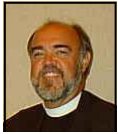




ASCENSION OF OUR LORD GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH ANALYPSIS NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 6 - ISSUE 4

JULY/AUGUST 2010



From Father Jim's Study...

WHAT MEMBER OF THE BODY OF CHRIST ARE YOU?

St. Paul wrote this most revealing and profound statement found in his 1st Letter to the Corinthians when he wrote: *"Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it."* What was Paul talking about - to whom was he speaking and what did he mean? From my study and research, biblical scholarship stated that St. Paul was speaking directly to the community in Corinth. He addressed them specifically to inform them that they, the people who were interested and intrigued by this man they had heard about named Jesus Christ, **were a part of Him**. As believers in Christ, they were not only part of Him as individuals, but collectively, a "body" of believers who shared a common belief that He was indeed the Savior, the Christ, the Redeemer and Resurrected Lord. As members of this unified body, they also had their own individuality, personality and possessed unique talents that they could share, through a ministry, within their own community. This concept was foreign to these people - they were not quite sure what gifts they possessed and how they could share those gifts with their fellow man. What **did** Paul mean by this statement? Perhaps in some way, he was also asking a rhetorical question to those of Corinth - perhaps he was asking: **What member of the body of Christ are you?**

Paul was attempting, at the time, to unify the Corinthian people, this diverse community, into a body of believers! He was attempting to not only bring the message of Christ's love to them, but to unite them and strengthen them in their belief. Paul felt that by unifying this community, they would become leaders and a fortification of Christianity. By his statement: *"... you are the body of Christ and individually members of it"* - Paul was challenging these people and wanted to see



Our Jr. Olympians with Fr. Jim and coaches as they prepare to march into the stadium for the "Parade of Churches" More pictures on page 4.

what they were made of, whether they would respond. As history bore out - many of them did respond - for many in the community came to Christ through their Baptism and made a life-long commitment to Him!

Whenever I read this Scriptural statement *"Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it"*, I get excited and begin to think of how true this statement remains today. *"... you are the body of Christ* - for within this Church and as you come together, service after service, Sunday after Sunday, whenever you are called together in prayer - **you become** the Body of Christ - one with Christ - a worshipping body - a unified body - a group of individuals who come together with a direct purpose - to praise God, to Worship Him and to thank Him. You come as a response and fulfillment to the commitment made at **your** Baptism and the life-long commitment you made to be a follower of Christ.

As you recall, when the hymn of the Consecration of the Holy Gifts is chanted, it is within this message, that these very words speak to us and resonate in our hearts at the time of **the most sacred** moment of our Divine Liturgy: *"We praise You, we bless You, we give thanks unto You O Lord, and we pray to You, O our God."* At that very moment, in unity, as one, the congregation with heads bowed, on bended knee, offers praise, gratitude and

(See Fr. Jim on page 6)

