



from Fr. George

### "Sanctify Those ..."

"Sanctify Those Who Love the Beauty of Your House"

~ Divine Liturgy

**T**owards the end of the celebration of the Divine Liturgy, the Priest reads the following prayer on behalf of those present in the Church that morning:

*"Lord, bless those who praise You and sanctify those who trust in You. Save Your people and bless Your inheritance. Protect the whole body of Your Church. Sanctify those who love the beauty of Your house. Glorify them in return by Your divine power."*

The Church in which we gather as the Body of Christ is the temple of God, His Holy House. And the Lord sanctifies – He makes holy – those who enter His House "with faith, reverence, and the fear of God."

**It cannot be stressed enough that everyone, from infants to the elderly, receives sanctification and the grace of God in a unique and special way when they are worshipping in God's House.**

We can never forget just how greatly we Orthodox Christians are blessed, for the God Who said, "Heaven is My throne, and the earth is My footstool. What kind of a house will you build Me? And of what kind

(continued, pg. 3)

## KOUKLA'S KAFENIO



**W**e celebrated our seniors on May 1 at Koukla's Kafenio with a wonderful lunch catered by Greek Islands, music by our own Holy Apostles harpist, Marika Dokos and Grecian Formula – and of course, Greek dancing!

Thanks to Cathy Magas and Aleka Mandelaris for hosting/organizing this wonderful event and all the volunteers for making this such a special time for our Pillars & Rocks!



**PILLARS + ROCKS**

(continued, page 4)



# VOLUNTEER DAY AT WESTCHESTER FOOD PANTRY!



## *Philoptochos Thanks You!*

It is with heartfelt appreciation that our Philoptochos chapter extends its most sincere thanks for your support! Without the steadfast support of the Holy Apostles' community, we simply could not fulfill our mission to help those in need. Your assistance has been wide-ranging and amazing!

**From your generous monetary contributions, your multiple volunteer hours, your enthusiastic support of the fashion show, collections and programs, YOU make it possible for our chapter to help ease the pain of those in need.**

Working as a team, Philoptochos and our wonderful Holy Apostles' community were able to support several communities and organizations through financial support, contributions of goods and participation in special events. These are some of those that we helped this year.

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| • CrossRoad Institute                         | • Metropolitan Family Services          | • Stuffed Love   |
| • Easterseals DuPage & Fox Valley             | • Holiday Shoppe                        | • Fanari Camp  |
| • Blankets of Love                            | • Orthodox Christian Fellowship         | • Philoxenia House                                     |
| • DuPage People's Resource Center             | • Poised for Success                    | • Greek Orthodox Archdiocese for Hurricane Relief      |
| • DuPagePads                                  | • Project HOPE                          | • St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Cathedral Fire Relief Fund |
| • Feed My Starving Children                   | • St. Basil's Academy                   | • Thumbuddy Special                                    |
| • Heritage Middle Schools/Operation Classroom | • STARS Family Services                 | • Honor Flight Chicago                                 |
| • Westchester Food Pantry                     | • Walk For Wellness House               |  |
| • Hillside Food Pantry                        | • Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans |  |



### SAVE THE DATE! FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN - 8/9

Holy Apostles parishioners are invited to join Philoptochos for a **Lenten service project on Saturday, August 9, at Feed My Starving Children In Aurora from 9-10:45 am.** We will pack specially formulated meals that will be sent to children in need around the world. In addition to packing the meals there are also seated jobs attaching labels to food bags. Please contact Emily Rehn at [platovalentine@hotmail.com](mailto:platovalentine@hotmail.com) or 708-369-9365 to volunteer or ask questions.

**"Sanctify Those ..."** *(continued)*

is to be the place of My rest?" (*Isaiah 66:1*), has condescended to dwell among us in His Holy Church, the House of God. There the Immortal comes to the mortal, the Heavenly to the earthly, to hold converse and communion with us, His children.

**Not only do we receive sanctification, grace, visitation, and divine power when gathering together in Church, but we also receive protection against Satan and his demons.**

St. Ignatius of Antioch, writing at the turn of the first century AD, constantly told his flock: "Be diligent therefore and make sure to meet together frequently to offer the Eucharist to God and for His glory. For when you meet together frequently, the powers of Satan are cast down; and his mischief comes to nothing in the unity of your faith."

