



from Fr. George

In Silence and Stillness

“For while all things were in quiet silence, and that night was in the midst of her swift course, Thine Almighty Word leaped down from heaven out of Thy royal throne, into the midst of a doomed land.”

– Wisdom of Solomon 18:14-15

Brothers and sisters, in this prophetic statement made by King Solomon in his Book of Wisdom hundreds of years before the first coming of Christ, the mystery of the Divine Word’s Incarnation is revealed.

Centuries before St. John the Evangelist and Theologian declared, “The Word became flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1:14), God was already letting His creation in on the secret of His divine rescue plan, this “mystery hidden from before the ages”, according to St. Paul (Colossians 1:26).

Here the Wisdom of Solomon is speaking about that most sacred moment in time when God’s Almighty Word would leave His Father’s tender embrace and come down into His mother’s sacred womb to bring us His message of salvation.

And so it was that from His royal throne the Word of God came to us, humbling Himself in order to raise us up, becoming poor to make us rich, becoming human to make us divine.

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A Truly Enchanted Afternoon!

Congratulations to Holy Apostles Philoptochos Fashion Show Chairwomen, Pam Crouthamel and Nicole Kubesh, and their committees on a phenomenal event, “An Enchanted Afternoon,” on Saturday, October 19.

Over 650 guests enjoyed a delicious lunch at Drury Lane in Oak Brook, followed by a spectacular presentation of fashions by Tracey Tarantino and Zzazz Productions.

Tracey Tarantino has been a significant force in the fashion industry. Her staff’s

expertise combines the best of choreography, fashion production and live talent performances with the best designers.

Our event would not be possible without the loyalty and generosity of our sponsors, patrons, donors and guests who made this event extraordinary.



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A Truly Enchanted Afternoon (con't)

Through their support, our fashion show profits allowed us to donate \$35,000 each to our primary beneficiaries, CrossRoad Institute and Easterseals DuPage & Fox Valley, and will also enable us to continue our many varied philanthropic endeavors throughout the year.

Tremendous work and coordination of talents come together every year as our Philoptochos chapter hosts its annual fashion show fundraiser.

Your continued love and support enables us to continue our mission of helping those in need.



In Silence and Stillness *(continued)*

Almighty He is called because this is what His people needed: hope in an effective power that could rescue a lost and misguided humanity, redeem a people subject to the whims of the devil, make straight the crooked ways of a doomed land, and set free all those bound in sin.

This assurance is given unto us through Him Who is called "Almighty" and "A relentless Warrior carrying the sharp sword" (Wisdom 18:15), waging war in righteousness against all wickedness that moves against us.

Truly the Word is Almighty, for when neither heaven nor anything under the heavens existed, He spoke and they came into being – out of nothingness He created all that is.

But the Word of God did not re-make His creatures as easily as He made them in the beginning. He made them as One unborn; He re-made them as One born.

He made them by simply giving a command; He re-made them by dying.

He made them by commanding; He re-made them by suffering.

He spoke, and made light; He, the Light, re-made us by descending into our darkness.

It is nothing for the Almighty Word to create and sustain His creation, as He says: "I have power to reach from one end of the earth to the other and to order all things as I please" (Wisdom of Solomon 8:1).

But on account of our sins and disregard for His divine laws He was burdened and distressed, and so He says to us: **"That is why I came down from My royal throne, why I did not shrink from enclosing Myself in the Virgin's womb nor from entering into a personal union with poor lost humanity. A newborn babe in swaddling bands, I lay in a manger, since the Creator of the world could find no room at the inn."**

And so there came a deep silence. Everything was still, like unto the time before time when there was but the silence of God, from which silence the Word proceeded to speak and to create.

The voices of Prophets and Apostles were silent, since the Prophets had already delivered their message, while the time for the Apostles' preaching had yet to come.

Between these two proclamations – of the Prophets and of the Apostles – a period of pregnant silence intervened, and in the midst of this silence the Father's Almighty Word leaped down from His royal throne in order to re-create His drifting creation by becoming one of us.

