

# MOSAIC

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

Vol. 15, No. 4

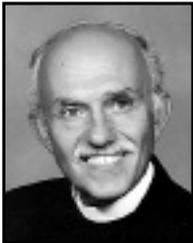
Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church 2501 S. Wolf Rd. Westchester, IL

September 2010

(708) 562-2744

www.holyapostleschurch.com

## From Father Bill



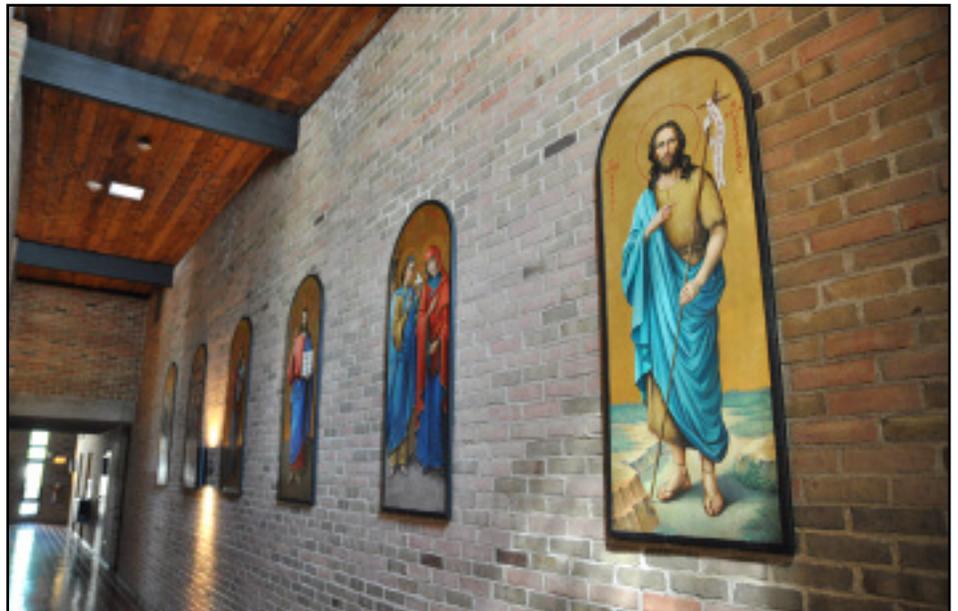
### Moral example is more powerful than precepts

The story goes that a troubled mother, along with her daughter, came to Gandhi one day, and explained to the Indian religious leader that her daughter was in the habit of eating far more sweet food than was good for her. Please, she asked, would Gandhi speak to the girl and persuade her to give up this harmful habit? Gandhi sat for a while in silence and then said, "Bring your daughter back in three weeks' time, and I will speak to her." The mother went away as she was told and returned after three weeks. This time, Gandhi quietly took the daughter aside and in a few simple words pointed out to her the harmful effects of indulging in too many sweets; he urged her to abandon the habit.

Thanking Gandhi for giving her daughter such good advice, the mother then said to him in a puzzled voice, "Still, I would like to know, Gandhi, why you did not just say those words to my daughter three weeks ago when I first brought her to you?" "But," explained Gandhi in reply, "Three weeks ago I myself was still addicted to eating sweet foods!"

This story, I believe, is important for all of us who are placed in leadership roles in life, such as parents, counselors, employers, teachers, etc. By the time you receive this issue of the Mosaic, we will have entered into the month of September. For the Orthodox, we ought to exclaim, "Kali Hronia" or "Happy New Year." This may appear strange for some, but September is the beginning of the new ecclesiastical calendar year. As with the beginning of each new year, we enter it with renewed hope and a positive feeling.

Gandhi believed in example. Jesus certainly believed that and so did the first Apostles. Words were important in the spread of the gospel, but preaching and witnessing by word



## Broadview icons have a new home

The first home for Holy Apostles was located in Broadview, IL. Some of the gifted and skilled men of the parish designed and constructed the iconostasion. Frank Lackner, a local artist, painted these six beautiful icons, which were used as part of our worship in the Broadview location, until we moved to our new church in 1965.

Mr. Sirio Tonelli, an iconographer of mosaics, was contracted to complete the new iconostasion. The original icons were stored in the basement and used occasionally and now adorn the north wall of the Nave which separates the church and multi-purpose room.

of mouth were only as effective as the life behind the sounds. In the Epistle of Paul to the Philippians, Paul emphasizes to the believers at Philippi the importance of example in Christian witness "...let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ" (Phil. 1:27). It's a familiar refrain in Paul's writings and one he was careful to back up with his own exemplary life.

