



from Fr. Nicholas

Offering Our Gifts to the Lord

November is stewardship month and you may be asking yourself: "How much should I give to Holy Apostles?"

"Where your treasure is there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:21). Our stewarding actions reflect our true beliefs.

Everything we have comes from the Lord's hands – we are stewards or managers of these gifts. The "Christian owns nothing because God owns everything" St. John Chrysostom wrote.

We offer our time, talents and treasure back to the Lord in thanksgiving for all that He has given 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) St. Paul asks.

The rich young ruler asks: "Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?"

Jesus said to him, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me" (Matthew 19:16,21).

The man went away sad because he was so attached to his assets. Our building of

(continued, pg. 3)

How Do We Help Our Children Know God? By Toni Milak

We want our children to grow into adults who continue to love God, come to church, and live out their Orthodox Christian faith.

But how do we best accomplish this?

This is the question our Effective Christian Ministry (ECM) team of Fr. George, Youth Director Alexa Kakis, Sunday School Director Toni Milak, and GOYA advisor Lia Chiganos are grappling with this year in a cohort program alongside other churches around the country as national statistics show young adults are leaving the church in droves.

Before we can map our course forward, we need to know our destination. We want our children – really, all of our parishioners – to have FAITH. But what exactly do we mean by this?

It is tempting to say something like "Know all about God" or more specifically "Know the truth about God, the Theotokos, the saints, etc." But does knowing about God mean we have faith? Even the devil knew the truth about God, and correctly identified Christ as God in the Gospels. But he isn't faithful!

Instead, faith might be better described as knowing God, being in relationship with Him, seeking to be deeper in relationship with Him by talking to Him, listening for Him, and doing things that express our love for Him.

What expresses our love for Him? Perhaps we can boil it down to two things: worship and loving our neighbor. But how do we help our children to KNOW God?

There's a story from the Old Testament that Steve Christophorou shares in the ECM course that was helpful to me in understanding something perhaps a little surprising about God and how He interacts with us, which is certainly something that we want for our children (and ourselves!) to experience.

It is the story of Elijah, which you can read about in the Book of 3 Kingdoms [1 Kings]. Despite the incredible miracles he had prayed for and received (including

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Seniors, please join us at

KOUKLA'S KAFENIO

GREEK LUNCHEON AND ENTERTAINMENT

Thursday, November 14th | 12 - 3 PM

Holy Apostles Multi-Purpose Room

All seniors are invited to an afternoon of Music & Greek Dancing



**AND ... A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO OUR
VETERANS IN HONOR OF VETERAN'S DAY!**

Please RSVP by **NOVEMBER 8** to Bess Shizas at 708 703-2732



We will be collecting items for the Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans. If you'd like to donate, the following items are needed: hand soap, deodorant, shampoo, conditioner, disposable razors, etc. (please, NEW items only) Thank you!



FEED THE HUNGRY

On Tuesday, October 1 our Philoptochos volunteers, **Anne Theophilos, Faye Adams, Kathy Obmascik, Chrisie Alex, Aleka Mandelaris & Maria Patt**, made 130 sack lunches to "Feed the Hungry" at Annunciation Cathedral. Anne Theophilos & Artemis Anos went to Annunciation to hand out the lunches to the homeless. Philoptochos is committed to this initiative 2-3 times a year.



Offering Our Gifts to the Lord *(continued)*

God's Kingdom is to be done with the resources that God has entrusted to us. While there are saints who gave everything away, we define stewardship as giving proportionately.

We tithe, or give a percentage of our income. "Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, 'In what way have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings" (*Malachi 3:8*).

"And all the tithe (10%) of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the tree, is the Lord's" (*Leviticus 27:30*).

10% is suggested by the Greek Orthodox Uniform Parish Regulations. We are robbing and stealing from the Lord when we do not tithe.

Your assistance is needed for our aging facilities.

"We have had professionals conduct studies at Holy Apostles. **We need \$3.4 million over the next 10 years just to maintain the building. That is \$340,000 per year.** If this money does not materialize: The building will continue to accumulate items needing repair faster than they can be addressed" (Fall 2024 General Assembly).

Our beloved church is not a parish "with lots of money" as some claim. More than 80% of our Holy Apostles families are not giving what they are able. **A small percentage (20%) are**

carrying the load. We want to continue offering our many excellent ministries (over 34 of them) and reaching out and serving all of our Holy Apostles families.

Our beautiful, 65-year-old church community is here through the generosity of the people who sacrificially gave their treasure, time and talents to build this community. **Many of you are here and being served because people in the earlier generations made the investment. We can do the same!**

We are grateful to those who are carrying the weight and heeding God's call through faithful tithing and proportional giving with generous hearts. Thank you.

