

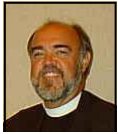


ASCENSION OF OUR LORD GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

ANALYPSIS NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 7 - ISSUE 6

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2011



From Father
Jim's Study...

IT'S NOT EASY BEING A GOOD SAMARITAN

We often equate the phrase "being a good Samaritan" with a person who has done a good deed, perhaps a good deed that was not expected of him or her. Stopping to help someone on the road with a car problem, offering to assist an elderly person across the street, or simply going out of one's way to help a person you don't even know - are all examples of being what we generally define as being a "Good Samaritan". We know the story quite well about the Samaritan that helped out a stranger, most likely a Jew, on his way to Jerusalem. Now remember, Samaritans did not have anything to do with Jews and vice versa, so this was a most unusual encounter and an act of kindness and charity on the part of the Samaritan. Offering one's kindness and charity - assistance when someone needs us or is in trouble - is just the lesson and message that Christ Himself wanted us to learn. Have we learned that lesson - do we get the message? Someone I met a few years ago did, allow me to explain.

I was in out-patient physical therapy after one of my knee replacements, peddling away on a recumbent bike, when a tall, large young man sat down next to me on an adjacent bike and began peddling himself. We said hello to each other and asked each other what we were "in for". This young man is a firefighter from Niles, who had developed a lower back injury, a herniated disc, as a result from a rescue effort. The man, he and his partner were attempting to rescue from a third story room was drunk and became physically obstinate and verbally obnoxious, calling the firefighter names and swearing at them. This drunk literally fought his way, kicking and screaming down the flight of stairs, punching and scratching this firefighter, who was getting more and more frustrated with every step.

In a feeble attempt to share my sick sense of humor,



On October 30th, our Goyans prepared and delivered a meal to the PADS "Safe Haven" for homeless women. Goyans helped by donating food/toiletry items and/or preparing/delivering the meal. "Delivery group" is pictured above with more pictures on page 7.

jokingly, I asked him at one point whether it would have been easier just to throw that drunk out the third story window? He said he had thought about it, but he couldn't - he simply had a job to do and the only real option, as frustrating as it was, was to use the stairs.

As the firefighter got to the bottom of the stairs with his partner and this obstinate individual, this man, in his drunken stupor, took a swing at this firefighter. Then, as the firefighter moved in an attempt to avoid a punch, he pulled up quickly and snapped his back, falling to his knees, writhing in pain. "That's how I ended up here", the firefighter concluded in telling me. "If physical therapy doesn't work - then it's an operation - and my career is over!"

Taking a moment to absorb what he had just told me, I asked him what he would have done differently (throwing him out the third floor window not being an option). "Nothing", he said. "I would have done it the same way - I had to, that was what I was there to do - I didn't know the guy, I didn't like the guy, but I just had to get him out of there, the building was on fire!"

You want to talk about a Good Samaritan? This firefighter not only put his life on the line to save a drunken, obstinate man from a fire, but now, due to his injury, may be permanently disabled and may see the end of his career before him.

(Continued on page 5)

