



from Fr. George

More Than A Coincidence

"The Church strikes up a festival, skipping with joy on the Savior's sublime Resurrection and chanting of George the trophy-bearer's present translation to heaven, for the two good things are come together."

~ Orthros, Feast of St. George

The Feast of Holy Pascha and the celebration of St. George the Great Martyr go hand in hand. One might think this is because April 23 (St. George's Feast Day) is always near Pascha, and therefore it is a matter of coincidence.

Well, there is certainly something to be said about the nearness of the two festive occasions, but the truth of the matter goes deeper.

Consider the fact that if April 23 happens to fall during Great Lent or Holy Week, St. George's celebration is transferred to Bright Monday, the day after Pascha. Why would the Church do this? (If you are thinking it is because St. George is so popular, that's not it). And why do so many of the hymns for St. George have Paschal overtones?

As a Martyr of Christ (indeed, a Great Martyr who endured horrific and inhumane tortures and sufferings), St. George embodies in himself the life of Christ, "bearing on his body the marks of Jesus," as St. Paul writes (Galatians 6:17).

(continued, pg. 3)

Christ the Bridegroom

Why is it that Christ is called the Bridegroom but is not married?

In Sacred Scripture, Christ is described as "Bridegroom" though He is not married to a woman.

Christ is "betrothed" to the Church, who is described as "bride, the wife of the Lamb" (Revelation 21:10). "This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church" (Ephesians 5:32).

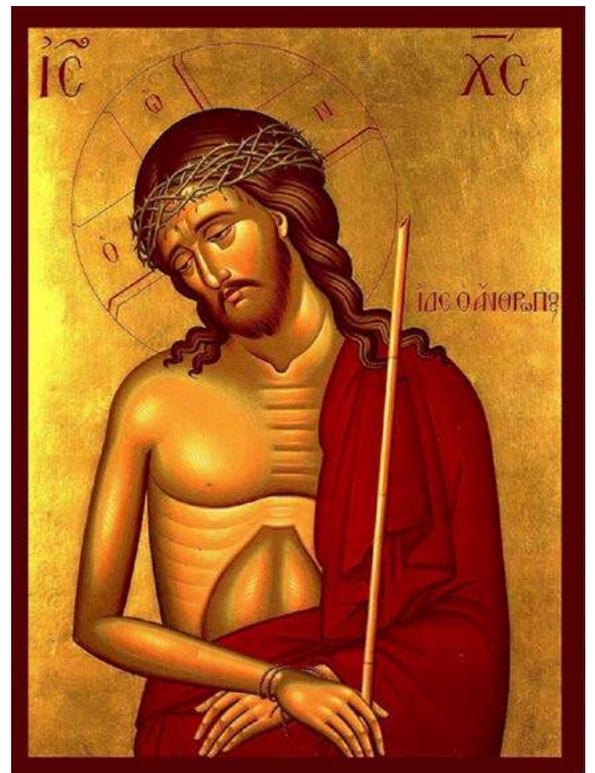
Christ the Bridegroom will not marry His Bride, the Church, until after the end of the age. This is why heaven is described as a "wedding banquet" (Matthew 22:2) and "the marriage of the Lamb" (Revelation 19:7).

In the meantime, the Church is called to repent, mourn, fast, and prepare herself for Christ and the future wedding feast in heaven.

"The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast" (Matthew 9:15).

The necessity for the Church to prepare herself for her wedding day (the Last Judgement) and to remain watchful for Christ the Bridegroom is described in the parable of the Ten Virgins (Matthew 25:1-13).

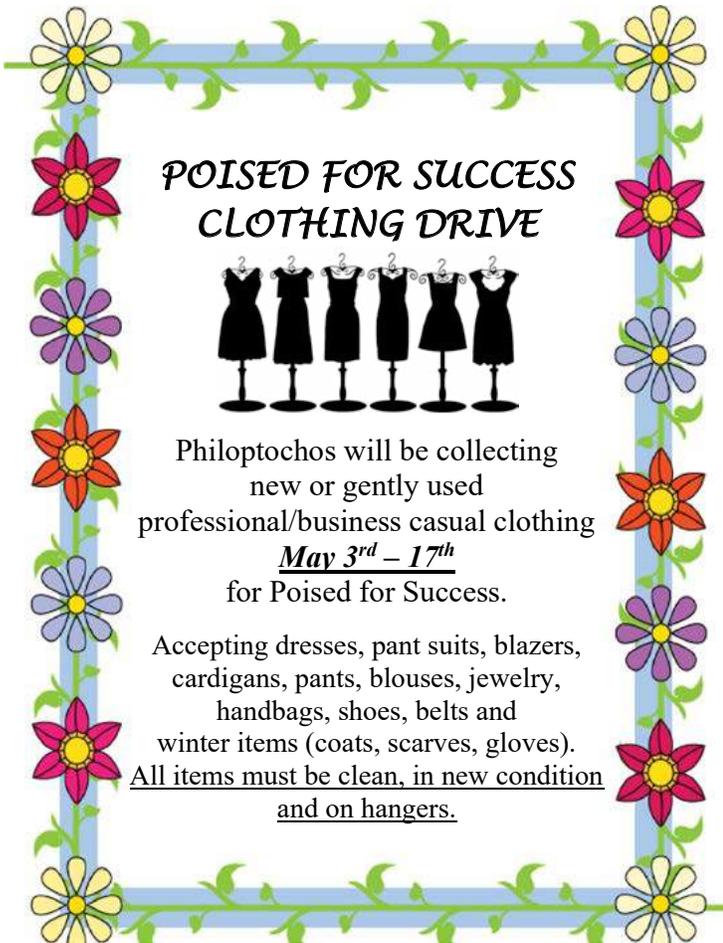
The Bridegroom comes unexpectedly in the middle of the night. The five wise virgins that had enough oil for their lamps



