

# MOSAIC

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

Vol. 20, No. 7

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

November 2015

From Father Nicholas



## Managing God's Blessings

Thanksgiving will be celebrated this month. Another feast of gratitude, The Entry of the Theotokos into the Temple, will be remembered on November 21. Joachim and Anna were childless for many years. They promised God that if they were blessed with a child, the baby would be devoted to serving God. When she was just three years old, the Holy Virgin Mary's parents offered her to God to thank Him and fulfill their promise. Zacharias led Mary into the Holy of Holies, the most sacred part of the Temple, where the High Priest was only allowed to enter once a year. God was preparing His vessel, bridge and new Temple, Mary, for His Son to enter the world. She gave her flesh, blood and bones, which replaced the Temple's wood, metal and stone. Mary spent years in the Temple preparing to become the Mother of God. The Entry of the Theotokos is the fulfillment of Joachim and Anna's promise. They were excellent stewards, who offered their only child to God!

What type of stewards are we? In November, we will reflect on stewardship and expressing our thanksgiving and gratitude to God. We read in the Gospel of John: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." (John 3:16) God gave! God Himself gave! He sets the ultimate example and encourages us to experience the joy of giving. The Lord challenges us to continue His work by giving our time, talents and treasure.

At every Orthodox funeral service, we read, "The world and all that is in it belong to the Lord; the earth and all who live on it are His." (Psalm 24:1) This provides hope and



### Fanari reunion dance

The multipurpose room became a hot spot of dancing fun for former Fanari campers.

assurance that our departed loved ones' bodies and souls are entrusted to God's care. Have you ever thought about this? These words also instruct us. Our energy, intelligence, opportunities, relationships and resources are all gifts from God. He entrusts us to care and manage them.

We read in the Book of James: "What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes." (James 4:14) In our brief earthly stay, we do not really own anything. Have you ever seen a moving van following a hearse? Our gracious Lord loans the earth to us while we are here. It was God's property before we arrived and He will loan it to someone else after we leave. Adam and Eve were appointed trustees of God's property. God blessed them and said: "fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth." (Genesis 1:28)

St. Paul challenges us: "What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as though you did not?" (1 Corinthians 4:7) A few years ago, a

generous family lent our extended family their vacation home in the North Carolina mountains for a week. We could never have afforded this experience. The gracious homeowners told us, "This is your home. Treat it like it is yours." We did. All of us enjoyed the movie theater, arcade games, food in the gourmet kitchen, coffee bar, and comfortable bedroom suites with balconies, home spa, and the spacious deck overlooking the beautiful Smoky Mountains. Although we felt at home, our family knew this was not really ours and treated it with extra special care. We wanted to leave this beautiful home in better condition than we found it.

Like the mountain homeowners, God owns all that we have. If He owns it, we should take care of it to the best of our ability. St. Paul challenges: "Those who are entrusted with something valuable must show they are worthy of that trust." (1 Corinthians 4:2) Many parables exist in the Holy Scriptures focusing on stewardship. Do you remember the story of the Talents? A business owner entrusts his wealth to servants while he is  
**See Fr. Nicholas on P. 4...**



# Gavel to Gavel



## Highlights of the August Council Meeting BY NICK KOUCHIS, SECRETARY

**Present:** Fr. Nicholas Georgiou, George Alex, Peter Bell, George Chechopoulos, Spyro Demakis, Ted Dres, Terry Chiganos, Cindy Clark, James Fotopoulos, Tom Gregory, Louis Katzioris, Paul Kallis, Nick Kirkeles, Nick Kouchis, Alicia Magas, Norman Pomrening and Steven Savas.

### **Meditation:**

✦ Fr. Nicholas discussed the upcoming Feast of Panagia. He spoke about a miracle that occurred in Hawaii, in 2008, whereby a sub-deacon of the Russian Orthodox faith observed a liquid and scent of myrrh arising from an icon of Panagia in his home office. When he collected the fluid and wiped it on his ill sister, she recovered from her illness, illustrating the miracle of healing. This icon has been displayed in many churches across the U.S. with further miracle stories and was in the Chicago area this month. These miracles show how God and Panagia are very much alive and active in our world.

### **Financial/Treasurer's Report:**

✦ The church for the month of June had net income of -\$13,064.35, which was \$48,995 over budget. The church for the month of July had a net income of -\$1,109.98, which was \$31,520.85 over budget. The church for the period ending July had a net income of \$70,866.55, which was \$137,291.89 over budget.

