

MOSAIC

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

Vol. 22 , No. 6

Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church 2501 S. Wolf Rd. Westchester, IL
708.562.2744 www.holyapostleschurch.com

October 2017

From Father Nicholas



Experiencing an Eclipse

In August, something took place that has not happened since 1979 and will not happen again until 2024! A total eclipse passed over certain parts of the United States. People traveled to different parts of the country to experience this amazing sight when the moon totally covers the sun.

This eclipse teaches us about God's creation and our relationship with God! Some people were scared and claimed this was a sign from God. Was it God's message telling us to change our ways? Years ago, people were frightened. They could not understand what this eclipse meant. Some expected a war or famine. They thought that eclipses were prophecies of bad things to come. Some Hindu people believed that a great dragon was swallowing the sun.

Is this eclipse contrary to nature? Eclipses are actually just as much a part of God's nature as sunshine. They are a consequence of the natural motion of the moon and earth around the sun and each other. At every Vespers service, we read: "He (God) made the moon to mark the seasons, and the sun knows when to go down. You bring darkness, it becomes night. O Lord, how manifold are Your works. In wisdom You have made them all!" (Psalm 104:24) God has ordered the heavens and the earth precisely. We already know that the next eclipse will happen in 2024! Eclipses are part of God's plan, His providence and grace.

Sometimes we forget God's providence. He creates the heavens, the earth, animals, us and all of creation and says: "Be fruitful and multiply." (Genesis 1:28) We enjoy God's blessings, wealth, comfort, joy, family, health, food, shelter, and material blessings, day after day, month after month and year after year. Then, a spiritual eclipse comes! Over all the

...See Fr. Nicholas on P. 2



First graders learn about the Elevation of The Cross in one of the newly-remodeled classrooms which feature new cabinets and moveable room dividers.



Eleni Fosses teaches her first graders about icons depicting Jesus' parents and grandparents.

Sunday School begins in newly remodeled classrooms



Luke Pavlidis with his paper cross in second grade.



First graders listen attentively to Toni Milak, left above and Eleni Fosses, right, as they teach about the Elevation of The Cross.



Eric Gustafson talks about his work with teachers Jennifer Govostis and Greg Contos in second grade.

Fr. Nicholas from P. 1 Experiencing an Eclipse ...

years, God never denied our needs. We go through life taking God's blessings for granted.

When the eclipse comes, we ask, "Why did God bring this? Why is this evil happening to me?" Did I do something to God? Is He punishing me?" Did God change? Does the sun change when an eclipse overshadows it? No. The sun does not move from its predestined spot. The Prophet Isaiah reminds us: "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways." (Isaiah 55:9)

Our merciful God's purposes move us to some great distant goal which we cannot see. God is the same. He does not change! We are part of God's providence for our lives. We may be in God's spiritual eclipse. The eclipse of our faith, darkness, waning hope and trials are paths to salvation. David guarantees us that the Lord will bring us to "our desired haven." (Psalm 107:30) Spiritual eclipses are part of the journey.

God divinely designed all of creation. People cried as they experienced the beautiful and awe inspiring eclipse. St. Basil the Great has written a beautiful work on the six days (hexaemeron) of creation. He writes something very powerful on the creation of luminous bodies: "If such is the beauty of visible things, what shall we think of invisible things? If the grandeur of heaven exceeds the measure of human intelligence, what minds shall be able to trace the nature of the everlasting?"

God acts beyond our limited understanding. Why did so many people buy special eclipse glasses? This was the first time they looked directly at the sun. We typically do not gaze directly into the sun's rays. In the same way, spiritual eclipses, troubles and struggles help us turn to God. God allows these eclipses for our spiritual good.

Have you ever experienced quick sand? If we are sinking in quicksand, the only place to reach and hold may be the Vine (the Lord) hanging down. The Psalms remind us: "Before I was afflicted, I went astray, but now I have kept Your Word." (Psalm 119:67) We may be spiritual pearls.

