



from Fr. George

Entering the Nave

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In my last few Mosaic articles, I have explored and explained many of the biblical verses found around our church building. We come now to the verse over the entrance into the Nave, the main worshiping space for the faithful:



In the original Greek it reads: "ΔΕΥΤΕ πρὸς με πάντες οἱ κοπιῶντες καὶ πεφορτισμένοι, καθὼ ἀναπαύσω ὑμᾶς."

This comes from Matthew 11:28 and in English says: **"Come to Me, all who labor and are heavily burdened, and I will give you rest."**

What an invitation this is from the lips of Jesus Himself! This verse has been strategically placed over the entrance into the church proper so as the worshipper enters

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Dormition of the Theotokos

August 15

The Feast of the Dormition of Our Most Holy Lady, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary is celebrated on August 15 each year.

The Feast commemorates the repose (dormition and in the Greek *kimisis*) or "falling-asleep" of the Mother of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

The Feast also commemorates the translation or assumption into heaven of the body of the Theotokos.



Biblical Story

The Holy Scriptures tell us that when our Lord was dying on the Cross, He saw His mother and His disciple John and said to the Virgin Mary, "Woman, behold your son!" and to John, "Behold your mother!" (John 19:25-27). **From that hour, the Apostle took care of the Theotokos in his own home.**

Along with the biblical reference in Acts 1:14 that confirms that the Virgin Mary was with the Holy Apostles on the day of Pentecost, the tradition of the Church holds that **she remained in the home of the Apostle John in Jerusalem, continuing a ministry in word and deed.**

At the time of her death, the disciples of our Lord who were preaching throughout the world returned to Jerusalem to see the Theotokos. Except for the Apostle Thomas, all of them including the Apostle Paul were gathered together at her bedside. **At the moment of her death, Jesus Christ himself descended and carried her soul into heaven.**

Following her repose, the body of the Theotokos was taken in procession and laid in a tomb near the Garden of Gethsemane.

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Attending the 2024 Biennial National Philoptochos Convention & Clergy-Laity Congress in San Diego, CA (6/30/24 - 7/4/24) are Patty Pappas, Wanita Loupakos, Norm Pomrening, Fr. Nicholas, Diane Dietz, Emily Rehn and Joan Berg.

Dormition of the Theotokos *(continued)*

When the Apostle Thomas arrived three days after her repose and desired to see her body, the tomb was found to be empty. The bodily assumption of the Theotokos was confirmed by the message of an angel and by her appearance to the Apostles.

Orthodox Christian Celebration of the Feast of the Dormition

The commemoration of the Dormition of the Theotokos and the **preparation for the Feast begins on August 1 with a period of fasting**. A strict fast is followed on most of the days (no meat, dairy, oil, or wine), with the exceptions of fish on the Feast of the Transfiguration (August 6) and the day of the Dormition. Oil and Wine are allowed on Saturdays and Sundays.

On the weekdays before the Feast, Paraklesis services are held in most parishes. These consist of the Great Paraklesis and the Small Paraklesis, both services of supplication and prayer for the intercessions of the Theotokos.

The Feast of the Dormition is celebrated with the Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom which is conducted on the morning of the Feast and preceded by a Matins (Orthros) service. A Great Vespers is conducted on the evening before the day of the Feast.

Scripture readings for the Feast of the Dormition are the following: At Vespers: Genesis 28:10-17; Ezekiel 43:27-44:4; Proverbs 9:1-11. At the Matins: Luke 1:39-49, 56. At the Divine Liturgy: Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28.

Entering the Nave *(continued)*

the Nave, he sees this blessed summons from Christ: to approach Him with all of one's burdens and pains, in order to find relief and rest in Him.

Beloved, there is nothing more solemn, nothing more beautiful, nothing more peaceful and restful than the Divine Liturgy.

Entering into God's house, we are called to "lay aside every earthly care" and "lift up our hearts" (literally, to "place our hearts on high").

