

MOSAIC

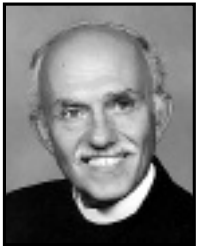
Coming together, we form an icon of God's Kingdom

Vol. 16, No. 4

Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church 2501 S. Wolf Rd. Westchester, IL
(708) 562-2744 www.holyapostleschurch.com

August 2011

From Father Bill



The back of God

“Kids say the darnedest things!” How many of you can identify the person who said these words? I know that many of our readers comprise the younger generation, but we old timers do recall this person and remember him by name, Art Linkletter. He was charming and had a gift for talking with young children. That is why he had a program asking children different questions. In his book *Kids Say the Darndest Things*, Linkletter recorded not only the questions and answers of the kids on his program, but also the tone in which they were given.

In a few weeks, the Catechetical (Sunday) school will begin and questions that sometimes can stump theologians will be asked of our staff. I imagine most parents have already experienced this in their families.

While preparing this text, I wondered what was the most frequently asked question of me. The answer was simple. Most kids are interested in almost anything taught pertaining to God but usually they want to know, “What does God really look like?”

In Psalms 99, the love-fear relationship the Hebrews had with God their heavenly Father is brought out, especially in verse 8 where it speaks of God as both forgiving but also an avenger of their wrongdoings.

True, God is presented in the Old Testament in very anthropomorphic terms, with references to Yahweh's face, his hand and his back. The meaning is that, while we can know something of the ways of God with us in the world (Exodus 33:vs. 13), the ultimate mystery of God's nature is hidden from our knowledge. We always see the back of God, where God has been. We don't see God in nature, we see where God has been. Our love



Angelo Kokas, left, and George Pappas chat with relatives inside the big tent.



Basketball was a first for the picnic, above. At right, Mike Cotsilis puts chicken souvlakia on the grill.

A hot time at the ol' church picnic



relationships with friends, parents, and lovers show something of God, but it again is the back of God, not God's full glory.

Our religious experiences in Scripture, the Divine Liturgy and the Sacraments, are experiences of God, but again from the back. The Byzantine music, readings, icons and lighting of candles that move us and speak to us of divinity are again only reflections of the divine glory, the back of God.

Our response can only be as that of the ancient Hebrews: to exalt God and stand in awe of the mystery, and, as the Psalmist ended by saying “Extol the Lord our God, and worship at his holy mountain, for the Lord our God is holy!”

I'll close with an anecdote that will touch the heart, soul and mind of everyone regard-

less of age.

A young boy and an old man were seated together on a dock, fishing. They were talking about many things: why the sunset is sometimes red; why the rain falls; why some creatures live in water and others require air.

As the old man was baiting the boy's hook, the youngster looked up at him and asked, “Does anyone ever see God?” The old man reflected a moment as he looked out across the lake and the lush foliage surrounding it and answered: “Son, we can't see God, but we can see where He's been.”

Like Job of old, we say, “Lo, he passes by me, and I see him not; he moves on, but I do not perceive him” (Job 9:11).

From Father Nicholas



Experience Freedom

Recently, our country celebrated the Fourth of July. We remembered and thanked God for our independence. So many of us identify with this freedom. When our family lived in New Hampshire our car license plates read: Live Free or Die. We remember Patrick Henry's phrase: "Give me liberty or give me death."

Freedom is a precious gift. We are blessed by this freedom that others in the world do not have. International news reminds us of people thirsting for freedom. We remember and gratefully thank God for the courageous men and women who have risked and even given their lives for us to be free.

National freedom is a great blessing. Personal Christian freedom is an even greater gift. This freedom is a direct result of God's divine love for us. Being created in His image and likeness, God gave us this freedom. Our Almighty Lord created us out of His divine love. God instilled His divine agape (love) in each one of us!

Adam and Eve were reminded that divine, authentic love implies freedom. Our loving Lord does not compel or force us to love Him. He loves us so much that he allows us freedom to choose. Freedom implies accepting God's invitation to live here and now in His Kingdom. We daily experience His peace and love. Rejecting our loving Lord's Kingdom and presence is another option. We can continue living in our own dark, self-centered world. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, God gives us freedom from the bondage of sin and death itself! Every Pascha we sing: "Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death, and bestowing life on those in the tombs!"

In Christ's Resurrection and victory over Satan, sin and death, we are freed from sin's power in our lives. Remember St. John's Paschal homily: "Oh Death, where is your sting? Oh Hell, where is your victory? Christ is risen, and you are overthrown. Christ is risen, and the demons are fallen. Christ is risen, and the angels rejoice. Christ is risen, and life reigns." Fears and uncertainty of death are gone. We are now free to live a new life in Christ. This can be a life filled with Christ's joy, without fear, and a new life in God's Kingdom today.