entered the wedding banquet, and the five foolish virgins that did not were left out (Matthew 25:10). This story is retold liturgically through the Bridegroom Matins service, which is celebrated during Holy Week.

On Palm Sunday evening (Holy Monday), the "Christ the Bridegroom" icon (Greek: Ο Νυμφίος) is placed in the center of the solea of the church until Holy Wednesday.





**POISED FOR SUCCESS
CLOTHING DRIVE**



Philoptochos will be collecting new or gently used professional/business casual clothing **May 3rd – 17th** for Poised for Success.

Accepting dresses, pant suits, blazers, cardigans, pants, blouses, jewelry, handbags, shoes, belts and winter items (coats, scarves, gloves). All items must be clean, in new condition and on hangers.



**EASTER
LAMBATHES
SALE**

Purchase your decorated Easter Lambathes after Sunday liturgies 3/15 thru 4/5 and following Holy Unction services on Holy Wednesday, April 8th

Candles are \$15 each and make beautiful gifts for children/godchildren

Cash - check - online
www.tinyurl.com/haphilo2501



If you have any questions or would like to decorate or sell candles, please contact
Angela Karras Neboyskey
at arkarras@gmail.com
or (773) 719-2619



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 FOR
DISCUSSION & COFFEE!**

**Tuesday, April 14
1 PM - Philoptochos Room**

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.

JOIN US FOR OUR
**34TH ANNUAL IOCC
CHICAGO GRAND BANQUET**

Thursday, May 7, 2026

Cocktails 6:00 pm | Dinner 7:00 pm

EMPRESS BANQUETS

200 E Lake Street, Addison, IL 60101

Please join us for an amazing evening of fellowship and learn how your generosity helps those in need in places like Greece, the Holy Land, Ukraine, and right here in the US. Please consider contributing to IOCC by becoming an IOCC Banquet Benefactor, Sponsor, Patron, or Friend.

\$125 per person | \$1,250 per table
RSVP by Friday, April 24



Register at iocc.org/Chicago



The fair market value (FMV) for each ticket is \$70. Only the portion of the payment that exceeds the FMV is deductible as a charitable contribution.

More Than A Coincidence *(continued)*

Since we will be shortly experiencing the Passion of our Lord during Holy Week, the connection is made between Christ and His holy Martyr George, who gladly subjected himself to seven years' worth of vicious and excruciating ordeals on account of his burning love for his Savior ... who underwent so much more for the salvation of the human race.

So what exactly did St. George experience? Here are just some of the trials he was put through for being a steadfast Christian: he was stretched out on a rack, lacerated and ripped with knives and flesh-hooks while being spun around on a wheel, he had molten lead poured down his throat, a red hot iron helmet was pressed onto his head, he was buried alive in caustic lime, driven through with nails, hacked into pieces, had his head smashed with a heavy hammer, and on and on, until he was finally decapitated in the year 303 AD on April 23.

During all of this, he not only suffered like Christ, but evangelized and worked miracles like Christ. He brought more than 1,000 people to the Faith, including the wicked emperor Diocletian's wife, St. Alexandra (commemorated on April 21). He healed the sick, destroyed idols by his prayers, drank poisons without being harmed, and raised people from the dead.

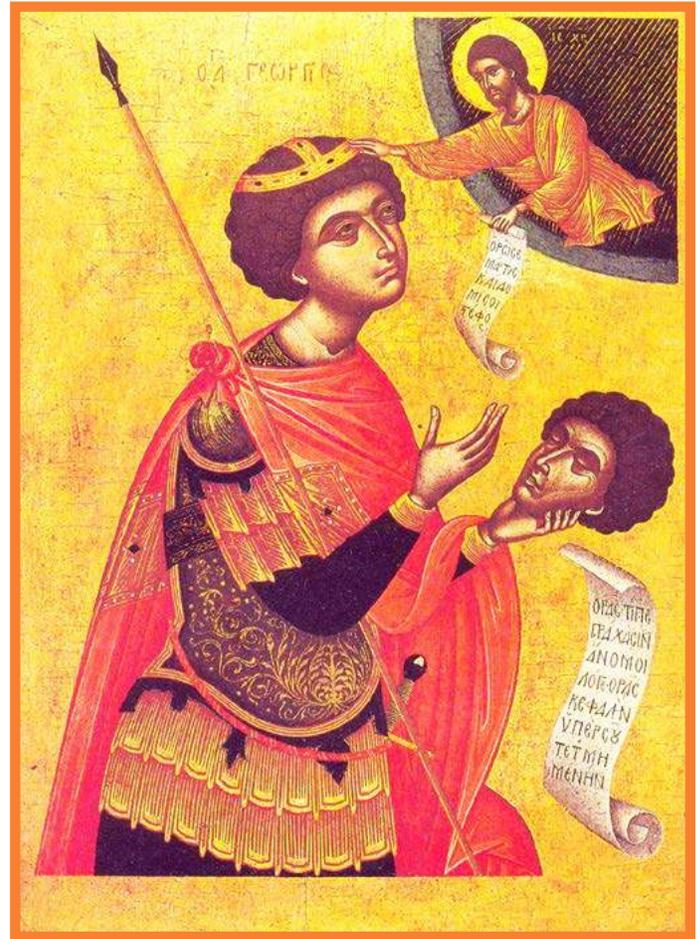
So far, we have seen how St. George imitated Christ in his sufferings, miracles, and preaching, but what about the Resurrection?