We are moved from earth to heaven, where God reigns. In the church, God's holy Presence and His Grace are palpable. **We are summoned by the Lord to unburden ourselves, even if just for the time spent in His holy house.**

Let us be reminded of Jesus' love for us every time we lift up our eyes and read this verse as we enter into His church.

Let this also inspire us to attend more of the divine services offered, for they offer us peace and rest in the Lord. Remember, my brothers and sisters, to "cast all your anxieties on Him, for He cares about you" (1 Peter 5:7).

With love in Christ,

+Fr. George



An Enchanted Afternoon

Holy Apostles Philoptochos Society
Annual Fashion Show & Luncheon

Saturday, October 19, 2024

Drury Lane
100 Drury Lane
Oakbrook Terrace, IL

Tickets Available:
Table selection from the floor plan may only be done in person with the purchase of at least 8 tickets.
In Person: Saturday, September 7 from 9 am to 10 am in Church Multi-Purpose Room and the following Sundays through October 6 after Divine Liturgy
Online: Purchase through October 6 at www.tinyurl.com/HAPhiloptochos1 or scan QR Code

Proceeds to benefit Easterseals DuPage & Fox Valley, CrossRoad Institute, and other Philoptochos Endeavors



You are invited to the
Holy Apostles Philoptochos Society

Annual Membership Night

Tuesday, September 17th at 6:30 pm

Modern Plate | 119 N. York Street, Elmhurst

Please join Holy Apostles Philoptochos at our fall membership meeting to begin our exciting calendar year! Philoptochos is grateful to our members for their steadfast support and making it possible to fulfill our mission to help those in need.

Join us on Tuesday, September 17 at 6:30 pm at Modern Plate, 119 N. York Street, Elmhurst, IL. We will introduce you to the representatives of our two primary beneficiaries of our An Enchanted Afternoon Fashion Show & Luncheon in October. CrossRoad Institute and Easterseals DuPage & Fox Valley will present their programs and the methods our funds will assist their endeavors.

We will also outline our activities/events for the upcoming year. Invitations will be sent out in late August. If you are not a member – what better time to join! - not on our mailing and would like further information, please **contact Kathy Obmascik, our membership chair, at iwrite4u@comcast.net.**





JULY BIRTHDAYS

Margot Demopoulos	Lynn Brown	Dena Arendt	George Anagnos	Rebecca Bacogiannis
Theodora Gatsacos	Claire May	Chloe Forero	Peter Kraulos	Lia Benes
Amalia Gregule	Dean Roeser	Christopher McKay	Bessie Tselepis	Julianne Micele
Andrew Langas	Ioanna Antonopoulos	John Roeser	Ellie Markos	Diana Carlin
Karen Chiganos	Constantine Doukas	Demetra Gatzulis	Maria Dokos	Ted Christou
Christian Natiello	Valerie Dranias	Jayne Crouthamel	Elin Hartigan	Eva Kyriazis
Nicholas Panos	Nicole Govostis	Nicholas Crouthamel	Nia Kouchis	Stella Ralston
Catherine Schneider	Renee Govostis	Peter Dimas	Matthew Kovatchis	Helen Vitogiannis
Nikolas Fotos	Rosette Backas	Anna Eriotes	Olivia Rous	Dominic Niforatos
Penelope Tzoumas	Peter Collis	Teri Pappas	Everett Stone	Evan Hank
John Hansen	Augustin Forero	Ava Hayden	Alexandra Ernst	Alicia Magas
Sandy Cardullias	Athena Klovens	Ava Jacklin	Stefanie Milak	JoAnne Nassos
Jack Skalkos	Nicole Trujillo	Dimitri Mitropoulos	Nick Sutryk	Denise Erickson
Valerie Metzger	George Andrews	Laila Dastice	Vanessa Clohessy	Michael Hamalis
Ethan Parafink	Camren Glover	Alejandro Kuchuris	Danielle Fattore	John Manolitsis
Charles Vitogiannis	Kristi Koszewski	Anastasia Swierk	Julia Danielides	
Penelope Boemo	Evan Magas	Trenton Vlahos	Apostolos Velliotis	