OUR STEWARDSHIP MINISTRIES	PARISH REGISTRY
<p>Rev. Fr. James S. Gordon, Protopresbyter <u>Parish Ministry Team</u></p> <p>Acolytes: Fr. James Gordon, Alex Magdalinos Bookstore: Senior Synaxis Members Chanters: Kosta Buhler, George Houpis, Paul Lillios, Alex Magdalinos, Nick Papastratakos, Isidoros (Andrew) Xilas Choir Director: Custodian: Marian Janowski Greek School Director: Maria Theodoropulu GOYA: Dean Kartsimas, Alex Magdalinos, Carol Stamas JOY & Jr. GOYA: Michael Argol, Alex Magdalinos, Maria Vlahos, Stephanie Voelker Koliva: Patricia Metropoulos LOGOS: Fr. James Gordon, Alex Magdalinos Office Secretary: Kay James Office Volunteer: Maita Houpis Parish Council: Harold Anagnos (<i>President</i>), Bill Athenson, Robert Buhler, Nicholas Gatsis, George Houpis (<i>Asst. Treasurer</i>), Doug Hugdahl (<i>Treasurer</i>), George Kartsimas, Thomas Kiriakos (<i>Vice-President</i>), Bob Mantzoros, Nicholas Marino, George Mouzakiotis, Thomas Papastefan, Nick Papastratakos, Carol Stamas (<i>Secretary</i>), Peter Venetos Pastoral Assistant: Alex Magdalinos Philoptochos President: Patricia Metropoulos Senior Synaxis Coordinators: Christ and Dee Christ Sunday Church School Director: Toddlers & Parents: Caity Anast</p>	<p><u>40-DAY BLESSINGS</u></p> <p>5/21/10 Son of Voula & Gus Kerhulas 5/30/10 Daughter of Christina & Peter Sylvester 6/06/10 Daughter of Effie & Peter Stevens 6/13/10 Daughter of Sophia & Jason Colberg</p> <p><u>BAPTISMS/CHRISMATIONS</u></p> <p>5/02/10 Hunter (Dimitrios), Son of Paul & Melissa Duitsman <i>Sponsors: Lexie & Jeff Carlson</i> " Suzanne, Daughter of Matthew & Stacie Brown <i>Sponsor: Melissa Duitsman</i> 5/08/10 Sophia, Daughter of Dean & Eleni Heotis <i>Sponsor: Telly Heotis</i> 5/30/10 Harry, Son of Harry & Jean Papagianis <i>Sponsor: Ellen Tillman</i> 6/05/10 Alexa, Daughter of Shawn & Katrina Theodos <i>Sponsor: Anastasia Maragos</i></p> <p><u>MEMORIALS</u></p> <p>5/09/10 Phyllis Chilis (40 days), beloved wife of Tom Chilis & beloved sister of Fr. Jim (Pres. Nasia) Gordon " Veronica Lamperis (40 days), beloved mother of Diane (Terrence) Voelker 5/30/10 Georgia (Gina) Christie (6 months), beloved wife of George Christie 6/06/10 Bill (Vasilios) Kakavas (3 years), beloved husband of Mary Kakavas</p>



The Meeting of the Generations was held on May 10th. It was a wonderful evening for our Joy/Jr. Goya to spend with the Senior Synaxis group. We began with dinner all together, had a small ice breaker and then our young people presented a short program for our Senior Synaxis including: music, a "Who's on First" skit and Greek dancing. It was a great time for all who attended and we plan to make this an annual event. So, don't miss out next year!



PARISH NEWS

- **We offer our prayers and deepest sympathies to:**
 - Dean Kurtis**, whose beloved mother Katherine fell asleep in the Lord. Her funeral took place on Monday, May 24th at SS Constantine & Helen Cathedral in Merrillville, IN.
 - Dean (Christine) Galanopoulos** on the falling asleep in the Lord of his beloved mother, Penelope Galanopoulos. The funeral took place at the Assumption Church in Chicago, where she was a member for many years. **May their memory be eternal.**
- **SAVE THE DATE - 2nd Annual "Mini-Camp" - August 5-6, 2010.** Mini camp is for Toddlers (3-5 years old) through 5th Graders and will be held during the "Dekapentavgusto" on Thursday, August 5th and Friday, August 6th. Registration forms are available in the Fellowship Hall. **Early Bird Registrations deadline will be until July 26th.**
- **Weekly "Sanctuary Vigil Light" Donations** may be offered for the health of individuals, family members or in memory of departed loved ones. **A \$75.00 donation for each week's vigil lights** is requested. Names will be acknowledged in each Sunday Bulletin. If you are interested in this donation, please call the Church Office (847) 482-1200 and speak to Kay James, so that you may reserve your week.
- **June 13th was Graduates' Sunday.** We congratulate all our graduates and wish them God's blessings in their future endeavors.
 - From Jr. High/Middle School: **Gabriel Athenson; Zachary Kozub; Nicholas Kyriacou; Chandler Antigone Scoco; Alexandra Timmons; Maria Ullmann and Jason Voelker.**
 - From High School: **Andrew Argol; Catherine Athenson; Cassandra Marie Bekiaris; Konstantine Buhler; Andrew Carbajal; Greg Gough; Helenna Rae Harty; Leah Kartsimas; Andrew Kopplin; Alexandra Mantzoros; Amy Maroudas; Jenny Sampras; Anton Prescott Scoco; Katerina Christina Svigos; Maria P. Theodore; Nicholas N. Treantafeles and Alexandra Voelker.**
 - From College/University: **Lauren Klein; Stephanie Kopplin and Candace Marie Rutkowski.**
 - From Graduate School: **Elaine H. Alexander; Kathleen Brej and Eleni Kartsimas.**
- **Congratulations to our Jr. Olympians/Medalists** that participated in the 28th Jr. Olympics and brought home to our beloved Ascension 16 Gold medals, 5 Silver and 27 Bronze. Bravo to all of you - We are so very proud!
 - John Anagnos; Peter Anast; Andrew, Catherine & Nicholas Athenson; Eleni, Giorgi & Yanni Balis; Joseph Connolly; Eirene & Vasili Courialis; George & Mark Curran, Elena, Nico & Zachary DeMet; Andrew Douvlis; Sammy & Thanos Furlas, Dean & Jenna Gatsis; Matthew & Nick Harvey; Johnny Hugdahl; John & Nicole Itounas; Leah Kartsimas; Jonathan & Vanessa Katz; Georgina, Katerina & Maria Kokalias; Christina, Evangeline & Sophie LaFleur; George Maroudas; Eleni Papastratakos; Harrison & Parker Nichols; Peter & Stelios Panagiotaros; Frank, Matthew & Max Phillips; Mary & Sam Rogers; Emma Rutkowski; Jon Smirles; Chris & Maria-Elena Svigos; Frank, Leo & Maria Theodore; Elaina, George & John Tsarwhas; Maria & Yanni Ullmann and Alexandra, Jason & Samantha Voelker.**

