



from Fr. Nicholas

## Being Resurrected with Christ

### Christ is Risen!

Has the glorious light of Pascha we just experienced a few nights ago dimmed? Do we understand the fresh start that Christ offers and comprehend the significance of Christ's crucifixion, resurrection, and what it personally means to us?

**We Orthodox Christians do not subscribe to some of the non-Orthodox Christian salvation theories.** The debt or satisfaction theory holds that God must punish our sin because of our total depravity. Only Jesus Christ can settle our debt to God, and His honor and justice require that we do so.

This idea was reflected in the well-known Christian song, "He paid a debt He did not owe; I owed a debt I could not pay." This obligation was fully settled for us by Jesus Christ's death on the cross.

Forgiveness results from a Christian's faith in Christ's substitutionary atonement. According to this non-Orthodox Christian punitive view, God sentences humanity to death because all inherited the guilt of original sin and God must punish unrepentant unbelievers to satisfy His divine justice.



(continued, pg. 3)

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## OPERATION CLASSROOM INITIATIVE



In early April members of the Philoptochos Operation Classroom team delivered items to nearby Hillside School to help them establish a comfort closet for their students.

A storage cabinet (the "closet") was stocked with snacks, socks and personal hygiene items.

The items were purchased as part of the National Philoptochos initiative to help schools serve their students in need.



## H.A.R.C BOOKSTORE



OPEN Every Sunday During  
Coffee Hour

Check out our gift items  
for graduation, weddings,  
Mother's Day, Father's Day  
and birthdays!



Please Join us for our

### Philoptochos General Meeting & 2025-2027 Elections

Tuesday, May 20<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 pm  
Holy Apostles Multi-purpose Room  
Refreshments & Appetizers will be served

**Special Guest Speaker**  
**Gail Foster - Executive Director**  
**of Poised for Success**

Poised for Success is a nonprofit organization serving the Chicago and area. Their mission is to provide, at no charge, beautiful interview and business appropriate clothing to women who are on assistance and in the job market. In addition to providing beautiful clothing, Gail and her volunteers, assist clients in building self-esteem, teach them soft interview skills, and refer them to other local service organizations providing job skills training and job placement.

Please RSVP by 5/14 to Aleka Ernst  
[alekaernst@aol.com](mailto:alekaernst@aol.com) or  
(630) 561-1660

## Transformed by the Lord *(continued)*

He condemns them to hell where they spend eternity tormented and separated from His Presence. The Cross and Christ's death saves people from the punitive, legally determined wrath of God.

Confusing our guilt with God's anger may cause us to flee and run from Him. The very Healer that we need is cut off from us.

The reformers developed the penal theory which states that Christ received the punishment we deserved. By suffering and dying on the Cross, Christ received God's punishment for us and we no longer need to be punished.

**We Orthodox Christians believe that "Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures" (1 Corinthians 15:3). We are not guilty of original sin, even though we inherited and were born with a fallen nature. Christ died to change, heal and make us more godlike. He did not die instead of us.**

His ultimate purpose in death is not to avert the wrath of God but to change us. **"God is good and He only bestows blessings and never does harm, remaining always the same.**

**If we remain good through resembling God, are united to Him; but if we become evil through not resembling God, we are separated from Him.**

**By living in holiness we cleave to God;** but by becoming wicked we make Him our enemy. It is not that He grows angry with us in an arbitrary way, but it is our own sins that prevent God from shining within us.

**Through our actions and turning to God, we have cured our wickedness and so once more have enjoyment of God's goodness.** Thus to say that God turns away from the wicked is like saying that the sun hides itself from the blind" (*St. Anthony the Great*).

"Σωτηριαζ" (sotirias) is translated "health". Being "saved" means much more than being saved from something like hell or death; it is being healed or made whole.

**"Your faith has saved you" (Luke 7:50)** means your faith has healed you. God wants to restore us to wholeness and His image and likeness.

"For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection" (*Romans 6:5*).

**We draw our life from Him and His resurrection is our new birth!** This is the good news of Christ's Resurrection!

**"I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me" (Galatians 2:20).**

+Fr. Nicholas

## Plan Ahead ...



**H**oly Apostles is pleased to offer **cemetery plots for sale at Chapel Hill Gardens West**, located at 17W201 Roosevelt Road in Oakbrook Terrace.

Situated within the serene, park-like Garden of Ascension, these plots provide a peaceful and dignified final resting place.

**With fewer than 50 plots remaining** from the original purchase of 270, this is a unique opportunity for our members to secure a plot at a significantly discounted price—well below the cost of purchasing directly from Chapel Hill.

For more information, please contact Lou Kafkes, Parish Administrator, at 708-562-2744.



