

# MOSAIC

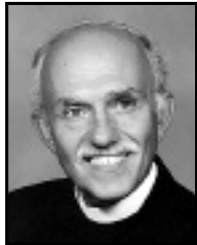
Coming together, we form an icon of God's Kingdom

Vol. 16, No. 9

Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church 2501 S. Wolf Rd. Westchester, IL  
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January, 2012

From Father Bill



## Under the influence of books

In my lifetime I have lived through the opening and closing of various businesses. Some have come and gone but I was never affected more than the closure of Border Books, a familiar dispenser of tapes, CD's, and books. I never imagined I would witness the sign "Going out Of Business" on their doors. I guess it is the sign of the times and the impact left on our society from modern technology.

Is there any other single factor that has influenced the course of events in this world more than books? Where would the Jewish faith be today without the Holy Scriptures? Where would Christianity be today without the Bible? The major historical events of world-wide significance were all triggered by books; Religion has been especially influenced by books and one of the dominating classes of literature, perhaps larger in extent and variety than any other. The earliest records of every race are religious records (prayers, invocations). Books played a large part in our Lord's life, based on reading in Nehemiah 8:1-3 and New Testament (Luke 4:14-21).

I have known pious individuals who did not have the pleasure of completing studies, yet with their limited capabilities of reading, traveled to many countries and experienced many wonders. One such person was my beloved mother-in-law, who arrived on the shores of this great country with limited knowledge, but possessed a great desire to learn and to experience life as it is. She has gone to be with the saints, but I remember conversations I enjoyed with her and how she described details pertaining to history and details of places in the world she said she traveled. When I engaged her and asked when she had the opportunity for travel, her answer was

See Fr. Bill on P. 3



Philoptochos members enjoy dancing for the crowd.

## A touch of Greece at Holy Apostles

The Grand Opening of the new Kukla's Kafenio drew a large crowd on November 16. Our older adults were able to enjoy the fun of being together singing Greek songs, dancing, snacking on mezedes and Greek pastries. This new event was sponsored by our Holy Apostles Philoptochos Society. Mark your calendars for February 8 when Kukla's Kafenio will be open for business again!



Cathy Magas, center, chats with two attendees, above. At left, a sign welcomes folks to the kafenio, saying kalos orisate, or welcome.



Photos  
by  
Christine  
Foley

From Father Nicholas



## Experiencing God's Word

Christmas time brings days of wonderful celebration. Our extended family enjoys sharing a delicious meal together and especially the conversation that follows.

Sometimes discussions turn to our Christian faith. Last year, one of our beloved family members asked, "Father, I have never read the Bible, but somewhere in there doesn't it say that...?" According to a recent Gallup poll, "about six in ten Americans (59%) say they read the Bible at least on occasion, with the most likely readers being women, non-whites, older people, Republicans, and political conservatives.

Readership of the Bible has declined from the 1980s overall, from 73% to 59% today. The percentage of frequent readers, that is, those who read the Bible at least once a week, has decreased slightly over the last decade from 40% in 1990 to 37% today.

About one in seven Americans report an involvement that goes beyond reading the Bible. Fourteen percent currently belong to a Bible study group. In terms of frequency of readership, 16% of Americans say that they read the Bible every day, 21% say they read it weekly, 12% say they read the Bible monthly, 10% say less than monthly and 41% say that they rarely or never read the Bible."

Is this a picture of us? Do we understand the Holy Word of God? How often do we read the Bible? Why is it so important?

Our Holy Bible is a story of love. The Holy Scriptures offer a biography of God in the world. They express God's overflowing love in creating this magnificent universe and all life in it.

God's blessing, sustaining, teaching, correcting, redeeming and leading us to His Kingdom of love is contained in the Bible. In this Holy Book, the Indescribable One is described.

