



The Voice of Holy Apostles **Greek Orthodox Church of Indianapolis**

Αγιοι Αποστολοι Ελληνορθοδοξη Εκκλησια Ινδιαναπολεως
+Metropolis of Detroit

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Volume 6

February 2015

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings in the Lord! Very nice to see you all in church of late, hoping and praying to see MORE of you attending! So, we just got past Christmas and New Year, and lo and behold, what do we spy coming down the pike soon??? Why, Great Lent, of course! **WARNING:** Do NOT let yourselves be "mugged" by Lent this year! That's said part in jest, and part not. The whole of next month, February, especially Sundays, ("signposts"), is involved in the preparation for Lent, as Lent prepares us for PASCHA! It's important to approach and deal with ALL of this in the right spirit and manner. Let me tell you a story.....

When Martha and the kids and I were on mission in England many years ago, I was, before transitioning into Orthodoxy, a non-denominational minister-priest. At one point, I was part of the local Clergy Fraternal, in a small town north of London. They even, for some strange reason, elected me secretary/president of the outfit one year. It was kind of like the Presbyters' Council, only ecumenical: non-denominational/becoming Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Church of England, Methodist, Salvation Army, et al. Later in that timeframe/process, I was called upon to lecture about Orthodoxy at St. Alban's Cathedral. Anyway, we met monthly at the main Methodist church in the High Street. There was always a midway break, with coffee, tea and cookies being served. The ladies would bring them in and the Methodist ministers would serve them. I had coffee, and George, one of the Methodist ministers came around with a plate of cookies. Not wanting any that time, I declined. Said George, "What's the matter, John, it's not Lent yet!" I replied (for some spontaneous reason): "That's okay, George. This year, I'm giving up RELIGION for Lent!" The room became dead silent. After a bit, John, the head Methodist pastor said: "Oh that cuts pretty close to the bone!" Yep, I guess so.

My point here is, that the preparation for, and the journey through Lent is intended to be a time for spiritual reflection, change, transformation, repentance and healing. If none of those things take place, at least even a little, we miss the whole point. The outer observances, fasting, abstinence, etc. are TOOLS to help us draw closer to Christ and therefore to one another, to become better people in, of and for Christ. Let us try to remember this, and try this approach. The spiritual comes first, while the material comes second. May God bless and help us each and all in and with this.

Your Brother in Christ,
Fr, John

NOTED DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR:

February 2: Presentation of the Lord

February 8: Parish Council Meeting

February 14, 21, & 28: Saturday of Souls

February 15: Meatfare Sunday

February 22: Cheesefare Sunday

February 23: Beginning of Lent

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS:

February 1: Sunday of the Pharisee and Publican. Jesus wants us to be humble.

February 8: Sunday of the Prodigal Son. God wants us to come back.

February 15: Sunday of the Last Judgment. We must care for others.

February 22: Forgiveness Sunday. We have a treasure chest in heaven.

STEWARDSHIP FORMS:

Please remember to turn in your forms by either mailing them, or turning it in at church.

2014 STATEMENT:

By now you should have received your statement for tax purposes. If you have not received it, then please contact Treasurer Deborah O'Reilley at 317-252-4466 or fox6060@comcast.net.

NEW 2015 PARISH COUNCIL OFFICERS:

President: Dr. Thomas Kocoshis 765-744-2238-cell)

Vice Present: Angelus Kocoshis

Secretary: George Chimples

Treasurer: Deborah O'Reilley

Rest of the Council: Ann Barnhart, Phyllis Kriner, and George N. Pappas

PALM SUNDAY LUNCHEON:

The Parish Council is looking for someone to volunteer to chair our annual Palm Sunday Luncheon that will be held on April 5. The requirements will be: find a location for the events; setup the menu; and take prepaid reservations. You will be given assistance on the flyer if needed. Please contact a Parish Council member if you are interested in serving your church.

WINTER WEATHER:

Keep an out on Channel 8 and 13, our Facebook page, and for an email if Church needs to be cancelled.

TELEPHONE DIRECTORY:

The Parish Council is putting together a new church directory that will hopefully be out by the end of the month.

