

## *The Voice of Holy Apostles*

### **Greek Orthodox Church of Indianapolis**

Αγιοι Αποστολοι Ελληνορθοδοξη Εκκλησια Ινδιαναπολεως



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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

So, has summer passed quickly or what??? It seems time is passing ever more quickly. I've been hearing that a lot from many people lately. Maybe it's a feature of getting older, or maybe there's more to it. Anyway, I hope and pray all of you have had (and are still having!!) a good summer.

As we approach September, much in the way of changes and transitions are and will be taking place. Kids going back to school, the seasons starting to change yet again, a movement in nature and spiritually, to begin to go more inward, as Winter approaches, as Nativity/Christmas looms on the horizon. Before them, there is another major event in September --- the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross. Let us think, pray, meditate, contemplate on this. There is no real Christianity without the Cross. In fact, there are attempts by some Christians, (even some Orthodox), to try and lessen the vital pre-eminence and importance of the Cross, which was labeled by the Orthodox as "Stavroclasm" (Christianity without the Cross). Without our Lord's sacrifice on the Cross, we would have no salvation. This is very basic, very simple, very direct, and very uncomfortable at times.

In following Christ, there are times of crucifixion for us. Not in the same way as Him (usually), but crucifixion nonetheless. Seen properly, however, this is in truth a process of spiritual death and rebirth, of transformation; of Purification, leading to Illumination, leading to Theosis/Deification.

As I've said many times in sermons, we have free will, choice, as to whether we wish to enter more fully and deeply into this process of drawing closer to God, through Christ. And as I've also many times said, it's NOT just for monastics; it's for ALL Christians who desire it. But you have to choose, and you have to be willing to pay the price, though it's usually not as heavy or scary as we imagine.

Not to belabor the point. I just wanted to again remind everyone that there is an Inner Way, in Christ, in His Church, there's always more to learn, to repent of, to let go of, if we truly desire to follow our Lord, draw closer to Him,(and to Heaven), to serve Him (and serve others), in His Name. As we journey on these are some things to consider..

God bless you all!

In Christ,  
Fr. John

## **NOTED DATE IN SEPTEMBER:**

September 14<sup>th</sup>: Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Coffee Hour hosted by Diana Mouarrawi Makdisi following the liturgy and service.

Thank you to Mary Kostarides for the marigolds and basil.

## **CHURCH SCHOOL:**

Starting with the new church year, September 7th, the time for Sunday school will begin after Father John's sermon and will end in time to bring the children in for communion.

### **LESSONS FOR SEPTEMBER**

1. September 7th: Sunday before the elevation of the cross. We will talk about the verse John 3:16 and the Nicene Creed.
2. September 14th: Exaltation of the Holy Cross. We will talk about the cross in our faith.
3. September 21st: Sunday after the Holy Cross. Take up your cross! Jesus is our leader. Follow Jesus!
4. September 28th: Jesus and His first followers. Where can you hear the word of God or God's message?

## **COMMUNITY NEWS:**

### **STEWARD VIVIAN FARRIS**

Holy Apostles is proud to announce that our own Vivian Farris purchased the Illinois Street Food Emporium, located in the Meridian Kessler neighborhood, on August 11. She has over thirty years of experience in restaurant operations. She formerly was the General Manager for Talbott Street nightclub, TGI Fridays, and Malibu Grill, all located in Indianapolis. Vivian also works with The Damien Center and Indy Pride Inc.



I have a passion for quality food service coming from a long tradition of restaurant operations in my family,” said Farris. “Ever since I worked in a family cafeteria in Anderson, I have wanted to own a restaurant and to have the chance with one that I used to come to with my parents is remarkable.”

The Illinois Street Food Emporium is located at 5550 Illinois Street. It is a casual themed restaurant and bakery that has been operating since 1979. Hours of operation are Monday and Saturday from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Tuesday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. In addition to serving breakfast, lunch, and dinner, we do business catering and have a take-out menu.



### **FRIEND JUDI ANDERSON**

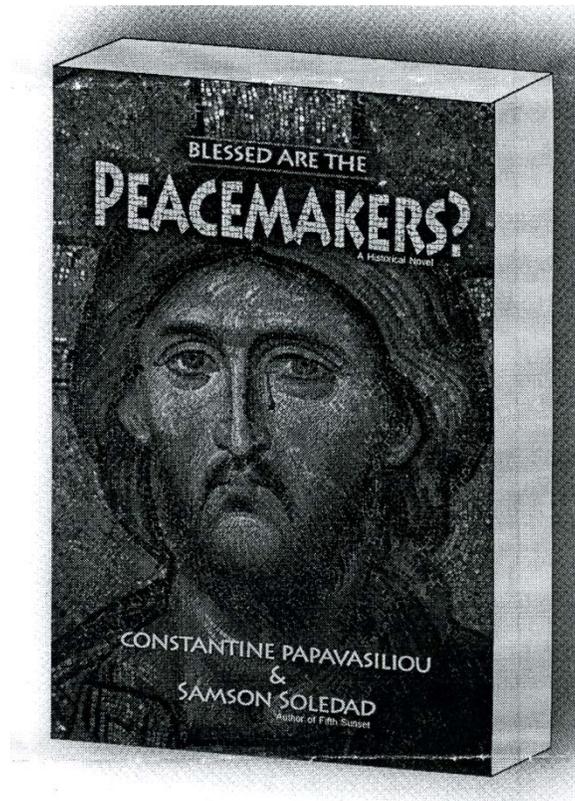
Our dear friend Judi Anderson sent the following items to Holy Apostles. The icon is of St. John of Rila, Bulgaria's greatest saint. The card with the icon is from the Rila Monastery which is a very important tenth century place of pilgrimage. She stated her friends wanted her to send an icon of St. John of Rila to Holy Apostles

with their greetings, as they consider themselves a part of the larger Greek Orthodox Church. Judy said, “I experienced an amazing religious zeal in my travels through Bulgaria, Greece and Macedonia. It was inspiring and comforting to me.” She is looking forward to being back in Indianapolis in the fall and hopes she will have time to visit with us.

### **SPECIAL THANKS**

Holy Apostles would like to thank Aristotle Nicolaidis and Sub Deacon Joseph Oalf, from St. George, for their lovely chanting for the liturgy and the vesper service for the Dormition of the Theotokos on August 10th. Also, thanks to Matthew Syninski, from Joy of All Who Sorrow, for his lovely chanting on August 17th, and look forward to his chanting at least once a month.

### **RECOMMENDED BOOK**



“...a moving story...unique and personal, so familiar and yet entirely unparalleled, especial in as much as it reflects the precious history of the Orthodox Church in this part of the world.”

**The Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, His All Holiness, Bartholomew**

“...brings to life a tragic and highly important chapter in the history of our people.”

**The Archbishop of America, His Eminence, Demetrios**

The book goes on sale **September 9, 2014**

US \$29.95

Softcover, 340 pages

InAmerica Press also available in eBook at [www.RepublicOfPlato.org](http://www.RepublicOfPlato.org).