Our heartfelt thanks to our wonderful coaches who unselfishly put in so many hours for our youth: **Gus Furlas, Nick Gatsis, Amy & Bill Kokalias, Bill LaFleur, Alex Magdalinos, Diane & Jim Maroudas, Pam & Dean Nichols; Nick Papastratakos, Katie Phillips, Doug Rogers, Bill Smirles, Conrad Theodore & Maria Vlahos**
- **Thursday, July 22nd - "Toddlers and Parents"** outing to North park (just north of the Church) at 12:30 p.m. Please speak with Caity Anast if you have questions or to let her know you are able to attend.
- **SAVE THE DATE - THURSDAY, AUGUST 26TH - Senior Synaxis** Second Annual Picnic. More details to come.
- **SAVE THE DATE - MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20TH - 12th Annual Golf Outing** will take place at the Deerfield Country Club in Deerfield. Please pass the word to your family and friends! More information will be mailed to you.

Different drug problem.....

The other day, someone at a store in our town read that a Methamphetamine lab had been found in an old farmhouse in the adjoining county and he asked me a rhetorical question, "Why didn't we have a drug problem when you and I were growing up?"

I replied, I had a drug problem when I was young. I was drug to church on Sunday morning. I was drug to church for weddings and funerals. I was drug to family reunions and community socials no matter the weather.

I was drug by my ears when I was disrespectful to adults, when I disobeyed my parents, told a lie, brought home a bad report card, did not speak with respect, spoke ill of the teacher or the preacher, or if I didn't put forth my best effort in everything that was asked of me.

I was drug to the kitchen sink to have my mouth washed out with soap if I uttered a profanity. I was drug out to pull weeds in mom's garden and the cockleburs out of dad's fields. I was drug to the homes of family and neighbors to help out some poor soul who had no one to mow the yard, repair the clothesline, or chop some firewood, and, if my mother had ever known that I took a single dime as a tip for this kindness, she would have drug me back to the woodshed.

Those drugs are still in my veins and they affect my behavior in everything I do, say, or think. They are stronger than cocaine, crack, or heroin; and, if today's children had this kind of drug problem, the world would be a better place.

God bless the parents who drugged us.

(Submitted by a parishioner as taken from a newspaper editorial.)

FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

By Harold Anagnos, President

IF NOT YOU, WHO? IF NOT NOW, WHEN ?