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: Constantine & Sylvia Mitsopoulos Chanters: Kosta Buhler, George Houppis, Paul Lillios, Alex Magdalinos, Nick Papastratakos, Isidoros Xilas Custodian: Marian Janowski Greek School Director: Maria Theodoropulu GOYA: Alex Magdalinos, Carol Stamas, Maria Vlahos JOY & Jr. GOYA: Peter Argol, Alex Magdalinos, Nick Treantafeles Koliva: Olga Kalis, Andrea Rogers Office Secretary: Kay James Office Volunteer: Maita Houppis Parish Council: Harold Anagnos (<i>President</i>), Thomas Kiriakos (<i>Vice-President</i>), Doug Hugdahl (<i>Treasurer</i>), Houppis (<i>Asst. Treasurer</i>), Carol Stamas (<i>Secretary</i>), Bill Athenson, Robert Buhler, Nicholas Gatsis, George Kartsimas, Bob Mantzoros, Nicholas Marino, Alex Marx, George Mouzakiotis, Thomas Papastefan, Nick Papastratakos, Tom Vabakos, Peter Venetos Pastoral Assistant: Alex Magdalinos Philoptochos President: Vicki Douvllis Senior Synaxis President: Mary Kokinis Sunday Church School Director: Mia Connolly Toddlers & Parents: Maria Bolos, Anna Goldenstein</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>40-DAY BLESSINGS</u></p> <p>09/04/11 Son of Jeff and Corrine Wolffe 10/16/11 Daughter of Dean & Xeres Poulos</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>BAPTISM</u></p> <p>10/29/11 Anna Christina Heotis, Daughter of Dean and Eleni <i>Sponsors: Stavroula & Alexandra Shutka</i> 10/30/11 Anastasia and Sotiria Giannakakis, Twin Daughters of Nick & Evelyn <i>Sponsors: Petroula & Kathleen Kotsiovos and Nick Galanopoulos</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>WEDDINGS</u></p> <p>09/24/11 Christine Constantine and Ted Malgarinos</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>MEMORIAL</u></p> <p>09/04/11 Eleni Varzakakou, beloved sister of Ekaterina (Vasilios) Kosmas (1 year) " Georgia Boolookas (5 years) 09/11/11 Dee (Demetra) Tzakis, beloved mother of Marcia (Eric) Moore (2 years) 10/01/11 George Poliderakis, beloved brother of Penny (George) Kartsimas (3 years) " Peter (Panagiotis) Drinis, beloved husband of Mary (40 days) 10/16/11 Dean (Konstantinos) Kaulentis, beloved brother of Chrys Kaulentis (6 months) 10/30/11 Helen Kaitson, beloved mother of Mike (Ellen) Kaitson (1 year)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>FUNERALS</u></p> <p>09/02/11 Peter (Panagiotis) Drinis, beloved husband of Mary Drinis</p>

SYNAXIS OF THE ARCHANGELS - NOVEMBER 8TH

All the Angels, according to the St. Paul, are ministering spirits - sent forth to minister to those who shall be heirs of salvation (Heb. 1:14). God set them as overseers of every nation and people, and guides to that which is profitable; and while one Angel is appointed to oversee each nation as a whole, one is also appointed to protect each Christian individually. God commands them to guard those who hope in Him, that nothing should harm them, neither should any evil draw nigh to their dwelling (Ps. 90:10-12). In the Heavens, they always behold the face of God, sending up to Him the thrice-holy hymn and interceding on our behalf - and they rejoice over one sinner that repents. In a word, they have served God in so many ways for our benefit.

It is for these reasons that the Orthodox Church, wisely honors these divine ministers, our protectors and guardians by celebrating on November 8th, the Synaxis of the Archangels (*Taxiarchai*, in Greek) - that is, our coming together in assembly for their common feast. We gather to chant their praises, especially for the Archangels Michael and Gabriel, who are mentioned in the Scriptures by name. The name Michael means "Who is like God?" and Gabriel means "God is mighty." The number of Angels is not defined in the divine Scriptures, where Daniel says that thousands of thousands ministered before Him, and ten thousands of ten thousands attended upon Him (Dan. 7:10). They are, however, divided into nine orders which are called Thrones, Cherubim, Seraphim, Dominions, Powers, Authorities, Principalities, Archangels, and Angels.



(Adapted as taken from Archdiocese Website.)

GREAT VESPERS & DIVINE LITURGY AT TAXIARCHAI/ST. HARALAMBOS CHURCH, NILES

Monday, November 7th - Great Vespers at 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, November 8th - Orthros and Divine Liturgy at 8:30 a.m.



GREEK SCHOOL PAGE

Σελίδα του Ελληνικού Σχολείου



(At left): Our Greek School children celebrate OXI day (October 28th) joyously waving their Greek flags.