In that intervening silence the Mediator between God and the human race also intervened, coming as a human being to human beings, as a mortal to mortals, to save the dead from death.

As the Word of the Lord came to the earth in silence that Christmas night so long ago, may He also come again to those who, in silence and stillness, wait upon the Lord, listening to what the Lord God speaks in our hearts.

Brothers and sisters, let us silence not only our minds this Advent, but more importantly, going forward from this Christmas let us continually silence the desires and longings of the flesh and still our disruptive thoughts, **so that we can freely hear what the Holy Spirit is saying, for He is always speaking to us, if we only strive for inner stillness and open up the ears of our hearts and make room for Him** who is born of the Virgin: Emmanuel.

Christ is born! Glorify Him!

+Fr. George

Vasilopita Cutting - January 12



Holy Apostles will have the cutting of the Vasilopita on Sunday, January 12, 2025. Philoptochos welcomes you to join their hosted coffee hour with Vasilopita after the Divine Liturgy in the multipurpose room.

Special thank you to Wanita and Paul Loupakos for hosting the Philoptochos sponsored Vasilopita Celebration and to Eleni Poteres for baking the Vasilopita for the blessing in the nave.

Philoptochos sends its best wishes to the Holy Apostles Community for a blessed new year.

In the fourth century, Saint Basil the Great established various philanthropic institutions and distributed money to the poor in a discreet manner by placing gold coins in the sweetened bread. The recipients cutting the bread were surprised to find the gold coin, which provided them with material sustenance. These special loaves became known as the bread of St. Basil or Vasilopita.

The Sacrament of Confession *by Toni Milak*

Growing up in an Orthodox family doesn't necessarily mean you've had a chance to experience everything our faith has to offer. Case in point: confession.

Many teens encounter the Sacrament of Holy Confession for the first time at Fanari Camp, and some may not experience it again once they've aged out.

"It's really too bad," lamented Fr. George. "It's so beautiful—even children should have the opportunity to participate."

Sunday School teacher Alicia Sage shared that it was not on her radar to bring her elementary school aged children to confession until it was discussed in their classes. "We talked about it as a family," she explained, "and decided it would be something great for them to do."

Her daughter, Addy, remembers learning about what confession was, and even having Fr. George visit her class to show them what going to confession might look like.

Sage brought her daughter to church on a Saturday before Vespers, and Fr. George met her in the narthex, smiling warmly and making small talk. When she was ready, the pair walked into church to sit in the front near the icons.

"I was a little nervous at first," Addy admitted, "but once I got in I realized it wasn't scary at all. And **it was actually good to get all that stuff off of my chest.**"

Like any other good habit we want our children to have, explained Father George Dokos, "we want to start them when they are young, to teach them. Just like we introduce to them from very early the practice of taking communion."

Developing a deep and long-lasting faithfulness in our children is a goal we share as a community. We have been exploring how best to do this in our Effective Christian Ministry Cohort team (Fr George, Youth Director Alexa Kakis, Sunday School Director Toni Milak, and GOYA advisor Lia Chiganos working with a coach and other churches around the country).

Last month we shared thoughts about providing space and quiet for us to interact with God. This month we'd like to bring your attention to the practice of confession, an important tool of our Orthodox Christian faith that addresses a core need of young people to know who they truly are.

Confession turns out to be kind of the perfect antidote to the modern problem of social media and the curated persona our culture trains young people to create.

"They can share their sins and struggles and, in the context of confession, reframe their experiences and begin to look outward towards the healing God offers," explains Steve Christofourou in his online ECM course.

"More than that, in confession young people begin to shed the false identities we're all encouraged to cultivate: the smiling faces we present on social media, the illusion of being the sort of people for whom everything is going well all the time.

In confession, young people get to crucify this false self and turn back to God."

For many reasons, we often put off this important sacrament, even as adults. But Fr. George encourages everyone to take part in it, noting how important it is as part of our spiritual growth, and what a good experience it can be.

"I would hope that they would leave confession relieved, closer to Christ, experiencing His love and Grace," explained Fr. George.