✦ Jim Fotopoulos moved to approve the report pending the year-end audit. The motion was passed unanimously. The year-end financials will be made available at the church office for parishioners, but will not be mailed out.

### **Stewardship Report:**

✦ Lou Katzioris reviewed the Stewardship Report for July. Number of pledges to date for 2015 is 697, which is 22 lower than this period last year. Total amount pledged to date for 2015 is \$657,767.60, which is about \$4,000 more than the same period last year. The average pledge of \$697 is \$35 more than this period last year. Percent paid to date is 81%, which is 2% less than last year. Of the 2015 stewards, 32% were from ages 20-45, 47% were from ages 46-79, and 21% were from ages 80+.

### **Correspondence:**

✦ Thank you from Rev. James S. Katinas, Director of Institutional Advancement at Hellenic College & Holy Cross for the generous gift of \$1,885.

✦ Thank you from Constantine Triantafyllou, Executive Director of IOCC, for the regis-

tration of \$1,250 for the Annual Pan Orthodox Banquet.

- ✦ Congratulations from Metropolitan Iakovos of the Metropolis of Chicago in assigning Rev. Father Nicholas C. Georgiou as the Parish Priest of our Holy Apostles Church.
- ✦ Thank you from the family of Peter Poteres for the Parish Council's support during the loss of Othon Poteres.

### **Missions & Outreach:**

- ✦ Norman Pomrening made a motion to donate a full page color ad for the Federation of Greek Orthodox Music and Choir Conference for \$150 as we have donated in the past. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Building & Grounds:**

- ✦ Jim Fotopoulos presented an update on repairing/replacing failing windows in the church. Three bids were reviewed and a motion was made by Jim Fotopoulos to replace and tint the 1st floor windows with a cost not to exceed \$42,000. The motion passed with a majority.
- ✦ Steve Savas reported that the water meter was inspected and correct in reporting its usage. Monthly water cost had returned to previous charges.
- ✦ Jim Fotopoulos presented three bids to tuck point the brick exterior and motioned to spend \$29,000 to complete the work in a timely fashion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Old Business:**

- ✦ Nick Kirkeles presented an update on the front bathrooms remodeling project. After review of three bids, Jim Fotopoulos motioned to spend no more than \$45,000 to accept one of the remodel proposals. The motion passed unanimously.
- ✦ George Alex presented a plan for the school bathrooms to be repaired and redecorated, as they will get more usage while the front bathrooms are being remodeled. He presented a motion to spend no more than \$5,000 to repair and redecorate the school bathrooms. The motion passed unanimously.
- ✦ An additional \$10,000 for tile and granite was motioned by Jim Fotopoulos. This motion passed unanimously.
- ✦ Nick Kirkeles presented an update of Greek School from last year. A motion was made by Nick Kirkeles to increase tuition by \$75, for a total cost of \$675, and to reduce the teachers by one position for the coming school year. The motion

passed unanimously.

- ✦ Spyro Demakis presented a review of the Sunday School from last year after meetings with Fr. Nicholas, Emelia Linardakis, and the Sunday School teachers. A recommendation was made to begin Sunday School immediately after Holy Communion, to avoid disruption by students arriving at various times during the lesson. The sermon would be moved to after the services conclude, thereby giving the classes about 45 minutes for the lesson. An increase in the cost from \$20 to \$30 for Sunday School will also occur.

### **New Business:**

- ✦ Steve Savas proposed that a Capital Improvement Building Fund be offered as an option for Memorial Cards, in addition to General and Mission Funds.
- ✦ George Alex proposed that a Sacrament charge be created for non-stewards for weddings and baptisms at Holy Apostles that compares with nearby churches.
- ✦ Steve Savas requested that a Hiring Interview Review Committee be created for the position of Pastoral Assistant. Fr. Nicholas, two members of the Executive Board, and Nick Kirkeles offered to create the position responsibilities, interview interested applicants, and give recommendations to the Parish Council.
- ✦ Steve Savas announced that the budget process for 2016 will begin in August 2015 and be presented for approval at the General Assembly meeting on October 18.
- ✦ The Father William Chiganos Scholarship Fund was addressed in a motion from Peter Bell to donate \$5,000 for a seminarian from Holy Apostles to attend Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology. The motion passed by a majority.
- ✦ A proposal was made to create a scholarship committee that can regulate the Father William Chiganos Scholarship Fund for future requests.
- ✦ Mr. Demetralis announced his retirement as of December 31, 2015. He offered to stay as advisor for the Adventure Theater and as a Sunday School teacher.
- ✦ The Village of Westchester accepted our request to use their basketball courts for four months for the youth basketball program at a cost of \$1,600, which is less than the \$2,000 that was budgeted.