The Fathers of the Church who followed the example of Christ to all regions of the world and ministered to thousands of souls, maintained they ministered more by example than the sermons they preached. Several saints are revered not for the works they left to the world, but for the manner which they lived.

Paul was an example to the Philippians; he

knew that. Earlier in the Philippian letter he mentions that his desire was to depart and be with Christ, "But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account...so that in me you may have ample cause to go in Christ Jesus" (vs, 23, 25). Christ is the supreme example, and Paul holds up the gospel as the paradigm for their behavior. It's the manner of life, not the manner of speech that will influence people. Just like Gandhi, who had to cure his own addiction to sweets before he could influence another, those who follow Christ must shape their manner of life and live as converted people before they can influence others.

I conclude these thoughts with a lesson from Aesop's Fables. A crab said to her child,

**See Fr. Bill on P. 6**

From Father Nicholas



## The Cross, a powerful symbol for us

“Make sure that you are wearing your cross,”

my mother would say as we left for school. Why is wearing the cross so important we wondered. When we were younger we did not realize that signs, symbols and codes surround us. These codes are not supposed to be secret. We learn about them naturally as we mature. Most of the codes are so obvious that we use them without realizing. Signs are languages that shape our thought and even our personality.

A symbol is a special kind of sign. Symbol is composed of the word “seen” and “vallo”. Translated this means to bring two realities together and place them side-by-side. Leonid Ouspensky comments, “the symbol expresses and somehow incorporates and makes present a higher reality. To understand a symbol is to experience a presence.” Symbols reveal and also hide. He continues: “Symbolism, the language of mystery, reveals the truth to those who know how to interpret it, while concealing it from the uninitiated.” In symbols, God penetrates created things and reveals Himself to us through our senses. Visible things help us experience the invisible realities that are beyond our senses’ reach. Symbols carry meaning and tradition. They speak to our entire being because they communicate with our senses.

Children first experience Christ through symbols. They are introduced to God through the senses as they kiss the icons, smell the incense, or do the sign of the cross. Symbols shape and mold us. These are the same symbols we utilize as adults. We do not outgrow them.

This month we will remember a very fundamental symbol – the cross. On September 14, we celebrate the Elevation of the Venerable and Life-Giving Cross. It is a symbol of joy, triumph and new life. St. John Chrysostom wrote: “The Cross has opened paradise, has admitted the thief, and has guided the human race from impending disaster to the Kingdom of God!” Orthodox hymns call the cross life-giving. It is referred to as life and resurrection. The ladder to heaven is another name for the Holy Cross. We will sing in the Orthros of that day: “O divine ladder by which we climb to heaven.”

Flowers are another symbol and will adorn the cross. They signify the new life that is brought by the Cross of Christ. In the midst

...See Fr. Nicholas on P. 6



# Gavel to Gavel



BY GEORGE CHECHOPOULOS

Parish Council meeting of August 18

### Financial Report

- + Steve Savas reviewed the comparative financial report dated July 31, 2009 & 2010. Mara Georges moved to approve the financial statements subject to year end review. The motion passed unanimously.

### Stewardship

- + Steve Melonides reported that the church received 724 pledges, down 2 pledges for the same period last year, totaling \$27,578.50 paid in July (down ~\$18,414.50) from the same period last year, for an average pledge of \$876.43. Amount paid for July 31 was \$493,390.45

### Correspondence

- + The Orthodox Christian Network sent a letter thanking Holy Apostles for our gift of \$500 in support of its ministry.
- + The Greek American Rehabilitation & Care Centre is holding its Golf Outing on Thursday, September 9 at the Itasca CC.
- + Assumption Church in Chicago is having its 85th anniversary on October, 17 at the Esplanade in Downers Grove.

### Meditation

- + Fr. Bill's meditation focused on the subject of the end of our current Ecclesiastical Calendar Year and looking forward to the start of the new year which begins on September 1. We all need to examine our measure of faith as individuals. Fr. Bill said the Bible never mentions the word success, but rather, the word faithful.

### Building & Grounds

- + George Alex and Jim Fotopoulos reported that the flooring project in the lower Sunday School classrooms has been completed. Additionally, the flooring project in the nave has been completed. Thomas Tile was kind enough to donate all the work done for the nave project.
- + During the heavy rains a few weeks ago, our church sustained minimal flooding in the basement. The committee will look into implementing either a battery backup or generator system. This would help power the sump pumps in the basement to avoid any potential flooding in any future heavy rains or power losses.
- + Other projects completed: the cutting of the downstairs doors to accommodate the height of the new tile; the kneelers of the pews between aisle 3 and 4 have been readjusted to accommodate more room in

the aisles; the ceiling project in the multipurpose room has been completed.