Elder Paisios, writing in his book, *Wounded by Love*, discusses this topic of freedom. To be truly free, we must be captives of good. When we do this, sin ceases and Christ

...See Fr. Nicholas on P. 5



Gavel to Gavel



BY STEVE SAVAS, SECRETARY, AND GEORGE CHECHOPOULOS

Parish Council meetings of May 19 and June 16

Financial Report

- ✦ The comparative financial report dated May 31 was reviewed by Paul Kallis. The church, for five months ended on May 31, was unfavorable \$25,546.

Stewardship

- ✦ Tom Gregory reviewed the Stewardship Report for May 31. The church received 673 pledges, 9 less pledges for the same period last year, totaling \$28,685 paid in May, unfavorable \$6,218 for the same period last year, for an average pledge of \$900.93.

Correspondence

- ✦ Hellenic College sent a thank you note for our generous donation in response to its Easter appeal.
- ✦ Metropolitan Nikitas sent a thank you for Holy Apostle's gift to the Patriarch Athenagoras Orthodox Institute (PAOI).
- ✦ Metropolitan Ambrosia of the Metropolis of Korea sent a thank you for our donation through OCMC.
- ✦ Mr. Nick Janos' family sent a thank you for Holy Apostles' loving support.
- ✦ The Greek School thanked the Council for its support throughout the year. A motion was made to give the Greek School \$600 to cover half the float cost for Greek Independence Day. The motion passed unanimously.
- ✦ The Women's Auxiliary of the Greek American Rehab and Care Centre is seeking actors and actresses for a Greek comedy to be presented on Saturday, October 1. For further details, contact the church office.
- ✦ The IOCC announced its 5th Annual 5K Walk/Run starting at St. Andrew's in Chicago on Saturday, October 1. A 2011 calendar of IOCC events was included.

Meditation

- ✦ Fr. Bill mentioned that he recently received an email with an online petition request to have St. Sophia in Turkey, which has been turned into a museum, reopened as a church once again.
- ✦ He also focused on All Saints Day and what it means to be a saint. Saint originally comes from Aghia Adelphi or Holy Brother. Everybody has what it takes to become a saint and should strive to be like one. The holiness that binds us all together makes us brothers in Christ.

Building & Grounds

- ✦ Jim Fotopoulos and George Alex reported that one of the trees in back of the church

had been cut down. There will be a review of the plot of survey for verification of church property lines.

- ✦ All the church walkways, curbs, smooth sidewalks and ramps, with the exception of the aggregate, will be redone and widened. Rich Buss Cement Company, which completed cement work at Ss. Constantine & Helen, sent a proposal and will complete the approximately 3-day project this summer.
- ✦ A new ice machine will be installed in the next few weeks. This is funded by memorial donations in Liberty Poteres' name.
- ✦ New lighting is being installed in the church.
- ✦ The roof leaks will be investigated.
- ✦ General landscaping will be reviewed and discussed at the August meeting.

Facilities

- ✦ Sandy Fiascone gave an update on the cry room renovation.
- ✦ The Botti Studio of Architectural Arts Inc. submitted a bid to expand the mosaic work around the Evangelists. A motion was made to enter a contract w/ Botti Studios to do this. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

- ✦ The choir has requested relocation of the organ speakers. George Alex will get an evaluation from a sound consultant.
- ✦ Peter Poteres asked the Council to focus on raising additional funds to help support the many ministries that Holy Apostles provides.

New Business

- ✦ Old recordings of Fr. Bill's sermons were recently found in a Sunday school class cabinet. Nick Kirkeles suggested that the Technical Committee see what can be done to preserve the sermons on digital media.
- ✦ The Technical Committee is also exploring Joan Berg's recommendation to put the 2011-12 Sunday School registration online on the HA website.
- ✦ We will sign new contracts with the Greek School teachers. Per our policy, raises will be evaluated next year. A motion was made to raise the tuition 3% overall and keep the incentive of paying upfront. Motion passed unanimously.
- ✦ A motion was made and passed unanimously to purchase two portable basketball hoops.



Debbie Makris and Fay Kappos were the co-hosts for Philoptochos' Vespers reception.