On the other hand, however, those who do not go to Church are deprived of any spiritual weaponry and of any spiritual defense against the enemy. **Since spiritual strength derives from participation in the liturgical and sacramental life of the Church, absent Christians are weakened by not going to Church.**

The devil therefore gains a great advantage over such people, and they become even more susceptible to his attacks. Worse yet, those who separate themselves from the Church and Her gatherings prefigure the great separation that will take place by the Lord at His Second Coming, when the sheep are placed at His right, and the goats at His left.

Speaking to those who voluntarily absent themselves from Church, St. Nikodemos says, "The willful separation which you do now from the Church is a prefigurement of that separation which you will receive then."

For all these reasons then, and for many more which I have not touched on, we should always be anxious and desirous to go to Church.

According to the Holy Fathers of our faith, **the Church is Heaven on earth, a beautiful city, a celebration, Paradise, a fortress, the Ark of Salvation, and salvation itself.**

The Church is our Mother from whom we received new spiritual life in Baptism and by whom we are constantly nurtured and nourished through the Holy Mysteries and divine teachings.

In Psalm 84, the Psalmist cries out: "How lovely is Your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts! My soul longs, yea, faints for the courts of the Lord. Blessed are those who dwell in Your house, ever singing Your praise! A day in Your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere."

If King David longed to worship God so much in the old Temple under the Old Covenant, how much more should we Christians, who are under the New Covenant of Jesus Christ's blood, desire to gather together as the Body of Christ?

Remember these things, brothers and sisters, as the days of summer approach. It is easy to forget about God and His House with vacations and summer projects and so many other distractions. But I imagine we will continue to eat and drink to sustain our bodies, or go to the doctor when we are sick, etc.

So please **let us not forget about our soul which needs its own spiritual food and drink to survive and maintain its health.** Church is a great joy and necessary for the continuance of our life in Christ – even in the summer.

Wishing you a wonderful and productive summer, I leave you with these inspiring words of St. Nikodemos the Hagiorite: "If you run with desire to the earthly courts of the Lord, you will blossom there above in the heavenly courts of God."

"And if you frequent the earthly temple of God and worship Him with fear and devotion, know that God will make you a pillar in His heavenly temple, and you shall never leave there unto the ages: 'He who conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God and never shall he go out of it' (Rev. 3:12)"

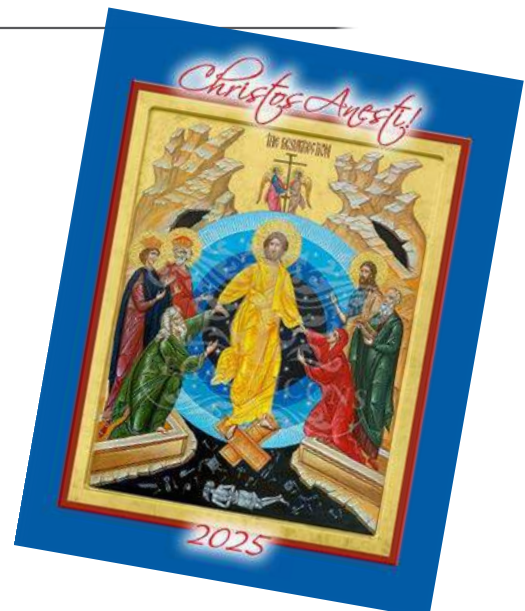
With love in Christ,

+ Fr. George

*Pascha!*

Remember Holy Week 2025 with our Holy Apostles online photo album ... 100 pages of beautiful photos taken by Toni Milak and Peter Bell.

View full photo album at <https://online.fliphtml5.com/ltkj/kzru/> or scan QR code ►





## KOUKLA'S KAFENIO







## FEED THE HUNGRY



On Tuesday, May 13 our Philoptochos volunteers made 120 sack lunches to "Feed the Hungry" at Annunciation Cathedral.

Anne Theophilos, Cynthia Stathopoulos & Fr. George went to Annunciation to hand out the lunches to the homeless. Philoptochos is committed to this initiative 2-3 times a year.

**JOIN US IN OCTOBER:** We will prepare sack lunches in the multi-purpose room on Monday, October 6, time TBD. Meals will be driven to Annunciation Cathedral on Tuesday, October 7 at 11:15 a.m. To join us, please contact Anne Theopolis at [annetheophilos@aol.com](mailto:annetheophilos@aol.com).

**NEXT  
FEED THE HUNGRY DAY:  
10/6 AND 10/7**



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

## THE HOLY APOSTLES CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP



### SUMMER BREAK

We will not be meeting in June,  
July and August.

**Please Join Us on Tuesday, Sept. 9 | 1 PM | Philoptochos Room  
For Discussion & Coffee**

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.



## PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

### HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MAY 2025 PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

PC SECRETARY: PATTY PAPPAS | EDITED BY: VAL DRANIAS

Call to Order: Jim Maragos. Opening Prayer: Father George. Recite Mission Statement

**Approval of Minutes:** Steve Milak. Motion (Steve, Sandy): To approve the minutes from the April Parish Council meeting. PASSED

**Correspondence:** Jim Maragos

Thank you note from Eleni Geanon for the Holy Week bonus. Received statement from Vanessa's Clohessy's firm indicating she is not billing for services. Athenian foods soliciting for business.

**Ecclesiastical Report:** Father George. Fr. George shared a Pastristix film on the Ascension: The Ascension Icon.

### Ministries

**Finance:** George Antonopoulos – prior written report. George A. read out the April Financial Report, focusing on cash balances in capital and operating categories. Jim M. shared that the Holy Week totals came in at \$35k. Lou clarified that the amount is net of the amounts donated to IOCC and HCHC. George shared that he is working on the Allocation Report and that the church will file for a 1-week extension to work out some open questions.

**Stewardship:** Sandy Pihos - prior written report. Sandy P. read out the stewardship report. Shared that we are slightly below where we'd want to be, but tracking close year over year.

**Building & Grounds:** Chris Pepke. No report for this meeting.

**Ushering:** Ted Dres - Holy Week Review and Father Nicholas. Ted D. shared that in his opinion Holy Week ushering operations went smoothly. Fr. Nicholas credited Dr. Bell with the sheets he prepared to organize the Parish Council. Fr. Nicholas emphasized going back by the altar to check-in with the priests to see if there are any last-minute changes. Sandy P. emphasized that the UIC must read the playbooks ahead of time and to be sure to check-in with the priest as Fr. Nicholas mentioned. Other pain points and positive affirmations were discussed.

### Old Business

**Church Picnic Sunday June 1:** Sandy Pihos. Sandy P. reported that the picnic is very well organized. The food will be served from inside the building this year. Rationale is a more streamlined and better quality food experience. It was reported that many didn't realize the picnic was June 1st this year; to mitigate advertising was done via the bulletin and other channels. Fr. George asked for clarification on the flow from the end of liturgy until the start of the picnic, noting it is also graduate Sunday. Sandy will touch base with Mike to coordinate logistics and inform Fr. George how things will flow.

**Front office Associate position:** Sandy Pihos. Sandy P. reported that the committee has interviewed four people. No candidate has been found. The committee is working on modifying their approach to improve the pipeline of candidates.

**Lemus Janitorial Contract:** Jim Maragos/Lou Kafkes. Previous motion on 1/16/25 was to negotiate a new contract with a 6% raise for this year and 3% thereafter. Lou reported that the contract is ready for execution and not another review. Lots of discussion ensued on whether, based on the motion from the previous meeting, the contract could be executed or whether it would need to be approved. The motion from the January meeting was read indicating it was for a "negotiated" contract. Based on this, it seemed well to the council that the contract could move forward.

**Greek School contracts:** Nicole Ostendorf. Zoe is working on collecting the new contracts of the teachers.

**Youth Worker Training report:** Father George. Shared that there were 3 individuals that were non-compliant. Two are working towards compliance, one individual is unknown. Two people from the youth workers that have not registered; Lou is working on informing them of the requirement. Eight others will soon fall out of compliance due to hitting the 1 year expiration.

**Cemetery plots:** Sandy Pihos. Sandy shared the submitted cemetery report. Sandy shared that it appears new interest is being generated in purchasing the remaining plots.

### New Business

**IOCC May 8 Dinner report:** Jim Maragos. 10 people attended

**May 18: Father Ted Poteres Retirement Dinner** - 16 parishioners are planning to attend.

**Fanari Camp donation:** Sandy Pihos. MOTION (Sandy, Val): To donate \$500 and directly purchase items needed by Fanari Camp

from their Amazon Wish List to facilitate their activities. Thank you to Sandy Pihos for both coffee hours planning and all for helping and to Alexa for the brochure and Power Point for the Assembly

**Mission Team Chicago.** MOTION (Dr. Bell, Sandy): To donate \$320 to buy a table for the Mission Team Chicago dinner.

**Next Regular Meeting:** June 19, 2025 @ 7:30pm

**Key Dates:** Sunday May 18 — Fr. Poteres Retirement dinner; Monday May 19 — Foundation /Stewardship presentation by Dave McGowan 7 PM; Tuesday May 20 — Greek School Graduation 4:30 PM; Saturday May 24 — Jr. Olympics at Sts. Constantine and Helen; Tuesday May 27 — Apodosis Men's Club dinner for Parish following evening services; Sunday June 1 — Graduate Sunday/Church Picnic; Saturday June 14 — 5K Run and Walk; Monday June 9 -Friday June 13 — Vacation Bible School; Sunday June 29 — Church Name Day vespers; Monday June 30 — Church Name Day; Monday July 7 — Church Golf Outing Willow Crest golf club at the Oakbrook Hills Hilton

