



from Fr. George

“The Third Hour”

“The Third Hour was blessed with grace, To indicate that we should worship Three Persons in singleness of authority; But now on the one Lord of days, Son, Father, Spirit, blessed are You!”

– Canon of Pentecost (by St. John of Damascus)

Beloved brothers and sisters in Christ,

If we consider the hymn mentioned above, we will discover a few important themes of the Pentecost event that we just celebrated.

The hymn first mentions that the Third Hour of the day (about 9:00 AM) was filled with grace. This is because the Holy Spirit descended on the Church at that very time, while the Apostles and the people were gathered together in one place in prayer and worship.

Acts 2:15 has St. Peter declare to the people: “These men are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the Third Hour of the day.”

He said this because the Apostles were speaking in so many different languages that those present did not understand what was happening.

Furthermore, the hymn references that this also took place “on the one Lord of days,” which means on the Lord’s Day, Kyriake, that is, Sunday.

(continued, pg. 3)



KOUKLA’S KAFENIO



We celebrated our seniors on April 30 at Koukla’s Kafenio with a wonderful lunch from Greek Islands, music by our own Holy Apostles harpist, Marika Dokos and local band, 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!!



Holy Apostles 66th Annual Golf Outing

MONDAY, JULY 13

Seven Bridges Golf Club | 1 Mulligan Drive | Woodridge, 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\$190
 Youth Golf and Dinner (must be under 21)\$180
 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 **\$1,200**

Includes full golf package for four, plus an Exclusive Hole Sponsorship (a \$1,310 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 Aleka Ernst at alekaernst@gmail.com or Peter Poteres at ppoteres@hotmail.com / 630-334-4040.

Registration Questions: Contact Aleka Ernst at alekaernst@gmail.com

“Sanctify Those ...” *(continued)*

And so, from the very beginning, to the present day, the Church has celebrated the Divine Liturgy around the Third Hour every Lord’s Day, since that time and that day were especially consecrated by the descent of the Holy Spirit and filled with grace (not to mention that the universe was created on Sunday and re-created on the Sunday of the Lord’s Resurrection).

The hymn’s play on the numbers three and one is further expanded to initiate us into the theology of God the Holy Trinity.

The Holy Spirit descended specifically at the Third Hour on the First Day of the week to instruct believers to worship and honor the Three Persons of the Godhead –Father, Son, and Holy Spirit –in singleness of authority, namely, believing that They have one single authority, one lordship, one nature, and one essence.

We worship one God in Trinity. St. Gregory the Theologian put it best when contemplating the mystery of our Triune God: “No sooner do I conceive of the One than I am illumined by the splendor of the Three; no sooner do I distinguish Them than I am carried back to the One. When I think of any One of the Three I think of Him as the Whole, and my eyes are filled, and the greater part of what I am thinking of escapes me. I cannot grasp the greatness of That One so as to attribute a greater greatness to the Rest. When I contemplate the Three together, I see but one torch, and cannot divide or measure out the Undivided Light.”

May God –Father, Son, and Holy Spirit –bless you and keep you in the divine grace of Holy Pentecost.

With love in Christ,
+ Fr. George



SAVE THE DATE

Finding Peace and Strength in a Chaotic World

A beautiful day of faith, fellowship, wisdom and spiritual renewal for Orthodox women of all ages.

Keynote: Presvytera Jeannie Constantinou, PhD
Dr. Amelia Bartholomew
Anna Kallis, MDiv

Saturday November 14, 2026
8:30 am
St. John the Baptist Church
Des Plaines, Illinois

Jointly hosted by four Philoptochos Chapters

More details and registration coming early September




Poised For Success ... Success!!

