

MOSAIC

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

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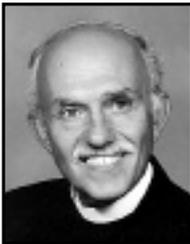
Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church 2501 S. Wolf Rd. Westchester, IL

November 2010

(708) 562-2744

www.holyapostleschurch.com

From Father Bill

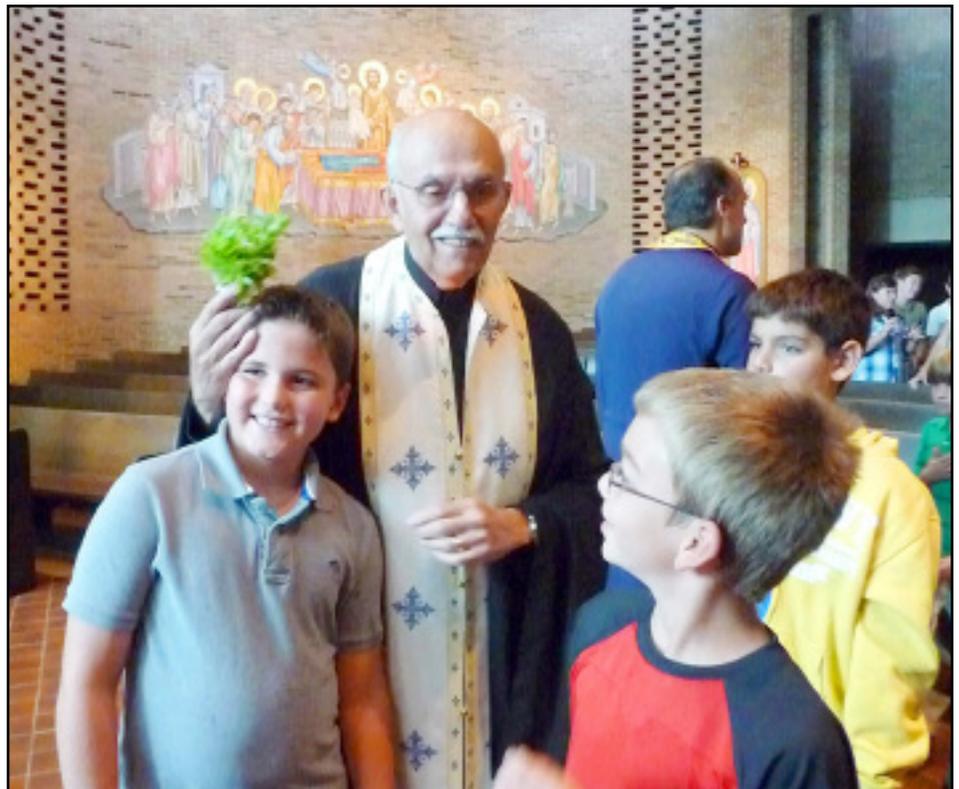


Getting Established For Christmas

'Getting established'—it's a familiar phrase that applies to several important areas of life. When you move into a new community, you go through a period of time getting established. Following a move into a new school district, one thing parents fear most is if their children will adjust to the school and make friends. When opening a new business, it takes a while to learn the new faces entering your store. Or, when dealing with new purveyors, it takes a while getting established. A professional person such as a doctor, lawyer, architect, or preacher must spend an apprenticeship of time and effort in getting established. In sports, participants are spoken of as being an established player or a rookie. The purpose of farm systems in the various sports is to season young ballplayers and help them to become established.

The same holds true for religion. A convert to Orthodoxy must spend time getting established in the faith. Many of you remember, I am certain, the early 1960's in the life and times of Holy Apostles. Much effort and strong commitment was made by everyone, including the Parish Council, Philoptochos, and youth, to introduce the new church in the western suburbs. Many knocked on doors spreading the news that a church had been established to serve the spiritual needs of the residents. There were difficult moments encountered by some, but with persistence, prayer, and belief in our sacred task, the church was established.

