

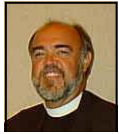


ASCENSION OF OUR LORD GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

ANALYPSIS NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 7 - ISSUE 1

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2011



From Father
Jim's Study...

A WAR OF THE WORLDS - Struggles Which Lead to Repentance

I remember my mother of blessed memory sharing the story of her sitting by the radio one Halloween night, on October 30, 1938, listening to a somewhat frightening news event - later known as: **"The night that panicked America"**. Orson Welles was broadcasting "news bulletins", from his CBS studio that an actual alien invasion of Martians was taking place in the United States. It was only at the conclusion of the 55 minute broadcast that Welles admitted, after some disruption, debate and skepticism circulating around America that these news accounts were indeed nothing more than a hoax, a Halloween "trick" that was taken from the late 19th Century episode of an H.G. Wells novel entitled: **"The War of the Worlds."** This fictitious broadcast of an invasion and "war" had scared a great many people. For weeks, people were angry and upset over being duped by the radio show. My mom, on the other hand, from the very beginning had a hard time "buying into the whole broadcast", but she also said at first, it appeared to be real - she just couldn't believe what she was listening to at the time. She didn't fall prey to the hoax - perhaps, because she was a pretty stable individual who had an inordinate amount of Faith - Christian Faith.

Long before the publishing of the H.G. Wells novel and long before that infamous 1938 broadcast, a real **"War of the Worlds"** was initiated among the people of the world that began many years earlier - during the time of Christ. Just prior to Jesus' departure to Galilee, our Lord was in the wilderness preparing Himself for His Ministry. It was at that time that Jesus was tempted by Satan and offered to rule over the earthly Kingdoms of "THIS" world, as long as He paid homage to Satan and denied God. Christ spoke firmly and said: *"Away with you, Satan! For it is written. 'You shall worship the Lord your God and Him only you shall serve'."*



"Our little angels" gather around baby Jesus as portrayed in this past year's Christmas Pageant. "BRAVO" to all (children, young adults and adults) for a job well done!

We read in Matthew's Gospel in the 4th Chapter, that after Christ left the wilderness He went to Nazareth and then dwelt in Capernaum, to the land of Zebulon and Naphthali by the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, to Galilee of the Gentiles. It was from that time that Jesus began to preach and say: **"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!"** The real **"war of the worlds"** and struggle between the **"earthly kingdom" under Satan's control and the "heavenly kingdom" - the eternal spiritual rewards that come from God** - was officially declared.

To this very day, we see the struggle that man endures through the constant temptations that Satan offers mankind, vis-à-vis those who choose to follow the pure and selfless ways of our Lord Jesus Christ - the struggle between the **"earthly kingdom and the heavenly kingdom"**. Numerous Christian writers have stated that Satan is known as **"the ruler of this earthly world"** - where Christ is known as the **"vehicle to the Kingdom of God"**. If you recall, during Christ's temptations, He endured in the desert, in the devil's test, Jesus was being asked to choose worldly power, over the Kingdom of God. Jesus refused the road of "earthly glory", which would lead him away from His suffering and death from the redemption of the world. Just as a baseball manager

(Continued on page 6)