## Meet our new Pastoral Assistant Julie Tziolas



By Julie Tziolas

I would like to thank the community of Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church for embracing me and welcoming me into your church family. I am looking forward to serving as Pastoral Assistant,

working with the various ministries of the parish. Although I have only begun to meet parishioners, you have already received me with much love and warmth. It is a blessing to serve in a community with such faith and agape.

Within the upcoming months, I look forward to getting to know each of you better and learning how I can support the numerous vibrant ministries.

## What's Happening?

By Steve Savas  
Parish Council President

This month's focus is stewardship. With Stewardship Sunday quickly approaching and each of us considering how best to give back to the church community, we should keep in mind that Holy Apostles has always promoted three key elements of stewardship: TIME, TALENT and TITHING.

Allow me to share a personal story from more than twenty years ago when I was fairly new to this parish. I had recently started a painting business. My daughter was a newborn, and my wife had left the workforce to be with her at home. Because our family finances were extremely limited at that time, we could make only a very small financial commitment to the church. I was so bothered by this situation that I consulted with Fr. Bill, who put his hand on my shoulder and asked me what my special talent was. I replied that I was fairly handy.

Fr. Bill then suggested that I lend my talents to helping maintain the church building and told me that if I gave of my time and talent, the tithing would eventually work itself out. I was so impressed with that kind of philosophy that I did just that.

I gave of my time and talent. As I got more involved with the parish, I realized this was not only Fr. Bill's philosophy but the philosophy of the entire parish. As Fr. Bill had predicted, my tithing commitment did grow, and because I enjoyed being a part of this community, my commitments of time and talent also grew until I find myself today enjoy-

When I first decided to pursue a Masters of Divinity at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, I knew that I was devoting my life to serving Christ and His Church.

After completing my degree, I had the blessing to serve as Pastoral Assistant of the Taxiarchae/Archangels church in Watertown, MA, Assistant Director of Student Life at Hellenic College/Holy Cross, Registrar of the Metropolis of Boston, and Pastoral Assistant of St. Andrew Greek Orthodox Church in Chicago.

As my passion in ministry has always centered upon teaching our youth and sharing the Gospel, I am currently pursuing a Masters of Arts in Teaching at Northeastern Illinois University. I am grateful that my path has brought me here to Holy Apostles, where I am excited to begin this new ministry.

### Baptisms

*George, son of  
Rosalie and Patrick Senorski  
Sponsors: Jennifer Markadonatos  
& Dimitri Fountalas*

*Isabella, daughter of  
Maria & Pedro Perez  
Sponsor: Diane McGuire*

### Weddings

*None*

ing my tenure as Parish Council president.

As we move into the next year, the Parish Council will be appealing to the community for donations to help fund various projects such as remodeling the classrooms and installing new windows.

Please consider contributing whatever you can. Instead of giving one dollar at the candle stand or in the offering basket, try to give two dollars. Although this may seem to be an insignificant increase, multiplied by the total number of parishioners every week, it becomes quite substantial. Giving of your time and talents is an integral part of parish life as well.

We need all of our stewards to be active participants in the ministries of the parish by sharing their energy, ideas, efforts and suggestions. It is the unity of our church family that makes Holy Apostles a beautiful, vibrant parish.

On a lighter note, the Lord said to John, "Come forth and I shall give you eternal life," but John came fifth and got a toast.

May God continue to keep us close to Him.

**Mark  
your  
calendars**

### Children in the loft

The Children in the Loft program resumed on Sunday, October 18 with future dates scheduled on November 8 and December 6. The invitation is for all Sunday School students 4th through 8th grades and is a wonderful opportunity to participate in the Divine Liturgy with the senior choir. Loft space is limited to 15 students. Please respond to Bette Schieber at [bmschieber@aol.com](mailto:bmschieber@aol.com).