- + Four bids have been requested for a new copy machine. Currently, we have received one bid. The 15 yr. old copy machine in the classroom office will be replaced with the copy machine currently in the church office. The new copy machine will be located in the church office.

### Technical Committee

- + President Peter Poteres said the sound system is one component away from being completed.
- + The internet update is going well. We will need to determine how to best utilize the new system, and what information will be useful to post online.

### Ways & Means

- + James Kapolas and Steve Savas thanked everyone for their help and participation at this year's golf outing. Steve wanted to thank Peter Bell who was new to our committee this year and who assisted on one of the specialty holes. We had 99 golfers and 42 total sponsors. There was an overall net profit of \$11,070.
- + There has been a decrease in attendance at the church picnic over the last few years. The committee will look into ways to perk up our picnic and will report at the September meeting.
- + Father Bill, President Peter Poteres and Vice President George Mannos Jr. attended the recent Clergy-Laity Congress in Atlanta. Father Bill reported that attendance was down and the number of days of the Congress was reduced. The workshops were worthwhile and interesting, including a session on different ministries which can enhance a parish.
- + The General Assembly meeting will be held November 14.
- + Elections for the 2010-2012 Parish Council will be held on December 12.

### New Business

- + President Peter Poteres brought up the request for a Youth Director. A discussion will be held at a later date.
- + Peter Poteres has requested more information on the mission trip George Lamberis took to Korea. The subject will be discussed at a later date.

## Junior Olympics

L-r below, Chris Chakonias, James Georgiou, Agape Lamberis watch the proceedings with Jack Nicholson, a.k.a. Fr. Nicholas. At right, Diana Kafkes, takes off while Nikki Spyropoulos watches, right.



## Attention all incoming 7th and 8th graders!

Get to know your Holy Apostles peers and join Jr. GOYA today.

Jr. GOYA provides 7th and 8th graders an opportunity for fellowship in a relaxed, fun, social and Christian atmosphere. In addition to being a fun experience through the various social activities we have planned, our Jr. Goyans will give their time and talents for important causes. This will help point them toward daily living of their Orthodox faith.

To be added to our e-mail list or for information on future events and activities, please contact: Pamela Ziogas 630.240.4915 or p.ziogas@comcast.net; Helen Kasimos 630.677.7757 or octobertwins@att.net; Eleni Poteres 630.416.890 or epoteres@hotmail.com; or Toula Kelikian 630.642.0373 or akelikian@comcast.

We are looking forward to a great year!

## Spend your fall with Matthew!

The Wednesday Night Bible Study will focus on the Gospel of Matthew, the fullest account of Christ's life and teachings. This book of the Bible was written by the despised tax collector who, when Christ walked by and said "Follow Me," literally dropped everything and took Him home for dinner.

Matthew's writings are directed primarily to Jews, focusing on the fact that Jesus Christ is the Messiah for whom they have been waiting. Accordingly, this study will include Old Testament prophecy that points toward fulfillment in the birth, life, teachings, crucifixion and resurrection of our Savior, with special emphasis on what this means to us.

The discussions will begin on October 6 at 7:15 pm sharp and conclude around 8:30 pm. We will meet each Wednesday evening thereafter—same time, same place—for a number of weeks (to be decided).

Everyone is welcome—bring a friend! There will be plenty of food-for-thought for the beginner as well as for those more knowledgeable.

By Barbara Pappas

The Holy Apostles Philoptochos Society presents its annual fashion show, "Fall Into Fashion", at 11am on Saturday, October 16 at the Carlisle in Lombard.

Portions of the proceeds will benefit two organizations: The Greek American Rehabilitation and Care Centre and the Batten Disease Support and Research Association

Our donations will help fund the innovative remodeling of the Memory Care Unit at the Greek American Rehabilitation and Care Centre. The goal of this project is to provide a warm and homelike environment, which will promote wellness, dignity and a sense of belonging to those seniors who have given us so much over the years.