As we read the Epistles of St. Paul, we realize that this great Apostle, who committed to evangelize nations, was no hit-and-run preacher. He recognized that he had a responsibility to follow-up with, encourage, shepherd, and establish the newborn Christians, who



Father Bill blesses Greek School student Stefanos Chiganos, left, at a Greek School Agiasmos service which took place on September 9, as Jimmy Antonelli, right, watches.

had responded to his preaching. In his letter to the Thessalonians, Paul stated that he was returning to them to help them get established in the faith. He was praying "night and day", he wrote, "that we may see you face-to-face and supply what is lacking in your faith" (1 Thessalonians 3:10). Then he added, "may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another...so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness..."(vs. 12-13). It was the same concern he had for other young Christians. To the Romans, he wrote similar words: "For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift, to the end you may be established" (Rom. 1:11).

On November 14, the Nativity Fast, also known as Advent, begins. Advent is a time for getting established spiritually for Christmas.

Christmas releases its full spectrum of spiritual uplift only to those who make this required preparation.

It's difficult, to be sure, to get established spiritually, what with the distractions of buying presents and trees; wrapping packages; baking; addressing cards; and decorating. These are the fun and exciting aspects of the season and there is nothing wrong with them, unless that's all there is to your season. If these activities fully consume your time, they are detrimental because they crowd out the spiritual dimension of the season and leave you spiritually dry.

St. John the Baptist tells us how to be established for Christmas: repent, do penance, and make straight the way of the Lord. This

See Fr. Bill on P. 6

From Father Nicholas



Overcoming Guilt

Recently, I heard an interesting story about a man named George. He was a prisoner for most of his life. After

twenty long years, George received his release papers. Finally, he was going to be free! Before leaving, George was escorted to the prison office and received all of his personal belongings back. As he left the prison, George made a strange request. He asked, "Please take the jail cell door off its hinges and strap it to my back." The guards reluctantly complied. This free man now spent every day with a jail cell door strapped to his back!

Although George's story sounds far-fetched, this may be a picture of some of us. We carry guilt around like a prison door strapped to our backs. Our Lord and Savior can liberate us. Yet, we have trouble leaving the old jail cell completely behind. Do we believe that God can really forgive us? We read in St. Paul's letter to the Colossians: "He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the Kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins." (Colossians 1:13-14) Do we believe this?

Family relationships and situations may produce guilt feelings. A child that grows up with critical and domineering parents may develop strong feelings of guilt, inferiority and worthlessness. This is referred to as false or functional guilt. According to psychologist, Paul Tournier, in his book, *Guilt and Grace*, this comes from "societal expectations, from the fear of losing the approval and love of others." True guilt is called value guilt. This is "consciousness of having violated some moral standard, of having betrayed an internal conviction." *amartia*, the Greek word for sin, means to miss the mark. A person taking target practice can shoot and miss the mark. Just like a shooter missing the target, a Christian plagued by guilt from sin does not fulfill his or her goal. Sin can become a barrier to good relationships with others. Ultimately, it becomes a barrier to our relationship with God. Guilt follows sin. It can lead to extreme self-criticism and ultimately despair and hopelessness.

Psychoanalysis provides a partial solution. It maintains that a person can only be freed from their guilt feelings by bringing certain experiences associated with the guilt to the conscious level. The individual must accept the painful experience and face the implications. Rather than addressing the sins, psychology refers to the sense of our moral



Margaret Kaufman, left, and Ariana Ziogas, right, encourage girls to sign up for Holy Apostles' GOAL basketball cheer and dance team.

Enthusiastic loudmouths needed to cheer basketball team

The Holy Apostles cheer/dance team is made up of 6th to 8th graders who enjoy cheerleading and dance. The team will attend all basketball games and show their support by cheering our Holy Apostles basketball team to victory.

The season runs from November to February with games on Sundays and some Saturdays. Once a basketball schedule is available, more detailed information will be provided.