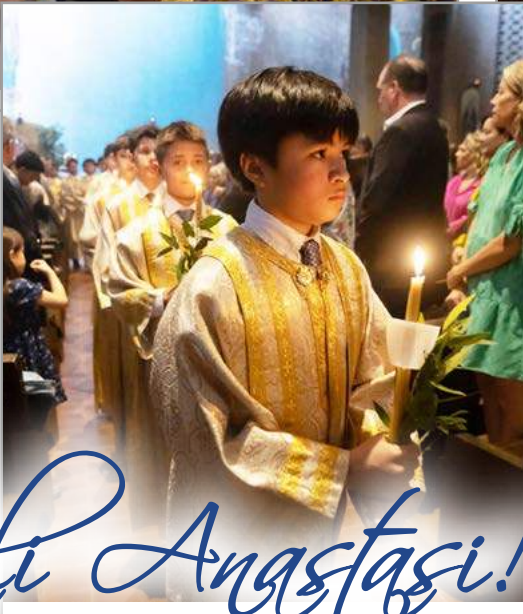
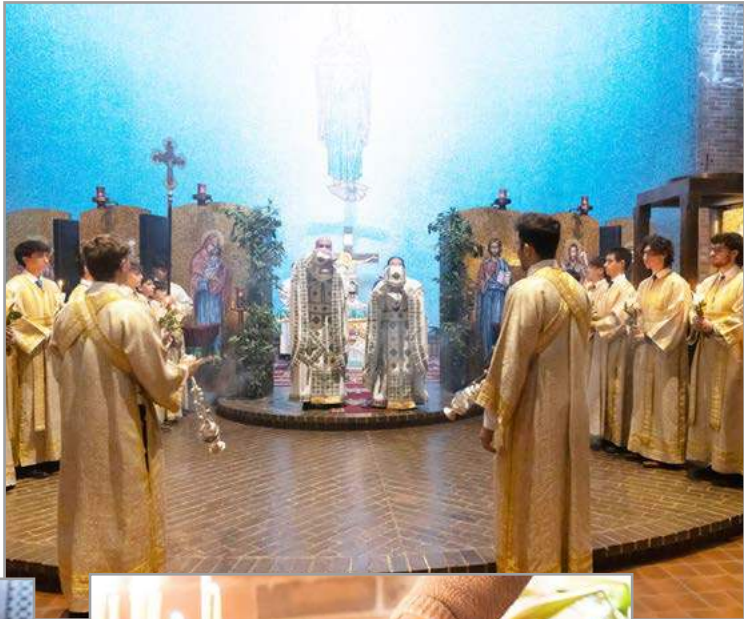