"One truly does feel closer to Christ after confession."

He recommends all faithful members of our parish consider participating in the sacrament of confession once a year, kind of like an annual checkup.

"And don't worry if it's been a long time," he smiled. "The priest won't judge you or be mad. We are so happy to see you. It's just a beautiful thing."



Bringing children to confession beginning in late elementary school allows them the opportunity to develop a relationship with the priest, and to get accustomed to examining and sharing their conscience while life is still relatively simple.

When asked, Addy said she would definitely recommend going to confession to other kids. "Don't be scared," she encouraged. "It's not as scary as it seems. It's actually really nice."

Step-by-Step Confession Guide

Email either priest to schedule a time (frgeorge@holyapostleschurch.com or frnicholas@holyapostleschurch.com). You can also call the office to request a time.

Prior to your confession you will want to reflect on what you should confess. You can read the 10 Commandments (Exodus 20:1-17) and the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew chapters 5, 6, and 7) as a guide. There are resources in prayer books and online if you would like. Fasting is not required prior to confession.

At the appointed time, come to the church and let Lou or the priest himself know that you have arrived. You will have a chance to light a candle and then enter the nave. You will sit with the priest toward the front of the nave.

The priest will say an opening prayer and then ask what you have brought before God. Some like to write out things they have reflected on and then can read off the list; others just speak from their conscience.

One can expect to hear words of guidance, encouragement, comfort, compassion, and understanding. A spiritual prescription might be offered to help with one's struggles, like a rule of prayer. What is shared in confession cannot and will not be divulged by the priest ever to anyone.

When the confession is complete, you will kneel down facing an icon. The priest will stand next to you and lay his stole over your head and read a prayer of forgiveness. He will do the sign of the cross on your head, remove the stole, and help you up. It is customary to then kiss the stole and his hand.

PASTORAL GUIDELINES

CHURCH POSITIONS REGARDING THE SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE

Rev. Dr. Stanley S. Harakas,

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

A major and overarching concern of the Church arises with its commitment to the God-given sanctity of human life. Some of the developments of the biological manipulation of human life, though promising and amazing therapeutic achievements, may also be understood as undermining respect for the integrity of human existence. Others may be seen as providing new means of healing human illness. Discerning the difference is the challenge the Church faces in developing its teaching on these newly appearing issues.

Human Life

The Church's teaching about human life is based on Holy Tradition, including the Scriptures as a primary resource and the ongoing teaching and interpretation of the Orthodox Faith. Life is a gift of God in the formation of the created world. All life is precious, but human life is uniquely created by God in the "image and likeness of God." Human life as such deserves deep respect and individual human beings are to be treated in accordance with their inherent human dignity.

Thus, racism, unjust prejudicial treatment of men and women, genocide, forms of sexual exploitation, domestic violence, child abuse, rape, theft or destruction of private property, deceptions and deceit, environmental plunder and other such unethical behaviors violate the human dignity of others. Human life as a gift of God should be respected. Some specific issues are the following:

Donation of Organs

Although nothing in the Orthodox tradition requires the faithful to donate their organs to others, nevertheless, this practice may be considered an act of love, and as such is encouraged. The decision to donate a duplicate organ, such as a kidney, while the donor is living, requires much consideration and should be made in consultation with medical professionals and one's Spiritual Father. The donation of an organ from a deceased person is also an act of love that offers the recipient a longer, fuller life.

Such donations are acceptable if the deceased donor had willed such action, or if surviving relatives permit it providing that it was in harmony with the desires of the deceased. Such actions can be approved as an expression of love and the self-determination of the donor. In all cases, respect for the body of the donor should be maintained.