In the Life of St. George, we read that he actually died three times, God having raised him from the dead after the first two deaths.

Such is the power of God and such was the faith of His Great Martyr, who could endure such things exactly because of his absolutely firm and adamant faith in the Resurrection of our Lord, the Conqueror of death.

No matter what torment was set before him, no matter what torture device was waved in his face, he knew the Lord had destroyed Hades and death, and so there was nothing to fear (George knew the Gospel and Christ's words which said, *"Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear God Who can destroy both soul and body in hell"* [Matthew 10:28]).

With the hope of the Resurrection living within his soul, the dark and bitter winter of torture and death he was suffering on the outside could not overcome or compare to the bright and refreshing spiritual spring of the love of Christ which he was experiencing inside.



When confronted with the final (but temporary) putting off of his body, he would sing with the Apostle, *"Death is swallowed up in victory. O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory? Thanks be to God, Who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ, Who is risen from the dead"* (1 Corinthians 15:54-57).

"Come, you lovers of the Martyrs, let us offer a melodious hymn unto Christ, Who is risen from the tomb. For the spiritual flowers are in full bloom today, as the spiritual springtime is come upon us, even the universal memorial of the wise Great Martyr George; and in calling to mind his wounds, we gain fountains of healings. Let us now entreat him to intercede continually with Christ the Savior, that peace be granted to the world and great mercy to our souls" (Vespers, Feast of St. George).

With love in our Resurrected Lord, the Vanquisher of death,
+Fr. George

Save The Date!

Holy Apostles Spring Parish Assembly
Sunday, May 3, 2026
after the Divine Liturgy and Coffee Hour



PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FEBRUARY 2026 PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

PC SECRETARY: PATTY PAPPAS EDITED BY: VAL DRANIAS

The meeting was called to order by President James Maragos at 7:35 PM. The opening prayer was offered by Father George Dokos. The Mission Statement was read aloud by James Maragos:

“The mission of the Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church is to proclaim and live our Orthodox faith as One Church and One Body of Christ through worship, ministries, education, and youth guidance. For we walk by faith, not by sight (II Corinthians 5:7).”

A motion to approve the January 15, 2026 Parish Council Meeting Minutes was made by Bill Leider and seconded by Sandra Pihos. Motion carried unanimously.

Correspondence – Report by Patty Pappas

A thank you card was sent to Peter and Eleni Poteres for their donation of a 100 lb industrial ice maker, given in memory of Peter’s parents. A thank you card was received from Choir Director Nick Paloumpis for the Christmas gift. A thank you card was received from Greek School teacher Stacy Kinnas for the Christmas gift. A billings summary was received from Hodges Loizzi for pro bono legal services provided by attorney Vanessa Clohessy in December 2025. A thank you letter dated 12/31/25 was received from Hellenic College/Holy Cross acknowledging the church’s donation of \$1,547.00.

A thank you letter dated 1/12/26 was received from International Orthodox Christian Charities acknowledging the church’s donation of \$1,642.00. A thank you letter dated 1/15/26 was received from the St. Iakovos Retreat Center acknowledging the church’s donation of \$5,000.00. A thank you letter dated 1/20/26 was received from Dr. Demetrios Katos of Hellenic College/Holy Cross acknowledging the church’s donation. A letter dated 2/26 was received from Hellenic College/Holy Cross requesting a Lenten gift to support the institution.

Ecclesiastical Report – Father George Dokos

Father George presented a Patristix video regarding fasting in the Christian world. A brief group discussion followed.

Ministry Reports

Financial – Report by Lou Kafkes

- As of January 31, 2026 the combined capital and operating account balances equal approximately \$1.63 million, about \$200,000 higher than at the end of January 2025.
- Capital account revenue for January 2026 totaled \$12,799 with no capital expenses recorded during the month.
- The operating account recorded approximately \$234,000 in revenue for January, representing an increase of about \$11,000 compared to January of the prior year, primarily driven by higher stewardship contributions.
- Operating expenses for January totaled \$118,944, approximately \$6,000 higher than the same period last year, representing roughly a 5% increase.
- The 2026 budget has not yet been fully loaded into QuickBooks. It will be layered in at the end of the first quarter to evaluate performance against the budget.
- Finance reports for December and January will be finalized as part of the year-end review with Weiss & Company. Minor adjustments may occur as transactions are reclassified for reporting accuracy.
- Clarification was provided regarding the use of capital versus operating funds. Capital funds should be used for long-term improvements and major projects, such as building systems, while routine maintenance expenses remain in the operating account.

