



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,

Christ is in our midst! He is and ever shall be! So here we are again at the beginning of the Church New Year. Happy Church New Year! I hope and pray that you all had a safe and blessed Summer. Hopefully, we will be seeing more of you back in church again. September is a time of transitions. Summer is nearly over, schools are back in session, Fall is not too far off, to be followed soon after by Winter. Many life transitions and changes have occurred around this time for me and my family. In keeping with this fine "tradition", by the time you read this, I will have moved our son John to Lincoln, NE, to start a new life of work, helping #3 daughter and her family, and furthering his overall education and spiritual adventure. Please keep him (and all our extended family) in your prayers. We also have two daughters who are once again expecting, so please pray for them also (Mariamne and Caroline). Thank you!

Again, this is a time of change, transition, new beginnings. Some of this we can see and anticipate, some of it is only revealed by God as and when it happens and unfolds. So, we should be alert, "be attentive" ("Proschomen!"), so as to be discerning of whatever it is that God wishes to bring to us. It is also the time of the celebration of the Exaltation of the Cross. As I have said before, there is no Christianity without the Cross. Not only in terms of how we have been and are saved by Our Lord Jesus Christ, but also in terms of ongoing personal transformation and growth, in Christ. It doesn't always entail death or suffering, but it does entail change, transformation, and letting go. These are rarely comfortable, but eminently worthwhile, as we come to experience the fruits thereof.

So, may this time be a time of great blessing and benefit to you all, in all ways, on all levels, through the Grace and Mercy of Our Lord Jesus Christ, with also the Blessing and Protection our Our Holy Lady, the Most Holy Theotokos. Abundant Blessings to one and all!

Your Brother in Christ,
Fr. John

NOTED DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR:

September 3: 11:00 AM funeral for Alki Scopelitis's grandson Joseph...May his memory be eternal.

September 4: Sunday school starts

September 8: Nativity of the Theotokos

September 14: Exaltation of the Holy Cross

September 18: Benevolent basket being passed

September 26: Falling Asleep of St. John the Theologian

SUNDAY SCHOOL:

We are looking for some volunteers to assist with Sunday school this year. Please contact Phyllis Kriner at 317-402-0770 if interested or for more information.

REMINDER: Starting with the new church year, 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:

September 4th: We must forgive

September 11th: We will talk about the verse John 3:16 and the Nicene Creed

September 18th: Take up your cross! Jesus is our leader. Follow Jesus.

September 25th: Jesus and His first followers. Where can you hear the word of God or God's message?

OPA! HOUSE:

We will be having our second **OPA! HOUSE**. It will be on **Saturday, October 1, from 11am-5pm**. This year our event will coincide with the Midtown Vineyard's Art Fair. This will be one of two of our major fund raisers.

If you would like to help defray the high cost of advertising this year, since we are not asking for baked goods, it would be greatly appreciated. We would suggest you write a check to Holy Apostles and make in the memo section "OPA ads", so that it can be put on your year-end statement for tax purposes.

Help we need from you: We will have a signup on the blackboard in the coffee hour room, or notify a Parish Council member if you can help with any of these items.

1. Briekes (6)
2. Card tables (5)
3. People to help setup some on Friday and Saturday.
4. Someone to bring about 2 dozen carnations for the center pieces.
5. Cases of water (16oz) so that we end up with approximately 80 bottles
6. Worker bees!!!

ITEMS SELLING:

Flogeres, Kourambiedes, Koulourakia (homemade), Tsourekia
Mezedes Tray: Dolmades, Feta, Kalamata Olives, & pita bread
Greek and regular coffee and water

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE PARISH COUNCIL:

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I hope you have all had a restful and enjoyable summer. I was blessed to have the opportunity to travel this summer, and I'd like to share with you all some of my experiences.

First, I went to Bulgaria for a college roommate's wedding (Kassandra and Ted went too). The wedding was in the old city of Plovdiv in a very beautiful old church. My friend rented a bus and drove the wedding attendees around the country. There are many sites of both Greek and Orthodox interest in the country. Of course Greeks and Bulgarians have had their differences in the past but I was heartened to see how much they have in common with us. After 50 years of communism, traditional culture and Orthodoxy seem to be undergoing a renaissance there. I was most impressed by the beautiful Rila Monastery up in the mountains. It seems to have escaped the traumas of the tourkokratia and the 20th century altogether! The country is very orderly and very inexpensive. I would highly recommend a visit.

After Bulgaria, Ted and I went to Spain and went on a pilgrimage on Camino de Santiago--500 miles from the border of France to the city of Santiago de Compostela in Western Spain. People have been walking to Santiago to see the shrine of St. James for over a thousand years. It was strenuous but very uplifting. The scenery and history along the way is magnificent, and one meets very interesting fellow pilgrims. In some ways characters Chaucer observed 800 years ago are still going on pilgrimages to this day!

Finally, I went to Kodiak Island, Alaska with an OCMC mission. As some of you may know, the Russians preached Orthodoxy to the Aleuts over 200 years ago and many of them remain Orthodox to this day. The Aleuts face many of the problems we see here in Indiana as well as problems similar to those on Indian reservations out West--alcoholism, drug abuse, and illegitimacy are rampant. Moreover, there are many Evangelical, Mormon, and Jehovah's Witness missionaries who go there to preach and they end up spreading division within the villages. Making matters worse, many of these villages didn't have priests during the whole Soviet period--they maintained church life with only a psalti. There is now a seminary (St. Herman's) on Kodiak that trains priests for the entire state. Still, the people there are in great need of Orthodox education and I would highly recommend that anyone, of any age (people on this trip ranged from 17 to 76) go spend a week or two (or more) in a native village in Alaska. Moreover, they are looking for Orthodox Christian school teachers, school administrators, and hospital administrators. People of other religions take these jobs and use them to proselytize! Alaska is beautiful, in the summer there are wild raspberries as big as your thumb and salmon berries, gooseberries and currants growing all over. The salmon and halibut are spectacular, too. While the interior certainly gets very cold in winter, Kodiak averages in the mid-30s.

I thank God for the wonderful opportunities I had this summer. Feel free to contact me to discuss anything about Alaska (or Bulgaria or Spain for that matter). I look forward to seeing everyone in church. We will be putting on both our Opa House and a booth at the Irvington Fall Festival this year. Remember that, the more people who are involved, the more successful these events will be. Please get in touch with me or someone on the parish council to volunteer.

God Bless,
Angelus Kocoshis