# *Holy Friday Retreat*

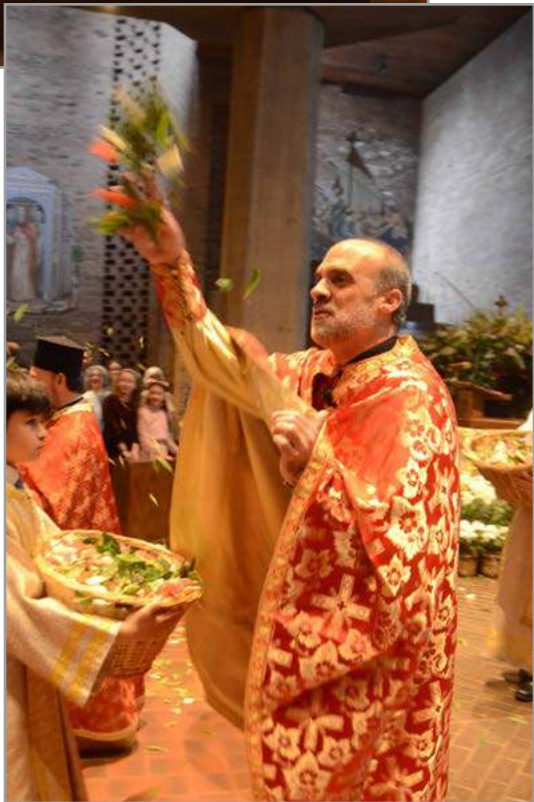


# *20th year of myrrhbearers*





*Kali Anastasi!*



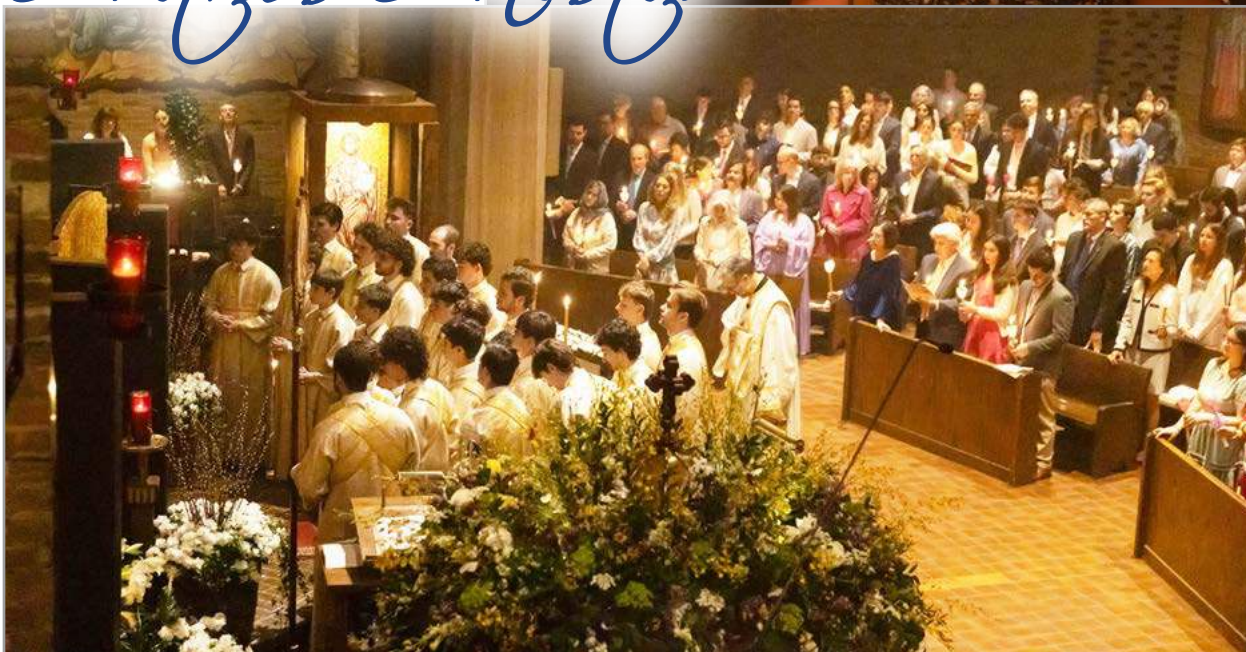








*Alithos Anesti!*







**WHO:** Pre-K through 5th graders

**WHEN:** JUNE 9 - 13, 2025; 9:00am - 12:00pm

**WHERE:** Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church - Westchester, IL

**REGISTRATION:** \$50 per child by June 1

**PLUS!** Carnival: Friday, June 13th from 12-2pm (separate fee)

Join us for an action-packed week where we dive into the lives of the Super Saints—heroes of faith who showed courage, love, and devotion to God! Through stories, games, and activities, kids will discover how they, too, can be faith-filled heroes in their everyday lives!

Any questions, please contact Nicole Voelz at 630-673-6635 or email: [vacationbibleschool@holypostle-schurch.com](mailto:vacationbibleschool@holypostle-schurch.com)

After you submit the online form, there will be a confirmation and a link that you will need to click that take you directly to a new page to pay for all children registering for VBS. We take payments through Vanco.

Each child must have their own registration form submitted, but payment can be done at one time for all children being enrolled.

Vanco Payment Link: <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZADA/campaign/C-118R5>

◀ scan to register and/or sign-up to volunteer

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!** **FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

WE WILL BE VISITING THE "HALL OF FAME" OF SUPER SAINTS FOR OUR VBS JOURNEY THIS YEAR

**JUNE 9 - 13TH**  
**8:45 AM - 12:00 PM**



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

## **THE HOLY APOSTLES CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP**

**Tuesday, May 13**  
**1 PM**  
**Philoptochos Room**

***Please Join Us For Discussion & Coffee!***

Please note that we will not be meeting in July and August.  
We will resume meeting on September 10.

Please contact Kathy Steffenson at [gksteff@gmail.com](mailto:gksteff@gmail.com) or Val Dranias at [valdranias@aol.com](mailto:valdranias@aol.com) with any questions.

*We hope that you will join us.*



## *Easter Drive-By Food Sale*



*Our heartfelt thanks to Debbie Chiganos & Laura Pepke for organizing our Philoptochos Easter Drive-By Food Sale and to Cathy Magas & Eleni Poteres for organizing the group of our own lovely Holy Apostles bakers that made all the homemade sweets! Proceeds from our sale will go towards our Operation Classroom initiative.*







## PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

### HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MARCH 2025 PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

PC SECRETARY: PATTY PAPPAS | EDITED BY: VAL DRANIAS

James Maragos called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM. Father Dokos led us in the Opening Prayer. Bill Leider recited the Mission Statement.

**Approval of Minutes:** Patty Pappas presented the Minutes of the February 20, 2025 meeting. She moved that the Parish Council approve the February Minutes; Bill Leider seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

**Correspondence:** Patty Pappas presented the following correspondence: Invitation to the Fr. Ted Poteres Retirement Celebration on May 18th; St. Demetrios Lincoln Square Greek Fest announcement for June 6, 7 and 8; thank you note from Cross Road Institute; thank you note from Westchester Food Pantry; Hodges/Loizzi billings summary; donation request from Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate for the Pilgrimage of Discovery program.

- Motion to donate \$100 to Pilgrimage of Discovery program by Terry Chiganos. Seconded by Bill Leider. Motion passed by majority.
- Motion to purchase a table at the Fr. Ted Poteres Retirement Celebration on May 18th by Peter Bell. Seconded by Bill Leider. Unanimously approved.

**Church Etiquette:** Father Dokos provided a brief overview of church etiquette, emphasizing that all Parish Council members should, to the best of their ability, address any ushering concerns outside the church and keep discussions quiet and discreet. He reminded everyone to refer to the Ushering Guidelines document that has been distributed.

**Ecclesiastical Report:** Father Dokos presented a Patristix video regarding the Lenten Prayer of King Manasseh for discussion.