OUR STEWARDSHIP MINISTRIES	PARISH REGISTRY
<p style="text-align: center;">Rev. Fr. James S. Gordon, Protopresbyter</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Parish Ministry Team</u></p> <p>Acolytes: Fr. James Gordon, Alex Magdalinos Bookstore: See Alex Magdalinos if interested Chanters: Kosta Buhler, George Houppis, Paul Lillios, Alex Magdalinos, Nick Papastratakos, Isidoros Xilas Choir Director: Please speak with Fr. Jim if interested. Custodian: Marian Janowski Greek School Director: Maria Theodoropulu GOYA: Alex Magdalinos, Carol Stamas, Maria Vlahos JOY & Jr. GOYA: Alex Magdalinos, Nick Treantafeles Maria Vlahos Koliva: Patricia Metropoulos Office Secretary: Kay James Office Volunteer: Maita Houppis Parish Council: Harold Anagnos (<i>President</i>), Bill Athenson, Robert Buhler, Nicholas Gatsis, George Houppis (<i>Asst. Treasurer</i>), Doug Hugdahl (<i>Treasurer</i>), George Kartsimas, Thomas Kiriakos (<i>Vice-President</i>), Bob Mantzoros, Nicholas Marino, Alex Marx, George Mouzakiotis, Thomas Papastefan, Nick Papastratakos, Carol Stamas (<i>Secretary</i>), Tom Vabakos, Peter Venetos Pastoral Assistant: Alex Magdalinos Philoptochos President: Patricia Metropoulos Senior Synaxis Coordinator: Dee Christ Sunday Church School Director: Mia Connolly Toddlers & Parents: Maria Bolos</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>40-DAY BLESSINGS</u></p> <p>11/07/10 Daughter of Kathy & Lou Demas 11/28/10 Daughter of Eleni & Constantine Hiotis 12/22/10 Daughter of Jaime (Dimitra) & Greg Kunstman</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>BAPTISMS/CHRISMATIONS</u></p> <p>11/21/10 Nikolaos, Son of Konstantinos Kerhulas & Stavroula Sparagis Kerhulas <i>Sponsors: George & Elizabeth Bahramis</i> 12/05/10 Molly Elaine Marino, Daughter of Nicholas & Amy Marino <i>Sponsor: Carol Stamas</i> 12/11/10 Vasilios, Son of Samuel & Carol Soteris <i>Sponsor: Patty Soteris</i> 12/19/10 Chrismation of Monica Escatel <i>Sponsor: Evangelia Margolis</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>MEMORIALS</u></p> <p>11/21/10 Charles (Konstantinos) Koclanes (40 days), beloved father of Steven (Caroline) Koclanes 11/28/10 Gina (Georgia) Christie (1 year), beloved wife of George Christie 11/28/10 Chrysanthi Vouris (9 years) beloved grandmother of Frances (Michael) Clavey and beloved mother of Despina (Gerald) Taranko 12/12/10 Helen Kaitson (40 days), beloved mother of Michael (Ellen) Kaitson 12/19/10 Chris (Christodoulos) Daly (6 years) and Virginia (Evangelia) Daly (11 years), beloved parents of Cynthia (Ted) Spears <p style="text-align: center;"><i>May their memory be eternal.</i></p> </p>

FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL - *By Harold Anagnos, President*

The year that came to an end...

On the 19th of December we held our second General Assembly meeting of 2010. Our community has by now a very strong foundation of worshipping families despite the typical attrition in communities of our age. And despite the arrival of two communities within ten miles north and south of our Church, we are able to hold strong at the 300+ level for the past five years.

We do not enjoy the population density of the areas of some larger sister communities within 25 miles of our Church and we cannot expect people to drive over 20 miles to go to Church or bring their children on weekday evenings to our facilities trying to beat traffic for more than 30-45 minutes.

Our opportunities for growth in numbers and pledges to the Building Fund exist within this community. As our beloved Father Jim tells us, **we are ministering to 400 families, but only 300 choose to join us** as stewards. Some of us, Greek Orthodox, believe that one can be a good Orthodox Christian *by receiving Communion a few times a year, showing up on holidays and keeping most of the sacraments within our Faith*. Some even believe we get funding from our National Church or our Metropolis not understanding that we help support them and not the other way around. Please ask people that you know that worship with us from time to time to join us as Stewards of this Church and community. We need 400+ families to support our future home. Please be an ambassador for The Ascension of Our Lord. Pledge your time, talents and treasures now - **you are needed indeed.**

We also have within us 200 out of the 300+ families that have not had the opportunity to pledge to our Capital Campaign to build our new Church complex. We have the strength within our community. We just have to wake it up and pull together for the future of our community. **Building our church is something bigger than any one of us. It is for the future of our community and our children and grandchildren - and our Orthodox Faith in Southern Lake County.**

On behalf of the Parish Council we wish you and your families a Happy New Year in good health and prosperity.