Memorials

George Maduros
John Maduros
James Vasiliadis
Chrisafia Kallos
Christopher Pasiadis
Ethel Magas
Angelo Magas
Peter Xinos
Nicholas Janos
Demetra Booras
George Philosophos
Iphenea Philosophos
Andrew Skalkos
Zoe Skalkos
Carol Guido
George Anos
Chryse Scatchell
Dino Friar
Kimon Friar
James Friar
Chrisula Friar
Gus Metropulos
Irene Metropulos
John Jenos
George Maheras
Betty Ramos
Paul Ramos
Mary Ramos
Stella Sigalos
George Futris

Funerals

George Maheras
Electra Spinthur
Helen Alevizos

Philoptochos news summer update

Philoptochos Board Elected

A new Philoptochos Board was elected in May for a two-year term. Congratulations and blessings to the Board members and officers as they continue the philanthropic work of Philoptochos.

Officers:

President - Eleftheria Karapas Parafink
 1st Vice President - Anthoula Pomrening
 2nd Vice President - Alyssa Petropoulos
 Corresponding Secretary - Chrisie Alex
 Recording Secretary - Anne Theophilos
 Treasurer - Eleni Poteres
 Asst. Treasurer - Elaine Katzioris
 Advisor - Cathy Magas

Board Members:

Chrisy Banakis, Elaine Paloumpis, Tina Dillon, Jennifer Govostis, Patty McKay, Mary Jean Angelos, Mary Tsoulos, Sundry Urban, Evelyn Paleothodoros

Philoptochos Hosts Vespers Reception

A lovely reception was held for the Holy Apostles Nameday Vespers. Co-hosts were Debbie Makris and Fay Kappos, assisted by

Georgia Verros and Kathy Kappos. It was a beautiful and festive event that was enjoyed by all after the Vesper service.

Pillars and Rocks News

Pillars & Rocks sponsored a Greek Dinner on May 21 for about 80 guests at the West



Suburban Senior Center in Bellwood. Greek School children provided some

Greek dancing entertainment. The food and fun was enjoyed by all the seniors.

Save the Dates!

Holy Apostles Philoptochos Membership Night - Monday, September 19 at the Drury Lane in Oakbrook.

Metropolis of Chicago Annual Luncheon - Saturday, September 24 at Rosewood Banquets in Rosemont.

Holy Apostles Philoptochos Annual Fashion Show & Luncheon - Saturday, October 22 at the Carlisle in Lombard.

The Bountiful Vineyard

The Holy Apostles Philoptochos Annual Luncheon and Fashion Show

Saturday, October 22

to benefit By The Hand Club For Kids
&

The Hogar Rafael Ayau Orphanage

Philoptochos invites you to help us in being bountiful in our giving to this year's selected charities. Both organizations focus on children and education within a Christian environment - one being local and the other abroad.

By The Hand Club For Kids is an after school program for Chicago Public School children who are struggling academically and/or are facing other significant hardships. It serves nearly 800 children and focuses on academic excellence in a Christian atmosphere. Volunteers and staff members transport the children to the club after school, tutor them, engage them in extracurricular activities, provide a hot meal, and transport the children home in the evening. Proceeds from our show will help to provide meals and tutoring services.

The Hogar Rafael Ayau Orphanage provides a home for abandoned and underprivileged children. This

Orthodox orphanage currently serves 70 children in Guatemala and provides them with a loving, family-like environment in addition to food, clothing, shelter, and an education. Proceeds from our show will go toward educational materials and job skills training.

Please help us to make the lives of these children more abundant by attending our lovely event on Saturday, October 22 at 11am at the Carlisle in Lombard. Reservations will be accepted at Holy Apostles Church beginning on Saturday, September 10 from 10:00-11:00am and every Sunday thereafter through October 16.

Additionally, we are still in need of raffle and silent auction prizes. If you would like to donate an item, please contact Marion Karras, e.c.karras@att.net or 630-928-0034.

Summer events and activities ...



Dan Cascio and Peter Dellaportes measure the fairway at Holy Apostles' golf outing, above. At right, George Chechopoulos is obviously having a great time.



Fr Nicholas directs the story of the Good Samaritan at Vacation Bible School, left. And, it's not all serious study at VBS, as the kids demonstrate during game time, above.

*Photos
by
Peter
Bell*



Chris Chakonas leads morning prayer at a GOYA lock-in, above. At right, Sophia and Patricia Liston, Katherine Kamberis, Kathryn Liston (L-R) get ready to pin flowers on dads on Fathers Day.





Preschoolers rehearse singing for the congregation on Youth Sunday.

Fr. Nicholas from P. 2 What will you be captive to?

lives. The Elder discusses two worlds living within us. We have the world of good and the world of evil. They both draw power from one source. The battery is its source. If evil plugs into the battery, it leads to destruction. If good plugs into the battery, everything in our life is beautiful, serene and divine. The same source supplies power to both our good and contrary self.