The New Testament provides the biography of our Incarnate Lord in the world. As Christ took on flesh and became man, He told us everything that God is and that God wants from this world and the people in it. Christ revealed both God's love and plan for the world. God the Word spoke to us about God even though human words cannot fully contain our uncontainable God.

All that is necessary for this world and its people has been stated in the Bible. The Bible is an instruction manual that details how to live a successful Christian life. -This instruction manual is the biography of every

...See Fr. Nicholas on P. 6



# Gavel to Gavel



By STEVE SAVAS, SECRETARY

## Parish Council meeting of November 17

Present: Fr. William Chiganos, Fr. Nicholas Georgiou, George Alex, Peter Bell, George Chechopoulos, Terry Chiganos, Sandy Fiascone, Jim Fotopoulos, Tom Gregory, Louis Katzioris, Nick Kirkeles, George T. Mannos Jr., Peter Poteres, Dennis Poulos, and Steve Savas.

### Financial Report

✦ The comparative financial report dated October 31 was reviewed by George Chechopoulos. The church for ten months ending on October 31 was unfavorable \$58,495. Nick Kirkeles moved to approve the financial statements subject to year end review. The motion passed unanimously.

### Stewardship

✦ Tom Gregory reviewed the Stewardship Report for October 31. The church received 770 pledges, 22 less pledges for the same period last year, totaling \$28,082 paid in October, unfavorable \$45, for the same period last year, for an average pledge of \$854. Total amount paid through October was \$590,752.

### Correspondence

✦ Steven Savas read a note from the Orthodox Christian Fellowship of University of Illinois thanking the church for its donation.

### Meditation

- ✦ Fr. Bill stated that he hopes and prays for this next year to be another wonderful year for the Holy Apostles Parish.
- ✦ Fr. Bill also talked about a marine, Lance Corporal Joshua Misiewicz, a graduate from Lyons Township High School in 2006, who has come back from Afghanistan with extensive injuries. With the loss of both his legs, he and his family have fallen upon hard financial times. A motion was made to donate a gift of \$500 to Joshua Misiewicz. The motion passed unanimously. Fr. Bill thanked the Council and the entire parish for their heartfelt compassion and generosity.
- ✦ Fr. Bill also expressed his excitement about a Philoptohos group gathering of Kukla's Kafenio. Over 85 people attended and had a wonderful time.

### Building & Grounds

✦ Jim Fotopoulos reported that Frick and

Frack have installed 3 new commodes in the bathrooms by the classrooms. Installation of the new TV's and DVD's has begun and should only take a few days to complete.

✦ George Mannos Jr. stated that the cry room is complete and looking wonderful. Many thanks to the Philoptohos for doing this project. A thank you was given to Cathy Magas, Chrisy Banakis, Sandy Fiascone and Stella Athanas for their coordinated effort.

### Ways & Means

✦ James Kapolas reported that about 150 people attended the tailgate party and a profit of over \$3,000 was made.

### New Business

- ✦ Peter Poteres and George Mannos met with Chapel Hills Cemetery to research the possibility of purchasing an additional 100 plots. Holy Apostles has only 16 plots left from the last purchase of 7 years ago. A motion to purchase 50 lots located in the Ascension and 50 lots located in the Garden of the Resurrection was made. A discussion ensued and the motion failed, 8 against and 4 in favor. The Council asked Peter Poteres to try to re-negotiate a different deal with Chapel Hills Cemetery. A follow up will be proposed at the December meeting.
- ✦ James Kapolas gave a brief review for the future plans of our financial layouts. The office is now in the process of re-categorizing our expenses to have consistency between the budget, the monthly profit and loss statements and the day-to-day operations of the church expenses, as well as to have the monthly statements come from the office rather than Weiss Accounting. The church would continue its third party accounting practices to keep a high level of transparency and accuracy.
- ✦ Nick Kirkeles announced the 40th Anniversary Fanari Dinner Dance to be held on January 14, at Drury Lane in Oak Brook. More information can be obtained on the Diocese and Holy Apostles websites, or at [www.Fanari.org](http://www.Fanari.org). Please pass the word to all Fanari Camp alumni.