### Ministries:

**Finance:** Report by George Antonopoulos: He reported that the cash position at the end of February reflected an increase of \$160,000 since the beginning of 2025, bringing the account totals to \$1.46 million. The income and expenses for January and February 2025 are generally in line with the same period last year. Once the budget is broken down month by month, we will have a clearer picture of how the quarter progressed.

**Stewardship:** Sandra Pihos provided a report on stewardship pledges.

METRIC	FEB 2025 YTD	FEB 2024 YTD	% CHANGE
# of pledges	403	416	-3%
Total pledged	\$640,907	\$602,003	6%
Amount collected	\$402,679	\$402,243	0%
Median pledge	\$800	\$800	0%
Average pledge	\$1,590	\$1,447	10%

**Building and Grounds:** Report by Chris Pepke

- Illinois State Fire Marshal Boiler Inspection: Our boilers were installed in 2001. The State requires an inspection every 2 years. HA has not complied with this so we requested an inspection. This inspection was on 3/14/25 and was approved as noted: Replace leaking automatic gas valve; test or replace safety pressure release valves (quarterly); start maintaining boiler log; start keeping boiler service records; install CO detector.
- Plumbing Projects Update: Bottle filling stations have been installed in the location of the two water fountains; the sump settling pit has been cleaned out; minor plumbing work was performed in the mechanical room; the next plumbing project is to install a sump pump for baptismal font.
- 2025 Landscape/Snow Contract: Chris received bids for a season-based annual landscape and snow removal contract. He would like to move forward with Beary Landscaping, with a contract price of \$32,833. The contract includes snow removal on both the public sidewalks and our sidewalks. This is a maintenance contract, so Metropolis approval is not needed.

a. Patty Pappas moved for adoption of a motion which, after debate and amendment, was adopted as follows: "For building and grounds to contract with Beary Landscaping for scope of services including lawn and snow maintenance with season-based



pricing. Maintenance of contract will be managed by Building and Grounds from year to year in accordance with the Holy Apostles Bylaws."

b. Bill Leider seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

- Main Office Remodel/Monument Sign/Mechanical Brick Wall Enclosure Update: A contract has been signed for these projects. The next step will be for drawings to be completed by the end of March.
- Front Door Project Update: Work is starting on 3/24/25. The anticipated completion is 4/4/25.
- Duct Cleaning Update: The project is complete and was successful. Before and after photos were distributed.
- New Thermostats: These were installed in the classrooms. This will help with efficiency and cost savings.
- Duplex Electric: They have completed 95% of the electric panel investigation work. This was a Village of Westchester requirement.
- Tamper Proof Outlets: These have been installed throughout the Church at 18" AFF. This is another Village of Westchester requirement.
- Three TV's: Installed in the classrooms.
- Two Electronic Carts: Assembled.
- Old Thermostat: Removed from the MPR.
- South Entrance: Removed one of two exit signs. Village of Westchester requirement.
- Exit Sign In Classroom Lower Level: This was not functioning and was replaced.

#### **Technology:** Report by Steve Milak

- Steve investigated the printing issue that the office has been experiencing for a few weeks. The root cause is a VLAN (virtual local area network) setup. Outsource Solutions Group will send a tech onsite to address it this week.
- A new workstation was purchased and installed in the church office along with a dedicated UPS (uninterruptible power supply).
- Steve had discussions and aligned on solutions with Chris on how to work around power and lighting issues for the livestream camera during Holy Week.

#### **Ushering:** Report by Ted Dres

- There is a revised Ushering Schedule.
- Recognizing the more modest attendance at weekday evening services, the schedule has been revised by eliminating some of the Officer in Charge slots.
- Review your assignments. If you are unable to meet your obligation, please find a substitute and email both Ted and your replacement.
- Holy Wednesday April 16th, 3pm is in need of an Usher in Charge. Please let Ted know if anyone is available for that Holy Unction service.
- Holy Week (particularly Palm Sunday, Holy Wednesday, Good Friday, Anastasi and Agape services) has very heavy ushering needs. Council members are expected to be at all of these services. We need at least 7 additional ushers besides the Usher in Charge for those Holy Week services.
- We will try implementing greater use of the iPad for the candle stand.

#### **Old Business:**

**Holy Apostles Foundation:** The inaugural meeting of the Holy Apostles Foundation was held on March 19, 2025, via Zoom, with attorney Joan Berg in attendance. The Board of Directors is composed of very talented individuals: Ernest Davis, Ernest Karras, Kristi Athas Landorf, Tom Loukas, Tim Stojka and Joanne Volakakis. During the meeting, we ratified the Bylaws and elected the following Officers:

President: Kristi Athas Landorf; Vice President: Joanne Volakakis; Secretary: Ernie Davis; Treasurer: Tom Loukas

Once all the necessary paperwork is filed with the State of Illinois and the IRS, we will proceed to open an account at BMO Harris. Additionally, four committees were established: Finance, Investment, Marketing, and Audit. Most of the new Board members will be present at the coffee hour following church this Sunday.



## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MARCH 2025 PARISH COUNCIL MEETING (continued)

### **Macaronatha Luncheon:** Report by Sandra Pihos

As of March 9, 2025, Luncheon donations were as follows: \$1,835.00 through Vanco, \$1,484.00 collected in cash, \$1,720.00 in checks, for a total of \$5,039.00. The donation link will stay open until March 31st or people can donate via checks to the office. All of the gross proceeds will go to the Jesse Brandow Ministry. Expenses were \$1,315.43 of which \$363.73 will not reoccur next year. Donations included dessert (rice pudding), water, coffee stirrers, soda, lemonade, fruit punch, macaroni, paper plates, dinner utensils, take home containers, take home bags, cream, ice, produce, salad dressing, bread, butter pats, butter, and tea bags. 310 people were in attendance.

### **Cemetery Plots:** Report by Patty Pappas

While the two contracts to swap out plots have been signed by both parties, we are still waiting on Chapel Hill to place initials where indicated. The purpose of doing so is to have properly executed contracts. An announcement was placed in Sunday's Church Bulletin, which read as follows: "Holy Apostles is pleased to offer cemetery plots for sale at Chapel Hill Gardens West, located at 17W201 Roosevelt Road in Oakbrook Terrace. Situated within the serene, park-like Garden of Ascension, these plots provide a peaceful and dignified final resting place. With fewer than 50 plots remaining from the original purchase of 270, this is a unique opportunity for our members to secure a plot at a significantly discounted price—well below the cost of purchasing directly from Chapel Hill. For more information, please contact Lou Kafkes, Parish Administrator, at 708-562-2744." We have made a request for announcements in the Mosaic and the Weekly News email as well.

### **Metropolis Special Clergy Laity Assembly:** Report by James Maragos

Steven Savas and Patty Pappas were appointed at the HA Special Parish Assembly as delegates to the Metropolis Special Clergy Laity Assembly. James Maragos and Father Dokos will also be in attendance. The Assembly will be held via Zoom on April 1st. The subject matter of the Assembly will be to discuss and vote upon the location of the new Metropolis of Chicago Center.

#### > Motions for the Executive Committee and Building & Grounds Spending Limits:

- > Motion by James Maragos: "In order to ensure business continuity, the head of building and grounds committee may approve work up to \$10,000 per month and \$40,000 maximum per year, of materials or services without approval of the Parish Council, of non-budgeted and/or unforeseen capital spending; provided that he/she has informed the Executive Committee."
- > Motion by James Maragos: "In order to ensure business continuity, the Parish Council Executive Committee may approve up to \$5,000 per month for items or emergency services within the budget, without the approval of the whole Parish Council."

Both motions are withdrawn for further review and discussion by the Bylaws committee, consisting of James Maragos, Sandra Pihos, Patty Pappas, Terry Chiganos and Peter Bell.

### **Youth Safety Compliance:** Report by Patty Pappas

As of March 19th, 15 out of 88 Youth Workers are not yet compliant with the Archdiocese's youth safety training requirements. To reach full compliance, we have established a Holy Apostles database. Each ministry leader involved with youth at HA will be responsible for keeping the database updated, ensuring the Parish Youth Safety Administrator (Lou Kafkes) is informed of new Youth Workers and those who are no longer involved. Without the HA database, we would be unable to identify new youth workers in the Archdiocese's system and effectively track their compliance with required safety training.

A letter has been sent to all youth ministry leaders, providing them with the list of noncompliant Youth Workers and requesting that they follow up with their volunteers to ensure full compliance before those volunteers can resume contact with the youth. Additionally, ministry leaders will receive the Archdiocese's compliance report monthly, so they stay informed about the compliance status of the Youth Workers under their leadership.

### **Celebration of Books:** Report by Father Georgiou

At the Celebration of Books, Fr. Andrew Damick, Chief Content Officer of Ancient Faith Ministries, was the featured speaker, presenting an insightful talk on the topic "What Do Angels Have to Do with Our Salvation?" Over two days, \$3600 worth of resources were sold, providing valuable information to many attendees. Thank you to Fr. Damick as well as the HARC staff. We look forward to the Celebration of Books next year.



**New Business:**

**Spring Parish Assembly:** It will be held on May 4th. All Parish Council members should be present.

**Greek School:** Report by Sandra Pihos

Currently, there are 27 students in grades 4 through 6 at Greek School, some of whom face diverse learning challenges. Throughout the year, various adjustments have been made to support their individual learning needs. Greek school Principal, Zoe Koultourides, has implemented a wide range of strategies to help the students succeed, but she has reached the limit of available approaches. To better meet the needs of all students in this group, she proposes transitioning from the traditional grade-level structure to organizing students by proficiency level.

To make this shift, an additional teacher is needed for the remainder of the term. Zoe has been very resourceful, securing \$10,329.27 worth of equipment this year to help reduce program costs. At this time, she is requesting that the Parish Council contribute the remaining funds necessary to hire a new teacher. The PTO enthusiastically supported this effort with an \$840.00 contribution which she would like us to match.

> Motion by Sandra Pihos: "To give the Holy Apostles Greek School \$840.00 to help underwrite the cost of hiring an additional Greek School teacher for the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year."