Organ transplants should never be commercialized nor coerced nor take place without proper consent, nor place in jeopardy the identity of the donor or recipient, through, for example, the use of animal organs. The death of the donor should never be hastened in order to harvest organs for transplantation to another person,

Cremation

Because the Orthodox Faith affirms the fundamental goodness of creation, it understands the body to be an integral part of

the human person and the temple of the Holy Spirit, and expects the resurrection of the dead. The Church considers cremation to be the deliberate desecration and destruction of what God has made and ordained for us, The Church instead insists that the body be buried so that the natural physical process of decomposition may take place, The Church does not grant funerals, either in the sanctuary, or at the funeral home, or at any other place, to persons who have chosen to be cremated. Additionally, memorial services with kolyva (boiled wheat) are not allowed in such instances, inasmuch as the similarity between the "kernel of wheat" and the "body" has been intentionally destroyed.

Medical Developments and the Church

With high frequency, new developments in the area of the life sciences appear in our technologically advanced culture, The Church welcomes efforts and innovations that contribute to the healing of human diseases. Yet, many of these advances raise moral questions. Some of the Church's responses to these developments are based on older issues for which the Church has clear and unambiguous guidelines. Other responses are not so evident. Thus, many of these developments pose challenges to Orthodox Christian spiritual concerns and moral values. In numerous cases, the Church is still in the process of clarifying its response. The following serve to indicate the general positions and direction of thought in the Orthodox Church:

Sexuality

The Orthodox Church recognizes marriage as the only moral and spiritually appropriate context for sexual relations. Thus, all other forms of sexual activity such as fornication, adultery, homosexuality, lesbianism, pornography, all forms of prostitution, and similar forms of behavior are sins and as such are inappropriate for the Orthodox Christian. Marriage is only conducted and recognized in the Orthodox Church as taking place between a man and a woman. Same-sex marriages are a contradiction in terms. The Orthodox Church does not allow for same-sex marriages.

Abortion

The Church from the very beginning of existence has sought to protect "the life in the womb" and has considered abortion as a form of murder in its theology and canons. Orthodox Christians are admonished not to encourage women to have abortions, nor to assist in the committing of abortion. Those who perform abortions and those who seek them are committing an immoral deed, and are called to repentance.

Suicide

Suicide, the taking of one's own life, is self-murder and as such, a sin. More importantly, it may be evidence of a lack of faith in our loving, forgiving, sustaining God. If a person has committed suicide as a result of a belief that such an action is rationally or ethically defensible, the Orthodox Church denies that person a

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FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN



▲Madeline Kubesh, Katherine Pantazes, Marion Karras

Holy Apostles Philoptochos and church members volunteered at Feed My Starving Children in Aurora on November 2. They packed a little over 23 boxes of specially formulated meals consisting of vitamins, vegetables, soy and rice. This will feed 15 children a daily meal for one year.

The final destination of these meals is not yet known, but meals packed in August were shipped to eSwatini (formerly Swaziland) in South Africa.



▲Stephanie and Peter Skizas, April Huspen

◀Toni Franck, Dimitri Dokos, Sophia Pappas

SAVE THE DATE!

APOKRIATIKO GLENDI

Hosted by the Holy Apostles Greek School

FEBRUARY 16, 2025

Proceeds to Benefit the Holy Apostles Greek School
Sponsorship & Presentation Inquiries Email:
holyapostlespto@gmail.com

PASTORAL GUIDELINES: SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE (con't)

Church funeral, because such beliefs and actions separate a person from the community of faith. The Church shows compassion, however, on those who have taken their own life as a result of mental illness or severe emotional stress, when a condition of impaired rationality can be verified by a physician,

Autopsy

When a person dies for reasons that are uncertain, a qualified medical examiner may, with the permission of the next of kin, perform an autopsy to determine the cause of death. In some states, this is required by law. In all cases, however, the Orthodox Church expects that the body of the deceased be treated with respect and dignity.

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



Share the Warmth

Philoptochos "Share the Warmth" Month of October coat collection was a great success!!! Thank you to **Laura Pepke & Debbie Chiganos** for organizing this wonderful annual event and thank you to all our parishioners for donating!

All donated coats went to **Repeat Boutique in Wheaton, IL** who welcomes people in-need, referred from charitable organizations, churches, and local government agencies. Clients with referrals can shop every three months for a year.