(Above): Our Adult/Adolescent Greek Class students celebrate the birthday of one of their classmates and learn how to sing "Happy Birthday" in Greek. HRONIA POLLA - NA TA EKATOSTISEIS!

**GREEK SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM
ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13TH - 4:45 p.m.**

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

THANKS TO OUR GOYANS and their families who helped make our PADS "Safe Haven" Service Project a success. Whether you donated food or toiletry items, helped prepare the meal or helped deliver the meal - your combined efforts ended up putting a wonderful meal on the table of those in need - and we are proud of you for your efforts! Keep it up!

THANKSGIVING FOOD COLLECTION - Our Parish's Annual Food Collection, coordinated by the Philoptochos, has begun! Collection bags have been handed out and are also available in the Fellowship Hall. Items needed are attached to each bag. Bags must be returned by November 14th, on which evening the Goyans will pack them in decorative baskets for delivery to those in need. Food items are distributed through Hellenic Foundation. If any families can contribute money towards grocery gift cards, that would be a huge help - please speak with Fr. Jim or any Philoptochos board member.



CONNECT FOUR LOCK-IN - This very unique event will bring **FOUR Goyans** together for an overnight retreat - our Goyans along with the Goyans of St. Nectarios, Holy Apostles and St. Demetrios. The Lock-In will take place at St. Demetrios in Elmhurst from Friday, November 18th (7:00 p.m.) to Saturday, November 19th (9:30 a.m.) All Goyans have received permission forms and must submit these with a \$10 payment by Thursday, November 10th. If you have not yet done so, please do not delay. Speak with your Goya Youth workers for more information.

**CONNECT
FOUR
GOYA LOCK-IN**



NURSING HOME VISIT - On Monday, December 12th our Joy/Jr. Goya and Goya will visit the residents of the Greek American Rehabilitation Center in Wheeling for caroling. Please meet there at 5:30 p.m. We will end with dinner, and be done by 7:30 p.m. Please join us as we bring the joy of Christ's Birth to Nursing Home.

SAVE-THE DATES! SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3rd - Gingerbread House Decorating (Goyans, please sign up to help!)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18th - Joy/Jr. Goya Poinsettia Sale (orders to be taken in advance on Sundays after Liturgy)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22nd - Goya Service Project to "Feed my Starving Children" in Schaumburg.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29th - Parish Family Ice Skating @ Centennial Ice Arena, Highland Park

PARISH NEWS

- With the unpredictable change of weather, one day hot and the other day cold, whether we like it or not, the hustle and the bustle of the holiday season is upon us. Although the weatherman promises us a very severe winter, we cannot help but feel warm inside with the anticipation of Our Lord's birth and all the blessings that come with it. The Christmas fast begins on Tuesday, November 15th and ends at Christmas time. Perhaps we can all try and keep this fast, as much as possible, so that we can really feel Christmas in our hearts - new beginnings, new hopes, etc. Our beautiful candlelight Great Vespers will take place on Saturday, December 24th at 5:00 p.m. and the Divine Liturgy on Christmas morning at 9:30 a.m.
- By November 11th, everyone should receive the agenda and minutes of the last general assembly meeting, together with the budget. Please try to attend the General Assembly meeting scheduled for Sunday, November 20th. Let us all try to be a part of the important decisions that concern our Church.
- Our annual Christmas Pageant will be on Sunday, December 11th. Rehearsal for the pageant, as usual, will take place the day before, Saturday, December 10th from 8:45 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. We are all looking forward to seeing our little "angels" re-enact the birth of Christ.
- Open House at the Metropolis is on Sunday, December 18th from 5:00 p.m. through 9:00 p.m. We all wish His Eminence Metropolitan Iakovos and His Grace Bishop Demetrios a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.
- As you can see below, the Christmas Bazaar this year will be on Friday and Saturday, November 11th and 12th. Please come by the Church and be a part of the excitement of Thanksgiving and Christmas. Delicious home made sweets and food will satisfy any palate. And, needless to say, our vendors will display an assortment of items. Please come and support us. WE NEED YOU!
- Our Senior Synaxis members will have their Christmas Luncheon on Thursday, December 29th at 12:00 Noon at the Country Squire in Grayslake. If you would like to join us, please call Elaine Beck at (847) 367-5227.
- Our Toddlers & Parents (and Grandparents) had a wonderful time at Didier Farms pumpkin patch in October! The children enjoyed the hay ride, petting zoo, rides and of course pumpkin donuts (thanks Fr. Jim!). At our last meeting, we learned about and practiced the Lord's Prayer and made a nice frame of the prayer for our bedrooms. Our upcoming meetings (with lesson topics) are on Tuesdays; November 15th (Thanksgiving/Censer), December 6th (early meeting at 9:00 a.m. for Liturgy - St. Nicholas) and December 20th (Nativity of our Lord).