**Closing Prayer:** Father Nicholas. Adjournment

## Feast Days of the Holy Apostles

**Sunday, June 29:** Great Vesper Service: 7:00 PM followed by reception in Multipurpose Room

**Monday, June 30:** Divine Liturgy: 9:00 AM followed by Fellowship Coffee Hour



Holy Apostles Parish will commemorate the Feast Day of the Holy Apostles beginning with a Great Vesper Service on Sunday, June 29 at 7:00 PM. We are looking forward to hearing who will be delivering an inspirational homily that evening, followed by a reception in the Multipurpose Room.

On Monday morning, June 30, at 9:00 AM we will gather and celebrate the Divine Liturgy and honor those Apostles, who like us, were given gifts by the Lord and who worked together, to live their faith and share their blessings. This service will be followed by a Fellowship Coffee Hour.

Artoclasias will honor our Holy Apostles at both services. The blessing of the five loaves is reminiscent of the five loaves that Jesus blessed in the desert and by which five thousand were fed. We look forward to gathering as a Holy Apostles Family to revere this special occasion.

## THE PRIEST'S BLESSING

**Did you know that when we greet a priest, we meet Christ?** When approaching a priest, we are not merely interacting with a man. We are engaging with Christ Himself.

This is why we ask for the priest's blessing and do not simply shake hands and say "Hi". **A priest is ordained to make Christ present in a unique way.** Through the grace of God, a priest receives the power of the Holy Spirit to celebrate the services and the Holy Sacraments of the Church, which only he can do.

When the priest celebrates a Liturgy, it is Christ celebrating. When the priest administers a sacrament, Christ acts through him.

**When a priest blesses us, he forms with his fingers the Greek letters IC XC,** which are the first and last letters of the Greek words Ιησους Χριστος ("Iesous Christos") — Jesus Christ.

**This symbolic gesture signifies that it is Christ Himself who blesses us.** Therefore, we approach the priest and receive his blessing with reverence.

**To ask for a blessing, we either place our open right hand into our open left hand or only offer our open right hand and say, "Father bless" to a priest and "Master bless" to a bishop or "Your blessings" (in Greek: Την ευχη σας).**

**The priest or bishop will make the Sign of the Cross and place his hand in ours.** We then kiss his hand. We put our right hand in our left because it symbolizes Christ's victory over evil. We offer our open hand as a sign of respect and to communicate our willingness to receive the grace of God







## *Save the Date*

You're invited to an unforgettable  
day of fashion, fun and fellowship.

# **EMPOWERED ELEGANCE**

*A Celebration of Women*

Holy Apostles  
Philoptochos Society

Annual Fashion Show & Luncheon

**Saturday, October 18, 2025**  
11am

Drury Lane, Oakbrook Terrace

Chairwoman: Katherine Karvelas

Proceeds to Benefit:  
Hippocratic Cancer Research Foundation,  
FAITH Endowment, and  
other Philoptochos endeavors

*Let's celebrate the women  
who inspire us all.  
Can't wait to see you!*



# Holy Apostles Annual Golf Outing

## MONDAY, JULY 7

Willow Crest Golf Club | Hilton Chicago Oak Brook Hills Resort  
Oak Brook, IL

Bag Drop and Lunch begins at 11 AM

Shot Gun Start at 12:30 PM - Scramble Format for Team Play

### Registration

Adult Golf and Dinner .....\$175

Youth Golf and Dinner (must be under 21) ....\$100

Dinner Only (all ages) .....\$80

Golf and dinner fees include lunch, 18 holes of golf (scramble format), complimentary Outing Gifts including a sleeve of balls, buffet dinner, raffle prizes and more!

Name of Golfer 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Golfer 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Golfer 3: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Golfer 4: \_\_\_\_\_



### Sponsorships

#### SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

Proceeds from this event will help fund the many needs of our church's ministries. We appreciate your support in helping make this annual event a success.

**Platinum Sponsor** **\$2,500**

Includes a full golf package for four, plus a large banner displayed at the reception area during lunch and at the bar before and during dinner.