Καλή Χρονιά!

Youth News. Information for ALL our youth and educational ministries.

YOUTH SUNDAY IS FEBRUARY 6TH! - We invite the entire parish to join us for Youth Sunday. We begin together in worship and then we conclude in fellowship at the Cubby Bear North with our traditional brunch, along with a short program. The brunch has always been a fun, family-oriented event and we invite you to join us. See **page 6** for more information. You may purchase your Brunch tickets in advance after Church on Sundays or by calling the Church Office. Thanks!



GOYA LOCK-IN - It's that time of year again...time for our Goya Lock-In. This fun and meaningful event will take place beginning Friday evening, February 11th to Saturday morning, February 12th. We begin with dinner and then will be going shopping for our Lake County Haven service project. When we return, there will be plenty of time for fun, friends, food and Faith! Information and permission slips will be sent out to all registered Goyans and will also be available in the Fellowship Hall for any new High Schooler who would like to join us!

IT'S GREEK TO US! - There will be a special Goya meeting on Monday, February 21st. It's "EVERYTHING GREEK NIGHT!" We will meet for a Greek pot-luck dinner at 6:00 p.m. and the rest of the evening will be about EVERYTHING GREEK. **Other than bringing a Greek dish, you also must bring a Greek friend!** PLUS...there will be Greek dancing, Greek games and Greek Orthodoxy! More details TBA! OPA!



JOY RETREAT - We invite all 4th-6th Graders to join us for our first JOY Day Retreat on Saturday, February 26th. The day begins with prayer in Divine Liturgy at 9:00 a.m. and will go through 3:30 p.m. Our Youth Workers are busy planning for a wonderful day and information will be sent out to all registered JOY children and also be in the Fellowship Hall. We hope you can all make it!



LOOKING FOR ARTISTS, SPEAKERS, POETS AND WRITERS!!! Please speak with Miss Maria Vlahos to learn more about the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical and Arts Festival. Use your talents to express your Orthodox Faith. Our Parish Festival will take place on Monday, April 4th and the Metropolis Festival on Bright Saturday, April 30th at St. Nectarios Church in Palatine.



CHECK OUT THE GOYA WEBPAGE FOR A LIST OF UPCOMING EVENTS - www.ascensiongoc.com/goya



Moving clockwise from top left: Gabriel announces the birth of Jesus in the Christmas Pageant; our Youth Groups' visit to the Nursing Home in Wheeling; Sunday Church School children sing for us during the Pageant; Joy/Jr. Goyans sort food for the Thanksgiving baskets; our amazingly fun Parish Family Ice Skating and Pizza Party; our Goya at "Feed My Starving Children" in Schaumburg (the hair nets were a nice touch - learn more at www.fmsc.org.)



PARISH NEWS

- **OUR SINCERE SYMPATHIES to the families of:**

Mike (Ellen) Kaitson on the recent death of his beloved mother Helen Kaitson who fell asleep in the Lord on Sunday, October 31st, a few hours after she attended the Divine Liturgy. Helen was a loving and active member of the Senior Synaxis. We will all miss her. The funeral took place on November 4th at St. Nectarios Church in Palatine.

Bill (Cheri) Smirles on the recent death of his beloved father James Smirles who fell asleep in the Lord on November 11th. Jim Smirles was a founder and a very active member of SS Peter and Paul Church and former Mayor of Glenview.

Cindy (John) Vamvakos on the recent death of her father.

Conrad and Mary Beth Theodore on the recent death of their beloved father Leonidas Theodore who fell asleep in the Lord. The funeral was held at St. Demetrios Church in Chicago.

Janis (Mark) Rader on the recent death of three family members who fell asleep in the Lord: Marina Sampanes from Michigan; Dean Georgacakes also from Michigan and Elaine Murphy from Chicago.