Do you know how pearls are produced? When a parasite comes into the oyster, it struggles. In distress and defense, oysters secrete a fluid that coats the irritant and a pearl is formed! In struggling and distressing times, oysters produce beautiful pearls.

A harvest moon will occur this month. It is defined as the full moon nearest the autumn equinox. We may see the full moon's rays and wonder how they can be so bright. The moon actually borrows light from the sun. It reflects the sun's rays. If the sun had no rays, the moon would not shine. In the same way, we



Gavel to Gavel



Minutes of the August Council Meeting BY NORM POMRENING

Meditation

✦ The meditation focused on the Church as Christ's Body and the importance of each part of the body "playing its position". The church is organized around ministries, and these ministries deliver programs. The Council communicates with these ministries and provides them with needed financial resources.

Financial/Treasurer's Report

- ✦ Net revenue is \$17,000 year-to-date.
- ✦ One 9 ft x 9 ft icon has been installed on the back wall of the church. The final cost was \$56,000 vs a \$60,000 budget. Funds were taken from the Ecclesiastical Capital account.
- ✦ \$69,000 has been spent to date on the classroom renovation project. Peter Poteres reports that approximately \$30,000 has been raised to date.
- ✦ We sold 13 cemetery plots this year through July. Four plots have been sold so far in August.
- ✦ In May, the Parish Council discussed increasing our price for a cemetery plot. The current price for a plot purchased directly from Chapel Hill is \$4995. Steven Savas made a motion that we raise our price to \$3995 effective September 1. The motion was passed unanimously.

Stewardship Report

- ✦ Pledges to date for 2017 are 682 which are 23 less than this period last year. Total amount pledged to date for 2017 is \$673,799 which is \$7,550 less than the same period last year. The average pledge of \$987.98 is \$21.53 more than this period last year. Percent paid to date is 81% which is 2% less than this period last year.

Updates

- ✦ Peter Bell reported that it appears that the construction company that was interested in renting Holy Apostles' parking spots is no longer interested.
- ✦ The Council is considering ways to get key information from meetings to the Mosaic staff in a timelier fashion.
- ✦ Alicia Magas reported that an Orthodox education conference was held at St. John

the Baptist church in Des Plaines. Alicia attended the key note speech on the importance of an Orthodox education.

- ✦ Father Nicolas reported that at times it would be possible for four chalices to be used for Holy Communion.
- ✦ Steve Savas made a motion for \$4000 of the Technology budget to prepay work from Outsource Solutions, including soon-to-be scheduled connection of our hardware and WiFi network. The motion was passed unanimously.
- ✦ Peter Bell thanked everyone who helped with Father Panayiotis' ordination.
- ✦ Tom Gregory reported that the golf outing was a success and raised \$18,000.

Old Business

- ✦ Classroom Renovation: Jim Fotopoulos reported that the classroom renovation project is making progress. Some of the old furniture has been donated to other churches.

New Business

- ✦ Peter Bell reported that Paul Kallis has resigned effective 8/31/17. The Council would like to thank Paul and his family for their many years of service to Holy Apostles.
- ✦ Alicia Magas reported that Holy Apostles has made some technological advancements recently. Sunday School registration is now available online and a new version of Quickbooks has been installed. There is also an opportunity to improve our data management through the Orthodox Software Initiative being offered by the Archdiocese. The cost associated with this system is modest. Nick Kirkeles made a motion that we form a committee to research/implement the Parish Data Systems software for the 2018 stewardship year, and that we approve the associated financial expenditure. The motion passed unanimously.
- ✦ Jim Fotopoulos reported that the south door is in poor condition. George Alex made a motion that the door be replaced at a cost not to exceed \$5,500. The motion was passed unanimously.

would have no blessings or comfort unless God shines and gives them to us. This is so easy for us to forget. The moons of comfort can hide the Lord from us. We can be clouded by our possessions. Maybe we love things more than people. A certain sin might grip us. Maybe hatred has a hold. The alcohol and drug cloud may be present. Carnal passions and unhealthy living may cloud our relationship with the Lord.

