



*The Voice of Holy Apostles*  
Greek Orthodox Church of Indianapolis  
Αγιοι Αποστολοι Ελληνορθοδοξη Εκκλησια Ινδιαναπολεως  
+Metropolis of Detroit

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

Greetings in the Lord! I guess that's a fancy way of saying howdy! I hope and pray you are all well, and that you all came through the recent storms safe and sound. I would next like to thank Dr. Pappas for helping us on Sunday, July 26th. All such help is sincerely appreciated, and welcome anytime.

Looking at the month of August, three important feasts stand out: the Transfiguration, The Dormition of the Holy Theotokos, and the (Placing of ) the Sash of the Theotokos. For monastics, the Transfiguration is one of THE most important feasts of the Church year, as it has to do, for them, of the striving to attain the high state of being transfigured in Christ; of seeking to truly and fully experience the fullness of Illumination, Theosis and Deification. Remember the Threefold Process of spiritual growth and transformation?..... Purification, Illumination, Theosis/Deification!!! Remember also, please, this is not just for monastics, but for anyone who truly desires it. Remember Motovilov "out glowing in the forest" with St. Seraphim of Sarov? That's not a joke or sarcasm: it was one monk's warm perception and longing regarding that recorded holy event. It is one proof among many that ALL may experience Higher Things, if the desire for such is strong enough, and continues. But remember this, all spiritual experience and growth requires discipleship personally with Jesus Christ, along with repentance and striving. Transformative suffering often takes place somewhere in the process, also. There is NO cheap grace or eternal "free lunch". But suffering is not forever, and freedom, healing, and transformation DO come, just not always as quickly as we would like.

The feasts of our Holy Mother are opportunities to draw closer to Her. Remember, She is Mother to ALL of us, as She adopted us all as Her children at the foot of the Cross, when she accepted St. John as her son, and he accepted Her as his Mother...all at the behest of our Lord. As I've said many, many times, She is highly worth of getting to know. She gives real help, healing, insight, inspiration, protection, assistance, etc., etc. for anyone who sincerely asks. I know from long personal experience that this is fact, not fiction or wishful thinking. If you haven't already, put it to the test, you will be pleasantly surprised. You will also be helped, and sometimes in unexpected ways, but in real ways.

Abundant Blessings to you all in August (and always!),  
In Christ,  
Fr. John

**NOTED DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR:**

**August 6:** Holy Transfiguration

**August 15:** Dormition of the Theotokos

**August 16:** Parish Council Meeting - a second basket, **Benevolent Basket**, will be passed

**November 8:** Fall General Assembly following the Divine Liturgy

**NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY:**

The directory is complete and ready for pickup when attending church. If you need one sent to you, then contact Debbie O'Reilley at [fox6060@comcast.net](mailto:fox6060@comcast.net), or call 252-4466.

**THINGS TO BE THINKING ABOUT FOR THE FUTURE:**

Please contact a Parish Council member if you are interested in any of the following so they can plan accordingly.

- Chairman needed for the following events -
  1. Fall Bake Sale – Elizabeth Sendelweck and Debbie O'Reilley
  2. Christmas Card – Open Position
  3. Vasilopita Luncheon – Open Position

*Belated Happy*  
*85<sup>th</sup>*  
*Helen Zarvas*



**LETTER FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL PRESIDENT:**

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I hope that this missive finds you all in good health and good spirits. We are fast approaching the Dormition Fast culminating in the feast of the Dormition. I would like to wish Χρόνια Πολλά to all the Marias and Panagioti/as among us (as well as to all the others who celebrate their name days in August. The feast of the Dormition is a good time to reflect upon both the contributions that women have made to the Church from ancient times up to our own parish life, and upon the value of service to our Lord as exemplified by the Theotokos.

The parish council is looking into developing one or more parish-wide activities with the aim of bringing us together, raising money, reaching out to both inactive parishioners and non-Orthodox Christians, and community service. Ideas that have been mentioned include: Having members of the parish teach a Greek cooking class (perhaps several people each teaching a dish followed by a meal); and, having a Greek Taverna night (including coffee, glyka, and euchre—we're in Indiana after all). However, these are simply possibilities. The council will be taking suggestions for a fundraiser/outreach/community activity between now and the September parish council meeting. Feel free to email me or any of the other parish council members or to discuss this issue with any of us on Sunday.

As many of you know, we failed to achieve a quorum at the spring general assembly meeting. Some attrition is due to deaths or parishioners moving out of Central Indiana. However, regular attendance is vital to the health of the parish and to our sense of community. Of course, many of us live far from Holy Apostles and many of us have commitments or health issues that preclude us from coming every week. I am the last person to criticize anyone for spotty church attendance. Having said that, if we want Holy Apostles to thrive, church attendance is the foundation upon which everything else rests. The Divine Liturgy is an essential part of our Orthodox faith and our very well being. Moreover, if you haven't been coming to church, you have been missed—the presence of each and every one of you enlivens our community. I know that it brings me no small amount of joy to see many familiar faces—some newly acquainted, and some I have known all my life—in church on Sunday.

While it is my sincere hope that our attendance increases, we must also accept the reality of our situation. It is important that we achieve a quorum at our general assembly meetings and in light of that; we are proposing to amend the bylaws to reduce the quorum from 20 to 15 members. This issue will be decided at the next general assembly and this letter serves as notice of the proposed change. Also, we will be voting on 3 new parish council member – please consider being one of the candidates.

Finally, as many of you may have noticed, we have been passing around an extra tray for our benevolent fund once a month. The purpose of this fund is to help out any parishioners who might find themselves in difficulty. It might also be used occasionally to assist other parishes that face calamities (e.g., the Greek Orthodox parish in Knoxville, Tennessee was devastated by fire last spring), though our preferred method of raising funds for such a purpose would be to pass another tray. The parish council has decided that the disbursement of funds from the benevolent fund should be done confidentially by committee. This committee is to be made up of one parish council member, the priest, and one steward not on the parish council. To that end, we are asking for volunteers from the parishioners to sit on the benevolent fund committee.

I wish everyone an enjoyable and restful (and hopefully drier) second half of the summer and a blessed Κοίμησις Θεοτόκου. If anyone should have any concerns or comments about anything I've written here, or about any other matter, please feel free to contact me at akrites@gmail.com God bless.

Faithfully yours,

Angelus Kocoshis