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Marelena Halikias	Peter Magas	Caroline Booras	Dean Panos	Zoe Malamis
Michalea Halikias	Yiorgos Takoudis	Alexandria Zachos	Zoe Panton	Nicholas Milak
Vasiliki Mitropoulos	Nikitas Vatianou	Yianni Mihalopoulos	Glenn Berg	Stefan Parafink
Thomas Pekras	Zoe Huspen	Evan Varlas	Anna Gallaway	Joanne Pekras
Angie Panos	Grace Sparagis	Bryan Brinkmeyer	Lillian O'Shaughnessy	Alexander Kantas
Terry Chiganos, Sr.	Zoe Yang	Theodore Konstantopoulos	Bette Schieber	Louis Katziaris
Gabriella Lozano	Leo Alexander	Dan Niforatos	Leonidas Verros	Eleni Miller
Margaux Reuillon	Artemis Anos	Luca Roszak	Alexander Guzaitis	Dean Triantafillou
Sofia Wehrle	Cynthia Clark	Alex Wehrle	Theodore Hartigan	Alexia Nezgoda
Theodoros Karamatskos	Callista Andreakis	Gregory Arzoumanidis	Deanna Markos	Adelyn Sage
Regina Kulidas	Paraskevi Dokos	James Karones	Victoria Metzger	Ingrid Wendland
Alexis Miller	Constandinos Meintanis	Andrew Beavers	Alexandra Rupp	Chris Zuales
Evgenios Ratay	Britney Pappas	Ariston Kukla	Soteria Kafkes	Tori Benes
Stephanie Skizas	Dean Dranias	Katherine Magas	Alethea Kapolas	Mikayla Ostendorf
Gabrielle Tsagaris	Konstandinos Georgopoulos	Maria Alexander	Lexi Moulden	
Gus Athas	Samuel Haddad	Dimitri Kourafas	George Burdeaux	
Leo Fisher	Faith Kolimbiris	Elena McComb	Jeffrey Burdeaux	
			Andrew Gallaway	



FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

The next volunteer opportunity for Feed My Children is Saturday, August 10 in Aurora from 9 - 10:45 am. In the past, we've helped prepare meals which have been shipped to Romania, Liberia, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Panama.

Contact Emily Rehn at platovalentine@hotmail.com or 708.369.9365 for more details.

NEXT VOLUNTEER DAY:
SAT. 8/10
9 - 10:45 AM



PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE JUNE 2024 PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

PC SECRETARY: VAL DRANIAS

Norm Pomrening called the meeting to order at 7:33 pm. Father Dokos led the opening prayer. Norm Pomrening recited the Mission Statement. Sandy Pihos moved to approve the amended minutes of May, 2024; Bill Leider seconded. Unanimously approved. Val Dranias reported that there was no correspondence.

Ecclesiastical Report: Father Dokos presented an article translated from Romanian on The Holy Ascension. The emphasis centered around that “the faith of those who believed in Him was now summoned to heights where, as the Father’s equal, the Only Begotten Son is reached not by physical handling but by spiritual discernment.”

Ministries

Finance: Steve Milak reported that as of May 31, 2024 we have \$1,436,261 in the Operating and Capital accounts. Our Allocation Assessment was filled in with the numbers from our audit form. Our Expenditures were up by \$50,000. We are renewing our insurance. Forms, including the Youth Protection Form, are due by 6/25/24.