At the Seniors' Christmas gift raffle, Fr Nicholas draws and Jim and Kay Bobis announce.

**Fr. Bill from P. 1**

**A girl's diary a testament to the power of books**

succinct: (Paidi mou, evrika hara apo ta vivlia) meaning she derived her knowledge and especially visiting the places she visited through her reading. In most instances she read a book many times, over and over again, and each time she opened a book with renewed excitement as if reading the story for the first time.

On a visit to Holland in 2009, Presvetera and I visited the home of Anne Frank. Few books have captured the hearts of people all over the world as her diary which described her transition, painful and joyous at once, into adolescence. She wrote vividly about her innermost feelings, desires, dreams, hopes and fears, as well as the cramped and strained relationship which existed between those who shared her hiding place. This frail child, victim and helpless target of savage powers survived in a way that she never dreamt was possible: the pen proves mightier than the sword.

It is uncanny that the book was not destroyed. The Gestapo, when it broke in and raided the hiding place on August 4, 1944, arresting all its inhabitants, threw Anne's books and papers on the floor. They were searching for valuables, for gold and silver, and books were not significant. Less than three years later, this precious testimony of her life made Anne Frank a byword throughout the world. Brutal naked power has always underestimated the immortality of the human spirit. The pages on the floor of the "Secret Annex" became a living memorial to the pos-

sibility of survival in the midst of terror and fear and violence. Dead Sea Scrolls and little girls' diaries preserve a past that naked power cannot obliterate.

I shall recall with a deep sense of gratitude going to the island of Patmos and visiting the grotto of St. John the Evangelist, who dictated the Book of Revelation to Prochlos, his disciple. While there, we read the text from this holy book and were moved deeply. Books have always played a significant role in my ministries.

How times have changed. While visiting homes that are now museums, one sees the living quarters, living room, bedroom, kitchen and almost always the library, a revealing point that people who had residence in that home deemed it important to set aside a place for books.

Someone once wrote: A person can be "successful" without books, he can grow rich without books, but he cannot "see God."

Playing golf one year, I met the inimitable Paul Harvey who was part of a foursome ahead of us. Because I respected him and enjoyed his newscast I approached Mr. Harvey with boldness, and gave him my golf score card which he autographed with the following: "Keep on reading." I remember these words each time I open a book and endeavor to embrace his counsel.

**HARC**

**The Book of Saints**

By Mary P. Hallick

This book began to take form when young people would pose the following questions to the author's late husband Fr. Constantine. "What is this Greek name in English?" "Is this a Cristian name." "When is my name day?"

The author was called upon to search for the proper translation and a name file from A-Z came into existence. Names, their history and meanings are fascinating to read. It is now appropriate and acceptable to use a name in the original Greek. Use it with pride!

\$13.00

**Flame in the Snow**

**A Life of St. Serafim of Sarov**  
By Julia de Beausobre

What is so special about this man? He spent all his years in the forest when he could have been doing something useful such as working to put an end to serfdom.

In the case of Serafim, when he came out of the forest his every word, his every gesture, his very presence was healing to all the people around him Grace had become his second nature.

The author manages to stimulate our imaginations, to say nothing of how she evokes for us the impact on that world on wider events in Russia and beyond.

\$13.00

*Registry*

**Baptisms**

*Lyla, daughter of  
Rex and Margo Kuchuris  
Sponsors: William and Kimberly Karr*

*Brayden, son of  
Matthew and Valerie Bolt  
Sponsor: Amelia Yant*

*Nicholas, son of  
Nicholas and Kristie Treff  
Sponsor: Andrei Iliovicu*

**Weddings**

None



# December's youth activities



GOYA lock in participants form a cross to start the evening, left. Above, Mary Margaret Kouchis and Andrew Poteres prepare veggie lasagna as part of our Meals on Wheels Outreach Project.