> Bill Leider seconded the motion. Motion is defeated.

> Motion by Sandra Pihos: "To give Holy Apostles Greek School \$1,680 to help underwrite the cost of hiring an additional Greek School teacher for the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year."

> Chris Pepke seconded the motion. Motion unanimously approved.

**Holy Week Planning:** A committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 24th, at 6 PM via Zoom to begin preparations.

**Next Parish Council Meeting:** April 10, 2025 at 7:30 PM

**Motions Review:**

Sandra Pihos provided a brief review of the laws pertaining to the making of motions.

**Grant Writing:**

Chris Pepke reported that based upon our reserve study and projected expenses, the cost of maintaining our church building and grounds will exceed budgeted amounts in the future. We will look into alternative funding sources. A committee will be formed to research grants and we will recruit experienced parishioners as well as outside sources for assistance with grant writing.

**Key Dates:**

- New Parish Council and Holy Apostles Foundation Board Meet and Greet: 3/23/25 - after Divine Liturgy
- Holy Week Planning Committee: 3/24/25 at 6:00 PM via Zoom
- Greek School Greek Independence Day Program: 3/25/25 at 4:45 PM
- Bishop Timothy Visit: 3/28/25, Greet at 6:30 PM, Salutations at 7:00 PM, Reception by Parish Council to follow
- Metropolis Special Clergy Laity Assembly: 4/1/25 at 6:00 PM via Zoom
- Greek Independence Day Parade: 4/6/25 in Chicago
- Parish Council to host Lenten Meal: 4/9/25 after Presanctified Liturgy
- Holy Week: 4/13/25-4/20/25
- Holy Apostles Spring Parish Assembly: 5/4/25 after Divine Liturgy
- Fr. Bill Chiganos Memorial Service and Coffee Hour: 5/11/25
- Graduate Sunday and Holy Apostles Picnic : 6/1/25
- Church Golf Outing: 7/7/25 at NEW LOCATION: Willow Crest Golf Course at the Oak Brook Hills Hilton

**Closing Prayer:** Father Georgiou

**Adjourn:**

> Motion to adjourn by Sandra Pihos. Seconded by Peter Bell. Unanimously approved. James Maragos officially adjourned the meeting at 9:20 PM.

Absent: Nicole Voelz





## FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN



▲ **THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!** Emily Rehn, April Huspen, Jim Ekonomou, Sophia Pappas, Keith Guizaitis, Alex Guizaitis, Alyssa Guizaitis, Theo Guizaitis, Alicia Sage, Leah Sage, Jeff Sage, Addy Sage and Ellie Sage.

When a group of Holy Apostles Philoptochos members and parishioners volunteered at Feed My Starving Children in Aurora they learned that one in four people dies of hunger every four seconds. They were there to pack specially formulated rice pack meals (rice, soy, veggies and vitamins) on April 5.

**The Holy Apostles team packed 20 boxes of rice pack meals, which will feed 13 children a daily meal for one year, while the efforts of all those packing during their session will feed 76 children for a year. The destination of these meals is not yet known.**

Philoptochos is grateful for the volunteers who participated and looks forward to the next session that will be scheduled for the August Lenten period.

Contact Emily Rehn at [platovalentine@hotmail.com](mailto:platovalentine@hotmail.com) or 708.369.9365 for more details.

## GRADUATE SUNDAY & ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC SUNDAY, JUNE 1

YOU ARE INVITED TO

# Graduate SUNDAY

ARE YOU GRADUATING FROM GRAMMAR SCHOOL, HIGH SCHOOL, COLLEGE, OR GRADUATE/PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL? IF SO, WE WANT TO CELEBRATE YOU! IF YOU OR A FAMILY MEMBER WOULD LIKE TO BE HONORED ON GRADUATE SUNDAY, PLEASE SCAN THE QR CODE BY MAY 25TH.

PLEASE ALSO BRING A FRAMED PHOTO WITH NAME ON BACK BY JUNE 1<sup>ST</sup> TO BE DISPLAYED.

JUNE

SUNDAY **1** AT 9:30 AM

2025

# Church Picnic

Enjoy delicious food, and make memories with loved ones.

**Sunday, June 1, 2025**

Picnic will start after church at 11:30am. We will serve chicken kebabs, burgers, hotdogs, frappes and a variety of delicious desserts & treats!

Questions? Contact Lou at [Office@holyapostleschurch.com](mailto:Office@holyapostleschurch.com)



# HOPE

Humanitarian Outreach & Philanthropic Engagement

## 2025 Project HOPE Senior Visit Initiative Pilsen Community/Chicago



*5th Serve Saturday Bag Packers*



*Bags at Pilsen Facility Ready for Distribution*

**H**oly Apostles parishioners recently spent a morning visiting a low-income senior housing facility in the Pilsen community of Chicago.