Stewardship & Welcoming: Sandy Pihos – Our 569 YTD pledges are 2% more than the 558 that we had received by the end of May 2023. Our \$738K pledged is 2% more than the \$726K we had received by the end of May 2023. Our \$593K collected is 4% more than the \$572K we had received by the end of May, 2023. Our median pledge is \$600 and our average pledge is \$1,297. Stewardship Meeting – The spring planting event was great and they are hoping to do another parish beautification day in the fall. The next 5th Saturday Serve Day is June 29. Stewardship will partner with Philoptochos to fill 100-150 school backpacks with supplies to be donated to an underprivileged district. Stewardship would like to add a Stuffed Love session on Saturday, December 28. Stuffed Love makes heart shaped hand stitched pillows as a tangible symbol of hope to those in need. Connie will be sending out a final draft of the Ministry Booklet in June. She will be getting quotes from printers so that we will have the booklets for the September Ministry Fair on September 8. There are 86 people going to the White Sox game in June. The church 5K will be on Saturday, June 15 with proceeds going to the Philoxenia House.

Building & Grounds: Chris Pepke

- Annual Generator Inspection Complete – we will now have annual inspections.
- Landscape Project Update – we should receive the permit next week with the demo the following week. The planting should be done by mid-July.
- Date to Perform Solea Brick Repair – It will be done during the first week of July.
- General Maintenance Update – new sump pumps will be installed next week.
- Shed Reorganization/Cleanup – will take about a month.
- Front Door Update – will be done in the fall.
- Capital Account has \$624,000, Chris advised us to start looking at what we need to budget for 2025.

Technology: Steve Milak reported that we currently have an issue with Vanco. It is being addressed. Steve Milak moved that we authorize \$703 for the renewal of the firewall; Bill Leider seconded. Unanimously approved. He reported that the Google Docs training session went well.

Ushering: George Chechopoulos presented the new schedule which goes to the end of the year.

Missions: Peter Bell reminded us that the 5K is Saturday. James Clohessy was able to raise \$1500 for his Project Mexico trip which we will match as to our previous motion.

Young Adults: Chris Pepke - YAL Update – while Steph Chiganos is in Greece, Leah is taking the lead. Telos Update – losing traction with interest.

Old Business:

Foundation Update: Steve Milak reported that we’ve been waiting 46 days for a response from the GOA. There will be a Foundation Committee meeting in the next month to create a status report.

Altar Boy Robes: Father Georgiou showed us the beautiful purple and gold sample that has been selected. There is a possibility that we may also be able to order red ones, too.

Anniversary Luncheon: Val Dranias moved that the Ad Book proceeds should go to the Preservation of our Beloved Church; seconded by Bill Leider, After discussion, the motion was tabled and sent back to the committee.

Review Task Listing: Andrew Kraulos presented his draft. Discussion was held on what it should include.

Cemetery Plots: Patty Pappas reported that there has been a slow down on going forward. We're waiting for a response from Chapel Hill. They presented a very complicated new document.

New Business:

HA Participation in Jr Olympics: Nick Kirkeles expressed his concern on the very small participation at the Jr. Olympics. We only sent 8 participants. It is a failure of our youth programs to get kids involved. We need an Athletic Director.

Summer 2025 Sabbatical: Norm Pomrening reported on a request from Father George for Summer 2025. According to the UPR in Article 17, each parish is obligated to provide a 3 month sabbatical to a priest who has served 6 years at his parish. In 2021 the St. Mary's PC approved a sabbatical and the Metropolitan approved it. COVID-19 kept Father George from taking the sabbatical. Father George looks to spend 3 weeks as priest at Ionian Village and then further study to be able to translate Byzantine Greek to English. George Chechopoulos moved that we should approve a 3 month sabbatical for Fr. George for the summer of 2025; Steve Milak seconded. Unanimously approved.

Gmail Addresses: Norm Pomrening – send gmail addresses to Norm

Ministry Lock Up Procedure: Norm Pomrening reported that guidelines for lock-up procedure will be disseminated to all ministry leaders and training provided. We will also need a ministry point of contact for each meeting.

Directory: Norm Pomrening – we have 6 volunteers and will be moving forward.

Picnic: Norm Pomrening – Andrew Kraulos will coordinate.