Stewardship – Report by Steven Milak

Stewardship pledges for 2026 total approximately \$590,000 to date. A significant percentage of pledges remain at or below the \$700-\$800 range, with approximately 60% of stewards pledging \$700 or less. The Fundraising Committee discussed developing an educational campaign regarding parish finances and stewardship participation. Materials will be developed for the website and printed distribution. Monthly educational articles may also appear in the Mosaic newsletter. It was noted that a 2% giving minimum, based on the average household income in Westchester, Illinois (\$122,769), would amount to approximately \$2,455 annually per household. Achieving this level of stewardship would significantly address both current operating needs and long-term capital requirements.

Stewardship Metrics

METRIC	2025 TOTAL	2024 TOTAL	% CHANGE
# of pledges	702	718	-2%
Total pledged	\$930,781	\$914,317	2%
Amount collected	\$923,467	\$903,267	2%
Median pledge	\$600	\$600	0%
Average pledge	\$1,326	\$1,273	4%

Building & Grounds – Report by Norm Pomrening

Chris Pepke has stepped down as the Chairman of the Building and Grounds Committee. The Parish Council expressed appreciation for his service. Steven Savas will serve as the Interim Chairman of the Building and Grounds Committee.

Ushering – Report by Ted Dres

Due to the recent Parish Council vacancy, there are now several openings in the usher schedule. Six remaining usher assignments require coverage. Chris Pepke will assist in some of the coverage. The usher assignment spreadsheet will be reviewed and updated accordingly. Forgiveness Vespers scheduling adjustments were noted. An iPad will be available to offer an online form of giving at the candle stands. The Parish Council member on candle duty will be responsible for setting up the iPad.

Missions - Report by Peter Bell

The parish received a note from Jesse Brandow requesting continued monthly support. Metropolitan Ambrosios of Korea will visit during the Celebration of Books and offer the homily. It was suggested to offer a special collection basket in the Narthex to support the Archdiocese of Korea. Notice of the collection will be provided to the parish. Motion by Peter Bell to hold a special collection for the Metropolitan of Korea and direct the funds to either the Archdiocese of Korea or the Archdiocese through appropriate channels. Ted Dres seconded the motion. Motion carried with one opposing vote.

Project Mexico:

1. Participation is being promoted through parish communications.
2. The Macaronatha Luncheon proceeds will support Project Mexico.
3. Enrollment promotion will continue for one month.
4. The donation link will remain open through the end of May.
5. An informational session will be held on March 8 following Divine Liturgy.

Old Business

FEED 6 – Report by Norm Pomrening

The January 24 FEED 6 event included 228 volunteers who prepared 76,464 meals and raised approximately \$32,000. NBC News covered the event. Over the past ten years, the program has produced approximately 1,038,000 meals and raised approximately \$330,000. The FEED 6 committee plans to take a one-year pause before the next event.

A suggestion was made to preserve the signed box used for the millionth meal as a commemorative display. Alternative ways of honoring the milestone are also being considered.

Fundraising Committee – Report by James Maragos Joanne Volakakis will serve as overall chair of the fundraising committee. Kristi Landorf is leading the search for professional fundraising firms. Requests for Proposal were sent to six firms. The committee expects to narrow the field to two or three firms and select one within several weeks. The fundraising effort will support long-term building and grounds projects totaling approximately \$3.5 million through 2031.

Chapel Hill Cemetery Plots – Report by Patty Pappas

Patty Pappas and Lou Kafkes met on February 18 to review status of plot sales and to verify accuracy of record keeping on older transactions. A follow-up meeting with Chapel Hill is scheduled for February 25 to review incomplete transactions and title issues. Preliminary findings indicate up to six plots may remain available for sale, pending verification. Chapel Hill has indicated that additional plots may belong to Holy Apostles; further investigation is underway.

FEBRUARY 2026 PARISH COUNCIL MEETING (CONT)**Youth Worker Protection and Sexual Harassment Training** – Report by Patty Pappas

Two Parish Council members have expired Youth Worker Protection certifications. Six members still need to complete State of Illinois Sexual Harassment Prevention training. Those members have been notified and advised to complete the required certifications and training immediately.

Safety Committee – Report by Steve Milak / Mike Parafink

The Safety Committee contacted the Hellenic American Police Association (HAPA) regarding situational awareness training. The Committee is exploring FEMA and Illinois security grants for equipment and training. Grant-writing assistance from professional consultants was discussed. Motion made by Chris Pepke to authorize up to \$10,000 to engage consultants for grant preparation, contingent upon a favorable project assessment. The motion was seconded by Sandra Pihos. The motion passed unanimously.

Bylaws Committee - Report by Sandra Pihos

Terry Chiganos is serving as committee chairman. The Committee has met several times and is working on revisions.

Proposed updates include clarification of procedures for filling Parish Council vacancies. The Committee is also exploring provisions for electronic meetings and voting in emergency situations. Attorney Joan Berg is assisting with drafting revisions. The Committee expects to present a final draft for approval at the May Parish Assembly.