Our contributions will also help fund the Equipment Exchange Program of the Batten

# Fall Into Fashion

## The Holy Apostles Philoptochos Annual Luncheon and Fashion Show

Saturday, October 16, 2010  
11:00 am

be accepted at Holy Apostles on Saturday, September 11 from 10 - 11 am and every Sunday thereafter, until October 10. Donations are \$45 for adults and \$25 for children under 12. For reservation information, please contact Anthoula Pomrening at 708.588.0258 or Jennifer Govostis at 630.455.1388.

Disease Support and Research Association (BDSRA), which provides otherwise unavailable feeding, personal care and medical equipment to overwhelmed families caring for children with Batten Disease – a devastating neurological disorder that causes a seemingly healthy child to suffer progressive loss of motor skills, worsening seizures, blindness, dementia and ultimately, death.

Reservations will

## Plan to attend Philoptochos membership night

Mark your calendar for a lovely night of food and fellowship! Membership night will be on Monday, September 27 at 7 pm at Drury Lane Oak Brook.

# An artful view of Fanari



**Above, members of the Holy Apostles community line up for a group photo after Liturgy.**

There was a change in the air at Fanari camp this year. Oh, the fun on the bus was still the same; the fact that the girls' suitcases far exceeded the boys' in size and weight, that was still the same. Need for bug spray? Check. Well thought out props for skit night? Check. Eye-dazzling display of junk food packages for late-night snacking, even though the dining hall offers wonderful, abundant food? Check. Well-executed line up of soul-satisfying, thought-provoking, spiritual activities? Of course. Then, what was it?

The change came in the form of more time for friends and reflection; more choice in selection of after dinner activities by age group; earlier nights, presumably for more rest; and a shift to art rather than just crafts. Yet, the experience was still the same: the final product a function of thought, emotion and belief.

Usually, my art is accomplished with a needle and thread or in sugar and gum paste. This year, I was blessed with the opportunity to accompany my daughter to camp as an art staff member in Diakonia and I learned, too. The campers were treated to an expert's view of art and offered insight into the process of Byzantine iconography. They learned about the saints, how they are portrayed in the art of the Church, and about the tradition of blessing the icons once completed. The concept was introduced over a three-day period so that layers of artistic expression were revealed in a step-by-step process. While following the gentle guidelines and individual instruction of

iconographer, Euripides "Rip" Kastaris, the campers acquired competencies in laying the basis for color, establishing highlights and low lights, and the way depth and shadow work to make an image come alive.

The older grades approached their icon projects with reverence and serious contemplation. The younger grades also took three sessions to complete a beautiful mosaic cross, an art form well known to the hearts of Holy Apostles parishioners. When observed, especially from a few feet away, the crosses had the impact of true mosaic tiles, with color and pattern chosen to suit the creative vision of each young artist.

True to its name, the campers had a creative hand in Diakonia when on the last day they participated in preparing the small gift to be given to attendees at the October dinner in honor of Metropolitan Iakovos' name day.

Some of the campers, with the desire to receive further individual instruction and to complete their project under artful supervision, They had the wonderful opportunity to work with real art materials and to gain practical, useable instruction for producing examples of Church art. An icon handwritten by themselves, a cross in colors and pattern expressing their individuality and a gift, not for themselves, family or friends, but for others, in the true meaning of service...priceless evidence of time well-spent. One wonders which of them might be inspired to some day build on this knowledge and move on to bigger things.

This year was bittersweet for the eleventh



**Martha Madden gets some help on her icon from iconographer Euripides 'Rip' Kastaris.**

graders as the last group to remember the days of Fanari camp when it was at Conference Point, WI. That is the essence of this experience: time spent learning about the Church and themselves, all six years for many of them.

The campers wore their years as a badge..."Six years at Fanari", proudly spoken, "Five years, I had to skip one because of a broken ankle my second year," "three years, because we just moved to the area," and so on. After chapel on the last evening, there were tears and laughter for the eleventh graders who knew they would never be this way again. The shared experience spoke of love, faith, and belief that this world is a wonderful place.

As if to remind us of God's promise, a beautiful double rainbow seemed to emerge from the lake one evening after a rainfall. It could not have been a more perfect affirmation of the viability of this program.

By Paula Sabbia (aka Charlie at camp)



## Summer event wrap up

Worship, games, and food highlighted this year's picnic. Below, Peter Tomaras serves up some chicken shishkabobs.



On a recent outing, members of Parea enjoyed visiting the San Filippo estate in Barrington and viewing the many interesting items on display.