For those whose lives are receiving but not obeying God's plan of proportional giving, **please prayerfully consider your stewardship pledge this year and commit to percentage giving.**

When I was a little boy, my Mom paid me a \$10 weekly allowance. The first 10% (\$1) went in the church collection plate on Sunday. **Last year's median income in Westchester was around \$100,000. A mere 2% would be \$2,000 a year to start.** As we progress, we can increase that proportion. Our giving is central to our faith. As the 1917 Army recruiting Uncle Sam poster reads, "We need you".

+ Fr. Nicholas

How Do We Help Our Children Know God? *(continued)*

fire being called down from heaven!) Elijah was overcome with despair and doubt that God would prevail over the demons and idolaters.

God calls Elijah up to a mountain and intends to offer an encounter with Elijah. First there is a great wind, so strong that it splits the mountain – but scripture says God was not in the wind.

Then there is a powerful earthquake that shakes the mountain – but scripture says God was not in the earthquake. A great fire then consumes the mountain – but again, scripture says God was not in the fire.

Finally, in the quiet, after all of these incredible events, Elijah hears a still small voice, and immediately knows it to be God, covering his face.

God doesn't reveal Himself to Elijah in powerful displays of His might; rather, **He speaks into the quiet stillness of Elijah's heart.**

Maybe you remember the famous verse from the Psalms "Be still, and know that I am God!" (Ps 46:10)

So if the scripture is telling us that we need stillness to hear God, to know Him, then as 21st century Americans, we may be in trouble!

How much quiet and stillness are our children experiencing? With all the noise of the internet, hand-held devices, air-pods, etc, is there any space for God to speak quietly into our hearts? For us to feel and know He is with us?

But don't despair! You can make space for God!

We want to offer our children – and ourselves – literal and figurative space for stillness and quiet. Here are a few ideas. You may have more!

1. **Walk in nature.** A quiet hike (without earbuds!) in the beauty of God's creation gives an opportunity for awe and wonder, as well as the inner stillness God needs to speak into your heart.
2. **Pause before prayer.** Sometimes we rush into the Lord's Prayer before a meal or bedtime – practicing a moment of silence first can create a sense of peace, stillness, and focus.
3. **Create a special place for stillness.** Having a spot in your home with some icons and maybe a vigil light where anyone can go to spend a little time in quiet and prayer can give family members a place to turn when seeking God.
4. **Set boundaries around smartphones/iPads.** Simple limits (for example: no phones at meals, or all devices plugged in and off after 7 pm) can allow for that inner quiet that God needs to work in one's heart.

These first little steps can open our hearts to God, giving us the chance to know Him, which will make faithful living (engaging in worship and loving our neighbor) a true, internal desire.

Our team prays this little article helps your family take some concrete steps toward improving the development of your faith in God. And we ask you to please keep us in your prayers as we learn and seek ways to improve the ministries in our parish for the benefit of everyone.

Holy Apostles Christmas Pageant

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15

We are pleased to announce that the children of Holy Apostles will be presenting the annual Christmas Pageant on December 15.

Kindergartners through third graders will play the silent roles of the characters in the Nativity scene.

Fourth through eighth grade students will sing traditional Christmas Carols for the program, some serving as narrators.

High school students are encouraged to sign up to be assistants.

High school vocalists and instrumentalists who are interested in joining the musical ensemble please call or text Zoe Tomaras (630-476-0223) or email christmaspageant@holyapostleschurch.com.

Non-registered youth are welcome to perform. Forms will be available at church and mailed.

Participating children will be dismissed from Sunday School at 11:20. **A dress rehearsal will be held on Saturday, December 14, at 9:00am. Please attend as many rehearsals as possible.**

An informational table will be set up in the multi-purpose room on Sunday, November 3rd for registration as well. Please feel free to contact Sandy Pihos, Pageant Director, for more information at: christmaspageant@holyapostleschurch.com or call/text 630-640-5811.



Christmas Pageant Rehearsals 2024 for K-3, Choir, and Narrators

Sunday, November 10 11:35am	Parents will be responsible for bringing their child directly to the church after Sunday School
Sunday, November 17 11:20 am until 12:00pm	At 11:20, children will be escorted from Sunday School by an assistant
Sunday, November 24 11:20am until 12:00pm	At 11:20, children will be escorted from Sunday School by an assistant
Sunday, December 8 11:20am until 12:00pm	At 11:20, children will be escorted from Sunday School by an assistant

Dress Rehearsal

Saturday, December 14, from 9:00 am until 10:15 am in the church proper

Pageant Day

K-3 only: Sunday, December 15, from 9:00 am until 9:30 am in the multi-purpose room

Narrators Only: Sunday, December 15 at 9:30 am in the multi-purpose room

IMMEDIATELY after communion on Pageant Day, all participants are to report to the multi-purpose room for costuming and lineup.