Technology Committee - Report by Steven Milak

A Wi-Fi access point has been installed near the livestream equipment in the nave. Nick Gryfakis has completed training as a livestream operator. We are grateful for his willingness to serve in this important role

New Business**Parish Council Vacancy** - Report by James Maragos

The Parish Council expresses its appreciation to Nicole Voelz for her dedicated service. Nicole has officially stepped down from her role on the Parish Council. The matter of electing a replacement will be taken up in the Executive Session. Following the Executive Session, George Chechopoulos was elected to fill the vacant Parish Council position.

Parish Directory – Report by Lou Kafkes

Parish directory photography sessions will pause during Lent. Additional photography session dates are planned for the end of May. Approximately 225 families participated in the previous directory, and similar participation is desired for the new directory. The goal is to close submissions in June and publish the directory during the fourth quarter of 2026.

Parish Survey - Report by Steven Milak and Sandra Pihos

A short electronic survey was developed to gather parishioner feedback regarding Parish Council leadership and service. Steven Milak created the survey electronically. Sandra Pihos reviewed the proposed questions with the Parish Council. A motion was made by Sandra Pihos to distribute a four-question survey to the parish to assess satisfaction with the Parish Council's leadership and service. The motion was seconded by Bill Leider. The motion was approved unanimously. The survey will be distributed to approximately 702 stewards.

Macaronatha Luncheon – Report by Sandra Pihos

The Parish Council will host the Macaronatha Luncheon on Sunday, February 22. Setup will take place on Saturday, February 21. Mike and Antella Thiakos have generously donated numerous items for the Luncheon. Approximately 320 reservations have been received to date. Proceeds will support the Holy Apostles Project Mexico team for Summer 2026. Parish Council members and kitchen volunteers will be provided seating.

Money Counter Purchase - Report by Sandra Pihos

The current money counter is not functioning properly. Options discussed included requesting a pre-owned counter from a bank or purchasing a new machine. The matter will require further investigation.

Hellenic Academy – Report by Nicole Ostendorf

Motion by Nicole Ostendorf that the Parish Council approve a pilot program that the Holy Apostles Hellenic Academy will implement from March 10 to May 12, 2026 for 10 sessions on Tuesdays from 5-6pm, for a 3-year old Mommy and Me class. Bill Leider seconded the motion. Vote results: 4 in favor, 6 opposed. The motion did not carry. A second motion requested Parish Council funding in the amount of \$400 toward the estimated \$700 program cost for teacher salary and supplies. The motion was withdrawn following the outcome of the first vote. The proposed adult Greek language program did not move forward due to insufficient enrollment interest.

(continued, pg. 7)



Project HOPE UPDATE

2025 FINAL FIGURES:

**3950 POUNDS OF FOOD =
3292 MEALS**

The Hillside Food Pantry (HFP), which operates out of Immanuel Lutheran Church one block to the north of us, has been the recipient of our Project HOPE Bags for several years. HFP hosts a monthly drive-thru food pantry, no questions asked.

Below is a "Thank You" and summary of the Holy Apostles donations from the Hillside Food Pantry Director.

"Your congregation of generous supporters has enabled us to serve many individuals. We thank God for all of you who have helped relieve a great burden on our neighbors.

We highly value our relationship with the Holy Apostles congregation. We know it takes a lot of work. Our patrons are truly grateful for your HOPE Outreach Ministry."

3950 pounds of food were received in 2025 between HOPE Bags and purchased food (like the Holiday Food Collection). This roughly translates to 3292 meals.

The Holy Apostles Project HOPE Team thanks the community for their support of this ministry. It clearly has an impact on our neighbors in need. Let us strive to do even more in 2026.

If you have any questions regarding the Project HOPE Ministry, please contact either Faye Adams at geofaye.adams@gmail.com or Maria Patt at mdpatt59@comcast.net

Thank you to all that supported this effort!



FEBRUARY 2026 PARISH COUNCIL MEETING (CONT)

Trivia Night - Report by Lou Kafkes

Trivia night was held February 7, with 12 teams and approximately 90 participants. The event raised over \$1,000 for the Westchester Food Pantry.

Other Business

A motion was made by Sandra Pihos to donate \$100 to the Federation of Greek Orthodox Musicians. Seconded by Peter Bell. The motion carried with one opposing vote. The automated external defibrillator (AED) battery recently expired and has been replaced. New AED pads for both adults and children have been ordered. AED training opportunities are being explored. The Missions Ministry agreed to host a light reception for the Celebration of Books event on March 10, where Metropolitan Ambrosios will deliver the homily.

Next Regular Meeting: Thursday, March 19, 2026 at 7:30 PM

Key Dates to Remember: Sunday February 22 - Macaronatha Luncheon after Divine Liturgy - All Council members needed; Sunday March 8 - Celebration of Books; Sunday April 5-April 12 - Holy Week and Pascha

The closing prayer was offered by Father Nicholas.