At times, we will be captive to either good or evil. The challenge is to be captivated by good. Paisios wrote: "Freedom cannot be achieved unless we free our inner self from confusions and passions."

All around us are radio waves. Many times we are not aware of them. As soon as we switch on our radio receiver, we hear and sense the radio waves. The same happens in our spiritual lives. When we tune in and experience Christ, our lives change. Joy overcomes us. We become captives of good and captives of Christ. Divine grace fills us and evil things cannot enter. St. Paul wrote to the Galatians: "It is no longer I who live, Christ lives in me." This is true freedom.

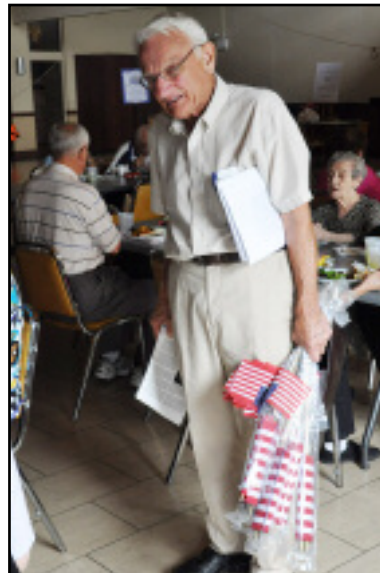
Elder Paisios continues: "It is not freedom when we say to people that everything is permitted. That is slavery. To improve one must have difficulties. Let's take an example. We have a little tree. We take care of it. We place a stake and tie it with a rope. Naturally we don't tie it with wire because that way we would injure it. With their method they would not constrain the tree; and it doesn't develop properly otherwise. Look at the child. We limit his freedom from the beginning. When he is first conceived the poor thing is limited in his mother's womb and remains there nine whole months. Later he is born and immediately they swaddle him in a blanket. Parents constrain him as soon as he begins to grow. All of this is necessary for him to grow. It appears to take away freedom, but without these protective measures the child will die in the first moment."

The Elder concludes: "Freedom is good when the person can use it appropriately. Otherwise it is a disaster."

St. Paul encourages us: "But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life." (Romans 6:22)

What will we do with our Christian freedom? Will we use it for good or evil? Freeing or enslaving others are options. Will our freedom be used to free ourselves or stay in bondage? Does freedom help us walk in the light or continue in darkness? How will we utilize our Christian freedom?

... keep the young and young-at-heart involved



At left, Nicholas Trivelas points out a phrase to Micheal Dorner and Michael Mutz on Youth Sunday. Above, Master of Ceremonies James Bobis prepares to hand out flags at the Seniors picnic.



The new Philoptochos Board is sworn in following a recent Divine Liturgy.

The **HARC** CORNER

**Guide to
The Divine Liturgy**

By
Robert Krantz (Karountzos)

Is the Divine Liturgy like a wonderful foreign film that you watch over and over again? So often, parishioners feel as though they are going through the motions because they “just don’t understand” what is happening. This is a book that will change that.

The Divine Liturgy is a masterpiece filled with biblical verses, first-hand accounts and tradition.

Parents and grandparents will find their faith renewed with assurance that their children’s faith is never lost.

Softbound \$20

Living Prayer

By
Anthony Bloom

In *Living Prayer*, a spiritual masterpiece, Metropolitan Anthony tells us how to begin and sustain the life of prayer. Before becoming a monk, he was a physician working with the French Resistance during WWII.

Among the many topics covered are: the problem of praying honestly, meditation and worship, and how to discard false images of ourselves and God.

Softbound \$15



Georgia Panos, Nicole Lekatsos, Sabrina Lorosso, and Rebecca Lekatsos show off the medals they won at this year’s Junior Olympics.

Holy Apostles Jr. Olympians rake in the medals

Thank you and congratulations to Ms. Mara Tsudis, our Junior Olympics coordinator, for wonderfully organizing, and sometimes coaching, our children in the various sporting events this year. We appreciate the many coaches, parents and children who participated. The event was held at Saints Constantine and Helen Church in Palos Hills. Thank you to everyone who helped make Holy Apostles’ presence at the Olympics a success this weekend! In total, we had over 40 kids participate and won 10 medals! We won the following: 4 gold medals, 3 silver medals, and 3 bronze medals. The winners are:

Gold

- Track - 10k - Diana Kafkes
- Track - Softball Throw (11-12) - Spiro Pavlou

- Track - 50m (11-12) - Spiro Pavlou
- Swimming - 25m Backstroke (10&Under) - Rebecca Lekatsos

Silver

- Track - Softball Throw (8-10) - Stephanos Chiganos
- Swimming - 25m Freestyle (10&Under) - Nicole Lekatsos

Bronze

- Tennis - Singles (13-15) - Lia Chiganos
- Track - Shotput - Chris Syregelas
- Track 200m Relay (8-10) - Georgia Panos, Sabrina Lorosso, Nicole Lekatsos, and Rebecca Lekatsos

Adventure Theater rejuvenates radio drama in a modern-day production

Adventure Theater members will present an exciting, original radio play entitled *Parson Doc* in our expanded radio studio, the HA multi-purpose room, before a studio audience following Divine Liturgy on Sunday, August 28 preceded by a delicious, deluxe, continental breakfast for those who attend the program.