Practices are scheduled for Wednesdays

responsibility and societal expectations. This approach is a start, but the sin and guilt are still there.

Confessing our sins takes this one step farther. We admit thoughts or actions that have been repressed out of fear and shame. The primary focus of confession is the confessor's relationship with the Lord. Confession begins with repentance. We take personal responsibility for our sins and change our attitude and purpose. Repentance is changing our intention and confession then follows! We leave our sins and guilt at the foot of the Cross of Christ. The cathartic release of guilt during confession is very powerful. Here we find "the peace of God which surpasses all understanding" (Philippians 4:7). We see the Church as St. John Chrysostom described as spiritual hospital. This hospital offers the Lord's grace, love and mercy in healing us of our guilt.

from 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. in the Church multi-purpose room. Transportation to and from the games will be the parent's responsibility. Coach Cristin Chiganos, along with parent advisors Pamela Ziogas and Mary Ann Kaufman, are looking forward to a great year and a fun basketball season!

For more information or to sign up for the team, contact: Pamela Ziogas at (p.ziogas@comcast.net) or 630.240.4915; Mary Ann Kaufman (makaufman@athletico.com) or 630.654.8509.

We are reminded in the Book of Hebrews that after we confess our sins to the Lord, "their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more" (Hebrews 10:17). If we confess our sins, our loving Lord promises that He does not hold our wrongs against us. The Lord does not remember our sins. We read, "You (Lord) cast all my sins behind me" (Isaiah 39:17). As we confess, our Lord puts our old failures and sins behind us! The priest concludes confession with a prayer: "As for the sins that you have confessed, have no further anxiety about them; go in peace." Have no further anxiety. Go in peace! "As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us" (Psalm 103:12)

Forgiving ourselves is the last step. If God forgives us, we must let go, forgive ourselves, and accept the Lord's forgiveness. As we come to the Lord confessing our sins, guilt's heavy door will be removed from us!

Registry

November

Baptisms

*Thanasaki, Son of
Dena and Jimmy Visvardis
Sponsor: Koula Michalopoulos*

*Steven, Son of
Dorothy & Michael Tamm
Sponsor: George Charles Tsatsos*

*Stylianos, Son of
Maria & Zaharias Bousies
Sponsors: Maria & Dean Manasses*

*Anastasia, Daughter of
Aleka & Dr. George Mandelaris
Sponsors: Raffaella & Dr. George Bovis*

*Sophia, Daughter of
Pamela & Alexander Vandiver
Sponsor: Marissa Garoufalidis*

Weddings

None



Enjoying Philoptochos Membership Night are l to r: Bess Shizas, Georgia Verros, Mary Jean Angelos, Joanne Pekras, and Carol Doukas.

Philoptochos Membership Night

More than 80 ladies attended Philoptochos Membership Night on September 27 at Drury Lane in Oak Brook. It was an evening to socialize with old and new friends and to witness the "Sea of Opportunities" offered to all who eagerly chose to volunteer for many upcoming events.

Charity representatives from the Greek American Nursing and Rehabilitation Center

and the Batten Disease Equipment Exchange Program gave heartwarming and emotional presentations that evoked tremendous empathy and support from all those present.

Philanthropy was truly in the heart of every woman in attendance. Many remarked that the charities chosen for this year's fashion show are truly worthy of tremendous support.

About stewardship

Are you a contributing member of the Body of Christ? Are you actively serving God and sharing Him with others? Are you contributing to peace and unity within His body? Do you worship regularly? Take a moment to evaluate your life in light of these principles.

We are called to apply our gifts, training, abilities, education and skills to the tasks that God places before us. If we do this humbly and prayerfully, the Body of Christ will function to its full potential.

The New Testament's motivation for giving is grace; giving is an act of worship in response to the generosity of God. You are to give, Paul says, "as God has prospered you." II Corinthians 8 and 9 teaches clearly, "He who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully." God blesses those who give with generosity.