As we embark on the last leg of our long trip through the maze of hearings and presentations at the Village of Lincolnshire, we will soon confront the issue of financing our permanent house of worship and community life.

The facts are very clear and well defined.

- We are now approaching our 12th year as a community with many accomplishments, but without a permanent home. Our Youth and Senior ministries are outstanding. Our core families are as loyal and loving as ever.
- In some cases, most new parishes take 4-5 years before they start building. Our Interim facilities have served us well but have taken away some of the motivation to go ahead with our permanent plans.
- Our community has just about \$2.0 million in the bank with around \$800K in pledges outstanding. The General Assembly of (03/04/07) has formally approved the Phase 1 budget of \$6.3 Million inclusive of all collateral expenses.
- We have spent over \$750K from our Capital Fund for architectural/legal fees, feasibility studies and fire sprinklers and over \$800K to pay off the mortgage on the property south of us.

The challenges we face are formidable but with our love and support we will get there.

- We need to raise and/or borrow \$4.5 million during the next 10-12 months in order to complete Phase 1 as approved by the Architectural Review Board (ARB) of our Village. The full village board approval is pending. It will take a few more months for us to get the final green light to go ahead.
- We should bring back many of our past Stewards that have either left us or are sitting on the side line waiting for the rest of us to sound the trumpets and fly the banners. We have over 150 families that need to be re-energized and brought back to our home and family. The issues of Donor Recognition and Attrition are on the table for scrutiny and resolution. Your support and input on these vital issues are welcome.
- The Capital Campaign will soon re-engage and seek the financial support that this community has shown to provide time and time again in the years past. We are called to support the building of our permanent home from our rainy day assets and savings first and from our income in years to come. The participation of our Stewards is very low when less than 110 families out of 320 have stepped up to pledge. **This low percentage discourages those that can offer substantial contributions and become a potential lender. PLEASE STEP UP TODAY. YOUR ASCENSION YOUTH AND FUTURE GENERATIONS NEED YOU!**

All of us are asked and in a way we are obligated as Stewards of this great community to step up and face our challenges. It cannot be done without YOU. Father Jim, Alex, our office staff and the Parish Council can only minister and administer the community affairs and needs, but the challenges in front of us are owned by ALL of US.

Contact: hanagnos@att.net or (847) 612-3030



(At left and below): Our Jr. Olympics softball team and our three bowling teams, pictured with their respective coaches.

(At bottom left): Three students of our Adult Greek Language Program received their certificates as they concluded their studies in May. They are pictured with their teacher, Maria Theodoropulu. Congratulations to all of them!



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS: In the 2010 Newsletters we will be featuring "Questions & Answers" articles taken from various Orthodox books and websites. In all instances, questions have been submitted by faithful throughout the country and then responded to accordingly. This month's "Q & A" is adapted as taken from, *The Orthodox Church: 455 Questions & Answers* by Fr. Stanley S. Harakas. If you would like a topic addressed, please let us know.

PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION

Q: Some of the people go to take Communion without fasting. Is it right? (Continued from the last newsletter)

A: The Fast on the Day We Receive
There is an unbroken tradition that we fast from all food and drink prior to receiving Holy Communion. The early Church conducted the Eucharist frequently in conjunction with meals. But since the adoption by the whole Church of the 48th Canon of the Council of Carthage (419), both priests and laity are expected to fast strictly (no food or drink) previous to receiving Holy Communion. This order is kept as well, in a special way, when we receive Holy Communion at evening Liturgies. We eat a very light breakfast and lunch (no meat or fish), sleep for a time in the afternoon, and take nothing by mouth until after Holy Communion.

How Long Should We Fast?