For this performance, the actors and actresses will read from scripts with a background of sound effects as was the case in the long-ago days of classic radio drama. You are invited to join us in our radio studio on August 28, have breakfast, and share in a unique, modern-day radio experience. Admission is free.

Since tables will be set for 100 people, seating will be on a first come, first served basis.

However, you may make reservations in advance by contacting Mr. D. at 708-562-0869 or e-mailing him at: fanari@me.com

Preview: Michael Rudolph was born and raised in New York City. As long as he could remember, he wanted to be a doctor. With his parents’ blessing, he studied medicine. However, shortly after he graduated from medical school and began his practice at a New York City hospital, Michael had an experience that changed the direction of his life forever. Consequently, he entered the seminary. After three years of intense study, the town of Mountain View, nestled in a valley high in the Rocky Mountains, advertised for a doctor and a parson. Michael applied for both positions and was accepted. Early in the spring of 1883,

Michael Rudolph arrived in Mountain View and his adventures began. Since he served as both the parson and doctor, he was affectionally known as Parson Doc by the townspeople.

Will Big Bill Spikeknuckles, the town bully, succeed in preventing Parson Doc from preaching? What made two children run away from home and seek refuge with Parson Doc? Will the feelings of fondness between Evangela Shucks and Parson Doc go beyond those of mere friendship?

The play is chock full of adventure, suspense, a bit of romance, and lots of laughs, too. See you on Sunday, August 28!

By George Demetralis (aka Mr. D)

Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church **August 2011** 2501 S. Wolf Rd. Westchester, Illinois

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	7:00pm Paraklesis Service 1	2	7:00pm Paraklesis Service 3	4	7:00pm Paraklesis Service 5	TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD 8:00am Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 6
8:00am Orthros 9:15am Awaken To God 9:30am Divine Liturgy Fellowship Hour 7		7:00pm Paraklesis Service 9		7:00pm Paraklesis Service 11	4:30pm Adventure Theater 12	13
8:00am Orthros 9:15am Awaken To God 9:30am Divine Liturgy Fellowship Hour 7:00pm Vespers At Assumption Church 14	FALLING ASLEEP OF THE THEOTOKOS 8:00am Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 5:00pm Adventure Theater BBQ 15	16		7:30pm Parish Council Meeting 18	4:30pm Adventure Theater 19	20
8:00am Orthros 9:15am Awaken To God 9:30am Divine Liturgy Fellowship Hour 21		23		4:30pm First Day Of Greek School 25	4:30pm Adventure Theater 26	27
8:00am Orthros 9:15am Awaken To God 9:30am Divine Liturgy No Fellowship Hour Adventure Theater Radio Play & Luncheon 28		4:30pm Greek School 30		31	<p>Prayers to the Theotokos</p> <p>As we turn to each other in prayer, we can also turn to Mary, the mother of God, who is the human being closest to Our Lord Jesus Christ, and ask her to pray to her Son for us.</p>	

Weekday Services

Paraklesis

August 1, 3, 5, 9, & 11
7:00pm

Transfiguration Of Our Lord

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

Falling Asleep Of The Theotokos

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

Registry

Weddings

Stacy Kyros & Michael Hineline
Sponsor: *Victoria Hansen*

Angela Paleothodoros
& *John Sarantopoulos*
Sponsor: *George Kalamaras*

Anna Bensch & Daniel Tondelli
Sponsor: *Jason Tondelli*

Registry

Baptisms

Natalie, Daughter of
Ada & Michael Mezgoda
Sponsors: *Leah & John Davos*

Ella Ann, Daughter of
Andrea & John Patrinos
Sponsors: *Katherine & Quentin Ratay*

Anthony, Son of
Toni & Steven Milak
Sponsor: *Joanna Zupancic*

Mosaic Deadline

The deadline for the September
Mosaic is Wednesday, August 3.

Stewardship

No humerous pleas for fulfilling your
pledges this month. Just pay up, please.

Postmaster: Please deliver by the 3rd of August

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