We can become so attached to these unhealthy ways that they cloud and keep us from the Lord. If we call out to God, He will give us strength, grace and mercy as we struggle to overcome our spiritual eclipses. We can cling to these beautiful words: "Oh Blessed light of the Holy Trinity, Originating Unity, now as the fiery sun declines, pour radiance in our hearts." (Fifth century hymn)

From Father
Panayiotis



Prosporo and Perfection- ism

Perfectionism is something that many of us struggle with—not only at work, but in many areas of life. Longing for perfection is not in itself a bad thing. In fact, the theme of “becoming perfect” appears in the Gospel. Christ says, “be ye perfect as your Father in heaven is perfect” (Mt 5:48). However, when Christ says this to us, He knows it is a process, and that it is not something we can do by our human effort alone.

This is why elsewhere Christ says, “without Me you can do nothing” (Jn 15:5). Further, the Church wants to help us in the process of striving toward perfection. St Paul says that the goal of the apostles’ work is to “present every man perfect in Christ Jesus” (Col 1:28).

How can we handle the growing pains of this present life, in which we are constantly making mistakes, coming up short on our goals, and feeling in ourselves a general kind of imperfection in everything we think, say, and do?

One instructive and comforting image to contemplate is that of a loaf of prosporo, the bread prepared by the faithful with a special seal and brought to the church to be used in the Divine Liturgy. The word prosporo means “offering.”

Baking prosporo is not the same as baking other bread. The loaf must have the right consistency and be free of air bubbles.

Furthermore, the seal on top must be pristine in order for the priest to remove the necessary particles and the main piece (the “lamb”) to be sanctified. A poorly made prosporo is difficult for the priest to prepare and handle at the holy altar table during the divine liturgy.

Can an imperfect loaf of prosporo still be used in the liturgy? Will it still become the body of Christ, even with its imperfections? The answer is YES.

This is the way we should view our own lives. Just as a person learns to bake prosporo over the years, slowly perfecting the method, so too the Christian learns over the course of a lifetime how to think, live, act, work, and speak. Everything we do, and everything we are is a work in progress. Christ is being formed in us (cf. Gal 4:19).

In the meantime, we need to have a spirit of patient and hopeful endurance. We should never be tempted to take the “all-or-nothing” approach. If we do, then we will end up with “nothing.” If God took the “all-or-nothing” approach, He never would have sent His Son

Philoptochos Fall Update

Annual Luncheon and Fashion Show Moroccan Nights will be held Saturday, October 14, at Abbington Banquets in Glen Ellyn (new location). Cocktails and raffle sales begin at 11am followed by the luncheon at 12 pm. This year’s beneficiaries are A Silver Lining Foundation and a scholarship fund for Orthodox Christian youth to attend Fanari Camp. Fashions will be presented by Zzazz Productions and models will include children from Holy Apostles.

Tickets are available for purchase in the Holy Apostles multi-purpose room after the Divine Liturgy on Sundays or by contacting Jennifer Govostis at 708.471.9482.

Membership

If you were unable to attend our Annual Membership Night held on September 19, it is not too late to join Philoptochos. We welcome new and returning members. Membership envelopes and volunteer forms are available in the multi-purpose room. Contact Membership Chair Chrisie Alex at 630.272.0737.

Poised for Success

New and gently used fall and winter women’s career clothing is being collected between October 13 and November 3.

Wednesday night Bible Study begins

The Wednesday night Bible Study will resume October 4 at 7:15pm and continue each Wednesday night through November 15. Barbara Pappas will discuss the Gospel of John as it relates to the last days of Jesus Christ on earth.

This Book is very different than the Synoptic Gospels. Called “The Theologian” by the Church, John wrote from a spiritual rather than an historical perspective. He gets right to the meat of complex issues and offers details, unique to this writing, of the Crucifixion and the events that led up to it, from the mouth of the Lord Himself. Everyone is welcome, just bring a Bible, New King James translation, if possible.

to heal and save us. God saw in us the potential to become perfect in Him. This is what the saints have accomplished, and this is our calling.