Since we need to prepare for Holy Communion and fasting is a part of that preparation, some fasting is required of all before Holy Communion. How much depends in large part on how frequently you receive and your other fasting practices. A person who receives once a year and does not keep the weekly and seasonal fasts at all, and lives a life much separated from Christ, may need to fast, as St. John Chrysostom indicates in his "Commentary on Ephesians," for forty days! Others who fast in some measure at least during the Advent (Christmas Fast) and Great Lent (Easter), and who keep the other fasts, including Wednesdays and Fridays, need not fast anywhere near as much. Should such persons, say, receive ten or twelve times a year, what St. Nikodemos the Hagiorite says seems to apply: "Three days fasting is sufficient therefore, in spite of the fact that fasting before partaking Communion is not directed by the divine canons." Since strict fasting on Saturdays is prohibited by the canons of the Orthodox Church (64th Apostolic and 55th of Trullo), those who prepare to receive on a monthly basis avoid meat on Saturday, but may eat other foods.

Frequent Communion and Fasting

Those who receive Holy Communion frequently, that is, every Sunday, or every other Sunday as well as on weekday feasts and who also fast Great Lent, Advent Lent, the August Fast of Panagia, the Fast of the Apostles and Wednesdays and Fridays of each week (that is, those who prepare fully), according to ancient custom and practice, do not need to fast any further in preparation for Communion. What, however, of those who wish to receive Holy Communion frequently, but don't keep all the other fasts prescribed by the Church? It seems to me that the need for adequate preparation and the avoidance of scandal (1 Corinthians 8), demand some fasting. Perhaps a strict Friday fast and the avoidance of meat on Saturday, would serve the purpose.

Final Comments

We should be careful not to approach the question too legalistically or rigidly. Adequate preparation can never be counted only in "days fasted"; the ideal should be to approach the chalice as worthily as possible, as frequently as possible and as reverently as possible. Also, what I've written above seeks to provide some suggested guidelines which take account of the major aspects of an admittedly complex situation. It is an opinion. Our Bishops may want to respond in a more formal manner for the good and well-being of the Church. When they do this, we will all want to conform to their directives, I'm sure.



TRANSFIGURING OUR MIND, BODY AND SOUL A "MINI-CAMP" EXPERIENCE

(Toddlers [3-5 yrs old] to 5th Grade)

AUGUST 5 - 6, 2010

- For Children of Registered Stewards of the Ascension of Our Lord -
- Lesson, Crafts, Meals and Group Photo Fee -

**EARLY REGISTRATION (until July 26th) - \$20.00 per child
Late Registration - \$30.00 per child**

Registration forms and retreat schedule available in the Fellowship Hall.

(Fr. Jim from page 1)

homage to the Lord God. It is a most unique moment and a timeless experience to be in communion with Christ through prayer. Yet, we, at the same time realize that His body – the body of Christ – is also made up of individuals. It is these individuals, who possess many and varied talents – it is these individuals, who not only come to Church to worship and offer their prayers to the Lord, but come to witness the gifts that God has given them and share the gifts and talents, that make up the Body of Christ. These individuals I am referring to are each and every one of you – yes, you and you and you! ***For “. . . you are the body of Christ and individually members of it!”***

The people and individuals I have worked with in this parish possess an inordinate amount of varied talents; and have gifts I know that have been given to them by God. When people come to educational study groups, gatherings, meetings, social events or worship – I do not see animosity in their hearts – I see a common thread of love for Christ – a thirst to come together as a Church family and a desire to commune with Christ. I have personally witnessed how so many people in this parish have sacrificed time away from their families, have given themselves to serve the Church in various capacities – those who work using their hands and their minds – using the God given talents that make them unique. Those of you who I am referring to are truly driven, committed individuals, who come together in your commitment and love of Christ, as true members of the body of Christ. Are you among those individuals I am referring to? **What member of the body of Christ are you?** Haven't decided yet – don't know? You can always

ask the Lord for direction if you don't really know; or if you have not made the commitment to be an **integral member** of **this** body of Christ. You don't need a specific invitation and you really shouldn't wait to be asked. Do you realize that most people come to me and simply say: "Father Jim, how can I help you – how can I help this Church?" My response is immediate, "Believe me, I or someone will find a place for you!" You know, life would become a lot easier for a number of us at Church, if all of you did offer to "step it up" and offer your talents and gifts to the Church.