HOLIDAY FOOD COLLECTION

Sunday, Nov. 3 - Sunday, Nov. 17

The holidays can be very difficult for those with food insecurity. Our HOPE collections have been going to the Hillside Food Pantry (HFP) which operates out of Immanuel Lutheran Church, one block north of us.

The HFP hosts two Holiday Drive-thrus - one for Thanksgiving and one for Christmas. It provides turkeys and we are asking parishioners to donate sides to help them give away complete holiday meals.

HFP has informed us that they have fewer volunteers than in the past and that food donations are way down. Please consider making a **non-perishable holiday donation** to help those less fortunate.

ANY donation is greatly appreciated.

A turkey themed collection box will be set up in front of the HOPE collection counter to receive donations. This holiday collection is in addition to our on-going HOPE bags.

Please feel free to contact either Maria Patt (mdpatt59@comcast.net) or Faye Adams (geofaye.adams@gmail.com) with any questions.

Suggested Donation Items:

- Boxed stuffing
- Instant mashed potatoes
- Canned cranberry sauce
- Canned, jars or packets of turkey gravy
- Canned pumpkin (*HFP provides evaporated milk and pie crust*)
- Biscuit or cornbread mix
- Green beans/mushroom soup, French fried onion rings (*green bean casserole ingredients*)
- Desserts: quick breads, cookie or cake mix, jello

"Share your food with the hungry, and give shelter to the homeless. Give clothes to those who need them, and do not hide from relatives who need your help." ~ Isaiah 58:7

*Thank You For Your Support!
Together we can make the holidays a little brighter for those in need.*

WHAT HAPPENED TO OUR MACARONATHA DONATIONS?

The 2024 Macaronatha donations were earmarked for donation to the Hoppes to be used in Albania for a summer family camp. We raised \$9400 to fund the project.

Gabriela Hoppe sent us this wrap-up: "Please thank on our behalf the community for their generous support. We had a wonderful family camp with 110 participants and together we studied Paul's letter to Romans with our theme: "Called to be saints" Rom 1:7. The last day of camp we even had a Bible contest. It was a blessed time."





*Together, our Holy Apostles Family is celebrating our first 65 years.
Be part of the celebration!*

HOLY APOSTLES 65TH ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2024

HILTON OAK BROOK HILLS RESORT
12:00 PM SOCIAL HOUR (*CASH BAR*)
1:00 PM LUNCHEON

RESERVATIONS

OCTOBER 1, 2024 - DECEMBER 22, 2024

Adults: \$65/person

Children 12 and under: \$28

IN PERSON

Sundays after Divine Liturgy
beginning October 6th

ON LINE

Log into <https://form.jotform.com/242327277528058>





“BUILDING ON OUR FOUNDATION”
 HOLY APOSTLES 65TH ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON
 SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29TH, 2024

COMMEMORATIVE SPONSORSHIP FORM

*Deadline for Sponsorship Submission is **December 7th, 2024***

Please scan the QR code below to submit your sponsorship or log into the URL address below:



<https://form.jotform.com/holy.apostles.westchester.il/commemorative-ad-form>

OR use this form and enclose a check made out to *“Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church”*
OR credit card information and send to:

Holy Apostles Church Office at 2501 S Wolf Rd, Westchester, IL 60154
 Email Logo (if applicable) to spssav@gmail.com or send hard copy.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

CREDIT CARD # _____ EXPIRATION: _____ CVC: _____

Sponsorship Level	Contribution	Screen Size	Character Count
Diamond	\$5,000.00	Full Screen	Your family names or company name up to 200 characters and logo in JPEG, TIFF or BMP format, sized 1000x1000 dpi or better.
Platinum	\$2,500.00	One-Half Screen	Your family names or company name up to 175 characters and logo in JPEG, TIFF or BMP format, sized 1000x1000 dpi or better.
Gold	\$1,000.00	One-Third Screen	Your family names or company name up to 150 characters and logo in JPEG, TIFF or BMP format, sized 1000x1000 dpi or better.
Silver	\$500.00	One-Quarter Screen	Your family names or company name up to 100 characters.
Bronze	\$250.00	One-Sixth Screen	Your family names or company name up to 75 characters.
Patron	\$100.00	Listing	Your family names or company name up to 50 characters.

DONATION AMOUNT: \$ _____

COMMEMORATIVE SPONSORSHIP MESSAGE:

Feast of the Holy Great Martyr and Most Wise Katherine of Alexandria

The Holy Great Martyr Katherine was the daughter of Konstos, the governor of Alexandria, Egypt during the reign of Emperor Maximian (305-313). Living in the capital, the center of Hellenistic knowledge, and possessed of a rare beauty and intellect, Katherine received an excellent education, studying the works of the greatest philosophers and teachers of antiquity. Young men from the most worthy families of the empire sought her hand, but she was not interested in any of them. She told her parents that she would enter into marriage only with someone who surpassed her in nobility, wealth, comeliness and wisdom.