Thank you to all who generously cleaned out their closets and donated to our Poised for Success women’s clothing drive this year!! We collected and donated over 1,400 pieces of clothing/shoes/purses/belts and scarves. Bravo!! Poised for Success is a nonprofit organization serving the Chicagoland 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 Foster 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



SAVE THE DATE



Stars, Stripes & Style

A CELEBRATION OF 250 YEARS OF
AMERICA AND FASHION

HOLY APOSTLES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY
ANNUAL FASHION SHOW & LUNCHEON

—★ SATURDAY, ★—
OCTOBER 17, 2026

DRURY LANE, OAKBROOK TERRACE

CO-CHAIRWOMEN
VALERIE DRANIAS &
THANIA PANOPOULOS

PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT
SAINT IAKOVOS RETREAT CENTER,
ONE MILLION DEGREES
& OTHER PHILOPTOCHOS ENDEAVORS



FEED THE HUNGRY



On Monday, May 11 our Philoptochos volunteers made 150 sack lunches to “Feed the Hungry” at Annunciation Cathedral.

Mary Syregelas, Anne Theophilos and Thania Panopoulos went to Annunciation on May 12 to hand out the lunches to the homeless. Philoptochos is committed to this initiative 3 times a year.



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

THE HOLY APOSTLES CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP

A Holy Apostles Ministry

Tuesday, June 8

1 PM

Philoptochos Room

Please join us for Discussion & Coffee

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

We hope that you will join us.

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

Holy Apostles Philoptochos invites parishioners to volunteer with us for a Lenten service project at Feed My Starving Children in Aurora on Saturday, August 8, 2026 from 9-10:45 AM. We will pack specially formulated meals to be distributed to malnourished children around the world.

Please contact Emily Rehn at platovalentine@hotmail.com or 708-369-9365 to volunteer or ask questions.



PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE APRIL 2026 PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

PC SECRETARY: PATTY PAPPAS | EDITED BY: VAL DRANIAS

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

The Mission Statement was read aloud by George Chechopoulos: “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 March 19, 2026 Parish Council Meeting Minutes was made by Sandra Pihos and seconded by Bill Leider. Motion carried unanimously. A motion to amend the February 19, 2026 Parish Council Meeting Minutes was made by Peter Bell and seconded by Sandra Pihos. Motion carried unanimously with the February 19, 2026 Parish Council Meeting Minutes approved as corrected.

Patty Pappas presented the correspondence. An Easter card and donation envelope were received from Hellenic College Holy Cross. A letter was received from Metropolitan Nathanael expressing appreciation to the parish for its hospitality and fellowship during his visit for the Akathist Hymn service. A billing summary was received from Hodges Loizzi for February pro bono legal work by Vanessa Clohessy. Father George shared a Patristix video discussing Holy Saturday and the Harrowing of Hell. A brief discussion followed.

Ministry Reports

Financial – Report by George Antonopoulos: The operating account ended the first quarter at \$139,000, exceeding budget by \$31,000. Capital funds increased by approximately \$28,000 since year-end. Holy Week collections are still being finalized.

Stewardship – Report by Steven Milak: To date, stewardship pledges have increased by 9% compared to 2025. Currently we do not collect enough in pledges to sustain the capital budget. 15% of the pledges are at \$2,500 or more, which is an improvement over last year, though this number may dilute over time. Proportional giving was discussed as a sustainable model for future parish needs. Stewardship visuals and statistics will be presented at the Parish Assembly.

Stewardship Metrics (through March)

METRIC	2026 TOTAL	2025 TOTAL	% CHANGE
# of pledges	472	466	1%
Total pledged	\$748,192	\$685,382	9%
Amount collected	\$501,754	\$476,740	5%
Median pledge	\$800	\$800	0%
Average pledge	\$1,585	\$1,471	8%

Building & Grounds – Report by Chris Pepke: Steve Savas is overseeing bids for the front sign and cross restoration. Plans for a fence enclosure around mechanical equipment are being evaluated. Installations are planned for the fall. A possible cracked sewer pipe near the ladies’ restroom may require further investigation.

Ushering – Report by Ted Dres / Peter Bell / Sandra Pihos: The usher schedule for the coming months is nearly complete. Nine volunteer slots remain open. An online scheduling system for additional ushers was discussed for future use. Holy Week observations included the need for lighting adjustments in the Nave for better visibility, concerns about excessive noise in the Multi-Purpose Room, and timing for passing of the baskets.

