



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

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Liturgy: 10:30 a.m.

Volume 9

September 2018

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I hope and pray that this finds you all well and at peace. I also hope and pray that the Summer has been a good time, in all ways, for everyone. We move now into Fall, with cooler weather likely, and many events, activities and celebrations ahead of us. This is also, since ancient times, the beginning of the Church New Year. It is a time of gathering in the harvests, preparing and storing provisions for cooler/colder days ahead. It is also very much a time for thanking God for all of the abundant blessings He has given to us. Gratitude, always giving thanks, is of major spiritual importance for us, as it keeps God's grace alive and flowing in our lives, families, parishes, and communities of all types and sizes.

During the busy seasons ahead, we also need to set aside time for prayer, meditation, quiet, contemplation in order to deepen and strengthen our connection with God, as well as with one another. We should prepare now for a balanced approach to the holiday seasons, so that we and our loved ones do not become overwhelmed and distracted by all of the outer busy-ness and distractions that frequently seem to occur during these times.

In short, remember God and He will remember and bless you. Always give frequent thanks to God for His blessings, both spiritual and material, and He will continue to bless and help you. Take care, do good works, have right attitudes, and stay in touch with God, and with one another. God bless!

In Christ,  
Fr. John

#### **MAJOR FEASTS OF THE CHURCH AND OTHER IMPORTANT DATES:**

September 1 – Beginning of the Ecclesiastical Year

September 3 – Labor Day

September 8 – Nativity of the Theotokos (Major Feast)

September 14 – Exaltation of the Holy Cross (Major Feast) – to be celebrated on September 9

September 16 – Parish Council meeting following Liturgy

Happiest of Name Days to all who celebrate this month! Χρόνια πολλά! Να χαίρεσαι το όνομά σας!

#### **OUR CUSTOMS, OUR TRADITIONS:**

We celebrate two Major Feasts of the Church in September. The first is the Nativity of the Theotokos on September 8 and the second is the Exaltation of the Holy Cross on September 14. The second Feast commemorates the finding of the true Cross by St. Helen, mother of the Emperor Constantine. Sweet basil (vasiliko) has quite a significant role during and after the special service held for the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. Do you know why? As per the customs of our faith, it is believed that vasiliko was the fragrant flower growing at the site where St. Helen found the true Cross. Want to know more? See "What's Happening at Holy Apostles" and our new Bible Study program.

A special thank you to Mary Kostarides for each year growing and generously donating the potted vasiliko adorning our icons and for hand-making the vasiliko and marigold mini bouquets used in this major Feast and then distributed to parishioners to enjoy at home. βοήθα σου!

**ORTHODOX OBSERVER:**

One of the many benefits of your paid stewardship is receiving the monthly Archdiocese publication, *Orthodox Observer*. It has come to our attention that some of you may not be, or no longer are receiving this publication. If you are a paid steward and do not receive this publication, but wish to do so, please let one of the Parish Council members know so that this oversight can be corrected.

**STEWARD NEWS:**

As we wind down the glorious days of summer, we extend a huge thank you to Steve and Debbie O'Reilley for opening their home and hosting our annual picnic on August 26. We beat the heat with a scrumptious pitch-in buffet and divine fellowship. Και του χρόνου!

Congratulations to Fr. John and Presbytera Martha on the birth of their 16<sup>th</sup> grandchild! Michael (Misha) Gonopolsky was born August 13, 2018, to Alexei and Mariamne Gonopolsky in Kodiak, Alaska. Misha was 8 lbs., 13 oz in weight, and 20" long. All are doing well, glory be to God! Να σας ζήσει!

Please continue to keep Georgia Derziotis, Dena Kerhoulas, Georgia Stevens and Angelo Zarvas in your prayers. Σιδερένιος!

**WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HOLY APOSTLES:**

**BIBLE STUDY** – What is the difference between our Orthodox faith and Catholicism? As Orthodox Christians, why do we do what we do? Parish Council President Elijah McKnight is leading the implementation of our first Bible Study and is asking you to submit topics about our Orthodox faith for which you are interested in learning more about. A suggestion card and basket to collect your ideas is now available on the table located in the Narthex of the Chapel. The Bible Study group will meet in our social gathering room on the last Sunday of each month at 9:30 a.m. The first class is scheduled for September 30. We look forward to seeing you there!

**HISTORIC IRVINGTON HALLOWEEN FESTIVAL** – For the third year in a row Holy Apostles will be participating in the Historic Irvington Halloween Festival on Saturday, October 27. This is a tremendous fundraising and outreach opportunity for our church! Volunteers will be needed to man our food booth. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Ethel Darzentas or Debbie O'Reilley.

**CALL FOR CLOTHING DONATIONS FOR SCHOOL 70** – Colder weather will be here before we know it and time to help those less fortunate tolerate bitter winter conditions. We will be holding a clothing drive to collect winter scarves, hats, gloves, boots, etc., for the less fortunate children attending School 70, located at 46<sup>th</sup> and Central. Donations are needed for all grades but the need is greater for children in grades 3 through 5. There will be a collection box in our social gathering room for your donations.

**SAVE THE DATE:** Your Parish Council has selected Sunday, November 18 for the Fall General Assembly meeting. Pre-read materials and more details will be forthcoming. Until then, please consider fulfilling your stewardship pledge.

**COFFEE HOUR:** There's no better way to connect with your church family, catch-up on the week's activities with friends, and even meet and welcome visitors to our church than by attending coffee hour at the conclusion of Liturgy. In addition to this wonderful fellowship hour, yummy snack items are generously provided by our parishioners. A sign-up sheet is available for you to host coffee hour. Have you signed up?

**YOUR 2018 PARISH COUNCIL:**

President – Elijah McKnight, Secretary – Helen Kostarides, Treasurer – Debbie O'Reilley, Xanthippi and Nearhos Darzentas, Angelus Kocoshis, Dr. Tom Kocoshis.