May we present each day of our life to God as a prosporo, an offering to Him, and may He accept it and sanctify it, just as He does the bread on the holy altar table, for the benefit of His Church and the world. Amen.

We would greatly appreciate if you could take a peek at your closets and bring any donations to the multi-purpose room. The clothing drive is for Poised for Success, a non-profit organization that provides career clothing to women who cannot afford appropriate clothes for a job interview. The women are provided two interview outfits and once they secure a job, three more are given so they will have a week’s work of clothing.

Feed My Starving Children

We have a group scheduled to go to the Aurora location on Saturday, November 4. Please join us for the 2:00-4:00 pm session to hand pack specially formulated meals. Contact Emily Rehn at 708.369.9365 to save your spot.

Veteran’s Day

We will celebrate Veteran’s Day on Sunday, November 5 with an Artoclasia honoring those who have served in the military. We encourage our veterans to attend this special blessing following the Liturgy.

Koukla’s Kafenio

All seniors are invited to attend our popular Koukla’s on Thursday, November 16. Doors will open at 12pm. More information to come!

Baptisms

*Christiana, daughter of
Georgina & Emmanuel Lekkas
Sponsor: Pamela Kourialalis*

*Everett, son of
Madeline & Garrett Stone
Sponsors: Katy and James Fisher*

*Lukas, son of
Nicole & Jeffrey Voelz
Sponsor: Eleni Hayden*

Chrismations

*Lisa Abrahamsen
Sponsor: Potoula Patras*

*Isaac Martinez
Sponsor: Sam Failla*

Weddings

*Kathleen Coleman & Thomas Bennett
Sponsor: Georgianne Kokenis*

*Kristin Sietsema & Joseph Lerner
Sponsor: Angela Frys*



Anna Eriotes, left above, helps Christina Pashos, right above, select her table for the upcoming Philoptochos fashion show.

Ministry Fair offers service opportunities



Anna Kinna, Nicole Katziaris, Starla Vasilakopoulos pose for a group photo, left, and above, James Gaddis chats with Mr. D. about his time in Adventure Theater.



Volunteers from the church's ministries, left, talk to parishioners about joining their groups.

The **HARC** Corner

Saint Demetrios

The Myrrh-Flowing

Written and illustrated by Dionysios & Egle-Ekaterine Potamitis

Saint Demetrios, one of the most venerated saints in the Orthodox Church, is commemorated on Oct. 26. He continues to help all of us who ask for his intercessions, and his miracles are countless. By finding interest in the lives of saints, instead of celebrities and public figures, they become our role models. We learn about what is important and who is truly worth emulating.

\$20.00

Shepherding Sam

By Melinda Johnson

Young Sam is like a tornado, causing a ruckus everywhere he goes. His Aunt Eva will not give up on him, and neither will Saucer, a puppy, who lives in a monastery. Saucer dreams of herding sheep, but since none can be found at the monastery, he herds everyone else—animals, nuns and especially Sam. The lonely boy does not want to follow anyone, not even a funny puppy. But Saucer knows that if he keeps trying, he can bring Sam back to the flock.

\$13.00

Letters from the Desert *Barsanuphius and John*

Translated by John Chryssavgis

Barsanuphius and John, two monastic elders, lived around Gaza in the early sixth century, yet speak directly to us across the centuries. Strictly secluded in cells, their teachings were conveyed through letters to those who sought counsel. John's advice was practical while Barsanuphius responses were inspirational. They, therefore, complemented each other and maintained a harmonious authority—in charity.

\$17.00

Jr. GOYA collects goods for the troops overseas

During the month of October, Jr. GOYA will be collecting personal care items to send to the troops. This is part of Operation Support Our Troops of Illinois. Collected goods are delivered to a warehouse in Lisle for packaging.