Photos by Peter Bell and George Aravosis

## The **HARC** CORNER

### Hidden and Triumphant The Underground Struggle to Save Russian Iconography

By Irina Yazydova

This dramatic history recounts how the very heartbeat of Russian Orthodox art and spirituality survived in the 20th century, keeping faith alive after the Bolshevik Revolution. As thousands of Christians were killed or sent to labor camps, a few courageous iconographers continued to paint holy images despite the threat of arrest. Today we are witness to a renaissance of the Russian icon made possible by the sacrifices of these previous heroes.

Hardbound, \$27.00

### The Story of the Virgin

By Fr. Evagoras Constantinides

There are several reasons to write about the Virgin Mary. Firstly, it is written to bridge the past with the present. Secondly, no matter how great or how lowly were our forefathers, they were no different than we are. Thirdly, this book enables the reader to discover where our present-day customs, traditions, and religious practices had their beginnings.

Softbound, \$15.00

### Questioning God: A look at Genesis 1-3

By Ted Bobosh

Does the thought that the creation theory in Genesis might not be literally true threaten your faith in the Bible or in God? The author's claim is that the first three chapters of the Bible are the basis for all Christian theology and one's personal relationship with God. For those who wonder how to balance biblical faith with the claims of modern science, this book is an invitation to think again and to believe.

Softbound, \$18.00

## Fellowship hour volunteers needed

Join the many volunteers who host our weekly coffee fellowship hours following the Divine Liturgy. This year, you can choose to host a 'coffee and just cookies' reception, a 'traditional' coffee reception, or you can put your own creative touch on the refreshments.

Share your hosting responsibilities with another family! The fellowship hour provides a

Fr. Nicholas from P. 2

## Turning to the cross is a daily exercise

of our struggles and concerns, we place flowers around the cross to help us remember our Lord's Resurrection. Flowers remind us that the human race began in a garden – the Garden of Eden. Jesus suffered in agony in the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus was crucified in and even buried in a garden. From that tomb in the garden, He was resurrected. We read in the Gospel of John: "Now in the place where He was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid." (John 19:41) History began in a garden with flowers. Paradise was lost in a garden. The garden is also where Paradise was regained!

Flowers are used extensively in our worship. Following Palm Sunday services, we bless and distribute palms remembering Christ's entrance into Jerusalem. On Holy Friday, the epitafion or tomb of Christ is beautifully adorned with flowers. Bay leaves are scattered all over the church as the priest announces Christ's Resurrection on Holy Saturday morning. Flowers are kept on the empty tomb of Christ for forty days. Worshippers place flowers on icons as offerings of love. We adorn our loved ones' graves with flowers. They express the beauty and joy that come from our faith and hope in the resurrection of Christ.

Basil is a special plant that is utilized at the

Fr. Bill from P. 1

### Show me, don't tell me.

"Why do you walk so one-sided, my child? It is far more becoming to go straight forward." The young crab replied: "Quite true, dear mother; and if you will show me the straight way, I will promise to walk it." The mother tried in vain, and submitted without remonstrance to the reproof of her child.

Moral: Example is more powerful than precept. May we therefore begin this New Ecclesiastical Year with fresh insight, the light of knowledge, and a determined resolve to improve our lifestyle. There are many eyes fixed upon us and ready to replicate what they perceive. Let us listen to the words of Benjamin Franklin, "None preaches better than the ant, and she says nothing."

wonderful time to meet members of our Church family and have the opportunity to chat over a cup of coffee. Please join us!

Call the church office at 708.562.2744 to sign up or call Chrisy Banakis at 630.964.6777 for guidelines and hosting information.

Veneration of the Cross. St. Helen traveled to Palestine searching for the Cross of Christ. She looked for it everywhere. Finally she found three crosses. Helen prayed to God asking which one of those crosses was the one on which Jesus was crucified. She then noticed a sprig of basil growing from the center cross. Helen fell on her knees before the cross with the basil, adoring Christ.

Symbols powerfully remind us of God and aid in our worship. Crosses are the most prominent symbol. They appear on almost everything utilized in worship. This includes altars, linens, churches, books, and vestments. Throughout the divine services, we make the sign of the cross. We cross ourselves when we pray, in temptation, in dangerous situations and before important undertakings. With this action, we are asking God to be with and strengthen us. St. Cyril of Jerusalem encourages us: "Let us then not be ashamed to confess the Crucified. Be the cross our seal, made with boldness by our fingers on our brow and in everything; over the bread we eat and the cups we drink, in our comings in and our goings out; before our sleep, when we lie down and when we awake; when we are traveling and when we are at rest."