Giving is a way to thank God for His grace and generosity. The question is not, "How much do I give to stay in the club?" or "What are the dues?" but "How can I thank God for my many blessings?"

by Fr. Jim Kordaris

from The Orthodox Observer



Ice cream social brings out first grade smiles

First Grade Greek School students having fun at the September 30 Ice Cream Social.



Goyans takes a ride on the retreat center's miniature train. From left to right: Jeremy Glavanovits (hiding in the caboose), Billy Christy and Niketas Sorensen (standing), Justin Glavanovits, Connie Savas, Peter Savas, Ari Cussick, Sophia Conforti, Leo Fotos and Advisors Brianna Kush and Chris Chakonas.

A retreat in the country

Goyans headed to the St. Iakovos Retreat Center, the future home of Fanari Camp, on September 24- 25 in Brighton Wisconsin.

The kids really love going there. There is a farm house with animals, a miniature train, a great lodge with a fireplace, and tons of woods that we go on hay rides through.



Photos by Agape Lamberis and Chris Chakonas

At left, Billy Christy, Niketas Sorensen, Advisor Agape Lamberis, Leo Fotos, and Justin Glavanovits make tie-dye shirts



Above, the boys enjoy new rooms and bunks at the retreat center. Billy Christy, Advisor Chris Chakonas, Peter Savas, Leo Fotos, Justin Glavanovits, Niketas Sorensen, and Jeremy Glavanovits. At right, Justin Glavanovits, Sophia Conforti, Ari Cussick & Connie Savas pet the horses at the St. Iakovos Retreat Center during the GOYA Fall Retreat.





Fall activities

At left, Nick Fattore, Billy Christy & Peter Kallis fill bags of food at Feed My Starving Children in Aurora in September 2010. Goyans helped bag over 12,000 meals for families in need throughout the world.

Photo by Agape Lamberis

At right, liturgical music lesson with Bette Schieber, director, Nick Trivelas. and Alaina Kafkes.

Both photos by Peter Bell



At left, Adventure Theater members I-r Marina Dimas, Angelo Fotopoulos and his sister Demetra sell loukoumades.

Jr. GOYA dinner with a message

On September 29, the Jr. GOYA had a delicious pizza dinner at church followed by a few ice-breaker activities, so the kids could become acquainted. 14 Jr. Goyans, including four sets of twins, were in attendance. Fr. Nicholas then led a discussion on bullying, specifically cyber-bullying, and how to deal with this social pressure that our children face today. He stressed the importance of forgiveness and incorporating faith in our daily lives. The evening concluded with a group blessing from Fr. Nicholas - a great way for the kids to start off the school year.

Jr. GOYA is comprised of 7th and 8th graders. It's never too late to join Jr. GOYA! Check out the weekly bulletin and Mosaic for future meeting dates and fun, social activities. To be added to the e-mail list, e-mail: p.ziogas@comast.net.

By Pamela Ziogas



Fr. Nicholas talks with Jr. Goyans about how to deal with bullying.

The **HARC** CORNER

Chronicles of History and Worship

By Patrick Henry Reardon

The Old Testament Book of Chronicles contains some of the most neglected passages in all Scripture. Understanding the message can be a difficult task for the modern reader.

Old Testament scholar Patrick Reardon brings these important books to life. Like any family history, the story of Chronicles is told with a purpose in mind. It asks the question: "What was the real and lasting significance of King David and his house?"

Beginning with a long list of names in the first chapter, this heritage is revealed in its cosmic significance. It has become the family tree of every true believer.

The life pleasing to God is shown to be the life centered on the true worship that God has revealed to the world in the family history of His people. Far from being antiquated, these truths are alive today, reflected in the life and liturgy of the Church.

This compelling and fresh comment on the Book of Chronicles will help the reader better understand Bible history, the heritage of the saints and the centrality of worship in the believer's life.

