



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

4550 North Central Avenue, Indianapolis, IN 46205

WWW.HOLYAPOSTLESINDY.ORG

INFO@HOLYAPOSTLESINDY.ORG

Fr. John Koen Tel: 317-908-8511

Volume 7

July 2016

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings in the Risen, Ascended and Transcendent Lord! I pray the Holy Spirit is blessing, guiding and inspiring you in this post-Pentecost time.

Thinking about July, my attention is drawn to the birthday of our American nation, the 4th of July. I wish everyone a safe and happy 4th, celebrating with friends and family. It is worthy of at least some thought and prayer about the meaning of freedom. Freedom is not license. Too many people today think freedom is the right to whatever they want, whenever they want, without criticism or limitation from virtually any quarter. This is false.

Freedom requires accepting personal responsibility, making informed and appropriate choices, being respectful of other people and their choices, without having to agree with everyone, and without being subject to irresponsible choices of others. We are at a major crossroads in our country's history. My prayer over the years has been for government according to godly principles. I know we have not always had that. It's still worth praying for.

America was founded as a republic ("if we can keep it", per Benjamin Franklin). It was intended as a haven for people from religious and political persecution. It was intended to be for balance, not for extremism of various kinds to prevail. This all reflects sound spiritual principles. We do not need extremes of the left or of the right in government and society, any more than we need them in our religious or spiritual lives. In other words, we do not need such extremes.

Most of you reading this are from immigrant families. So am I, though from different lands. Our diversity has been our strength. Will we keep it or will we lose it? Will we keep our freedom, or will we lose it?

As I say that people must take responsibility for their religious and spiritual lives, so this is also true concerning our country, its condition, and its future. I am not going to tell anyone how to vote, that would be inappropriate. But those who are able, by all means vote. And above all else, PRAY. Prayer works. It always has and always will. But it, like any activity, requires effort and persistence. Now is NOT the time to give up, either spiritually or temporally.

God bless you, and God bless America, and God bless the whole world! Without God, what are we, and where are we? Peace.

Your Brother in Christ,
Fr. John

NOTED DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR:

July 4: Independence Day

July 10: Parish Council Meeting

July 17: Sunday of the Holy Fathers, Benevolent Basket being passed

OPA! HOUSE:

We will be having our second **OPA! HOUSE** on **Saturday, October 1st**. This year our event will coincide with the Midtown Vineyard's Art Fair. To those of you who might not know who they are, they are the church that rents the hall downstairs in Northview every Sunday.

Chairman Alexandra Kocoshis and the Parish Council have been discussing some of the options for this year's event. More information will be shared with you in next month's *Voice*.

Please remember that Alexandra and the Parish Council cannot do this without your participation, so please help whenever asked.

PARISH NEWS:

Our dear friend Caroline Schoeff will be moving to Louisville to get her Master of Science Degree in Speech Pathology, the first of August. She will be attending the University of Louisville, and it will take 3 years to obtain it.

Although Caroline is not Orthodox, she has faithfully been attending our church and our events for almost two years. Even though she is moving, she has assured us that she isn't that far away for her to come up and visit with us.

Holy Apostles wishes Caroline God's blessings in all that she does, and look forward to her return.