Above, goyans wrap presents for needy children in DuPage County. At right, Presvytera Michelle, Fr. Nicholas, Austin Anderson, and Fr. Bill enjoy the fare at the altar boys Christmas dinner.



Radio actors with the Shadowbox present Adventure Theater's production of *The Cousins' Christmas Surprise* at left.

**Photos  
by  
Peter Bell**





At left, Santa arrives at the Communion Breakfast. Above, Santa visits with Nicole Katzioris.

# Christmas events at Holy Apostles



The lambs make their appearance at this year's pageant.



Mrs. Zachy Tolios leads Greek School Kalanda singers, above.

**Photos  
by  
Peter Bell**



Christopher Petropoulos and Anastasia Polihronidis, above, as Mary and Joseph. At left, Sandy Pihos directs the pageant rehearsal.



# Philoptochos News Update

## Philanthropic Recap for 2011

We would like to thank our extended Holy Apostles family for your support of our programs and fundraising efforts. Because of your generosity we were able to reach out to many different individuals within our own community, our Metropolis, our local social service agencies, national and international aid programs. In 2011 our charitable donations exceeded \$50,000, a new record for us!

## Vasilopita Celebrations

Holy Apostles Philoptochos will again be hosting the annual cutting of the Vasilopita on January 8 following the Divine Liturgy. All are welcome.

The Metropolis of Chicago Philoptochos will be hosting the annual Vasilopita Celebration on the evening of January 8 at St. George Greek Orthodox Church, Schererville, IN.

## An annual tradition The Godparents Luncheon to take place February, 19

The Godparents' Luncheon will take place on Sunday, February 19 following the Divine Liturgy. This is a wonderful opportunity for godparents, godchildren, friends and family to share a meal in the multi-purpose room as one Holy Apostles community. This year the Philoptochos-sponsored event will be co-chaired by Cynthia Stathopoulos and GOYA member Elesia Poteres. The delicious meal will be prepared by Chef Michael Cotsilis and his crew. Featured guest speakers will be the 3rd grade Sunday School students.

Philoptochos welcomes our youth members, ages 13 years and over, to participate as assistants to set up, serve, bus tables, and clean up. Time invested in helping with the luncheon will qualify as community service hours for high school students. Please contact Elesia Poteres if you are able to help at [espoteres@gmail.com](mailto:espoteres@gmail.com).

For reservations, please call Cynthia Stathopoulos at 630-986-0630 or email at [gsthath11@comcast.net](mailto:gsthath11@comcast.net).



Kay Bobis, left, watches Eve Vasilion, right, who's enjoying Kukla's Kafenio.

## Fr. Nicholas from P. 2

# How can we grow in love of Scripture?

person. Each of us can find ourselves thoroughly portrayed and described. As we study the Holy Scriptures, we may say, "The Bible is talking to me personally." It describes our virtues and vices. Here, we find our soul's path and journey from sin to sinless. We can find ways to free ourselves from sin. The complete history of sinfulness and righteousness are contained here. Mourners will find consolation in the Bible. Sad people will find joy. Angry find tranquility. Lustful people find continence. Fools find wisdom. Bad people find goodness. Criminals find mercy and righteousness. Haters find love. The Holy Scriptures offer remedies for our vices and weakness. Here, we find spiritual nourishment.

We read in the Gospel of John: "God is the Word." If we read the words of the Bible, we are listening to God. As we read and study the Bible, a hunger develops.

We will find reasons to read and study the Bible more frequently. St. John Chrysostom describes the Bible as "an aromatic root, which produces more and more aroma the more it is rubbed."

Reading and studying the Bible becomes an exciting adventure. It can be a startling entrance into a new world and a life-changing experience in Christ.

How can we grow in our love for the Holy Scriptures? St. Isaac suggests: "brush aside the quantity and number of verses, so that your mind could be absorbed in studying the words of the Spirit, until, filled with wonder at the Divine dispensation, your soul is incited to a lofty understanding of them and is thus moved to praise of God or to sorrow that

profits the soul."