ASCENSION OF OUR LORD SENIOR SYNAXIS PRESENTS ITS ANNUAL:

FALL INTO CHRISTMAS BAZAAR



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2011 - 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2011 - 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

- + **Come, browse and purchase from our unique collection of beautiful boutique items from our numerous vendors.**
- + **Find the perfect gift for family members or friends.**
- + **Enjoy our delicious food and top it off with a selection from our homemade **Greek** pastries ("Carry-Out" as well).**
- + **Special drawings for great prizes.**

ADMISSION: FREE

If you have any questions, would like to make a donation or would like to volunteer to help, please contact the Church Office or our Senior Synaxis Coordinator, Mary Kokinis.

(Continued from page 1)

It's not easy being a Good Samaritan, these days. Perhaps it is because of things like this that we hear about or read about – you go out of your way to do something nice for someone, then you get punched at, sworn at, berated and then on top of everything else, you hurt yourself. Do you blame anyone for not ever coming to the aid of another? I'll venture to say that a number of you have been in that position – that you have hesitated to go out of your way to help someone, for fear of your life – or getting injured. I must admit to you – I am probably guilty of that myself, probably more than once in my life – and even though I cannot recall a particular incident – in my mind I probably just forget about those incidents – because I thought it just didn't matter.

Now when I heard this firefighter tell me that he would have rescued that man all over again, despite what happened to him physically, I truly believe I learned a valuable lesson.

The sacrifice of one's own good for another, is rewarded by the feeling one gets inside themselves, within their soul. Christ was attempting to teach us, through the parable of the Good Samaritan that no matter what your status is in life, no matter what risk one will take to help another, the reward of helping someone in need is great in the eyes of God. Even in the case of the firefighter, despite the fact that he not only risked his life, and may have developed a career ending injury, in being a Good Samaritan, he said he "had to do it" and would "do it again if he had to" – why? Because something inside of him made him do it – whether it is a call from God, a directive, or an order – the soul of a man is touched and driven to help another soul. This kind of reaction goes beyond logic, it goes beyond reasoning, it goes beyond anything one may call practical – yet it is indeed a calling

– a calling from God to help out someone in need. Have you done that lately?

Many of you and your children have come to help people you don't even know through your kindness and sense of stewardship by donating food stuffs for Thanksgiving baskets and helping needy children at Christmas. The Thanksgiving baskets are delivered by our own young people and Philoptochos – just in time for Thanksgiving. Monetary donations are always being accepted, so we can help out needy families for Thanksgiving and during the Christmas holidays.

Being a Good Samaritan may not be easy, but it also isn't all that difficult either. You can be a Good Samaritan, by offering your help now or later, by giving your special Good Samaritan gift to a stranger – through the Church or simply on your own.

This time of year is a "traditional time of giving" – a time of year when the Church and when Christ asks of you to give of yourself – unselfishly – to benefit others. The Church reminds us of our Stewardship – our Stewardship to the Church – our Stewardship toward the benefit of others. This isn't the first time you heard this and certainly not the first time you have been reminded of this. The Good Samaritan that is within you always comes out this time of year – so don't hesitate and don't hold back.