Katherine's mother, a secret Christian, sent her to her own Spiritual Father, a saintly Elder living in a cave outside the city, for advice. After listening to Katherine, the Elder said that he knew of someone who surpassed her in everything. "His countenance is more radiant than the shining of the sun, and all of creation is governed by His wisdom. His riches are given to all the nations of the world, yet they never diminish. His compassion is unequalled."

This description of the Heavenly Bridegroom produced an ardent desire in the soul of the holy maiden to see Him. "If you do as I tell you," said the monk, "you will gaze upon the countenance of this illustrious man." In parting, the Elder gave Katherine an icon of the Theotokos with the Divine Child on Her arm and told her to pray with faith to the Mother of the Heavenly Bridegroom, and she would hear Katherine and grant her heart's desire.

Katherine prayed all night and was permitted to see the Most Holy Virgin, Who said to her Divine Son, "Behold Thy handmaiden Katherine, how fair and virtuous she is." But the Child turned His face away from her saying, "No, she is ugly and unbelieving. She is a foolish pauper, and I cannot bear to look at her until she forsakes her impiety."

Katherine returned again to the Elder deeply saddened, and told him what she had seen in the dream. He received her, instructed her in the faith of Christ, admonished her to preserve her purity and integrity and to pray unceasingly. She then received the Mystery of Holy Baptism from him. Again Saint Katherine had a vision of the Most Holy Theotokos with her Child. **Now the Lord looked at her tenderly and gave her a beautiful ring, a wondrous token of her betrothal to the Heavenly Bridegroom (this ring is still on her hand).**

At that time Emperor Maximian was in Alexandria for a pagan festival. Therefore, the celebration was especially splendid and crowded. The cries of the sacrificial animals, the smoke and the smell of the sacrifices, the endless blaze of fires, and the bustling crowds at the arenas defiled the city of Alexandria. Human

victims also were brought, the confessors of Christ, who would not deny Him under torture. They were condemned to death in the fire. **Katherine's love for the Christian martyrs, and her fervent desire to ease their sufferings, compelled her to speak to the pagan priest and to Emperor Maximian.**



Introducing herself, **Katherine confessed her faith in the One True God, and exposed the errors of the pagans.** The beauty of the maiden captivated the Emperor. In order to convince her of the superiority of pagan wisdom, the Emperor ordered fifty of the most learned philosophers and rhetoricians to dispute with her, but **the Saint got the better of the wise men, so that they came to believe in Christ themselves. Saint Katherine made the Sign of the Cross over the martyrs, and they bravely accepted death for Christ and were burned alive by order of the Emperor.**

Unable to persuade the Saint, Maximian tried to entice her with the promise of riches and fame. Hearing her angry refusal, the Emperor ordered her to terrible tortures and imprison her. The Empress Augusta, who had heard much about the Saint, wanted to see her. She asked the military commander Porphyrios to accompany her to the prison with a detachment of soldiers. The Empress was impressed by Katherine's strong spirit, and her face was radiant with divine grace. **The holy martyr explained the Christian Faith to them, and they were all converted to Christ.**

On the following day, they again brought Katherine to court where, under the threat of being broken on the wheel, she was urged to renounce the Christian Faith. **The Saint steadfastly confessed Christ and she was taken to be tortured on four wheels with sharp iron spikes, but an Angel smashed the instruments of execution.**

After seeing this miracle, the Empress Augusta, Porphyrios and 200 soldiers confessed their faith in Christ, and were subsequently beheaded. Maximian tried again to entice the holy martyr, offering to marry her, and she again refused. **Saint Katherine remained faithful to her heavenly Bridegroom Christ, and after praying to Him, she laid her head on the block beneath the executioner's sword on November 25.**

The relics of Saint Katherine were taken by the Angels to Mount Sinai. In the sixth century, the head and left hand of the holy martyr were found and transferred with honor to the newly-constructed church of the Monastery on Mount Sinai.

Saint Katherine is called upon for relief and assistance during a difficult childbirth. Pilgrims to her monastery on Mount Sinai are given souvenir rings as a remembrance of their visit.

PASTORAL GUIDELINES: FASTING

Rev. Dr. Stanley S. Harakas

Archbishop Iakovos Professor of Orthodox Theology, Emeritus, Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology

Just as there are times for feasting, there are also times set aside for fasting. During these periods, certain foods are prohibited. These are, in order of frequency of prohibition, meat (including poultry), dairy products, fish, olive oil and wine. Fruits, vegetables, grains and shellfish are permitted throughout the year.