I am quite sure that those of you who are reading this article are well aware of the fact that our Parish is and has been seeking your commitment and financial support for our building project. Members of our Capital Campaign Committee have asked me to request of you that you look deeply into your heart and soul and prepare to make your commitment, your pledge to our building fund very soon. When called upon, please allow members of our Committee to share their excitement and commitment to this Church – allow another member of the body of Christ that you belong to and give them the opportunity to share their love for Christ and this Church. I know that there are more of you in the Church that can help us out and be one of those people – don't wait to be asked – come forward and offer your pledge and offer your services. God is reaching out to you! I pray He is speaking to you right now! We are seeking your assistance in support of this unique and once in a lifetime opportunity to build a House of Worship for the ages. Just remember these words: ***"...you are the body of Christ and individually members of it!"***



Our **Greek School** presented a wonderful program to conclude the year. It included poems, songs and Greek dancing. We thank our dedicated teachers for an excellent year and for all they do to teach our children the Greek language and about our Greek culture.



On June 13th, Metropolitan Athenagoras of Mexico visited our Church with four priest from his Metropolis. His Eminence congratulated our graduates and presented them with certificates. We are grateful for His Eminence's visit and may God grant him many years. We are so proud of our graduates and we pray God may guide them in all that they do in their lives.



YOUTH NEWS

We are in the midst of finalizing the details for some summer events, one for our Joy/Jr. Goya and one for Goya. Please keep an eye out for more information.

For Joy/Jr. Goya: We are looking into a "Fun in the Sun" event to be held at the Saint Iakovos Retreat Center - on a Saturday in late July.



For Goya: Sunday, August 15th - We will be heading to downtown Chicago for this fun outing. Typically, we spend time on Michigan Avenue, go to Greektown for dinner and enjoy arcade games at Dave and Buster's.

We are planning these events to get everyone together over the summer in a social setting. However, don't forget that we should "get-together" every Sunday in Church to pray and worship. Corporate prayer in Church (prayer together) is as important as personal prayer at home - and it is only in Church that we may participate in the sacraments.

Keep Sundays a priority and challenge yourselves to attend at least one Paraklesis Service in August (see back cover for schedule).

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS



WE ARE GRATEFUL...

Thank you to everyone for participating in "Baseball Mania". Please check the Philoptochos bulletin board each week to see if you have won.

We also **thank everyone** that has supported Philoptochos this year. Without the parish's continued support, Philoptochos would not have been able to do what we have done over the last year.

Stay tuned for the 2010-2011 Calendar to see what is planned for next year.

WORSHIP SERVICES	PARISH INFORMATION
<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday Orthros: 8:15 a.m. Sunday Divine Liturgy: 9:30 a.m.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">+ PARAKLESIS SERVICES +</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Monday, August 2nd @ 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, August 4th @ 6:30 p.m. Monday, August 9th @ 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, August 11th @ 6:30 p.m. Friday, August 13th @ 9:00 a.m.</p>	<p style="text-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>
	DATES TO REMEMBER...
<p style="text-align: center;">+ TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD +</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Friday, August 6th 8:00 a.m. Orthros/9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy</p> <p style="text-align: center;">+ FALLING ASLEEP OF THE THEOTOKOS +</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sunday, August 15th 8:15 a.m. Orthros/9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy <i>Vespers at 7:00 p.m. on August 14th at Assumption Church in Chicago and Kimissis Tis Theotokou in Racine, WI.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Thursday, July 22nd “Toddlers and Parents” Outing to North Park</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sunday, August 1st Beginning of “Thekapentavgusto” - FAST PERIOD</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Thursday, August 5th and Friday, August 6th Ascension of Our Lord “Mini-Camp”</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sunday, August 15th Goya Outing to Downtown Chicago</p>
ANALYSIS NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	<p style="text-align: center;">Thursday, August 26th Senior Synaxis 2nd Annual Picnic</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Monday, September 20th Annual Parish Golf Outing</p>
<p><i>Deadline for September/October 2010 Newsletter: August 10th</i> Please submit all information to Kay James in the Church Office or via e-mail at kay.james@sbcglobal.net.</p>	

Ascension of Our Lord Greek Orthodox Church
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