Motion to Adjourn made by Steven Milak, seconded by Bill Leider. Motion approved unanimously. President James Maragos adjourned the meeting at 9:38 PM.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE 2026

Lazurus Saturday, April 4

8:00 AM Orthros | 9:00 AM Divine
Liturgy
5:00 PM—Vespers

Palm Sunday, April 5

8:15 AM Orthros | 9:30 AM Divine
Liturgy
7:00 PM—Bridegroom Service

Holy Monday, April 6

9:00 AM—Pre-Sanctified Liturgy
7:00 PM—Bridegroom Service

Holy Tuesday, April 7

9:00 AM—Pre-Sanctified Liturgy
7:00 PM—Bridegroom Service

Holy Wednesday, April 8

10:00 AM—Holy Unction 3:30 PM—Holy Unction
7:00 PM—Orthros of Holy Thursday/ Annoting

Holy Thursday, April 9

6:30 AM—Vespereal Divine Liturgy
7:00 PM—Service of the Twelve Holy Gospels

Holy Friday, April 10

9:00 AM—Royal Hours
3:00 PM—Apokathelosis/Taking Down from the Cross
7:00 PM—Lamentations/Orthros of Holy Saturday

Holy Saturday, April 11

9:00 AM—First Resurrection Vespereal Divine Liturgy
11:00 PM—Resurrection Service/Paschal Divine Liturgy

Great and Holy Pascha, April 12

11:00 AM Agape Vespers

GOOD FRIDAY RETREAT

WHO: Children Pre-K (age 3) through 5th Grade

WHEN: April 10 after Royal Hours: 10:45 am to 2:15 pm

WHERE: Holy Apostles Church

VOLUNTEERS: All ages of volunteers welcome!

6th to 12th GRADES:

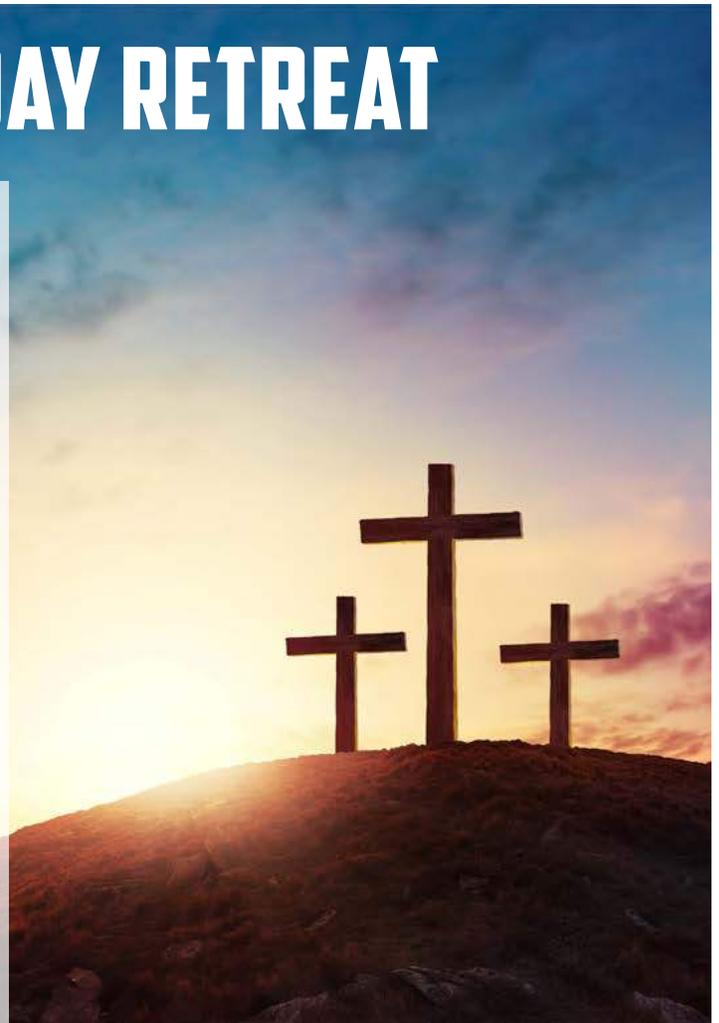
Sign up to help with flowers, candles, eggs and more!

Any questions or need a note excusing you from school, please email Alexa at youthdirector@holypostleschurch.com.



RSVP:

◀ scan QR code or visit <https://form.jotform.com/250566787533165>



Who Raised Jesus?

Did you know that both the Father and the Son are said to raise Jesus from the dead?

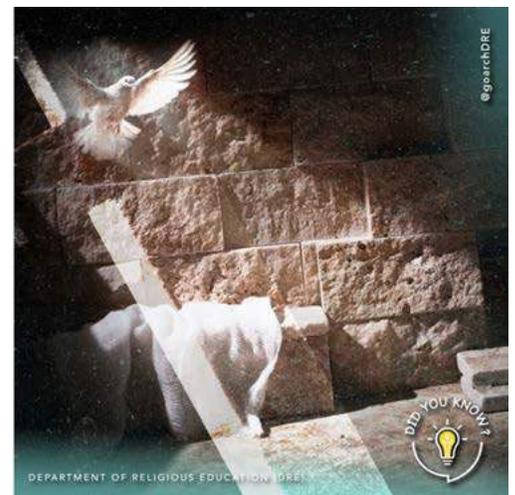
In Acts 2:24, Saint Peter proclaims, *"God raised Him up, having loosed the pangs of death."* Elsewhere, Scripture also tells us that God the Father raised Jesus.