## Registry

September

### Baptisms

*Raymond, son of  
Gina & Scott Usechek  
Sponsors: Anastasia Catricketes*

*Kendall, daughter of  
Jessica & Nicholas Marion  
Sponsor: Kalli Marion*

*Dimitri, son of  
Katherine & Quentin Ratay  
Sponsor: Anthony Vanderakis*

*Maria Emily, daughter of  
Eleni & George Starovas  
Sponsor: Vasiliki Damo & Niko Kallco*

*Mia, daughter of  
Kelly & Tom Toullos  
Sponsor: John Stavropoulos*

### Weddings

none

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

***For the first day of school...***

On the first day of school, a first grader handed the teacher a note from his mother. It read, "The opinions expressed by this child are not necessarily those of his parents."

<p><b>8:00am Orthros</b>  <b>9:15am Awaken To God</b>  <b>9:30am Divine Liturgy</b>                  Fellowship Hour</p>	<p><b>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</b></p>	<p>4:30pm Greek School                  7:30pm GOYA Meeting</p>	<p><b>NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS</b>  <b>8:00am Orthros</b>  <b>9:00am Divine Liturgy</b>                  1:00pm Adult Christian Fellowship                  And Study Group</p>	<p>4:30pm Greek School</p>	<p>4:30pm Adventure Theater</p>	<p>9:00am GOYA Trip To                  Feed My Starving Children</p>
<p><b>SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS</b>  <b>8:00am Orthros</b>  <b>9:15am Awaken To God</b>  <b>9:30am Divine Liturgy</b>                  Fellowship Hour</p>	<p><b>ELEVATION OF THE CROSS</b>  <b>8:00am Orthros</b>  <b>9:00am Divine Liturgy</b>                  4:30pm Greek School</p>	<p>1:00pm Adult Christian Fellowship                  And Study Group</p>	<p>1:00pm Adult Christian Fellowship                  And Study Group</p>	<p>4:30pm Greek School                  7:30pm Parish Council Meeting</p>	<p><b>FEAST DAY OF ST. SOPHIA,                  FAITH, HOPE, &amp; AGAPE</b>  <b>8:00am Orthros</b>  <b>9:00am Divine Liturgy</b>                  4:30pm Adventure Theater</p>	<p>8:00am GOYA Retreat Continues</p>
<p><b>8:00am Orthros</b>  <b>9:15am Awaken To God</b>  <b>9:30am Divine Liturgy</b>                  Fellowship Hour</p>	<p>5:15pm The Way</p>	<p>10:00am TOTS                  4:30pm Greek School</p>	<p>1:00pm Adult Christian Fellowship                  And Study Group                  Catechism</p>	<p>4:30pm Greek School</p>	<p>4:30pm Adventure Theater                  7:30pm GOYA Retreat</p>	<p>8:00am GOYA Retreat Continues</p>
<p><b>8:00am Orthros</b>  <b>9:15am Awaken To God</b>  <b>9:30am Divine Liturgy</b>                  Adventure Theater                  Lookmades Sale                  Fellowship Hour</p>	<p>7:00pm Philoproschos Membership                  Night at Drury Lane</p>	<p>4:30pm Greek School</p>	<p>1:00pm Adult Christian Fellowship                  And Study Group                  Catechism</p>	<p>4:30pm Greek School</p>		

## Weekday Services

### Nativity of the Theotokos

Wednesday, September 8  
8:00am Orthros  
9:00am Divine Liturgy

### Elevation of the Cross

Tuesday, September 14  
8:00am Orthros  
9:00am Divine Liturgy  
Friday, September 17

### Feast of St. Sophia, Faith, Hope, & Agape

8:00am Orthros  
9:00am Divine Liturgy

## Funerals

Rosalie Markadonatos  
Gus Svolos  
George Futris

## Stewardship

Please remember to fulfill your pledges now that you won't be needing that extra money for Cub World Series tickets again this year!

## Mosaic Deadline

The deadline for the October issue of the Mosaic is Wednesday, September 8.

## Memorials

Mary Fotopoulos  
Mary Miller  
Sofia Stefanos  
Thomas Chiampas  
Dena Burger  
Betty Ramos  
Paul Ramos  
Mary Ramos  
Lazarus Dali  
Julis Stavropoulos  
Marie Economakos  
John Economakos  
Alexandra Demos  
George Demos  
Helen Baumann  
James Vasiliadis  
Gus Ardamis  
Pandi Yovan  
Michael Pihos  
Ann Kinnas  
John Kinnas  
Lynette Hoppe

Postmaster: Please deliver by the 3rd of September

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