PARISH NEWS:

Congratulations to Steward Georgia and her husband Matthew Crabtree are proud to announce the birth of their son Jonas Matthew (7 lb. 10 oz.), on December 31. He is the grandson of Nearhos and Xanthippi Darzentas, and great-grandson of Evangela Magdalinos.



**We want to wish
Steward Connie Bevel
a belated
Happy 90th Birthday
and many more!**

Holy Apostles wants to thank Chairman Xanthippi Darzentas, and her able bodied assistant Nearhos, for having hosted such a lovely Vasilopita Luncheon last month, as well as sponsoring it. Also, thank you to Helen Kostarides for donating the soft drinks. Thank you to Christos and Samantha Darzentas, Phyllis Kriner, Debbie O'Reilley, and the Sendelweck family for their help as well. Because of this affair, Holy Apostles was able to send \$500 to St. Basil's Academy.

CORRECTIONS FROM JULY 2014, NOVEMBER 2014 AND JANUARY 2015 NEWSLETTERS:

An error in thanking Dr. and Mrs. Emmanuel Kratsios for donating the Communion wine was recently brought to our attention by Irene Kratsios.

In truth, Mr. George Stergiopoulos of the Greek Islands restaurant has continuously donated the wine used to celebrate the Eucharist during our weekly Divine Liturgies. Dr. Kratsios has been working with

Fr. John Koen in ensuring that there is always enough available at Holy Apostles.

At the November General Assembly meeting, Irene Kratsios requested permission to approach Northwood Christian Church in order to discuss the possibility of replacing our Chapel's pew cushions. Permission was granted, yet no formal committee or chairmanship was established. While waiting to schedule a meeting with Northwood Christian Church's representative, external involvement from within our parish took place. Due to this, and NOT any prior commitments, Irene regrettably chose to relinquish any further participation in this endeavor

*HOLY APOSTLES' 2015 PARISH COUNCIL
Affirmation on Sunday, January 4, by Rev. Fr. John Koen*

Left to right: Angelus Kocoshis, Dr. Tom Kocoshis, Deborah O'Reilley, Rev. Fr. John Koen, Phyllis Kriner, Ann Barnhart, and George N. Pappas. Absent from the picture is George Chimples.



FUN MEMORIES OF VASILOPITA DAY JANUARY 11TH



MESSAGE FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL PRESIDENT:

Dear Members,

It is with genuine humility that I accept the office of President of the Parish Council of Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church of Indianapolis. All I can do is pray: "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me a sinner". I ask for your prayers for me also.

I want to thank the entire Parish Council Members past and present for what they have accomplished. Like anyone else, I have strengths and weaknesses. I am not particularly energetic or aggressive but I truly believe that God, in His Mercy, has given me the ability to be a good listener and a fair-minded individual. I try to be transparent (which is not easy for someone who weighs over 300 lbs.). I will welcome all suggestions for the good of the church. Some of the noncontroversial ones I may be able to implement promptly. Other, more controversial suggestions will require thought, prayer and consultation with the Parish Council and other members of the parish.

One of the major concerns for our parish, as I see it, has been the relatively slow rate of growth in membership. Quite frankly, I am disappointed with our low attendance at the Sunday Divine Liturgies over the past few months. Our church does not belong to one person or group of persons but to all parishioners. If there are personality conflicts or misunderstandings with certain individuals, I beseech you to put them aside and take your rightful place in our pews. You will be warmly welcomed.

Finally, I'd like to finish my message with an adaptation of a prayer that I found in "My Daily Orthodox Prayer Book", 4th printing. Coniaris, AM (ed). Light and Life Publishing Co., 2001:

"O Lord Jesus Christ
Help us to be kind to each other, tenderhearted
Forgiving one another as You have forgiven us.
Never let the sun go down on our anger
Grant us always to see our own faults
And not to judge each other
Open our eyes to the best in each other.
Let patience reign supreme in our hearts
Give us hope to brighten life
And joy to lighten sorrow.
May our parish be a haven where
Spiritual values are treasured and
Holy principles are modeled.
Gladden us with Your grace and peace
That with one heart we may
Praise and glorify You. Amen

Yours in Christ,
Tom Kocoshis
Parish Council President