### Save the date! Family Synaxis lamb roast

Couples and parents, married or single, of children college age and younger are invited to enjoy an evening together on November 14. We are kicking off a new Family Synaxis ministry and look forward to your involvement!

RSVP to the church office or [holyapostlessynaxis@gmail.com](mailto:holyapostlessynaxis@gmail.com)

Family Synaxis is a ministry dedicated to encouraging and educating couples and families in their spiritual lives, through fellowship, discussions, service work, and prayer.

### Parea Mark your calendars for an upcoming Parea outing

Parea members will be travelling to Drury Lane in Oak Brook Wednesday, December 30 for lunch and a presentation of "White Christmas the Musical." Watch the bulleting for further details.

### Buy a wreath to support the basketball team

Help support the basketball teams with our wreath fundraiser. Check out our wide selection of wreaths in the multi-purpose room and go ahead and put your order in today! Pickup will be at church on November 29 or on December 6. For questions, please contact Aleka Ernst at [alekaernst@aol.com](mailto:alekaernst@aol.com) or call 630.561.1660.

## Fall Philoptochos upcoming events

### Membership

If you were unable to attend our Annual Membership Night held on September 22, it is not too late to join Philoptochos. We welcome new and returning members. Membership envelopes and volunteer forms are available in the church office. Contact Membership Chair Alyssa Petropoulos at 630.790.9701 for more info.

### Artoclasia for Veteran's Day

Philoptochos will honor all of our military veterans with an Artoclasia on Sunday, November 8. We encourage our veterans to attend for this special blessing following the Liturgy.

### Koukla's Kafenio

All seniors are invited to attend our Kafenio on Thursday, November 12. The Legacy Girls will be joining us to celebrate the veterans who served our country. The Legacy Girls capture the essence of the legendary Andrews Sisters. Relive the songs that uplifted and unified the nation so many years ago. Doors will open at 12 pm. Lunch will be served at 12:30 pm. Those planning to attend should RSVP by November 9 to Bess Shizas at 630.843.2186.

We will be collecting items for the Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans. Donations of hand soap, disposable razors, shampoo, conditioner, and deodorant are appreciated.

### Holiday Shoppe Donations

We will be collecting monetary donations on Sundays, November 22 & 29 and December 6 to purchase toys that will be taken to Family Shelter Services for victims of

### Fr. Nicholas from P. 1...

## Being the trustees and administrators of God's trust

away. Upon his return, he evaluates each servant's stewarding of the gifts. He says, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your Lord." (Matthew 25:21)

God's blessings of time, talents and treasure are put into a trust. We are the trustees and administrators of the trust. God will evaluate and reward each of us on how we manage it. God promises three rewards. First, God's affirmation: "Good job, well done!" Next, a promotion: "I will put you in charge of many things." Last, a celebration: "Enter into the joy of your Lord."

Abba Anthony wrote: "this monk seems to

domestic abuse. It is our way of spreading some holiday cheer to our community at large. Each year this organization holds its Holiday Shoppe in which clients can come and choose age-appropriate Christmas presents, at no cost to them, for their children. Otherwise, these mothers would not have gifts to give on Christmas. To contribute, look for the Philoptochos table after church or send your donation to the church office before December 6 marked Philoptochos/Holiday Shoppe.

### Communion Breakfast

Please join us on Saturday, December 12 for our annual communion breakfast. The Liturgy is at 9:00 with breakfast following at 10:30. There will be a craft for the children and a visit from Santa. Kindly bring an unwrapped toy for needy children. Please make reservations with Tina Dillon at 630.832.5652 or tina660@sbcglobal.net.

### Holiday Bake Sale

We will be selling delicious baked goods on Saturday, December 12 & Sunday, December 13. For those who love to bake, we welcome your wonderful cookies, cakes, Greek pastries and other holiday treats. For more info, contact Aleka Ernst at 630.561.1660.

### Philoptochos Christmas Party & General Meeting

Please join us for our annual holiday party on Tuesday, December 15. It is always a wonderful evening where we can celebrate the holiday season with friends. More information to come.

## Thanks for 36 unforgettable and awesome years!

By George Demetralis (alias Mr. D)

On September 23, by the grace of God, I celebrated my 36th anniversary of service as Pastoral Assistant to Holy Apostles Church and to you: the greatest friends, students, supporters, and guardian angels anyone could ask for.

After much prayer, I have decided to retire as your Pastoral Assistant at the end of this year, but will continue my involvement with the Adventure Theater, Fanari Camp, and Sunday School.