Softbound \$15.00

From I-ville to You-ville

By Mersine Vigopoulou

Illustrated by Emami Heers

I-ville is a kingdom where pride and selfishness dwell, and where people live by the motto "Me first."

You-ville is a kingdom where humility and kindness have their home, and where people put the good of others before their own.

This is the story of a young boy named Stubborn, as he strives to become the first person to make the difficult journey to the joy-filled kingdom of You-ville.

Drawn from the teachings of the beloved Elder Paisios of Mount Athos (1924-1994), these lessons can be of tremendous spiritual benefit for young and old alike.

Hardbound \$20.00

Make your reservations now for Adventure Theater's Christmas Luncheon and Play

Beginning on November 7 and the three following Sundays, Adventure Theater members will be taking reservations in the multi-purpose room following Divine Liturgy for their play *Welcome to Christmas Valley*, which will be presented immediately following Divine Liturgy on Sunday, December 5 and will be preceded by a delicious luncheon. We are asking a \$10.00 donation per person. You may make your reservations in person, or by contacting Mr. D. at 708-562-0869, or by e-mail: fanari@me.com

Preview: Julie and Harry Smith are deeply troubled due to their parents' almost continuous arguing and bickering. Then, shortly before Christmas, the siblings receive a phone call from an uncle they never knew existed and who has been disowned by their father.

At the same time, Autumn Jones is unhappy because she and her parents are going to spend Christmas in Hawaii instead of staying

home where all her friends are. A snowstorm brings the Smith and Jones families together at Christmas Valley in the mountains of Wyoming.

What will Julie and Harry Smith's reaction be when they meet their Uncle Paul in Christmas Valley for the first time? What will their father's reaction be, since he has been estranged from his brother from a time long before the children were born? Will Christmas Valley fulfill a wish Autumn Jones has had for a long time? And, what's this about a train that can take its passengers up through the branches of a giant Christmas tree to the very top?

This play includes something never tried before by the Adventure Theater. Come, and we promise that you'll be pleasantly surprised, spiritually uplifted, as well as enjoying a sumptuous meal.

By Mr. D.

The publishing of my book of stories is a reality at last!

For many years, my students at Holy Apostles and Fanari Summer Camp have urged me to publish the stories I've told them. As a result, *The Boy on the Balcony and Other Stories* by Mr. D. was published this past May.

The book contains ten stories: The Boy on the Balcony, Brian's Valentine, A Cry for Help, The Lost Christmas Gift, Friendship and Betrayal, A Test of a True Friend, House of Mysteries, Summit on the Hilltop, Someone's in Our House, and The High-Priestly Liturgy. Each story is preceded by a

brief note telling what inspired the story and when it was originally told.

One reader wrote: "I LOVE YOUR BOOK!!! I feel like I am there watching everything happen....you've inspired me so much I think I am going to try to start writing stories of my own."

Another reader refuses to let her sibling read the book until she reads it twice, and a grammar school has placed it in its library.

For further information, please contact Mr. D. at 708-528-2782, cell; 708-562-0869, office; or at fanari@me.com

Fr. Bill from P. 1

Get fixed at church for Christmas

is not the program of the merchants and advertisers. The clever wording of the commercials intend to draw us away from 'getting established' for Christmas.

It is the program of the Church that will enable us to fix and focus on the meaning of Christmas. The Sundays preceding the Nativity will assist us in 'getting established' for Christmas in such a way that the full meaning of the great day will come to you.

Christmas carols will soon fill the air and we will find ourselves singing and humming the melodies. Many Christmas carols tell the

essence of the good news. In one carol, we sing: "The Savior reigns!" In another, we pray to Him that he might "cast out our sin and... be born in us today." In yet another, we sing: "Christ the Savior is born".

While these carols will help us focus our thoughts on Christmas, the first two lines of the Canon Hymn of our Church reveal the story of Christ's birth: "Christ is born, glorify Him! Christ comes from heaven, meet Him!"

It is thus that we should establish ourselves for Christmas.

Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church **November 2010** 2501 S. Wolf Rd. Westchester, Illinois

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	5:15pm The Way 1	10:15am TOTs 4:30pm Greek School 6:00pm GOYA Meeting 2	1:00pm Adult Christian Fellowship And Study Group 7:15pm Bible Study 7:30pm Catechism 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal 3	4:30pm Greek School 4	4:30pm Adventure Theater 5	4:00pm Altar Boys Meeting 5:00pm Vespers 6
8:00am Orthros 9:15am Awaken To God 9:30am Divine Liturgy Fellowship Hour 11:45am Parea Trip To Fireside Theater 7	FEAST DAY OF ARCHANGELS GABRIEL & MICHAEL 8:00am Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 4:30pm Greek School 8	FEAST DAY OF ST. NECTARIOS 8:00am Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 4:30pm Greek School 9	1:00pm Adult Christian Fellowship And Study Group 7:15pm Bible Study 7:30pm Catechism 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal 10	12:00pm Seniors Trip To Drury Lane 4:30pm Greek School 11	4:30pm Adventure Theater 12	FEAST DAY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM 8:00am Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 13
8:00am Orthros 9:15am Awaken To God 9:30am Divine Liturgy Fellowship Hour 14	CHRISTMAS FAST BEGINS 5:15pm The Way 15	10:15am TOTs 4:30pm Greek School 7:00pm GOYA Meeting 16	1:00pm Adult Christian Fellowship And Study Group 7:15pm Bible Study 7:30pm Catechism 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal 17	Greek School Parent Conferences 7:30pm Parish Council Meeting 18	4:30pm Adventure Theater 19	20
PRESENTATION OF THE THEOTOKOS STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY 8:00am Orthros 9:15am Awaken To God 9:30am Divine Liturgy Greek School Bake Sale Parish Assembly Mtg. 21	22	4:30pm Greek School 23	FEAST DAY OF ST. KATHERINE EVE OF THANKSGIVING 6:00pm Divine Liturgy 24	THANKSGIVING DAY 25	Church Office Closed 26	27
8:00am Orthros 9:15am Awaken To God 9:30am Divine Liturgy Fellowship Hour 28	29	FEAST DAY OF ST. ANDREW 8:00am Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 4:30pm Greek School 30	<i>Check your calendar and checkbook to see what really matters to you. Does Holy Apostles appear in both?</i>			

Weekday Services

Vespers

Saturday, November 6
5:00pm

Feast Day of Archangels

Gabriel & Michael

Monday, November 8
8:00am Orthros
9:00am Divine Liturgy

Feast Day of St. Nectarios

Tuesday, November 9
8:00am Orthros
9:00am Divine Liturgy

Weekday Services

Feast Day of

St. John Chrysostom

Saturday, November 13
8:00am Orthros
9:00am Divine Liturgy

Feast Day of St. Katherine

Wednesday, November 24
6:00pm Divine Liturgy

Feast Day of St. Andrew

Tuesday, November 30
8:00am Orthros
9:00am Divine Liturgy

Memorials

Mary Kappas
Christine Tragos
Reverend Nicholas C. Trivelas
Helen Zakos
Samuel Karras
Antonia Kringas
Sophia Banakis
George Banakis
Virginia Molls
Christ Molls

Funeral

Georgia Contos

Mosaic Deadline

The deadline for the December issue of the Mosaic is Friday, November 5.

What is iconograms.org?

The mission of the archdiocese department of Internet Ministries is to follow Our Lord's commandment "Go into all the world and proclaim the Good News to the whole creation" (Mark 16:15). As part of this ministry, iconograms.org was created as a free e-card service. Nearly 400,00 iconograms have been sent all over the world as of October, 2010.

Visitors to the site can customize their messages by selecting an icon from a database made up of hundreds of holy images. Along with your personalized message, the e-card provides a description of the saint or feast depicted.

Registration is also free, at www.iconograms.org

Postmaster: Please deliver by the 3rd of November

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