But in John 10:18, Jesus Himself says, *"I lay down My life, that I may take it up again... I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again."* So, which is it?

From an Orthodox perspective, it's both — because the Father, Son and Holy Spirit always act in unity. The Father raises the Son, the Son rises by His own divine authority, and the Holy Spirit gives life. Their actions are never in opposition but are always united in love and power.

Saint Cyril of Alexandria explains it beautifully: *"Though the flesh was slain, yet it was raised again by the power of God. For Christ is God, and therefore He raised His own body."* (Commentary on John, Book 5)

In other words, the Resurrection was not something that simply happened to Jesus — it was something He accomplished as the Giver of Life. This is why we proclaim joyfully on Pascha: *"Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death!"* He rose in victory, not just as man, but as true God — conquering death from within.



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DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION | DRE

MACARONATHA LUNCHEON

Our Macaronatha was a big success again this year. We had 325 parishioners in attendance for a delicious luncheon.

A big thank you to the Parish Council for hosting and to Nick Kirkeles and his kitchen staff.

Donations for our Project Mexico Team are still being accepted. You may donate online or by check or cash to the Church Office. Please write Project Mexico on the memo line.



325 Served!





43 "BLANKETS OF LOVE"



On February 28, 2026, our Holy Apostles ladies had a blanket making event and made a total of 43 blankets!

We provided 20 full size blankets to Phil's Friends, a local organization that supports those battling cancer and 23 baby blankets, along with layette/baby items, went to the People's Resource Center, another local organization that helps those in need in the community.





Seniors, please join us at

KOUKLA'S KAFENIO

GREEK LUNCHEON AND LIVE GREEK MUSIC!

Thursday, April 30 | 12 - 3 PM
Holy Apostles Multi-Purpose Room

All seniors are invited to a lively afternoon of Greek music, singing and dancing!



Chicago's Premier Greek Band will perform all your favorites!



Please RSVP by Wednesday, April 23 to Cathy Magas at 630.941.8448



We will be collecting items for the Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans. If you'd like to donate, the following items are needed: New toiletries items: hand soap, bars of soap, body wash, deodorant, shampoo, toothpaste, etc.



GRADUATE SUNDAY & CHURCH PICNIC



SUNDAY, MAY 31

Join us in celebrating our Holy Apostles Graduates and celebrate their graduation and accomplishments at our Church Picnic





The Daily Readings Mobile App
 There is *no better way* to carry the Church's prescribed Scripture & devotional readings with you at all times.

Now available for iPhone, Android, Kindle Fire, and Windows Phone.

BEST SUMMER EVER!

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

ionianvillage.org

Registration ends April 13



REGISTRATION FOR IONIAN VILLAGE 2026 ENDS APRIL 13

Located: In the Peloponnese region of Greece, along the Ionian Sea.

Who Can Attend Summer Camp: Students who by the summer will be rising 9th grader through students who have completed the 12th grade.

Who Can Attend IV Next: Young adults who have completed one year of college until 25 years of age.

Learn More: <https://www.ionianvillage.org/>

Registration video: <https://vimeo.com/907619703>



1ST SESSION - JUNE 16 - JULY 5
IV NEXT - JULY 5 - 15
2ND SESSION - JULY 15 - AUGUST 3



Egg Donation & Wrapping



Multi-Purpose Room

Drop-Off: By Holy Friday AM (April 10)

Wrapping: Holy Friday Morning (following Royal Hours)

Philoptochos is once again asking parishioners to donate red eggs so that they may be wrapped in tulle for distribution at our Anastasi and Agape Easter services.

Please bring **boiled, unrefrigerated red eggs to the multi-purpose room no later than Holy Friday morning (April 10)**. The eggs will be wrapped in tulle after the Royal Hours service on Holy Friday morning. **All parishioners are welcome to help wrap.**

Onion Skin Dye Recipe

Ingredients:

5 cups water
Skins from 12 yellow onions
2 tablespoons white vinegar
12 large eggs
olive oil

Directions:

Combine water, onion skins and vinegar in a pot and bring to a boil. Reduce heat, cover pot and simmer for 30 minutes. Make sure skins are submerged. Remove from heat and cool dye to room temperature, at least 30 minutes. Remove skins from dye and discard. Place eggs in the dye and bring to a boil; cook for 15 minutes. Remove pot from heat and leave eggs in the dye until a deep red color is reached (about 30 minutes more). Transfer eggs to a wire rack to cool. Rub olive oil onto each egg to make them shiny. Store in refrigerator.

Key Symbolism and Traditions of Eggs *(Hellenic Museum Melbourne)*

The Blood of Christ:

The red dye, traditionally made from onion skins or rizari (madder root), represents the sacrifice of Jesus.

The Tomb:

The eggshell represents the sealed tomb of Jesus, and the cracking represents his resurrection

Mary Magdalene Legend:

One tradition states that after Jesus' death, Mary Magdalene went to Roman Emperor Tiberius to share the resurrection news. He challenged her, saying the eggs in her basket would turn red if she were telling the truth, and they did.