Office Organization in 2025: Jim Maragos. Initial meeting scheduled for 6/24

Bonuses to Helen Geanon and Deacon Perry for Holy Week. Nick Kirkeles moved that we give them \$1500 each for their work during Holy Week; George Chechopoulos seconded. Unanimously approved.

Next Meeting: 7/18

Key Dates:

5K Race – 6/15; Holy Apostles Vespers – 6/29; Holy Apostles Feast Day Liturgy – 6/30; Clergy Laity – 6/30 thru 7/4

Golf Outing at Seven Bridges – 7/8; Picnic – 7/28; 65th Anniversary Luncheon – 12/29

Closing Prayer: Father Georgiou ; Adjourn: Norm Pomrening at 9:27 pm

SAVE THE DATE



**HOLY APOSTLES CHURCH
65TH ANNIVERSARY
LUNCHEON**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29TH, 2024
HILTON OAK BROOK HILLS RESORT**

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO OUR HOLY APOSTLES FAMILY CELEBRATING
THIS IMPORTANT MILESTONE TOGETHER**

Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church **AUGUST 2024**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 10:00 am TOTS - Splash Island 7:00 pm Paraklesis	2 7:00 pm Paraklesis	3 5:00 pm Vespers 6:00 pm Vespers Potluck Dinner
4 8:15 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy	5 7:00 pm Great Vespers	6 Feast Day of the Transfiguration 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 7:00 pm Paraklesis	7 5:00 pm Jr GOYA & GOYA - Pizza & Paraklesis 7:00 pm Paraklesis	8 6:00 pm Paraklesis 7:30 pm Parish Council Meeting	9 7:00 pm Paraklesis	10 9:00 am Feed My Starving Children 5:00 pm Vespers
11 8:15 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy	12 7:00 pm Paraklesis	13 7:00 pm Paraklesis 8:00 pm Birthday Kit Packing Event	14	15 Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokos 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy	16	17 5:00 pm Vespers
18 8:15 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy	19	20	21	22	23	24 Feast Day of St Kosmas Aetolos 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Choir Federation Choir Directors Workshop 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 5:00 pm Vespers
25 8:15 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy 11:00 am Back to School Blessing	26	27 7:00 pm Philoptochos Board Meeting	28	29 Feast Day of the Beheading of St John the Baptist 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy	30	31 10:00 am 5th Saturday Serve Day 5:00 pm Vespers

HOLY APOSTLES GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
2501 S. Wolf Road
Westchester, IL 60154
(708) 562-2754

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Sacraments listed are those known at time of publication

MEMORIALS

JUNE (unknown prior to last issue publication)

Fr William Chiganos
Efthymia Pentaris
Thomas Angelos
John Mathews
Konstantinos "Gus" Skokos
Constantine "Dean" Karkazis
Lambros C Karkazis
Maria Kolimbiris

JULY

Christopher Franks
Anna Rassogianis
Don Alexander
Despina, Petros & Petros D. Patos
Ann Sobieszczyk
John Brales
Aspasia Patras
Nick & Josephine Zaharopoulos

FUNERALS

George Andrews



BACK TO SCHOOL BLESSING
Sunday, August 25
11 AM - Divine Liturgy

BAPTISMS

JULY

Harrison, son of Isaac & Stephanie Martinez
Sponsor: Kyle Sammons

Dean, son of Andrew & Eleni Hayden

Sponsor: Ana Gianaras

Alessia, daughter of Ross & Kelli Failla

Sponsor: Abbie Diamantopoulos

AUGUST

Alexander Dean & Lucas Michael, sons of
George & Michelle Chiampas

Sponsor: Nicole Keller

Eli, son of Fabian Escatel & Alexandra Swierk

Sponsor: Alexander Swierk

WEDDINGS

JULY

Joseph Dellaria & Lauren Futris

Sponsor: Dana Coon

AUGUST

Eli Sparks & Evie Dokos

Sponsor: Peter & Megan Savas