Of course, the Orthodox Church never reduces the practice of fasting to a legalistic observance of dietary rules. Fasting, that is not accompanied by intensified prayer and acts of charity, inevitably becomes a source of pride.

The Church also recognizes that not everyone can fast to the same degree, and assumes that individual Christians will observe the fast prescribed for them by their Spiritual Fathers.

The following are fasting days and seasons:

1. All Wednesdays and Fridays, except for those noted below;
2. Day before Feast of Theophany (Jan. 5);
3. Cheesefare Week (the last week before the Great Lent, during which meat and fish are prohibited, but dairy products are permitted even on Wednesday and Friday);
4. Great Lent (from Clean Monday through the Friday before Lazarus Saturday, olive oil and wine are permitted on weekends);
5. Great and Holy Week (note that Great and Holy Saturday is a day of strict fasting, during which faithful abstain from olive oil and wine),
6. Holy Apostles' Fast (from the Monday after All Saints' Day through June 28, inclusive);
7. Fast for the Dormition of the Mother of God (August 1-14, excluding August 6, on which fish, wine and olive oil are permitted);
8. Beheading of St. John the Baptist (Aug. 29),
9. Exaltation of the Holy Cross (September 14);
10. Nativity Lent (November 15–December 24, although fish, wine and olive oil are permitted, except on Wednesdays and Fridays, until December 17).

It is the Orthodox Tradition to fast from food products that contain blood. So, we fast from meat, fish, dairy products, oil, and wine. (Oil and wine, up until the last couple of centuries, were stored in skins of animals. This is why we can eat grapes and olives, but cannot have wine or olive oil.)

We can eat shellfish because they do not contain blood.

The following are fasting days on which fish, wine and olive oil are permitted:

1. The Feast of the Annunciation (March 25, unless it falls outside the Great Lent, in which case all foods are permitted);
2. Palm Sunday;
3. The Feast of the Transfiguration (August 6);
4. The Feast of the Entry into the Temple of the Mother of God (November 21).

On the following days, all foods are permitted:

1. The first week of the Triodion from the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee through the Sunday of the Prodigal Son, including Wednesday and Friday;
2. Diakainisimos (or Bright) Week, following the Sunday of Pascha,
3. The week following Pentecost; and
4. From the Feast of the Nativity of the Lord (December 25) through January 4.

The Mosaic will publish information from the Pastoral Guidelines each month.



PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SEPTEMBER 19 PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

BY: VAL DRANIAS

Norm Pomrening called the meeting to order at 7:33 pm. Father Dokos led us in the opening prayer. Norm Pomrening recited the Mission Statement. Val Dranias moved to approve the minutes of the last PC meeting; Sandy Pihos seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. Correspondence: Val Dranias read a thank you from the family of Mary Aravosis; a request from the National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians for a donation. Consensus was that we had just donated to the Metropolis Choir Conference so we would skip this donation. Ecclesiastical Report: Father Dokos directed a discussion on The Holy and Great Martyr Eustace – St. Efstathios

Effective Christian Ministry Project & Youth: Alexa Kakis was our guest speaker to introduce the PC to ECM. Last year 15-20 parishioners participated in group discussions after viewing 40 videos on what can improve stewardship and participation in our parish. Alexa, Fr. George, Toni Milak and Lea Chiganos are the leadership team for ECM at Holy Apostles. They have 2-3 meetings with their coach, a summit once a month with other churches, and have an end of the month applied project. This month concentrated on Young Adults and what we could do better to keep YA in the church. Suggestions included a moment of silence and better connections with little kids. At the end of 9 months – a big project that gives a plan on how to move forward with keeping Young Adults (18-25) active.

Ministries

Finance: Steve Milak. August YTD – Capital Account at \$570,580.67; Operating Account at \$698,324.51.

2025 Budget – Discussion on how we need to present the budget needs to the stewards at the Parish Assembly.

Stewardship & Welcoming: Sandy Pihos

Metric	Aug 2023 TYD	Aug 2024 YTD	% Change
Number of Pledges	612	646	6%
Total Pledged	\$752,114	\$783,435	4%
Amount Collected	\$655,827	\$704,597	7%
Median Pledge	\$600	\$600	0%
Average Pledge	\$1,229	\$1,213	-1%

Ministry Fair – The booklet highlighting our various ministries was distributed at the Ministry Fair. We had an excellent attendance and more people seemed to visit the tables and sign up for various ministries. The coffee hour was also hosted by this group. There are now extra booklets available and there was a suggestion that we keep some in the holders behind the pews.

