



The Voice of Holy Apostles **Greek Orthodox Church of Indianapolis**

Αγιοι Αποστολοι Ελληνορθοδοξη Εκκλησια Ινδιαναπολεως
+Metropolis of Detroit

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Volume 5

December 2014

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings in the Lord! I am hoping and praying that you will have experienced a wonderful and blessed Thanksgiving. So, NOW we are moving (rapidly, it seems anymore, with everything!) towards Christmas, aka The Nativity of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ.

Once again, a gentle reminder for us all to try very hard to not get burnt out by all the shopping and various social activities of this Holy Season. Let us strive to be ever more aware of the underlying spiritual reality and important meaning of Christmas. Sure, the parties, dinners, gift-giving, music and family- and friends- times of the season are important. No argument there. BUT, if Christ had not been born, if we had received no Savior, where would we be??? In what condition would the earth be??? Scary thoughts, huh??? So let us be attentive to Christ within and Christ in our midst, that we may experience a birth/re-birth of Him in ourselves, in our parish, in the world, in the Church. Without Christ being born, there would be no Pascha, no Ascension, no Pentecost, to Church, no Theotokos, no Saints, no Salvation or Transformation...you get the picture?

In the famous and oft-quoted words of Angelus Silesius (Western Christian priest and mystic), "Christ could be born a thousand times in Bethlehem -- but all in vain until He is born in me." Let this Birth/Re-Birth take place in us, in our Parish, and in the World, unto great healing, transformation and salvation. But it all begins within each of us.

Let us then be saying: "Christ is born! Glorify Him!" God bless!!!

In Christ,
Fr. John

NOTED DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR:

December 6: Nicholas the Wonderworker; Νικολαος ο Θαυματουργος

****Happy Name Day to His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas of Detroit****

December 24: Nativity Eve; Παραμονη Χριστουγεννων

**** Shared CHRISTMAS Liturgy at 6pm at Holy Trinity GOC of Carmel****

December 25: Nativity of our Lord; Η Γεννησις του Ιησου Χριστου**

**** No Christmas liturgy today MERRY CHRISTMAS - Δεν εχωμε λειτουργια σημερα**

December 31: New Year's Eve; Παραμονη Πρωτοχρονια

****HAPPY NEW YEAR!!! - ΚΑΛΗ ΠΡΩΤΟΧΡΟΝΙΑ!!!****

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS:

December 7: Healing Comes from God

December 14: God invites each of us to a banquet every Sunday

December 21: Jesus is born: Sunday before the Nativity of Christ

December 28: Escape to Egypt: Sunday after the Nativity of Christ

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES:

This year we will be celebrating our Christmas Eve Vespereal Liturgy at our sister church, Holy Trinity, in Carmel. The service will start at 6:00 PM. Reverends Fr. John Koen and Fr. Bill Bartz will both preside over the liturgy.

STEWARDSHIP FORMS:

Enclosed you will find the new 2015 Stewardship Form. It is easy to fill out if you have not had any changes regarding your information. Under **NOTE**, there is a box you need to check if this is the case. Just fill out your name and your financial pledge, along with how it will be paid. Remember it is important paperwork for the Parish Council. The longer you put it off, the more chance you will forget to fill it out.

Also, if you have not finished paying your pledge for 2014, please make sure you do so before the end of year. Your statement for tax purposes will be sent to you in January 2015.

Just a point to mention, that you can be members to more than one Orthodox Church.

HOUSE BLESSINGS-ΑΓΙΑΣΜΟΣ:

Father John will be conducting House Blessings in early January. This is an ancient custom where the priest blesses people's homes, schools and businesses. You will need to call Father to make an appointment to visit your home or business. (To reach Father John via phone @317-908-8511, or via email:

FrJohnKoen@hotmail.com).

Ο Πατερ Ιωαννης θα κανη αγιασμο στα σπιτια αρχας Ιανουαριου. Αν θελετε να επισκε- φθη το σπιτι σας, επικοινωνησατε μαζυ του στο τηλεφωνο 317/908-8511.

YOUR NEW PARISH COUNCIL FOR 2015:

At the General Assembly held on November 16th, the following four were elected to the Parish Council:

****Angelus Kocoshis, Dr. Thomas Kocoshis, Debbie O'Reilley, and George N. Pappas ****

They will join George Chimples, Phyllis Kriner, and Ann Barnhart on the 2015 council. The installation of the new Parish Council for 2015 will be after the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, January 4th.

President Debbie O'Reilley and the rest of the Parish Council want to thank outgoing members, Dena Kerhoulas and Elizabeth Sendelweck, for serving on the Parish Council. Your church appreciates your time and effort. Also, thank you to the 24 stewards who attended the meeting in support of their church, and Elizabeth Sendelweck for providing the refreshments following the meeting.

VASILOPITA LUNCHEON SUNDAY, JANUARY 11:

The Vasilopita Luncheon will be held in the Blue Parlor upstairs following the liturgy. The luncheon will be free will donations for all that attend, which in turn will be donated to St. Basil's Academy in New York. Chairman Xanthippi Darzentas will be serving pastichio, salad, and bread. Michael Pappas will be making the vasilopita for the cutting. Please call Xanthippi by **January 5** for your reservations at **317-353-6497**, so she has an idea how much to prepare.

OUR BAKE SALE:

Cochairs Elizabeth Sendelweck and Debbie O'Reilley want to thank those of you who supported the annual bake sale. They are pleased to announce they made 50% profit from their income. They would like to give special thanks to Xanthippi and Nearhos Darzentas for helping with the assembly of the sweets, and Georgia Stevens for being the top seller this year.

WINTER WEATHER:

We never seem to know what the weather will be in Indy from day to day. If we have a winter like we did last year, we may have to consider cancelling the liturgy for safety reasons, as we did last year. We will try to post our closing on Channel 13 and/or Channel 8, as well as our Facebook page, and send out an email. Also, a Parish Council member will attempt to call as many people as possible regarding the cancellation if they do not have email.

DONATION OF BOOKS:

Remember we are trying to collect any books that may relate to the Orthodox faith that you would like to donate to a library we are starting. They will be available to be signed out by anyone who may be interested in reading more about their faith.

HAPPY 90th BIRTHDAY:

We are proud to announce that we have another steward who is celebrating her 90th birthday and it will be this month...Dena Kerhoulas. It must be that good Greek blood that runs in our veins. May Dena be blessed with many more healthy years ahead of her.



IN OUR PRAYERS:

Please keep Georgia Derziotis in your prayers for a speedy recovery after falling and breaking her hip in three places. We are sure she would enjoy hearing from you during her recovery.

We also hope that Sandra Roberson is feeling better after a fall down the steps, and will be able to return to us soon.

HOPES OF BROADWAY:

Alexandra Kocoshis went to Connecticut for a workshop to help prepare a play a group of her students from Ball State University wrote. They are working towards preparing it, with hopes it will be performed on Broadway in the future. Keep Alexandra and her students in your prayers that their dream will come true. We look forward to hearing more about their project.