**Gold Sponsor** **\$1,150**

Includes full golf package for four, plus an Exclusive Hole Sponsorship (a \$1,250 value).

**Exclusive Hole Sponsor** **\$550**

**Hole-in-one Sponsor** **\$250**

**Hole Sponsor** **\$175**

**YES! Sign me up as a sponsor:**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**e-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Sponsorship Level:** \_\_\_\_\_

### Payment Options

**Payment by Credit Card** for registration, dinner or sponsorships (Click on link or scan QR Code):

<https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZMDZ/home>

**Payment by Check:** Checks will be accepted at the golf course or the church office. All checks should be made payable to Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church.

**Sponsorship Questions:** Contact Dennis Poulos at [dnp hoop@aol.com](mailto:dnp hoop@aol.com) / 630.802.7600 or Peter Poteres at [ppoteres@hotmail.com](mailto:ppoteres@hotmail.com) / 630-334-4040.

**Registration Questions:** Contact Dennis Poulos at [dnp hoop@aol.com](mailto:dnp hoop@aol.com) / 630.802.7600 or John Anos at [johnanos@comcast.net](mailto:johnanos@comcast.net) / 847.702.1111.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Graduate Sunday / Church Picnic 8:15 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy 11:30 am Church Picnic	3 7:00 pm Philoptochos Board Meeting 7:30 pm League of Chanters Practice	3 7:00 pm Philoptochos Board Meeting 7:30 pm League of Chanters Practice	4 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	5 6:15 pm Neolea Dance Troupe	6	7 Saturday of Souls 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy
8 Pentecost 8:15 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy 11:30 am Fellowship Hour	9 Feast Day of the Holy Spirit 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 9:00 am Vacation Bible School	10 9:00 am Vacation Bible School	11 9:00 am Vacation Bible School	12 9:00 am Vacation Bible School	13 9:00 am Vacation Bible School 12:00 pm Vacation Bible School Carnival	14 8:30 am Holy Apostles 5K Run & Walk
15 8:15 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy 11:30 am Fellowship Hour	16	17 6:30 pm White Sox Greek Heritage Night vs St Louis Cardinals	18	19 6:15 pm Neolea Dance Troupe 7:30 pm Parish Council Meeting	20	21
22 8:15 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy 11:30 am Fellowship Hour	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 Holy Apostles Feast Day Celebration 8:15 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy 11:30 am Fellowship Hour 7:00 pm Great Vespers for Holy Apostles Name Day	30 Holy Apostles Feast Day Celebration Feast Day of Synaxis of Twelve Apostles 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy					



## Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church

## JULY 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3		4 Office Closed - Independence Day	5
<b>6</b> 8:15 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy 11:30 am Fellowship Hour	<b>7 Feast Day of St Kyriaki</b> 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 11:00 am Golf Outing	8	9	10	11	<b>12 Feast Day of St Paisios</b> 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy
<b>13</b> 8:15 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy 11:30 am Fellowship Hour	<b>14</b>	15	16	17 7:30 pm Parish Council Meeting	18	19
<b>20 Feast Day of Prophet Elias</b> 8:15 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy 11:30 am Fellowship Hour	<b>21</b>	22	23	24	25	<b>26 Feast Day of St Paraskevi</b> 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy
<b>27 Feast Day of St. Panteleimon</b> 8:15 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy 11:30 am Fellowship Hour	<b>28</b>	29	30	31		

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

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Sacraments listed are those known at time of publication

## MEMORIALS

### MAY

Maria Kolimbiris  
Sofia & Giorgos Barouhos  
Zacharias, Ekaterina and  
Konstandinos Meintanis  
George Alex  
Katina Fotopoulos  
John & Pat Gramas  
Peter & Fotini Gramatikakis  
William & Evthoxia Bellas

### JUNE

Kay Bobis  
Despina Patos  
Peter Patos  
Petros Patos  
Jennie Snoply

## FUNERALS

Kay Bobis  
Jennie Snoply  
John Kritikos  
Phyllis Karkazis

## BAPTISMS

Molly, daughter of Michael & Clare Fikaris  
*Sponsor: George Alex*

Henry, son of Quinn & Maria Revak  
*Sponsor: Michael Fikaris*

## WEDDINGS

Bryan Carlat & Maria Avgerinos

Justin Knobloch & Lia Benes

Thomas Olson & Evangeline Makris

Nicholas Calzante & Jessica Janowiak



## VIDEO: The Pentacost Icon

This video explains the elements of the Pentacost Icon and the meaning behind each element.

YouTube: <https://youtu.be/hYGHZJq5hKQ>