Veterans Day – Stewardship intends to make gift bags for our parish veterans and care packages for our two active military men on Saturday, October 26 after liturgy. There will be an Artoclasia on Sunday, November 10 for all our veterans. We will ask for names to be submitted to the church office, similar to the way we do Graduate Sunday; and call the veterans up to be recognized.

Bingo – A family bingo night will be sponsored by the Stewardship Committee on Saturday, November 9. We will keep the price at \$10 per person. The proceeds will be split between The Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans in Wheaton and our next “FUN” fundraiser.

Vesper Potluck – To encourage more people to attend the Saturday Vespers Potlucks, Stewardship plans to send out a flyer with Sunday School students the week before listing the important reasons to attend. They will also create a standalone email to highlight the evening.

A suggestion was made to talk with Building and Grounds, Lou and the Fathers to create a “wish list” of smaller budget items that money from fundraising can go towards within the church.

Honoring Chris Pepke who averages over 20 hours a week working the Building and Grounds needs.

Building & Grounds: Chris Pepke – Electrician was working on some odds and ends and discovered burnt wires and cracked wires. We could have had a fire. Front doors – waiting for pricing on hardware. It will take an additional \$6000 to get it to

look the same. Roof inspection – nothing crazy was found. Carpet in the Choir Loft – will be installed by the end of the year. Tree Work – trees need to be removed. We had a tree fall on one of neighbor's home. We need to do this ASAP. On the east side we need to take out as much brush as possible on Saturday Beautification Day. Suggested that we write a letter to the neighbor who has put lights, a swing and a ladder in our tree. New sump pumps are being installed. 2 TVs have been installed. Brick Project – Cleaning needs to take place after outside work is done. Minimum cost of \$800,000. Does not include tuck pointing. In 1985 we paid \$45,000 (\$200,000 in 2024 money) for just the church – probably will need to add \$400,000 to the \$800,000 for work. Limestone in church – will be cleaned. Lawn Care – Tru Green is \$1700 and we are not happy with their work. Weiss is \$1500. Chris Pepke moved to hire Weiss for our lawn care; Emilia Linardakis seconded. Unanimously approved. Lighting Project – original budget of \$125,000; Designer, then fixtures, then install \$234,000 (all inclusive) for just the church - \$8,000 for offices; \$57,000 for the MPR.

Technology: Steve Milak

Ushering: George Chechopoulos. Sunday School Seating – will be seated in first two rows in aisle between 2 & 3. Concerns were expressed about the signs that had been posted. They will be removed.

Missions: Norm Pomrening - Feed6 scheduled for 1/11/25. We have packed 807,000 meals over the years. We want to get to 1,000,000 meals. We can do it. We have \$18,000 and need another \$15,000 to buy the materials. Discussion followed.

Old Business:

Foundation: Jim Maragos – the Selection Committee is open for applications for the Foundation Board of Directors. Hoping to get things done by early January. We are able to accept donations for the Foundation into a restricted account until there is a Foundation account. The PC was asked for names for possible Board members.

Cemetery Plots: Patty Pappas – Joan Berg is involved. Not sure how it will shake out. It will be a slow process. Patty suggests that we start selling the plots that are ok.

Altar Boy Robes: Father Georgiou – they have been approved by the Metropolis. We will get them by the end of the year.

Anniversary Luncheon: Sandy Pihos – ticket sales go live on October 1. Digital Sponsorship goes live on Monday.

Barbara Pappas HARC Tribute: Sandy Pihos – there is a small committee working on this. Push back on Barbara's Bookstore – problem with trademark and Holy Apostles has never names things for a person or family. Committee is working on it.

Office Reorganization: Jim Maragos – working on scope of duties for Lou and part-time person. Job descriptions will be written into the employee hand book. The position is in the budget for the part time person.

Youth Worker Registration: Patty Pappas – every youth worker including Parish Council members must register, have training once each year and a background check every 2 years. Seminar next month to bring us up to speed. Parishes will NOT have election results ratified unless we are in compliance.

New Business:

Parish Assembly Prep: Norm Pomrening – Parish Assembly is 10/6. Announcement of the PA must be sent out 10 days before. There will be a brochure to help sell the Foundation. Messaging for what we are asking of our stewards.

Parish Assembly Coffee Hour: Val Dranias sent around a signup sheet for the Parish Assembly Coffee Hour. PC hosts the coffee hour.

Who is running for the Board of Elections – Greg Vanderakis has volunteered. We need 2 more.

Who is Running for Board of Auditors: Steve Milak asked for suggestions,

New Athletic Directors – Andrea and Warren San Luis. Aleka will help with training.

Next Meeting: 10/17; Absent: Lena Theotikos and Peter Bell

Key Dates: Parish Assembly -10/6; Philoptochos Fashion Show – 10/19; Men's Ministry Cookout – 10/27; Elections -12/8; Anniversary Luncheon – 12/29; Feed6 – 1/11; Father Georgiou led us in the closing prayer. Norm Pomrening adjourned the meeting at 9:25 pm.



STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY - NOV. 24

“EACH OF YOU SHOULD GIVE WHAT YOU HAVE
DECIDED IN YOUR HEART TO GIVE, NOT
RELUCTANTLY OR UNDER COMPULSION,
FOR GOD LOVES A CHEERFUL GIVER.”

– CORINTHIANS 9:7



Christmas Breakfast with Santa



Reserve your spot at the pancake Christmas
Breakfast following Liturgy and the
Christmas Pageant on

Sunday, December 15

Santa will make a special appearance in spite of his
busy schedule!

Cost will be \$10 for adults and children 5 and older.
Children 4 and under are free.

Please make reservations
NOVEMBER 6 - DECEMBER 11

Online: www.tinyurl.com/haphiloptochos. (or scan QR code below)
In person: After Liturgy on Sundays: (December 1 and December 8)
Contact: Nia Dillon at niamdillon@gmail.com



◀ scan to reserve space



PLEASE DONATE TO THE PHILOPTOCHOS

HOLIDAY TOY & WINTER CLOTHING DRIVE

*to benefit families assisted by the
Family Shelter Service of DuPage*

Philoptochos volunteers shop and deliver items directly to the shelter where victims of domestic abuse have an opportunity to select a special Christmas gift for members of their families.

- ❖ DONATE IN PERSON EVERY SUNDAY IN NOVEMBER AFTER LITURGY
- ❖ SEND YOUR CHECK TO THE CHURCH OFFICE MADE OUT TO "HOLY APOSTLES PHILOPTOCHOS" and note "TOY DRIVE" in the memo
- ❖ ONLINE AT www.tinyurl.com/haphilo2501
- ❖ SCAN THE QR CODE



Please consider helping us to make the holiday season brighter and happier for these families - Thank you!



SAVE THE DATE!

Philoptochos Christmas Party and General Meeting

Tuesday, December 10
6:30 pm

More details coming soon!



NATIVITY FAST NOVEMBER 15 - DECEMBER 24

During the Nativity Fast or Advent, which is the 40 days from November 15 until Christmas, the Church encourages us to intensify our spiritual lives in order to ready our souls and bodies for the Feast of Christ's First Coming.

We do this through fasting, prayer, almsgiving, Holy Confession, and increased attention given to "preparing for His coming", to make sure we've done what we can to make a "fit dwelling place for Him" in our hearts and lives.

During this sacred period of preparation, the Divine Liturgy is offered every day.

Please take advantage of the increased amount of services to sanctify your souls and to also make sure to go to Holy Confession.

Your priests are always available to hear confessions, which is not an optional Sacrament, but necessary, for through Confession we receive God's mercy and forgiving grace.



H.A.R.C BOOKSTORE



Start your Christmas shopping at HARC Bookstore! Come see us after Sunday Liturgy during Coffee Hour, and see the many items including gifts, books, icons, and cards for all ages.

For all our customers we have a **Rewards Program too!** So, please, stop by after Sunday Liturgy in the back of the multipurpose room. See the many treasures we have for you.