Philoptochos purchased 18 new kids coats, which were donated to **Warm Coats for Kool Kids** - a Philanthropic organization, based in Elmhurst, IL, that provides winter coats, hats, and gloves to children in need from families in the western suburbs of Chicago. The coats are distributed through events at local schools and community organizations.

We also purchased and donated 33 new adult coats to **Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans (MSHV) in Wheaton, IL**. Their mission is "to empower at-risk veterans, and their families, to become self-sufficient, productive members of their communities".



▲ Faye Adams dropping off coats for veterans



▲ Collection rack at church



▲ Garry Vaccaro, founder of Warm Coats for Kool Kids and Maria Patt.



Blanket Making ...

NEXT DATE
December 11
Following the 6 pm
Divine Liturgy

Philoptochos would like to thank all those that came out to support our Blanket Making Day on Saturday, November 16.

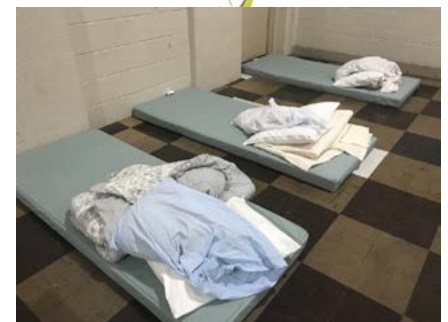
We made 25 adult sized fleece blankets for our **Beds Plus Winter Outreach** effort. The blankets we made will be part of a larger initiative that our church is working on.

On December 11, Stewardship will host a **Lenten Service Project** after the 6 pm Divine Liturgy. At this Service Project, Philoptochos will add the blankets to a group of cold weather items (socks, hats, gloves, etc.) and these "bundles" will be donated to **Beds Plus**.

Beds Plus has an Outreach Team that knows where the homeless congregate and they will deliver the bundles directly to those in need.

These Service Projects do not take long to assemble and are open to the entire parish. Please consider coming out to assist with this effort. Children are welcome, as well.

BEDS Plus, Inc. is a leading homeless services provider in Southwest Suburban Cook County, IL. Last year they served nearly 2500 people experiencing homelessness and imminent risk of homelessness; 89 percent of clients left its programs to stable housing.





*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

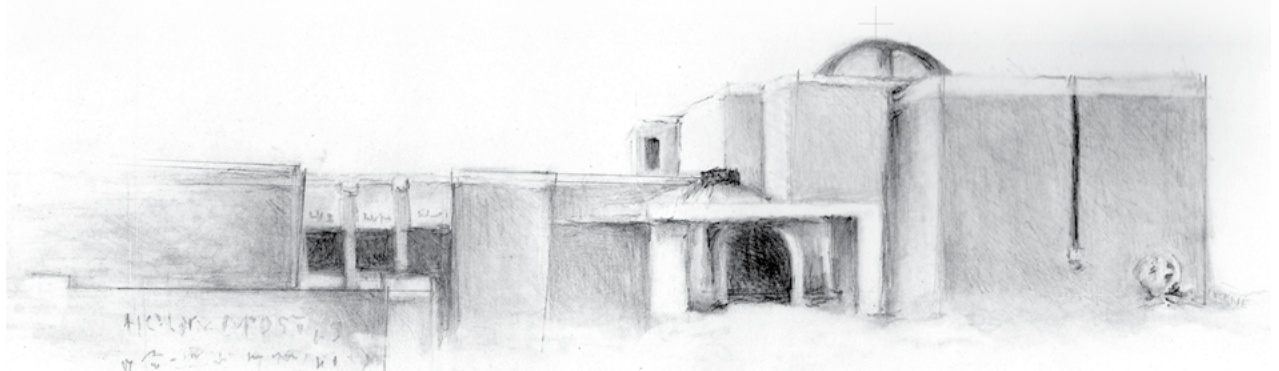
Children 12 and under: \$28

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:



PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE OCTOBER 2023 PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

October 17, 2024

PC SECRETARY: VAL DRANIAS

Note: Steve Milak presided over the meeting as both Norm Pomrening and Jim Maragos were out of town.

Call to Order: Steve Milak called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

Opening Prayer: Father George led us in the opening prayer.