In 1966, I graduated from the School of Theology of the University of Athens, Greece, which qualified me to teach religion in the Greek Orthodox Church. For the next 13 years, despite my repeated attempts to secure a permanent position as a religion teacher in the Greek Orthodox Church of America, my efforts were, for the most part, ignored due to indifference and the fact that I was blind.

However, in September 1979, by the grace of God and through the efforts of Father Bill Chiganos (may his memory be eternal), I was hired as Pastoral Assistant at Holy Apostles.

Most people with disabilities, when seeking employment, do not expect guarantees, but ask for an opportunity to show what they can do. Father Bill and you gave me that opportunity, for which I shall be forever grateful.

I want to thank you all for the sincere and unconditional, Christian love and friendship you have shown to me and my family over these 36 exciting, memorable, and spiritually-rewarding years, and for helping to preserve my dignity as a human being. May you and Father Nicholas live long and prosper in God's love, joy, and peace through Christ our Lord and Savior.

I love you all lots and lots and triple lots!

# Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church **November 2015** 2501 S. Wolf Rd. Westchester, Illinois

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
8:15am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy Fellowship Hour	5:15pm The Way	10:00am TOTIS 4:30pm Greek School 6:30pm Jr. Goya Meeting	1:00pm Adult Christian Fellowship & Bible Study 7:15pm Bible Study 7:30pm Catechism 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	4:30pm Greek School Parent Teacher Conferences NO Greek School	4:30pm Adventure Theater 6:00pm GOYA Retreat At St. Iakovos Retreat Center	6:00pm Goyans Returns
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
CHILDREN IN THE LOFT FEAST DAY OF ST. MICHAEL 8:15am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy Fellowship Hour	FEAST DAY OF ST. NECTARIOS 8:00am Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy	4:30pm Greek School 5:00pm Greek School PTO Meeting 6:30pm GOYA Shopping For Needy Children 7:00pm Philoptochos Board Meeting	7:15pm Bible Study 7:30pm Catechism 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	12:30pm Kouklia's Kafanio 4:30pm Greek School	<b>FEAST DAY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM</b> 8:00am Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 4:30pm Adventure Theater	<b>4:30pm Vespers</b> 6:00pm Family Synaxis Lamb Roast
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
8:15am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy Fellowship Hour	5:15pm The Way	10:00am TOTIS 4:30pm Greek School 6:30pm GOYA Meeting	1:00pm Adult Christian Fellowship & Bible Study 7:15pm Bible Study 7:30pm Catechism 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	4:30pm Greek School 7:30pm Parish Council Meeting	4:30pm Adventure Theater	<b>PRESENTATION OF THE THEOTOKOS</b> 8:00am Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY 8:15am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy Greek School Bake Sale		4:30pm Greek School	<b>EVE OF THANKSGIVING FEAST DAY OF ST. KATHERINE</b> 6:00pm Divine Liturgy	<b>THANKSGIVING DAY</b> NO Greek School	OFFICE CLOSED	
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
8:15am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy Fellowship Hour	FEAST DAY OF ST. ANDREW 8:00am Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy				<p><b>A Thanksgiving Prayer</b></p> <p>As we are about to partake of these gifts you have set before us, we raise up our arms to you and ask you to accept our prayer of thanksgiving along with people of every faith on this land.</p>	
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>					

## Memorials

*Julis Stavropoulos*

*Carol Vessol*

*Gus Vessol*

*Gus Chiampas*

*Georgia Chiampas*

*John Georganas*

*Lelica Bilder*

*Angelo Bilder*

*Louis Andros*

*John Agres*

*Paul Chechopoulos*

## Funerals

*Michael P. Fosses*

*Filothei Adamopoulos*

*Bertie Kartinos*

Stock up on delicious treats at the  
*Greek School Thanksgiving Bake Sale*

Sunday, November 22

Immediately Following Divine Liturgy

in the Multi-Purpose Room

Featuring Homemade:

Baklava – Koulourakia – Kourambiethes

Various Breads – Spanakopita – Tiropita

Cookies – Brownies – Unique Desserts

Thank you for supporting our fundraising efforts which allow us to continue our mission of enriching our children in the Greek culture.

## Mosaic Deadline

The deadline for the December Mosaic is Wednesday, November 4.

Postmaster: Please deliver by the 3rd of December

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