OPEN Every Sunday
During Coffee Hour



FOR SOMEONE SPECIAL:
Incense burner: \$10; Incense: \$3

NOVEMBER 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 8:15 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy 11:15 am Sunday School Parent Assembly 11:30 am Fellowship Hour 11:45 am GOYA Board		5 6:45 am Brotherhood of St Peter the Apostle 4:30 pm Greek School 6:15 pm JOY Board Meeting 7:15 pm ECM Webinar 7:30 pm Chanters Prctce	6 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm Jr. GOYA	7 1:00 pm Bible Study 4:30 pm Greek School 5:30 pm Greek School PTO Meeting 6:15 pm Neolea Dance 7:15 pm Discoveries in Orthodoxy: Of Water, Spirit	1 Feast Day of Sts Cosmas & Damianos 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 7:00 pm Small Paraklessis	2 9:00 am Feed My Starving Children 5:00 pm Vespers 6:00 pm Vespers Potluck Dinner 9 Feast Day of St Nectarios of Aegina 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 5:00 pm Vespers
10 Family Shelter Services Holiday Shop Collection Philoptochos Artoklasia for Veterans 8:15 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy 11:30 am Fellowship Hour 11:35 am Christmas Pageant Rehearsal 5:00 pm Altar Boy Outing	11 1:00 pm Caregivers Support Meeting 4:30 pm Greek School 7:00 pm 65th Anniversary Luncheon Committee 7:00 pm GOYA Christmas Shopping 7:00 pm Neighborhood Bible Study - LaGrange	12 13 Feast Day of St John Chrysostom 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am Koukla's Kafenio Setup 10:00 am TOTS 3:30 pm ECM Church Meeting 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	13 Feast Day of St John Chrysostom 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am Koukla's Kafenio Setup 10:00 am TOTS 3:30 pm ECM Church Meeting 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	14 12:00 pm Koukla's Kafenio 4:30 pm Greek School 7:15 pm Discoveries in Orthodoxy: Of Water and Spirit	15 Nativity Fast Begins 8:00 am Divine Liturgy 7:00 pm Small Paraklessis	16 8:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am Philoptochos Blanket Making Day 4:00 pm Open Confession 5:00 pm Vespers
17 Family Shelter Services Holiday Shop Collection 8:15 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy 11:20 am Christmas Pageant Rehearsal 11:30 am Fellowship Hour	18 8:00 am Divine Liturgy	19 6:45 am Brotherhood of St Peter the Apostle 8:00 am Divine Liturgy 4:30 pm Greek School 6:15 pm JOY 7:15 pm ECM Cohort Meeting	20 8:00 am Divine Liturgy 1:00 pm Bereavement Group 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm Jr. GOYA 7:00 pm Stewardship Ministry	21 Entrance Theotokos into Temple 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 1:00 pm Bible Study 4:30 pm Greek Schl 6:15 pm Dance Troupe 7:30 pm Parish Council	22 8:00 am Divine Liturgy	23 8:00 am Divine Liturgy 5:00 pm Vespers
24 Family Shelter Services Holiday Shop Collection Stewardship Sunday 8:15 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy 11:20 am Christmas Pageant Rehearsal 11:30 am Fellowship Hour 11:30 am Greek School Bake Sale 11:30 am Pilgrimage of Discovery Presentation	25 Feast Day of St Katherine 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 6:30 pm GOYA Thanksgiving Party	26 8:00 am Divine Liturgy	27 10:00 am TOTS 6:00 pm Thanksgiving Eve Liturgy		29	30 10:00 am 5th Saturday Serve Day

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

Address Service Requested

POSTMASTER: Please deliver by the 15th of November

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

BELLWOOD, IL
PERMIT #157

Sacraments listed are those known at time of publication

MEMORIALS

OCTOBER	NOVEMBER
Bess Chechopoulos	Michael Burtzos
Louis G Malevitis	Panagiotis Fosses
Kyriakos Panagakos	Basiliki G Kouros
Thomas Skalkos	

FUNERALS

Peter Mathews

WEDDINGS

Kristina Clark & Blake Murray
Sponsor: Lia Fahs

BAPTISMS

Mira, daughter of John & Christina Wonais
Sponsors: John & Alexis Wonais

Jack, son of Alex Greenman & Hannah Milad
Sponsors: Theodore & Anna Andrews

Serafina, daughter of Michael & Allegra Fosses
Sponsor: Maximos Lozano

Evangelia, daughter of James & Michaelia Vuong
Sponsors: Theoharis & SamanthaLee Georgopoulos

Thalia, daughter of Kameron Wamer & ZoeRae Lozano
Sponsors: Mario Lozano & SamanthaLee Georgopoulos

Athena, daughter of Kameron Wamer & ZoeRae Lozano
Sponsors: Theoharis & SamanthaLee Georgopoulos

Phaedra, daughter of Jason & Marianna Letkiewicz
Sponsor: Ana Qeleshi

BIRTHDAYS

Alexandra Christopher
Nicholas Dublino
Diana Kafkes
Tiffany Trujillo
Kathy Tselepis
James Crouthamel
Gianna Contos
Nora Fisher
Zoe Kulidas
Vasilios Spyropoulos
Madison Stone
Theodore Theophilos
Basil Alexis
Noah Ernst
Annette Karones
Demetri Malamis
Trifon Reed

Tommy Pierce
Theodore Sparagis
George Angelos
James Nicholas
Louis Nicholas
Nancy Pappas
Chris Massouras
Stephanie Polihronidis
Stylianios Vlahos
Clara Pappas
Charlie Welbourn
Christina Adams
Jimmy Liston
Gregory Theotikos
John Vatianou
James Logan
Tula Chiganos

Gerik Tyburk
Michael Govostis
Bill Leider
Antonios Batson
Louis Kafkes
Mary Jean Angelos
Thomas Gangas
Stacy Kafkes
Christ Stamatopoulos
James Clohessy
Vivian Gryfakis
Zoe Bolchert
Ethan Kraulos
Ken O'Connor
Elisa Testen
Helen Halkias
Thania Panopoulos

Jack Parrott
Georgina Verros
Tom Beris
John Chulos
Zander Beris
Evanthia Fotopoulos
Laura Panos