Contact Vanessa Clohessy, Jennifer Govostis, Stacy Kinna, or Lena Theotikos for a list of needed items.

Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church **October 2017** 2501 S. Wolf Rd. Westchester, Illinois

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
8:15am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy Adventure Theater Pancake Breakfast		10:00am TOTS 4:30pm Greek School 7:00pm Choir Federation Rehearsal	1:00pm Adult Christian Fellowship & Bible Study 5:15pm The Way Bible Study 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal	4:30pm Greek School Jr. Dance Troupe Rehearsal 7:00pm Elmhurst Home Bible Study Group	4:30pm Adventure Theater 6:00pm Family Synaxis Preview & Discussion of Screenagers	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8:15am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy GOYA Fall Festival & Bake Sale 6:00pm Fanart Reunion Dance		4:30pm Greek School 7:00pm Philoptochos Board Meeting	1:00pm Adult Christian Fellowship & Bible Study 7:15pm Bible Study 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	4:30pm Greek School Jr. Dance Troupe Rehearsal	Poised For Success Clothing Drive 4:30pm Adventure Theater	Poised For Success Clothing Drive 11:00am Philoptochos Fashion Show At Abbington Banquets
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
8:15am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy Fellowship Hour General Assembly Meeting		10:00am TOTS 4:30pm Greek School 7:00pm Naperville Home Bible Study Group	Poised For Success Clothing Drive FEAST DAY OF ST. LUKE 8:00am Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 1:00pm Adult Christian Fellowship 5:15pm The Way Bible Study 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal	4:30pm Greek School Jr. Dance Troupe Rehearsal 7:30pm Parish Council Meeting		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
8:15am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy Fellowship hour		4:30pm Greek School 6:00pm Elmhurst Home Bible Study Group	Poised For Success Clothing Drive FEAST DAY OF ST. DEMETRIOS 8:00am Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 4:30pm Greek School			
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
8:15am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy Jr. GOYA Bake Sale Hinshale Home Bible Study Group	Poised For Success Clothing Drive	4:30pm Greek School	<h1>Prayer is...</h1> <h2>The world's greatest wireless connection.</h2>			
29	30	31				

Calendar current as of publication date

Funerals

*Matina Panopoulos
George James Feldmann
James Verros*

Memorials

*Kathryn Kalliris
Efthimios Tsokas
Constandina Deolitsis
Constandinos Deolitsis
Leonard Zurales
George Vlagopoulos
Demetra Vlagopoulou
Panayiotis Koutsopanagos
Gianoula Koutsopanagou
Dennis Pettas
Zographia Anagnos
Aristidis Karalis
Paraskevas Kokinis
Giannoula Mentakis
Athanasia Kontos
Christos Kontos
Anastasia Mageras
Constantine Mageras
Marya Pihos
Peter Pihos
Antoinette Shukas*

Save The Date!

**Parea Outing
to Drury Lane Theatre**

**Thursday, December 14,
to see
the play
42nd Street
Luncheon and play
\$50 per person.**

**Please contact:
George and Kathy Beshilas
at:
708.246.2581**

Deadline

The deadline for
the November Mosaic
is Thursday, October 5.



FRIDAY NOVEMBER 17
Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church
2501 S Wolf Road • Westchester, IL

Speakers:
Dr. Ary Christofidis, Rev. Dr. Perry Hamalis,
Dr. Gayle Woloschak

Science is one way of understanding the world, but not the only way. As Orthodox Christians, we must understand how science and Orthodoxy are compatible so we do not blindly reject one or the other. Our distinguished panelists represent the worlds of Science, Psychology and Christian Ethics and will present a rich symphony of voices to help us understand the relationship between rapid scientific advances and our timeless faith. You will hear information, perspective, and practical suggestions on how to teach our children and teenagers to understand which questions science can and cannot answer and the proper role of science in our faith and our Salvation.

Postmaster: Please deliver by the 3rd of October

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