Steve Milak recited the Mission Statement.

Approval of Minutes: Val Dranias moved to approve the September PC minutes, Patty Pappas seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Correspondence: Val Dranias reported that we received a thank you letter from Metropolitan Nathanael for our \$5000 donation to the Metropolis annual Vision Campaign. An invitation for a fundraiser for the Hellenic College/Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology on Nov, 14th. Nick Kirkeles moved that we purchase a table for HC/HC fundraiser for \$1250. Peter Bell seconded. Approved with 1 Nay.

Ecclesiastical Report: Father George presented a reading on the Apostle and Evangelist Luke whose feast day is October 18.

Ministries

Finance – Steve Milak reported that as of 9/30/24 Capital Account Balance is \$558,098. Operating Account Balance is \$662,352. Steve reported that the Cash Balances over time are following the usual pattern.

Stewardship: Sandy Pihos

Metric	Sep 2023 YTD	Sep 2024 YTD	% Change
Number of Pledges	629	673	7%
Total Pledged	\$768,103	\$825,617	7%
Amount Collected	\$687,807	\$741,473	8%
Median Pledge	\$600	\$600	0%
Average Pledge	\$1,221	\$1,227	0%

For the record, we have achieved 90% of our goal to receive pledges from 750 families and 69% of our goal to fund the church's entire operating budget of \$1,189K through pledges.

It's also the first time that our pledged dollars have ever exceeded \$800,000. Still, the percentage of stewards who have pledged \$1,500 or more, an amount equivalent to 2% of a \$75,000 household income, is only 21%.

We have 2 new members on the Welcoming Committee. The Fall Planting went very well. There will be no Bingo Night. Discussion on Stewardship Sunday took place at the Stewardship Meeting. It was advised that Time and Talent should be included in any Stewardship Communications.

Building and Grounds: Chris Pepke reported that Weiss Lawn Care begins tomorrow. Trees were taken care of earlier because one had fallen on a neighbor's home. There was little pushback from the neighbors about the removal. The HVAC has been switched to heat. Separating from CND for landscaping. The roof inspection went well – no debris. Front door repair – concrete work - \$35,000; door hardware - \$23,000 for a \$58,000 material purchase. We had budgeted \$50,000.

Technology: Steve Milak reported that the \$10,000 grant was approved.

Old Business

Foundation – The Selection Committee will be accepting Board of Directors applications – received 2 as of today. They are advertising, calling people and informing them that there will be quarterly meetings and an annual meeting. If they do not have enough applicants, the deadline will be extended by 30 days.

Chapel Hill Plots: Patty Pappas reported that there has been some movement with the 24 plots that need to be swapped – legality has stalled – final received a reply from Chapel Hill. Patty and Joan Berg will review the new contracts. We had a sale of 2 plots for \$9,000. A parishioner had a receipt for 2 plots that they had not chosen. They are in the process of doing so now.

Youth Safety Compliance: Lou and Patty watched a webinar on the subject. Training must be completed every year. Background checks must be completed every 2 years. No one can be on the ballot for the Parish Council unless completed. Lou will run a report to see what each PC member who is on the ballot needs to be in compliance.

Election of PC members: Sandy Pihos reported that she had put together a notebook for elections. The timeline needs to be followed. All candidates will receive a packet of rules. The Board of Elections will need help.

65th Anniversary Luncheon: All is going well. Invitations are mailed; tickets are being sold, sponsorships are being sold.

New Business:

Parish Council is asking the clergy to speak out about the need for volunteers.

Nick Kirkeles mentioned that we will need additional funds for basketball. We have a 3rd & 4th grade team, a 5th & 6th grade team, little girls and big girls teams. We're short on Jr. GOYA and GOYA. We will need additional uniforms and fees. We may start working with Holy Cross.

Chris Pepke reported that Zoe received 2 more grants for TVs. Chris questioned TV and furniture needs for both Greek School and Sunday School. He emphasized the need for collaboration. Building and Grounds will need to sign off on any changes to the facility. Greek School and Sunday School need to meet with their Parish Council liaisons and Building and Grounds.