The Church provides daily Bible guides to help readers digest daily, bite-size morsels of the Holy Scriptures. St. John Chrysostom encourages us to "engrave the Bible in our souls." reminds us that a person "well grounded in the testimonies of the Scriptures is a bulwark of the Church."

As the New Year begins, we can commit to reading the Holy Scriptures consistently and regularly. Then, as we immerse ourselves in the Bible, we will be "born anew through the word of God which lives and abides forever." (1 Peter 1:23)

## Philoptochos president says thanks

On behalf of Philoptochos, President Teri Parafink thanks all who shopped, baked, wrapped, cooked, organized, made deliveries, and made greeting cards for our Christmas philanthropic work. We also want to thank those who donated money, goods, and services.

Together we were able to spread Christmas joy to many individuals, young and old, within our Holy Apostles family. Your efforts also helped surrounding communities, social service agencies, our Metropolis families in need, and even the children at St. Basil's Academy.

Thank you for your generous spirit of giving!



**Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church**     **January 2012**     2501 S. Wolf Rd. Westchester, Illinois

Sunday     Monday     Tuesday     Wednesday     Thursday     Friday     Saturday

<b>8:00am Orthros</b> <b>9:15am Awaken To God</b> <b>9:30am Divine Liturgy</b> Fellowship Hour	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>VASIOPITA</b> <b>8:00am Orthros</b> <b>9:15am Awaken To God</b> <b>9:30am Divine Liturgy</b> Fellowship Hour High School Basketball Grade School Basketball	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>8:00am Orthros</b> <b>9:15am Awaken To God</b> <b>9:30am Divine Liturgy</b> Fellowship Hour GOYA Ski Trip High School Basketball Grade School Basketball	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>8:00am Orthros</b> <b>9:15am Awaken To God</b> <b>9:30am Divine Liturgy</b> Fellowship Hour High School Basketball Grade School Basketball Sanctity Of Life Prayer	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>8:00am Orthros</b> <b>9:15am Awaken To God</b> <b>9:30am Divine Liturgy</b> Fellowship Hour Greek Letters Luncheon	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				

**Talent show for youngsters. For info: [www.saintdemetriosislibertyville.org](http://www.saintdemetriosislibertyville.org)**

## Weekday Services

### Eve Of Holy Epiphany

Thursday, January 5  
6:00pm Vesperal Liturgy and  
Blessing of the Holy Water

### Holy Epiphany

Friday, January 6  
8:00am Orthros  
9:00am Divine Liturgy

### Feast Day Of St. John

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

### Vespers

Saturday, January 21  
5:00pm

## Mosaic Deadline

The February Mosaic deadline  
is Wednesday, January 4.

## Memorials

*Zoe Peplos  
James Peplos  
George Lekas  
Jimmy Lekas  
Penelope Leider  
Horemotis Paul  
Elaine Stoumbelis-Papananias  
Sultana Sophia Xenos  
Linda Verges  
Helen Verges  
Gus Verges  
Conrad Verges  
Mary Miller  
Frances Nichols  
Peter Verges*

*James Verges  
Chris Verges  
Dr. Christos Patsavos  
Dena Patsavos  
Solon Bannos  
Anastasia Georgiou  
John Koutsoukos  
Charles Spirrison  
Dorothy Gialelis  
Peter Fiflis  
Nicholas Gianakos*

## Funerals

*Joseph Trombino  
John Stryker  
Chris Kapolas*

## New cemetery plots available

The church's inventory of cemetery plots  
in Chapel Hill Gardens has sold out.

Therefore, the Parish Council is purchasing  
additional plots in the same section of the cemetery.  
These plots will be available to church members for \$3500.

For additional information,  
please speak to one of the Parish Council members.

Postmaster: Please deliver by the 3rd of January

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