**Fifty Project HOPE Bags were filled by 23 parishioners on Saturday, March 29th at our 5th Saturday Serve Day and these bags were then brought to the Pilsen facility for distribution on Friday, April 4th. A team of 10 from Holy Apostles, led by Father George, spent time coloring and interacting with the seniors. Bags and kourambietes were distributed to each senior in attendance. It was a fun and rewarding experience!**

Many thanks to the generous parishioners that anonymously donated all of the funds to purchase the food for the bags. There were sufficient funds to purchase bottled water and snacks for those packing the bags and our 10 member team, as well. Project HOPE is a joint effort between Philoptochos and the Missions ministries. We are planning to repeat this activity in September.

***Thank you to all that supported this effort!***



*Packing in Action*



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF CHICAGO  
ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΣΙΚΑΓΟΥ

Fr. George Dokos  
Esteemed Members of the Parish Council  
Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church  
2501 S. Wolf Road  
Westchester, IL 60154

March 24, 2025

Dear Fr. George & Esteemed Members of the Parish Council,

It brings me joy to inform you that Fr. George Dokos has been approved to take a three (3) month sabbatical from his duties as Proistameno of Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church. This time will provide Fr. George the opportunity to continue his scholarly work of translating a text of St. Nikodemos the Hagiorite into English for the benefit of the Church.

The sabbatical will begin on **Sunday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025** and continue through **Sunday, August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025**. During that time Fr. George is relieved of all liturgical, pastoral, and administrative duties at your parish. These responsibilities will fall to Fr. Nicholas Georgiou for the duration of the sabbatical. Fr. George will continue to receive all regular compensation as usual during his sabbatical.

Should you have any questions about the terms or conditions of Fr. George's sabbatical, please consult your Regional Vicar, Fr. Panagiotis Boznos. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. I remain

With Paternal Love in Christ,

+ NATHANAEL  
Metropolitan of Chicago  
CC: Parish Council President





## HOLY APOSTLES GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

METROPOLIS OF CHICAGO



Beloved Holy Apostles Family,

One of my hobbies is translating. Specifically, translating Greek spiritual texts into English for the benefit of the English-speaking members of the Church. Due to my doctoral studies at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki back in 2004-2006, I was able to translate several books of St. Nikodemos of the Holy Mountain (1749-1809) into English, and about whom I wrote my thesis. I have also been able to translate several shorter works of the Saint over the years, and in 2014 translated a book called *The Watchful Mind*, a text written in 1851 by an anonymous hieromonk of Mount Athos.

I write this to you to let you know a little more about me, but also to express to you that it is nearly impossible to do any substantial translating work with the full-time responsibilities of a large and active parish (not to mention a large and busy family!).

All this being said, with the support of Fr. Nicholas and Fr. Perry, and the unanimous approval of the parish council, I have been granted the blessing from Metropolitan Nathanael to take a sabbatical this summer with the express purpose of 1) translating the book *New Ladder* by St. Nikodemos, to be published by Newrome Press in the series called *Philokalic Library*, 2) taking a four-week synchronous online Byzantine Greek class offered through Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland, and 3) making a pilgrimage with my family to Essex, England to venerate St. Sophrony at the Monastery of St. John the Baptist.

This sabbatical was to have taken place in 2021, but the pandemic prevented that. It was then postponed until 2022, but I was transferred to Holy Apostles, so I lost the opportunity again. I am very grateful to now finally have this opportunity to channel my energy in a new direction for three months and be productive for the good of the Church in a different way.

The Uniform Parish Regulations of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, in Article 17, Section 8.A.9, stipulate: "Each Parish shall be obliged: To provide for a paid sabbatical of three (3) months after six (6) years of continuous service in the same Parish." It is true that I have been here for just over three years, but as stated above, I have been given the blessing, after 23 years of service to the Archdiocese, to reclaim the sabbatical that I was originally going to take in 2021.

Therefore, please contact Fr. Nicholas about any and all matters June 1 through August 31 this summer. I will be dedicating my full attention and time to the things I have mentioned.

I am truly grateful for this opportunity, and I ask for your prayers as I "rest" from the usual responsibilities of parish life in order to work on this project, improve my translating skills, and be spiritually recharged through the writings of St. Nikodemos and the blessing of St. Sophrony.

With love in Christ,

Fr. George

*Save the Date!*

# Holy Apostles Annual Golf Outing

MONDAY, JULY 7

Willow Crest/Oak Brook Hills Resort

*For further information, please contact  
Dennis Poulos at [dnphoop@aol.com](mailto:dnphoop@aol.com)*

*Plan to Join Us!*



## HOLY APOSTLES GROUP OUTING TO



**TUESDAY  
JUNE 17TH, 6:40PM**

CHICAGO WHITE SOX **VS** ST. LOUIS CARDINALS

AT GUARANTEED RATE FIELD

**\$24 PER SEAT IN  
SECTION 109**

**\$20 PARKING SPOT  
IN RED LOT**



EACH TICKET COMES WITH A GREEK NIGHT HAT!

