



*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 sincerely hope and pray that this finds each and all in good health, safe and staying warm.

Looking ahead into February, we find that the Trisagion starts on Sunday, the 21st, which will mark the beginning, once again, of our annual journey towards Great Lent, and thus, our annual pilgrimage to Bright and Holy Pascha.

I often hear about the difference between the Russian and Greek approaches to our Faith. The Russian approach is seen by many as focusing more on the Crucifixion and suffering, where the Greek approaches more on the Resurrection. That is both true and a bit simplistic. Each nation and people who have historically become and remained Orthodox have an intrinsic approach or "flavor" that they bring to bear on their witness for Christ and His Church. Yes, there are differences in language, music, local or national customs, food, etc., yet we share one common Faith, in Its essentials. We may not agree with everyone's approach, in some of the customs, attitudes, approaches, etc., but it is very, very important to try our best to respect the other traditions within the greater Tradition. There does come a point in peoples' growth, where the differences become less important than the commonalities, the Bigger Picture. If you are of Greek origin, you honor your background and tradition, which is the same for the Russians, Bulgarians, Romanians, etc.. Saints, victorious warriors in and for Christ, have appeared in ALL nations, in ALL traditions, in All times, across time and space. THIS is what is important - the universal appeal and victory, the healing and transforming power of Jesus Christ.

In the coming pilgrimage to Pascha, by all means be true to your Greek origins and traditions and approaches, but work earnestly to not judge others, both Orthodox and non-Orthodox. "By their fruits ye shall know them." It's the results that count, not the myriad local, ethnic or national details of how it takes place. Please focus on becoming better Orthodox Christians through this transformative and healing process, and leave the rest to God. He has the Big Picture, knows the hearts, minds and intents of all, and will ultimately sort everyone and everything out, according to His Love, Will, Purpose and Grand Design.

The practical keys to this are simple and few: fast according to your strength and circumstances, pray and meditate more, read more inspiring writings, attend church as often as possible, watch what you think, feel, say and do, and try hard not to judge others. Everyone is involved in a great struggle. Pray for others, pray for the world. Therein lays peace and sanity.

God bless you each and all!  
Your Brother in Christ,  
Fr. John

## **NOTED DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR:**

**February 1:** Presentation of our Lord  
**February 14:** Parish Council Meeting  
**February 15:** President's Day  
**February 24:** Benevolent Basket passed

**April 17:** Fr. Alexis Miller and the parishioners of Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church in Crawfordsville (Carpatho-Russian) will be celebrating the liturgy with us. This is part of a Lenten effort to strengthen ties among Orthodox churches in Central Indiana.

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL:**

Sunday school will begin after Father John's sermon and will end in time to bring the children in for communion.

## **STEWARDSHIP FORMS:**

The 2016 Stewardship Forms are once again being included in the newsletter. We are doing this again to help encourage filling yours out, and returning it to the church. These assist the Parish Council in planning for the financial needs of Holy Apostles, and this can only be done with your help.

By now you all should have received your 2015 printout for tax purposes. If you have any questions, please contact the Treasurer, Debbie O'Reilley.

## **YOUR NEW PARISH COUNCIL OFFICERS AND MEMBERS FOR 2016:**

<b>President</b> – Angelus Kocoshis	<b>Secretary</b> – George Chimples
<b>Vice President</b> – George N. Pappas	<b>Treasurer</b> – Deborah O'Reilley
Nearhos Darzentas, Xanthippi Darzentas, Fr. John Koen, Phyllis Kriner	

## **LOOKING FOR CHAIRMEN:**

The Parish Council is still waiting for volunteers to chair the following, or the fund raisers cannot happen.  
**OPA House, Fall Bake Sale, Christmas Card, and Vasilopita Luncheon**

## **PARISH NEWS:**

Please keep Georgia Derziotis in your prayers that she is feeling better soon after her fall.

Our deepest sympathies go out to Farris family on the passing of their sister and aunt, Mary Strapulos. May her memory be eternal.

## **THANK YOU TO THE KOCOSHIS FAMILY FOR THE LOVELY VASILOPITA LUNCHEON:**

Michael Pappas received the coin on behalf of Holy Apostles.