Greek School PTO is planning on changing the name for their dinner dance to state hosted by the Greek School PTO.

Chris Pepke moved that Minute Man Press of Oakbrook Terrace should be our preferred parish printer. Nick Kirkeles seconded. Unanimously approved.

FYI – Sacramental paperwork has gone online.

Next Meeting – Nov. 21, 2024

Key Dates;

Philoptochos Fashion Show – Oct. 19, 2024; Men's Ministry Cookout – Oct. 27, 2024; PC Elections – Dec. 8, 2024; 65th Anniversary Luncheon – Dec. 29, 2024; Feed6 – Jan. 11, 2025;

Closing Prayer – Father Nicholas

Adjournment – 9:15 pm. Absent – Norm Pomrening, Jim Maragos



**TO CARE FOR THOSE WHO ONCE CARED FOR US
IS ONE OF LIFE'S HIGHEST HONORS.**

CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP

A Holy Apostles Ministry

PLEASE JOIN US!

**Tuesday, December 10
1 PM - Philoptochos Room**

Please Join Us For Discussion & Coffee

Please contact Kathy Steffenson at gksteff@gmail.com or Val Dranias at valdranias@aol.com with any questions.

We hope that you will join us.

Koukla's Kafenio Honors Our Veterans

Pillars & Rocks

The Koukla's Kafenio Luncheon, honoring our veterans, was held on November 14.

A delicious lunch, catered by Greek Islands, was served and a special entertainment was provided by "The Men of Spirito" choral group.

Philoptochos is always pleased to host and celebrate the pillars of our community who have laid the foundation for future generations.

Thank you to all the volunteers who made this event so special for our seniors! Pillars and Rocks is led by Aleka Mandelaris and Cathy Magas.



This ministry also coordinates members of Philoptochos to visit and deliver goody bags of plants and sweets to many of our seniors.

This fall, visits were made in September and are scheduled again in December. We respect and honor our seniors who share their wisdom and life experiences.





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





Philoptochos Christmas Party and General Meeting

*Tuesday, December 10th
6:30 pm
Butterfield Country Club
2800 Midwest Rd., Oak Brook, IL*

Lenten Buffet Dinner - \$60 per person

*Please RSVP and pay
no later than December 3rd*

ONLINE

<https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZBCE/campaign/C-157E5>