Dee Christ on the recent death of her beloved husband Christ Christ who fell asleep in the Lord on December 29th. The funeral took place at our Church on January 2nd. Christ and Dee Christ were the founders of our Senior Synaxis.

May their memory be eternal.

- **CONGRATULATIONS** to Mary Kakavas who was honored at the Greek American Dinner Dance, for her outstanding service. We are very proud of you, Mary!
- **WE WELCOME INTO OUR ORTHODOX FAMILY** Monica Escatel who was Chrismated on Sunday, December 19th. Congratulations, Monica. Once again, welcome into our Faith, our Church and our hearts.
- **THE YEARLY CALENDARS** are available in the Fellowship Hall. If you have not picked one up yet, please do so. The calendars WILL NOT BE MAILED OUT THIS YEAR.
- **MANY THANKS** to all of you who contributed to the collection for St. Basil's Academy. The total amount collected was \$2,105.00. May God bless all of you!
- **SAVE THE DATES OF FEBRUARY 26TH AND MARCH 5TH AND 12TH.** The Psychosavata (Saturday of the Souls) will take place on those days. Orthros will begin at 8:00 a.m. and Divine Liturgy at 9:00 a.m. Bring your Kollyva (boiled wheat) the day of the Service and submit the names of your beloved deceased.
- **YOUTH SUNDAY** will be on Sunday, February 6th. That's Super Bowl Sunday - don't worry, the Youth brunch will be immediately following the Divine Liturgy and the football game will be in the evening. Please get your tickets for the Youth Brunch as soon as possible. See page 6 for more information
- **STEWARDSHIP PLEDGES FOR 2011** have been coming in at a steady pace. For those of you who have not responded yet, please do so as soon as possible. If you have any questions at all, please see, call or e-mail Kay James. Office hours are from Monday through Friday, from 9:00 a.m. through 3:00 p.m. If you call after office hours, please leave a message and Kay will return your call as soon as possible.



Our Senior Synaxis group always has a great time with their many events and activities. At left, are pictures from the "Fall Into Christmas" Bazaar and also their January 2011 Luncheon.

Pictured below are our College Students and Young Adults (CSYA) after an intense game of Whirlyball! Join our Facebook group and stay informed about upcoming events. Go to www.ascensiongoc.com/csya and you'll be linked to it automatically.



PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2010...Thank you to everyone who supports and helps Philoptochos.

◆ **Membership**

- 53 paid members; 47 renewed members, 6 new members

◆ **Fundraising - Successful!**

- Thanksgiving Bake Sale
- Spring Bake Sale and Candle Sale
- Cloud 9 Candle Sale

◆ **Philanthropy**

- **Lenten Project 2010** - Pantry Partner for Project Mexico and St. Innocent Orphanage, we collected 43 large boxes of food and toiletries
- **Glass Slipper Project Collection Fall 2010** - Collection of new and gently used Prom dresses knee length or longer Over 100 dresses, shoes, purses, make up and accessories were collected. Thank you to Lisa Maris for hosting.
- **Thanksgiving Food Drive 2010** - 14 baskets of food and gift cards were donated to Hellenic Foundation for Hollywood House residents, additional food was donated to the Lake County Food Pantry and St. Francis Food Pantry in Lake County. Thank you to Nick Treantafeles and Alex Magdalinos for delivering all the baskets to the Hellenic Foundation.
- **Winter Coat Drive 2010** - over 100 coats, hats, gloves, mittens and snow pants were collected and donated to SEDOL (Special Education District of Lake County) Thank you to Magdalene Kalb and Madeleine Panos for there assistance.

◆ **Philoxenia**

- We sponsored coffee hour and had an Artoclasia in honor SS Cosmas and Damianos, the patron saints of Philoptochos.
- We sponsored coffee hour and arranged a special visit from Santa in celebration of St. Nicholas Day.

Philoptochos: Simply one woman asking another woman to care.