We are rarely faced with the confrontations of the Good Samaritan of Scripture or the firefighter who faced a life threatening and career ending injury. Your kind acts of being a Good Samaritan, will be rewarded by God – you will feel it within your heart – you will feel it within your soul – but most importantly, you will feel it – and it will feel good! It may not be easy being the Good Samaritan Christ wants us to be, but in reality, we know it isn't that difficult either.



(At left): Fr. Jim was a part of the 10 year memorial service for September 11th that was held at the Lincolnshire Fire Department on Saturday, September 10th.

(Above): The Greek School began the year with the Agiasmos Service.

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

On behalf of the Ascension Philoptochos, I would like to welcome all those who have renewed their membership for 2011-12 and those who are new members to our ministry. I also want to extend an invitation to those men and women in the parish, who may not be part of the ministry at this time, to come to one of our future events. This is a way to learn more about the opportunities for philanthropic work as well as experience the fellowship among our membership.

Our next event will take place on Saturday, November 19th from 2:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. at Valenti Interiors Studio, located at 295 East Illinois Road in Lake Forest. Everyone who attends will enjoy a lovely array of cheeses, desserts, and holiday cheer as well as hear a brief presentation by Josephine Valenti, "Making a house, your home!" **Our community outreach** that day will benefit the **Lake County Haven**; a social-service agency dedicated to meeting the needs of homeless women and children. Many women and children who are forced to flee from their homes, come to the Haven with just the clothes on their backs. We will be collecting underwear, new, for these women and children. Those of you who bring these items to the event, will not only be thanked by those who are in need, but also by our Philoptochos; by being entered to win a "thank you" door prize that day! For more information regarding the collection, please contact us at ascensionphiloptochos@yahoo.com.



Year after year, our ability to give to those in need as well as to our own parish is due to the generosity of you, our parish family! During these especially challenging economic times; for those in need, less able, or less fortunate; the feeling of helplessness is even more profound. Again, we thank you for your continued support and may God bless you, always. *"And when you offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving to the LORD, offer it of your own free will..." - Lev. 2:2.*

In Christ, Vicki Douvlis

PHILOPTOCHOS SAVE THE DATES:

Saturday, November 19th: "Making a house, your home!" Event at Valenti Interiors, 2:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. RSVP to Vicki Douvlis at ascensionphiloptochos@yahoo.com or (847)951-3089. See above for more information.

Saturday, December 3rd: 3rd Annual Gingerbread House Decorating Event - A GOYA/Philoptochos sponsored event. Reserve your gingerbread for decorating or take one or two home. There will be 3 time slots here at Church to decorate: 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Reservation forms can be found in the Fellowship Hall.

Hockey - Mania Tickets - On Sale NOW!



Friday, February 10, 2012: Apokreatiko Glendi



Goyans have kept busy with many activities...

(At far left): Preparing the College Freshmen Care Packages.

(In blue): Goya Team Building including: "Hot Sand" Carry, Crossing the "Lava River" and the Trust Walk.



(Left): Fireside Hang out and Chit Chat.



(Top left): Presbytera and Fr. Jim had a "Prophoro making" demo for Joy/Jr. Goya. It is not as hard as you might think - in fact, if "Mr. Alex" can do it, anyone can - ask him for a handout with the recipe and directions.

(At left): Joy/Jr. Goya Bowling - having fun!

(Above): GOYA PADS Meal Prep - They made and delivered lasagna, a salad and beautifully, decorated cupcakes. GREAT JOB GOYANS!!!

WITH THE NATIVITY FAST (ADVENT) UPON US, WHAT'S THE POINT OF THIS SEASON?



The six weeks prior to Christmas (the Nativity of our Lord) is a fasting period that many call Advent. Advent means "coming." It is that period of time when we find ourselves waiting for the coming of the Messiah, the Anointed One, the Christ. (All three terms mean the same thing.) For this reason, it has a different character than other fasting periods. Although there is an element of preparation involved, it is not the same as the Great Fast that precedes Holy Week and Pascha.