**GROUP TICKET PURCHASE  
DEADLINE ON  
MAY 9th**

**SIGN UP USING THE LINK IN YOUR WEEKLY EMAIL**

**QUESTIONS?  
[PARISHFAMILY@HOLYAPOSTLESCHURCH.COM](mailto:PARISHFAMILY@HOLYAPOSTLESCHURCH.COM)**

**ALL TICKETS WILL BE DELIVERED DIGITALLY AND TICKET HOLDERS WILL USE  
APPLE WALLET OR GOOGLE PAY TO REDEEM TICKETS AT THE STADIUM**

## POISED FOR SUCCESS CLOTHING DRIVE



Philoptochos will be collecting  
new or gently used clothing

**May 10<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>**  
for Poised for Success.

Accepting dresses, blazers, pants, blouses,  
jewelry, handbags, shoes, and  
winter items (coats, scarves, gloves).

All items must be clean, in new condition  
and on hangers.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<b>1</b> 12:00 pm Koukla's Kafenio 4:30 pm Greek School 5:30 pm Greek School PTO Meeting & Elections	<b>2</b> 7:00 pm Small Paraklesis	<b>3</b> 8:30 am Westchester Food Pantry Volunteer Day 5:00 pm Vespers 6:00 pm Vespers Potluck Dinner
Poised for Success Clothing Collection- 5/10 - 5/25						
<b>4 Youth Proclaim Christ Sunday</b> 8:15 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy 11:30 am Fellowship Hr 11:45 am GOYA Board 12:00 pm Spring Parish Assembly	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 6:45 am Brotherhood of St Peter the Apostle 4:30 pm Greek School 6:15 pm JOY 7:00 pm Philoptochos Board Meeting	<b>7</b> 7:00 pm Jr. GOYA	<b>8</b> 1:00 pm Bible Study 4:30 pm Greek School 6:15 pm Neolea Dance Troupe 7:00 pm Women's Book Club	<b>9</b>	<b>10 Poised for Success Clothing Collection Starts</b> 10:30 am Greek School Field Trip (Grades 3-6) 5:00 pm Vespers 7:00 pm Bingo Night
<b>11</b> 8:15 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy 11:30 am Fellowship Hour	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 1:00 pm Caregivers Support Meeting 4:30 pm Greek School 6:30 pm GOYA & Jr. GOYA Greek Night BBQ	<b>14 Mid Pentecost</b> 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am TOTS Party at the Park 7:00 pm ECM Team Meeting (Philoptochos Room)	<b>15</b> 1:00 pm Bible Study 4:30 pm Greek School 6:15 pm Neolea Dance Troupe 7:30 pm Parish Council Meeting	<b>16</b> 7:00 pm Small Paraklesis	<b>17</b> 9:00 am Spring Planting 10:00 am ECM Summit 5:00 pm Vespers
<b>18</b> 8:15 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy 11:30 am Fellowship Hour	<b>19</b> 7:00 pm Parish Council Fundraising Seminar	<b>20</b> 6:45 am Brotherhood of St Peter the Apostle 4:30 pm Greek School Graduation 6:30 pm Philoptochos General Meeting & Election	<b>21 Feast Day of Sts Constantine &amp; Helen</b> 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 1:00 pm Bereavement Group	<b>22</b> 1:00 pm Bible Study 4:30 pm Greek School Family Fun Day Picnic	<b>23</b>	<b>24 Jr Olympics</b> 5:00 pm Vespers
<b>25 Poised for Success Clothing Collection Ends</b> 8:15 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy 11:30 am Fellowship Hour	<b>26</b> Office Closed - Memorial Day	<b>27 Leave Taking of Pascha</b> 5:00 pm Orthros 6:00 pm Divine Liturgy 7:00 pm Meal & Fellowship	<b>28</b> 7:00 pm Parish Family Ministry meeting	<b>29 Ascension</b> 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 1:00 pm Bible Study 6:15 pm Neolea Dance Troupe	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 10:00 am 5th Saturday Serve Day 5:00 pm Vespers

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

Address Service Requested

POSTMASTER: Please deliver by the 15th of May

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BELLWOOD, IL  
PERMIT #157

Sacraments listed are those known at time of publication

## MEMORIALS

### APRIL

Anastasios Kalliris  
Ekaterina Kalliris  
Konstadinos Pavlakos

### MAY

Fr. William Chiganos  
Don Alexander  
Athanasios Barouhos  
Jerry Devaris  
Michael Hamalis  
Thomas Manolis  
Demitra Manolis  
Angeline Zekios

## FUNERALS

Peter Kates  
Pamela Kokenis

## BAPTISMS

Isabella, daughter of Priscilla Papadatos & Christian Vasquez  
*Sponsor: Danny Papadatos*

Adelphia, daughter of Anthos Baenen & Kayla Coggins  
*Sponsor: Nikola Kasanin*

Paul, son of James & Sophia Biesanz  
*Sponsors: Phillip Lorio, Megan Lorio, Anastasia Miranda*

Leonidas, son of Evan & Jessica Chakonas  
*Sponsors: Steve & Toni Milak*

Melina, daughter of Jordan & Alexis Myers  
*Sponsor: Vanessa Kladis*

## CHRISMATION

Juan Garcia-Nambo  
*Sponsors: Steve & Toni Milak*

## WEDDINGS

John Fiflis & Jessica Hawken  
*Sponsor: Steve Fiflis*

Peyton Cocanougher & Lucy Kuchevar  
*Sponsor: Melina Reiter*