PARISH VASILOPITA CELEBRATIONS

Most of our ministry groups cut their own Vasilopites in addition to our Parish Vasilopita, pictured at top left - a piece being received by our Sunday Church School Director, Mia Connolly. **Moving clockwise...** Toddlers & Parents, Greek School (2 pictures), Joy/Jr. Goya, Senior Synaxis and our Adult Greek School. **KALI HRONIA!!!**



(Continued from page 1)

or a football coach knows the inevitable, that he is **"hired to be fired"** - Christ also knew that He had to endure the temptations, suffering, and His eventual death - so that He might prove **"life after death"** and bring the Kingdom of God, salvation to all of mankind.

We, who make up **"the earthly world"** that Satan has under his power, live in a state of constant struggle and conflict. Satan has many people convinced that the more you have, the more you NEED - and that those NEEDS are NEVER EVER enough! We are engaged in a **"war of the worlds"** that is between being controlled and manipulated by the materialistic world controlled by Satan's greed, compared to the spiritual riches and blessings promised to us by Christ in God's heavenly Kingdom. It seems that this struggle of whether people should be or can be wealthy or not is a struggle that comes under much scrutiny. Some people don't think that being wealthy is a bad thing - others who don't have wealth think that the wealthy are evil. This is a struggle and conflict that has grown throughout the ages. We continue to see it come to light in this day and age - within political circles and climates today - the distinction between the **"haves"** and the **"have not's"** continues to bring controversy and jealousy between God's people.

Now, there are people we know who are controlled by their wealth, they are selfish and relentless in not sharing their wealth with anyone! They are consumed by the perceived power that their wealth brings them and the influences that often intimidate those who do not possess the wealth they possess. People of wealth are often **"demonized"** by their wealth, stereo-typed by the notion that the wealthy do not share their wealth - period.

However, I know this not always to be the case!

I know for a fact that there are many Christians, true Christian believers of means that are anything but selfish - but are indeed very benevolent and giving of their riches to help the poor, the Church and various agencies and causes that do good works. I have also witnessed the transformation of previously selfish individuals who have turned from their selfishness through Christ's Gospel and changed for the better. These people learned that the true Christian, who is blessed with wealth and material means, does not keep his or her wealth to themselves, but rather shares that wealth so others may benefit from the blessings they believe they have received from God rather than Satan. This is why all wealthy people cannot be categorized or lumped together with the wealthy that are simply selfish!

There are quite a few Christians who have overcome the struggle and have **"won the war"** over greed and materialism and share their wealth with others - for they have seen the **"Great Light"** and the rewards of salvation through their relationship with Jesus Christ. They have indeed realized that the **"Great Light"** the Prophet Isaiah often refers to in His prophecies is the Gospel of Jesus Christ. They learned through Christ's proclamation: **"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!"** - that there is more to life than life's pleasures.

As we continue our own personal struggles over the **"war of the worlds"** - of the struggle between the **"earthly kingdom and the heavenly kingdom"** let us keep the covenant we made with God at our baptism and follow His teachings so we too may be one with Christ.

THE ASCENSION GOYA PRESENTS ITS:

11TH ANNUAL "YOUTH SUNDAY" FAMILY BRUNCH

#11 in 2011

Sunday, February 6th at the Cubby Bear (North)

following Divine Liturgy

MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS AFTER CHURCH ON SUNDAYS



ADULTS: \$20.00

YOUTH (Grades 2-5): \$14.00

GRADE 1 & UNDER: Free

Tickets at the door on the day of event will be \$2.00 more.



ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TOWARDS FUTURE GOYA SERVICE PROJECTS AND CHARITABLE ENDEAVORS

2010 STEWARDS OF THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

We thank all of those who supported the ministries of our beloved Church with your commitment of time, talents and treasures.