Missions – Report by Peter Bell: This year, Holy Apostles has a team of 3 adults and 2 children participating in Project Mexico. A total of \$7,500 has been allocated to support those attending, with funds raised through the Macaronatha Luncheon and dedicated donations. A full report will be provided at the next meeting.

Old Business

Illinois Secure Choice Savings Program - Report by Sandra Pihos: Sandra reported that the State of Illinois implemented the Illinois Secure Choice retirement savings program for employees in 2022. Lou Kafkes is currently working to bring the parish into compliance for the 2024 reporting year, as required by the state. It is hoped that the \$3,500 fine that was assessed will be waived once compliance is achieved. At this time, there is no update regarding any requirements or penalties for 2025.

Fundraising Committee - Report by James Maragos: Two consulting firms were interviewed; the Winkler Group was selected due to their dynamic approach and strong level of anticipated support.

Campaign Structure (Three Phases) Phase I – Assessment (\$45,000) Conduct parish leadership interviews and assessment work. Develop campaign messaging and case for support; Form and train a strategic planning committee and volunteers. Determine feasibility and provide final campaign plan; Payable in three monthly installments; Funding support being coordinated by James Maragos (at least two donors confirmed)

Phase II – Quiet Phase (\$15,000 per month) Focus on major gift solicitations (up to 90% of goal). Implement pledge structure to support cash flow; Assist in covering campaign costs through giving strategy; Phase II anticipated to be 12 months in duration.

Phase III – Public Phase Public launch of campaign: The overall campaign timeline is estimated at 12–18 months, depending on pledge progress; Parish Assembly approval is required to proceed;

Fundraising Goals; \$2 million – Foundation; \$3.5 million – Capital; \$1 million – Stewardship. Donors will be matched to giving opportunities aligned with their capacity and interests across campaign priorities. Appreciation was expressed to Christi Athas-Landorf and Joanne Volakakis for their work in researching and interviewing potential campaign consultants, and to Thania Panopoulos for preparing and organizing the Request for Proposal for the consultant selection process.

Motion: Patty Pappas moved to approve the Winkler Group as our consultants for our 3 in 1 fundraising campaign, subject to officer review and approval of the contract, for Phase I at \$45,000; further, to continue with Winkler Group for Phases II and III at \$15,000 per month, subject to contract review and final approval delegated to the Parish Council. Second: Bill LeiderVote: Unanimous approval.

Chapel Hill Cemetery Plots - Report by Patty Pappas: Chapel Hill Gardens West resolved the title issues involving four previously sold plots. An additional 24 plots have been identified and will be inspected for usability.

Youth Worker Protection and Sexual Harassment Training - Report by Patty Pappas. All Parish Council members completed the required training and have submitted their signed completion forms.

Safety Committee - Report by Steven Milak/Mike Parafink: HAPA completed a threat assessment and issued an immediate memo with key findings, which was distributed to the Parish Council. A follow-up report will be provided by HAPA within one month. A third report will be prepared for consultants and aligned with the government grant application requirements; this is currently in progress. The Grant Committee reported that consultants completed the base application. Preliminary estimates include \$35,000 for door access controls and \$55,000 for camera surveillance, totaling approximately \$95,000. Additional estimates are being gathered, with a target of identifying up to \$200,000 in eligible project work. Mike Parafink is securing required identification to work with government agencies. The consultants will finalize the application and coordinate with the State of Illinois and federal agencies for grant submission and implementation.

Technology Committee - Report by Steven Milak: The Multi-Purpose Room was prepared to support Holy Week services. Appreciation was expressed to Steve Savas for cleanup following the services. Eight services were livestreamed with support from the Livestream Committee: Nick Grifakis, Jamie Fisher, Mike Danek, and Chris Zurales. Appreciation was expressed for their assistance.

Livestream analytics showed approximately 2,200 total views across all videos, with 656 total hours watched and a peak of 66 concurrent devices. The highest-viewed service reached 307 views. The new Pushpay cashless giving system, including QR code donations, was introduced and promoted through the weekly bulletin and at the candle stand.