When to Dye:

The eggs are traditionally dyed on Holy Thursday, which commemorates the Last Supper

Picking the Egg for Tsougrisma (Egg Tapping):

Some have methods for choosing the strongest egg which include:

- Depth of its colour
- Pointy or round
- Size: big or small
- Weight: heavy or light

Since the "winner" with the egg that doesn't crack is said to have good luck through the year, some choose to keep their lucky egg for the entire year.



APRIL 2026
 Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 2:00 pm Palm Folding & Fellowship 5:30 pm 9th Hour / Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm Pre-Sanctified Dinner Hosted by Men's Group	2 1:00 pm Bible Study 4:30 pm Greek School (Grandparents Day w/Koulourakia) 7:30 pm YAL Bible Study (GOYA Room)	3 5:30 pm 9th Hour / Pre-Sanctified Liturgy	4 Lazarus Saturday 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:45 am GOYA/Jr GOYA Pascha Prep & Lunch 11:00 am Philoptochos Food Sale Drive-Thru Pickup 5:00 pm Vespers 6:00 pm Vespers Potluck Dinner
5 Palm Sunday 8:15 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy (Sunday School following Communion) 11:30 am Fellowship Hour 7:00 pm Bridegroom Service	6 Holy Monday 9:00 am Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 7:00 pm Bridegroom Service	7 Holy Tuesday 9:00 am Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 7:00 pm Bridegroom Service 8:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	8 Holy Wednesday 10:00 am Holy Union 3:30 pm Holy Union 7:00 pm Orthros of Holy Thursday/Anointing at End	9 Holy Thursday 6:30 am Vespers Divine Liturgy 7:00 pm Service of the Twelve Gospels	10 Holy Friday 9:00 am Royal Hours of Pascha 10:30 am Philoptochos Red Egg Wrapping 10:45 am Youth Good Friday Retreat 3:00 pm Taking Christ Down from the Cross 7:00 pm Lamentations	11 Holy Saturday 9:00 am First Resurrection Vespers Divine Liturgy 11:00 pm Resurrection Service / Paschal Divine Liturgy
12 Great and Holy Pascha 11:00 am Agape Vespers with Bishop Dionysios <i>Christos Agesti!</i>	13 Office Closed - Bright Monday	14 1:00 pm Caregivers Support Meeting 4:30 pm Greek School 6:30 pm GOYA Bright Tuesday Dinner (Location TBD) 7:00 pm Neighborhood Bible Study - LaGrange	15 1:00 pm Bereavement Group Meeting 6:30 pm Jr GOYA Bright Wednesday Dinner (MPR)	16 1:00 pm Bible Study 4:30 pm Greek School 6:15 pm Neolea Dance Troupe 7:30 pm Parish Council Meeting 7:30 pm YAL Bright Week Dinner	17 Bright Friday Feast Day of Theotokos of the Life Giving Spring 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy	18 Metropolis Oratorical Festival 11:00 am Baptism 5:00 pm Vespers
19 Sunday of St Thomas 8:15 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy (Sunday School following Communion) 11:30 am Fellowship Hour	20 4:30 pm Greek School 6:15 pm JOY	21 4:30 pm Greek School 6:15 pm JOY	22 10:00 am TOTS	23 Feast Day of St George 6:45 am Brotherhood of St Peter the Apostle 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 1:00 pm Bible Study 4:30 pm Greek School 7:30 pm YAL Bible Study (GOYA Room)	24	25 Feast Day of St Mark the Evangelist 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 11:00 am Baptism 5:00 pm Vespers
26 8:15 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy (Youth in the Loft / Sunday School following Communion) 11:30 am Fellowship Hour	27 4:30 pm Greek School 7:00 pm GOYA Meeting	28 4:30 pm Greek School 7:00 pm GOYA Meeting	29 7:00 pm Parish Family Ministry Meeting	30 12:00 pm Koukla's Kafenio Luncheon 1:00 pm Bible Study 4:30 pm Greek School 6:15 pm Greek School Staff Meeting 6:15 pm Neolea Dance Troupe 7:30 pm YAL Bible Study (GOYA Room)		

Philoptochos Easter Candle Sale 4/1-4/8

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 April

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

BELLWOOD, IL
PERMIT #157

Sacraments listed are those known at time of publication

MEMORIALS

MARCH

Athena Georganas
Elaine Katziaris
Georgia Spiropoulos
Pauline (Pulcheria) Hamalis
Michael Hamalis
George Kolimbris
Maria Kolimbris
Demetri Vandarakis
Eleni Stoneman
Panagioti (Peter) Orfanos
Dimitri (Jim) Kleronomos
Victoria Zarvali
Marika & Peter Xinos
Nora Kyriacou

APRIL

Eleni Giannakopoulos

FUNERALS

Helen Sakoulos
Eleni Giannakopoulos
Antigone Cardaras
Harold Theodore

BAPTISMS

Luca, son of Jim & Megan Kritsas
Sponsor: Vasili Angelos

Carmen, son of Griffin Peterson & Katherine McConachie
Sponsor: Maggie Demopoulos



◀ Watch: Easter on Mt. Athos:

<https://youtu.be/TJ0rkp0UzT8>