The liturgical preparation is limited to the two Sundays before the Nativity and the five days leading up to the feast. Those two Sundays we are reminded of the Holy Ancestors of God and the Holy Fathers, Patriarchs, and Prophets who played a role in the coming of the Messiah. In the hymns of the Sunday cycle of services, we hear of their great faith and are called to build our own.

For most of us, we are anxious to get to the feast — we want the days to rush by. Our preparation usually consists of shopping and decorating, not to speak of the endless parties that we are invited to attend. Here is where the notion of waiting comes into play. We must discipline ourselves through self control and patience. We are to read the Scriptures, specifically the prophecies that speak of the coming of the Messiah. We are to turn our focus to a Godly way of life that calls for sacrificing and almsgiving (acts of mercy). Let us think of charity and the giving of our time, talents, and resources to others who may be in need. There is no better way to imitate Christ than to be loving and charitable towards others.

A word to the wise — put Christ back into Christmas. Find the meaning of the feast by understanding the importance of the Son of God taking on human flesh. Remember the real reason for the season is that Jesus, the Son of God, the Messiah, came into the world and dwelt among men, taking on Himself the sins of the world so that we might have life in Him. **"God is with us! Understand O nations and submit yourselves, for God is with us!" (Isaiah 8:9)**

SERVICES FOR THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24TH - CANDLELIGHT GREAT VESPERS AT 5:00 P.M.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25TH - ORTHROS AT 8:15 A.M. AND DIVINE LITURGY AT 9:30 A.M.

(Article taken from the Antiochian Archdiocese Website)

WORSHIP SERVICES	PARISH INFORMATION
<p align="center">Sunday Orthros: 8:15 a.m. Sunday Church School: 9:15 a.m. 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">+ ST. NECTARIOS THE WONDERWORKER +</p>	<p align="center">DATES TO REMEMBER...</p>
<p align="center">Wednesday, November 9th Orthros at 8:00 a.m. and Divine Liturgy at 9:00 a.m. <i>Great Vespers on Tuesday, November 8th, at 7:00 p.m. at St. Nectarios Church, Palatine</i></p>	
<p align="center">+ ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS +</p>	<p align="center">Friday, November 11th - Saturday, November 13th Senior Synaxis "Fall into Christmas" Bazaar</p>
<p align="center">Monday, November 21st Orthros at 8:00 a.m. and Divine Liturgy at 9:00 a.m.</p>	
<p align="center">+ ST. KATHERINE THE GREAT MARTYR + Friday, November 25th Orthros at 8:00 a.m. and Divine Liturgy at 9:00 a.m. <i>Great Vespers on Thursday, November 24th at 7:00 p.m. at the Chapel of St. Katherine (Assumption Church), Chicago</i></p>	
<p align="center">+ ST. ANDREW THE FIRST CALLED APOSTLE +</p>	<p align="center">Tuesday, November 15th Nativity Fast begins</p>
<p align="center">Wednesday, November 30th Orthros at 8:00 a.m. and Divine Liturgy at 9:00 a.m. <i>Great Vespers on Tuesday, November 29th at 7:00 p.m. at St. Andrew Church, Chicago</i></p>	<p align="center">Sunday, November 20th General Assembly</p>
<p align="center">ANALYPSIS NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</p>	<p align="center">Sunday, December 4th Stewardship Sunday & St. Nicholas Celebration</p>
<p><i>Deadline for January/February Newsletter: December 20th</i> Please submit all information to Alex in the Church Office or via e-mail at alekom@sbcglobal.net.</p>	<p align="center">Sunday, December 11th Christmas Pageant</p>
	<p align="center">Sunday, December 18th Parish Council Elections Metropolis of Chicago Open House (40 E. Burton)</p>

See 2-month calendar that is inserted for December Church services.

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