During Holy Week, the system recorded \$2,200 in total donations from 134 transactions and 70 donors, including \$800 on Easter, \$700 for candles, \$300 for stewardship, \$300 for lambades, and \$110 for tray offerings. The most-viewed services were Palm Sunday, Holy Wednesday, Holy Friday, the Anastasi service, and the Agape service.

New Business

Family Picnic / Graduation Sunday - Report by Mike Thiakos/Sandra Pihos: The first advertisement for the Family Picnic/Graduation Sunday will be placed in The Mosaic. The event will follow last year's format, with no advance registration required. Last year's attendance was approximately 400; planning is underway for at least 450 attendees.



YOUTH SERVE CHRIST SUNDAY

Parish Council Meeting Highlights *(continued)*

The Usher-in-Charge will coordinate in advance and arrange for additional outside ushers if necessary, including former Parish Council members. Sandra Pihos and Mike Thiakos will serve as co-chairs of the event. Clean-up responsibilities will be evenly distributed, with assigned duties during and after the event to ensure efficient completion. Consideration will be given to hiring an additional individual for kitchen clean-up assistance. The tent will be ordered by Lou Kafkes.

Parish Council Feedback Survey - Report by Steven Milak: Fifty responses have been received thus far. Current approval rating is 71%. When the survey is closed, final results will be compiled and analyzed.

Hellenic Academy - Report by Nicole Ostendorf: All teaching staff commitments for the upcoming school year have been secured. Over the past two years, all staff have received salary increases. To support retention, a 1% increase is proposed for the 2026–2027 school year as supplemental compensation based on performance evaluations. Previously, increases were provided at 2% every two years; moving forward, adjustments will be tied to evaluations. The program remains strong and stable. Principal Zoe Koultourides will also teach 5th grade unless a replacement is secured. Contracts are expected to be presented in the coming weeks. The Pre-K program is currently on hold as focus remains on securing full staffing for the next school year.

Motion by Nicole Ostendorf to have all current teaching staff—Fotini Karalis, Georgia Alikakos, Kyriaki Kladdes, Ioanna Papadakis, Sotiria Boubourekas, Dimitra Natsi, Anastasia Kinnas, Gigi Trulis, and Zoe Koultourides of our Hellenic Academy to be approved to retain their employment for the 2026–2027 school year. Second: George Antonopoulos Vote: Unanimous approval.

Motion by Nicole Ostendorf to have all current employees of our Hellenic Academy be approved to have a 1% salary increase to each of their current salaries for the 2026–2027 school year in acknowledgment of good performance reviews. Second: Steve Milak. Vote: Unanimous approval

Other Business:

Greek Independence Parade: Tia Angelos was recognized for coordinating the parish float. Future float expenses will be shared equally between the Greek School and the Church operating budget.

Appreciation was expressed to the City of Hillside and City of Westchester Police Departments for their excellent traffic support during Holy Week, including assistance with the outdoor procession.

Next Regular Meeting: Thursday, May 21, 2026 at 7:30 PM

Key Dates to Remember: Sunday, April 19 – Greek Independence Day Parade; Sunday, May 3 – Father Bill Chiganos Memorial Coffee Hour; Sunday, May 3 – Parish Assembly following Divine Liturgy; Thursday, May 7 – International Orthodox Christian Charities Banquet; Sunday, May 31 – Family Picnic and Graduation Sunday; Saturday, June 27 – Church Open House; Monday, July 13 – Holy Apostles Golf Outing

Closing Prayer: The closing prayer was offered by Father Nicholas Georgiou.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn was made by Sandra Pihos and seconded by Bill Leider. Motion carried unanimously. President James Maragos adjourned the meeting at 9:29 PM.



YOUTH SUMMER EVENTS!

