite professional teams are the Bears and the Cubs, even though they disappoint him each season. He is always prepared to serve, and comes in with a smile each service. He is quiet in some ways and is always willing to fill in at any time. I notice at times he chants with the choir. You can't help but notice his love for his faith and his family. It is a pleasure to have Peter in the altar.

...By Michael Cotsilis

Registry

Baptisms

Jack, son of
Matthew Karchmar & Dr. Christine Alevritis
Sponsor: Dr. Ellie Alevritis Peters

John, son of
Scott & Gina Usechek
Sponsors: Steve & Stacy Mikuzis

George, son of
Michael & Constance Sbarboro
Sponsor: Elizabeth Dorner

John, son of
Kristi & Andreas Dorizas
Sponsor: Spiro Dorizas

Wedding

Katherine Feldmann & Gary Steffenson
Sponsor: Andrew Collis

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	7:00pm Paraklesis Service		1:00pm Adult Christian Fellowship And Study Group 7:00pm Paraklesis Service	TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD 8:00am Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy	4:30pm Adventure Theater 7:00pm Paraklesis Service	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
8:00am Orthros 9:15am Awaken To God 9:30am Divine Liturgy Fellowship Hour		7:00pm Paraklesis Service	1:00pm Adult Christian Fellowship And Study Group	7:00pm Paraklesis Service	4:30pm Adventure Theater 7:00pm Vesper Service At Assumption Church	FALLING ASLEEP OF THE THEOTOKOS 8:00am Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 5:00pm Adventure Theater BBQ
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
8:00am Orthros 9:15am Awaken To God 9:30am Divine Liturgy Fellowship Hour		8:45am Pareo Outing	1:00pm Adult Christian Fellowship And Study Group	7:00pm Parish Council Meeting	4:30pm Adventure Theater	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
8:00am Orthros 9:15am Awaken To God 9:30am Divine Liturgy Fellowship Hour			1:00pm Adult Christian Fellowship And Study Group	4:30pm First Day Of Greek School	4:30pm Adventure Theater	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
8:00am Orthros 9:15am Awaken To God 9:30am Divine Liturgy Adventure Theater Radio Play & Breakfast						
30	31	Falling Asleep Of The Theotokos St. Thomas, who arrived after her burial, requested a final look which resulted in the discovery of the empty tomb. While not officially recognized by the Church, traditional accounts dating back to biblical times hold to the belief that the Theotokos was taken to heaven in the same manner as her Son.				

Memorials

*Petros Patsos
Vasilios Sepsis
Constandina Sepsis
Paul Horemioles
Louis P. Van Zandt
Ethel Geannopulos
Demetra Dravillas
James Vasilion
Christine Vasilion
Catherine Louladakis
Mary Zarcone
Perry Kokinis
Lula Miller
Elliott Angelos
Peter Angelopoulos*

Funerals

*Fannie Matysek
Demetra Dravillas
Peter Siambanes*

Weekday Services

Transfiguration

Thursday, August 6
8:00am Orthros
9:00am Divine Liturgy

Paraklesis Service

Monday, August 3
Wednesday, August 5
Friday, August 7
Tuesday, August 11
Thursday, August 13
7:00pm

Falling Asleep of the Theotokos

Saturday, August 15
8:00am Orthros
9:00am Divine Liturgy

Jr. Olympics

This year's Jr. Olympics was another fun event for everyone who participated. We had 55 participants between the ages of 8 and 18 compete in a wide variety of sports. Both soccer teams played good, hard matches but lost close games. Our softball team played a great game but lost 5-1 to a tough opponent. Congratulations to Elesia Poteres for winning gold for individual high score in bowling and to Mario and Maxx Lozano who each won gold in wrestling, and Aliko Nicolau who won gold in the shot put.

Thank you to Spero Kinnas for coaching the soccer teams with help from Paul Kallis. Steve Savas coached the girls' volleyball team and assisted Chris Chakonias who coached softball.

Thank you to Larry Pavlou for helping to sort out the tracksters.

Wish List

The church is planning on purchasing a new organ at a cost of \$28,800 plus costs for electrical and structural upgrades. Anyone interested in donating to help defray the costs, please contact the church office.

Pledge Reminder

Yes, we know it is summer, but the church work goes on. Please take a moment to fulfill your pledge.

Mosaic Deadline

The deadline for the September Mosaic is Tuesday, August 4.

Address Service Requested Postmaster: Please deliver by the 5th of August.

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