CALL

HELEN KASIMOS: 630.677.7757



Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church

DECEMBER 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:15 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy 11:30 am Fellowship Hour 11:45 am GOYA Board	2 Feast Day of St Porphyrios 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 11:30 am Fellowship Hour 11:45 am GOYA Board	3 6:45 am Brotherhood of St Peter the Apostle 8:00 am Divine Liturgy 4:30 pm Greek School 6:15 pm Greek School Staff Meeting 6:15 pm JOY 7:15 pm ECM Webinar	4 Feast Day of St Barbara 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm Jr. GOYA	5 8:00 am Divine Liturgy 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 Parish Council Candidate Seminar	6 Feast Day of St Nicholas 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 7:00 pm Small Paraklesis	7 8:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am ECM Summit 4:00 pm Open Confession 5:00 pm Vespers 6:00 pm Pot Luck Dinner
8 8:15 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy 11:20 am Christmas Pageant Rehearsal 11:30 am Fellowship Hour 11:30 am Parish Council Elections	9 8:00 am Divine Liturgy	10 8:00 am Divine Liturgy 1:00 pm Caregivers Support Meeting 4:30 pm Greek School 6:30 pm Philoptochos General Mtg & Party 7:00 pm GOYA 7:00 pm Neighborhood Bible Study -LaGrange	11 10:00 am TOTS Christmas Party 3:30 pm ECM Church Meeting 6:00 pm Evening Divine Liturgy 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm Nativity Fast Service Project	12 Feast Day of St Spyridon 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 1:00 pm Bible Study 4:30 pm Greek School 7:00 pm Women's Book Club	13 8:00 am Divine Liturgy	14 8:00 am Divine Liturgy 9:00 am Christmas Pageant Dress Rehearsal 4:00 pm Open Confession 5:00 pm Vespers
15 Feast Day of St Eleutherios 8:15 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy 11:30 am Christmas Pageant 11:30 am Fellowship Hour 12:00 pm Christmas Breakfast	16 8:00 am Divine Liturgy	17 Feast Day of St Dionysios of Zakynthos 6:45 am Brotherhood of St Peter the Apostle 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 4:30 pm Greek School 6:15 pm JOY Chrstms Prty 7:00 pm 65th Anniversary Luncheon Committee Mtg 7:15 pm ECM Cohort Mtg	18 8:00 am Divine Liturgy 1:00 pm Bereavement Group 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm Jr. GOYA Christmas Party	19 Greek School Christmas Party & Movie Night 8:00 am Divine Liturgy 1:00 pm Bible Study 4:30 pm Greek School 6:15 pm Neolea Dance Troupe 7:30 pm Parish Council Meeting	20 8:00 am Divine Liturgy 9:00 pm Vigil for St John of Kronstadt: Great Vespers, Orthros and Divine Liturgy from 9 pm to approximately midnight	21 4:00 pm Open Confession 5:00 pm Vespers
22 8:15 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy 11:30 am Fellowship Hour	23 8:00 am Divine Liturgy	24 9:00 am Royal Hours 5:00 pm Christmas Eve Liturgy / Concert	25 CHRISTMAS DAY 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy	26	27 Feast Day of St Stephen 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Litrgy	28 5:00 pm Vespers
29 8:15 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy 12:00 pm 65 th	30	31				

HOLY APOSTLES GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
2501 S. Wolf Road
Westchester, IL 60154
(708) 562-2744

Address Service Requested

POSTMASTER: Please deliver by the 15th of December

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U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

BELLWOOD, IL
PERMIT #157

Sacraments listed are those known at time of publication

MEMORIALS

NOVEMBER

Georgios Kolimbiris
Peter Mathews
Peter Sigalos

DECEMBER

Pauline Argianas
Kimberly Argires
James Fotopoulos
Konstantinos Skokos

WEDDINGS

Andrea Kaufman & Eric Russell
*Sponsors: Alexandra Kaufman &
Stratos Skarpathiotis*

FUNERALS

Gregory Tolios
Pauline Argianas
Anne Smenos

BIRTHDAYS

Christina Mitropoulos
Gerry Nicholaou
Victoria Apostolou
William Chiganos
Giuliana Dublino
George Fotos
Sophia Fotos
Spero Kinnas
Steven Pappas
Lena Theotikos
Miki Vasilakopoulos
Ava Pappas
Peter Skizas
Susanna Triantafillou
Sargon Adam
Michael Halkias
James Hank
Jacklyn Tyburk
James Christou

Michael Christy
Luke Lorusso
Hallie Vlahos
William Errera
Demetrios Triantafel
Freida Varlas
Dean Deligiannis
Kathryn Liston
Gabriel Bolchert
Lucas Brinkmeyer
Rigas Pappas
Scott Schieber
Anne Theophilos
Vickie Lattas
Ariana Myers
Katerina Rahn
Roy Sietsema
Katherine Logan
Noelle Ekonomou

Margo Andrews
Alexander Massouras
Jane Tselepis
Emma Crabtree
Dina Gomez
Nicholas Hansen
George Kakis
Thomas Tselepis
Alethia Vlagos
Arielle Zakos
Stefen May
Oliver O'Shaughnessy
Jennie Snoply
Alexander Andre
Vienna Failla
Spiro Markos
Athan Angelos
Marion Gouvīs

Theodore Koustenis
Niko Vourlos
Katherine Rook
Mia Triantafillou
Mark Peranich
Hedy Brales
Helen Alex
Christopher Stamatopoulos
Dimitrios Georgopoulos
Sarah Govostis
Emily Kyroudis
Joan Berg
Carson James
Tia Angelos
Carol Doukas
Athan Haralampopoulos
Elliana Sage
Constance Zachos