**Tuesday, June 16th, 8:00 PM- Jr. high &
High school - Outdoor Movie
Night/bonfire/s'mores, *Nacho Libre***

**Wednesday, June 17th, 12:00-2PM, Picnic
at the Park - Sandwiches, games at Mayfair
park, ages 5-13**

**Friday, June 19th, 10:00-12:00PM - Honey
Bee Gardens, Downers Grove - Ages 1- 12.**

**Thursday, July 9th, 1-4PM, Paradise Bay
Water Park, Lombard, for ALL ages.**



**PLEASE RSVP TO ALEXA
OR SCAN THE QR CODE
YOUTHDIRECTOR@HOLYAPOSTLESCHURCH.
COM**



JUNE 2026

Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
	1 Feast of the Holy Spirit 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy	2 7:00 pm Philoptochos Board Meeting 7:00 pm GOYA Senior Dinner	3	4	5	6 3:00 pm Wedding	
7 8:15 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy 11:30 am Fellowship Hour	8 9:00 am Vacation Bible School	9 9:00 am Vacation Bible School 1:00 pm Caregivers Support Group	10 9:00 am Vacation Bible School 6:30 pm Great Vespers for Metropolitan Nathanael's Name Day 7:30 pm Reception	11 9:00 am Vacation Bible School 6:30 pm White Sox Greek Heritage Night	12 9:00 am Vacation Bible School	13 11:00 am Baptism	
14 8:15 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy 11:30 am Fellowship Hour	15	16 8:00 pm Outdoor Movie Night & Bonfire	17 12:00 pm Picnic at the Park 1:00 pm Bereavement Group Meeting	18 7:30 pm Parish Council Meeting	19 10:00 am Honey Bee Gardens	20 8:30 am Holy Apostles 5K Run & Walk 2:00 pm Wedding	
21 8:15 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy 11:30 am Fellowship Hour	22	23	24 Feast Day of Nativity of St John the Baptist 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy	25 6:45 am Brotherhood of St Peter the Apostle	26	27 10:00 am Church Open House	
28 8:15 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy 11:30 am Fellowship Hour	29 7:00 pm Great Vespers for Holy Apostles Name Day 8:00 pm Holy Apostles Feast Day Vespers Celebration	30 Feast Day of Synaxis of Twelve Apostles 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:30 am Holy Apostles Feast Day Celebration					

Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church **JULY 2026**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
PROJECT MEXICO 7/16 – 7/22		1	2	3 Office Closed	4	
5 8:15 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy 11:30 am Fellowship Hour	6	7 Feast Day of St Kyrilaki 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy	8	9 1:00 pm Paradise Bay Water Park	10	11 Feast Day of St Sophrony 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 11:00 am Wedding
12 Feast Day of St Paisios 8:15 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy 11:30 am Fellowship Hour	13 11:00 am Golf Outing	14	15 1:00 pm Bereavement Group Meeting	16 7:30 pm Parish Council Meeting	17 Feast Day of St Marina 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy	18
19 8:15 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy 11:30 am Fellowship Hour 2:00 pm Baptism	20 Feast Day of Prophet Elias 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy	21	22	23	24	25 11:00 am Baptism
26 Feast Day of St Paraskevi 8:15 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy 11:30 am Fellowship Hour	27 Feast Day of St. Panteleimon 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy	28	29	30	31	

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

Address Service Requested

POSTMASTER: Please deliver by the 15th of June

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

BELLWOOD, IL
PERMIT #157

Sacraments listed are those known at time of publication

MEMORIALS

MAY

Marilyn Mathews
Katherine (Tolios) Pappasopoulos
Ariadne Iantorno
Theodoros Sparagis

JUNE / JULY

James Karones
Nora Kyriacou

FUNERALS

Ariadne Iantorno
Theodore Sparagis
Catherine Tourlas

BAPTISMS

JUNE

Georgia, daughter of Lia & Bradley Fahs

JULY

Benjamin, son of Isaac & Stephanie Martinez
Loukas, son of Nick & Tricia Chiganos
Sophia, daughter of Tony & Anastasia Miranda

WEDDINGS

JUNE

Peter Kass and Krista Kaleel
Sponsor: Jeremy Glavanovits

Spero Kouchis and Anastasia Karnezis
Sponsor: Chris Pepke

JULY

Michael Campos & Matina Giannopoulos
Sponsor: Andra Grija



VIDEO: The Pentecost Icon

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

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