Mr. & Mrs. Alexander Adams	Mr. & Mrs. James Facklis	Mr. & Mrs. William LaFleur	Mr. & Mrs. Mark Rader
Miss Kimberly Adams	Mr. & Mrs. Samer Fakhoury	Mr. & Mrs. Dean Lampros	Mrs. Elaine Rasiarimos
Mr. & Mrs. Tyrone Adams	Mr. & Mrs. George Filley	Mr. & Mrs. Brad Lilic	Mrs. Anna Razas
Mr. & Mrs. Deno Alexakos	Mr. & Mrs. Dean Flesor	Hon. & Mrs. Paul Lillios	Mr. & Mrs. George Revelas
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Mr. & Mrs. William Apostolakis	Captain Joanne Gordon	Mr. & Mrs. Harilaos Mantzoros	Mr. & Mrs. Peter Schubkegel, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. George Aralis	Mr. & Mrs. Scott Gordon	Mr. & Mrs. Peter Maratos	Mr. & Mrs. Robert Schuppe
Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Argol	Dr. & Dr. Thomas Gough	Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Marino	Mr. & Mrs. David Scoco
Mr. & Mrs. Basil Athenson	Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Grant	Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Marino	Mrs. Bertha Sepsis
Mr. & Mrs. Sarante Athenson	Mr. & Mrs. Robert Gremley	Mr. & Mrs. George Maris	Dr. & Mrs. Anthony Serpico
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Mr. & Mrs. John Esser	Dr. & Mrs. Chris Kyros	Mr. & Mrs. Steven Poulos	
Mr. & Mrs. Cameron Eugenis	Mr. & Mrs. Zeno Ladas	Mr. & Mrs. Michael Prousis	

(CURRENT AS OF JANUARY 20, 2011)

WORSHIP SERVICES	PARISH INFORMATION
<p align="center"> Sunday Orthros: 8:15 a.m. <i>Sunday Church School: 9:15 a.m.</i> Sunday Divine Liturgy: 9:30 a.m. </p>	<p align="center"> Ascension of Our Lord Greek Orthodox Church 1207 Riverwoods Road Lincolnshire, IL 60069 Phone: (847) 482-1200 Fax: (847) 482-9566 Website: www.ascensiongoc.com Fr. James S. Gordon, Protopresbyter Church Office Hours: Monday – Friday: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. </p>
<p align="center">+ ΥΠΑΠΑΝΤΗ - PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD +</p>	<p align="center">DATES TO REMEMBER...</p>
<p align="center"> Wednesday, February 2nd 8:00 a.m. Orthros/9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy </p>	
<p align="center">+ ST. HARALAMBOS +</p>	<p align="center"> Sunday, January 30th Hellenic Letters Luncheon @ Chateau Ritz </p>
<p align="center"> Thursday, February 10th <i>Vespers at 7:00 p.m. on February 9th and Orthros/Divine Liturgy at 8:30 a.m., both at St. Haralambos Church, Niles</i> </p>	<p align="center"> Sunday, February 6th Youth Sunday - Brunch at Cubby Bear North </p>
<p align="center">+ SATURDAY OF THE SOULS +</p>	<p align="center"> Friday, February 11th - Saturday, February 12th GOYA Lock-In </p>
<p align="center"> Three services will be held on: Saturday, February 26th Saturdays, March 5th and 12th 8:00 a.m. Orthros and 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy <i>Forms for submitting names of deceased loved ones are available at Church.</i> </p>	<p align="center"> Sunday, February 13th Period of Triodion Begins </p>
<p align="center">ANALYSIS NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</p>	<p align="center"> Saturday, February 26th 1st Saturday of the Souls JOY Day Retreat </p>
<p align="center"> <i>Deadline for March/April Newsletter: February 15th</i> <i>Please submit all information to Alex in the Church Office</i> <i>or via e-mail at alekom@sbcglobal.net.</i> </p>	

PLEASE SEE UPCOMING FEBRUARY CALENDAR FOR OTHER EVENTS AND UPDATES

Ascension of Our Lord Greek Orthodox Church
1207 Riverwoods Road
Lincolnshire, IL 60069