This is the time of the year when our attention should turn and focus upon this season of Great and Holy Lent. For some, it will not affect our personality or cause any great change because we do not truly understand what Lenten preparation is about and why our Holy Orthodox Church places so much emphasis on spiritual and physical preparation for the glorious resurrection of Jesus Christ. But for so many others, Great Lent provides us with a ‘starting point,’ and time when we take a deep breath and start the race to the finish line, which is Holy Pascha.

We look at the world today and some people will see it as a difficult and oftentimes not a very nice time to be living in. While others, however, will look at this world, and see the beauty in it, and derive strength by the actions and goodness in so many people around them.

In this season of Great Lent, I chose a passage from the New Testament Epistle of Saint Peter. It was written to Christians who were suffering during a time of intense and severe persecution. It was written to give counsel, and to give comfort to them during a most trying and frightening time. Beautifully written, it is a letter brimming with hope and confidence in God. Saint Peter reminds his readers that they were not redeemed “with perishable things like silver or gold…but rather, with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, literally the blood of Jesus Christ.” And then Saint Peter says something quite interesting: “Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, I ask that you fervently love one another from the heart….”

“Love one another from the heart.” Now some of us might think, ‘what has love got to do with suffering and persecution?’ Why, when people are confronting unspeakable evil, would this disciple counsel them to love one another? Well, there are at least three reasons.

FIRST OF ALL, IT WAS LOVE THAT BROUGHT CHRIST INTO THE WORLD. The early Christian community was being persecuted because of their faith in Jesus Christ. They proclaimed Him as the Son of God who left His heavenly throne to give His life as atonement for all. He was their Lord, their Savior, the Source of their new life. It was not so much that they loved Him, but rather, that He loved them.

The message that permeates Saint Peter’s Epistle is that we were not saved by our own hand, but rather, we were saved by Christ’s love poured out on the Cross through His crucifixion, the Cross that we process around our Church on the third Sunday of Great Lent (Sunday of the Veneration of the holy Cross), to give us hope and to remind us why we are in this Season of Great Lent. And it was this love that brought Christ into the world.

There was a story that I told during one of my sermons that I would like to share with you again. Shortly after the tragic events of 911 in New York City, there appeared an editorial letter in the December 2001 issue of Time magazine. A woman wrote of

continued on page 2
Season of Great Lent/Loving From the Heart Continued

continued from page 1

her six-year-old son's reaction to the September 11th horrific event. For some reason, this woman’s son, Parker, developed a fascination with the firemen he saw on television reports. He repeatedly asked his mother to take him to the local firehouse. Finally, this mother gave in. Parker ran around the fire house, asking questions and inspecting equipment. And then he did something that confounded his mother. In front of a candle-studded memorial to the dead firemen, six-year-old Parker bowed his head and began to pray. This is a boy who, by his own mother’s admission, had never been taken to, nor ever stepped foot inside a church in his life. Yet, this innocent child’s first instincts were to pray.

And after he prayed, Parker walked over to a fireman and said, “I am sorry your friends died trying to save everyone. They were very brave. Remember they are with God now.”

What a testament, and out of the mouth of a babe! What do you believe about people who suffer and die? Do you believe they are with God now? We need to always remember that it was love that brought Christ into the world, in order that He may die and resurrect to save us all! That is one reason why we give so much emphasis to Great Lenten preparation.

SECONDLY, IN REFERENCE TO THIS BIBLICAL PASSAGE FROM SAINT PETER’S EPISTLE, IT WAS LOVE THAT SUPPORTED THE SMALL CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY IN THEIR DARKEST HOURS. They prayed together….they ate together…..they sang together….they had all things in common. No wonder the power of the whole Roman Empire, nor the prejudice of the Jews could break them. The whole, the Body of Jesus Christ, is more than the fragmented individual parts. When people love and support each other like those early Christians loved and supported one another, nothing but nothing can break them. Too many of us choose not to do that. Too many of us place ourselves, many times, above the ‘family’…..the “Church family” that we all claim to belong to.

But if we looked at the local Church as Christ intended, we would respond differently. The “I and ME” would be replaced by “sharing and caring and bonding together,” and that would be Christianity at its finest. Whenever we see someone sinking into despair or addiction, or whatever their vice might be, we need to reach out with love and concern. This is why our Sunday School classes and other small groups that gather together like our Bible Studies or Book Club within our Church are so important. It is not just for the study involved…..though that, of course, is important. But that is where the seeds of caring take nurture and place in the Church. And there is no substitute for that. We may ask, “what has love got to do with persecution and suffering?” Well, I say again, it was love that brought Christ into the world. And, it is the love of others in our Church family that helps us keep going in our darkest hours.

FINALLY, IT IS ALSO LOVE THAT GIVES US HOPE FOR TOMORROW. Ultimately we have one hope in this world, and that is that we are not alone. We like to think we are self-sufficient, don’t we? And maybe we are 90 percent of the time. But there are those times in life when we are helpless. And that is usually the time when most of us turn and throw ourselves on the mercy of God.

There is a very moving and beautiful story by an unknown author that was circulated on the Internet a while back that perhaps reflects the outlook of Saint Peter's Epistles letter to the Churches in Asia Minor. It is about a little boy who is about to have open heart surgery. The doctor sat with the boy to explain the process of what was about to happen to him during surgery.

“Tomorrow morning,” the surgeon began, “I’ll open up your heart . . .”

“And you'll find Jesus there,” the boy interrupted.

The surgeon looked up, annoyed by the interruption. He continued, “and I'll cut your heart open to see how much damage has been done.”

“But when you open up my heart,” the little boy said, “you’ll find Jesus in there, won’t you?”

The surgeon looked to the parents, who just sat quietly, and then continued. “And when I see how much damage has been done, I will then sew your heart and chest back up and I'll plan what to do next.”
The surgeon had had enough. “Listen, I’ll tell you what I’ll find in your heart,” he said coldly. “I’ll find damaged muscle, low blood supply, and weakened vessels. And I’ll find out IF I can make you well.”

“But you’ll find Jesus there too,” the young boy insisted, “because the Bible tells me He lives there.”

The surgeon left the room and returned to his office where he proceeded to record his notes about the surgery, “Damaged aorta, damaged pulmonary vein, widespread muscle degeneration. No hope for transplant, no hope for cure. Therapy: painkillers and bed rest. Prognosis,” and here he paused, “death within one year.” The doctor then stopped the recorder, but that’s not all he had to say.

“Why?” he asked aloud. It was clear he was speaking to God. “Why did you do this? You’ve put him here; you’ve put him in this pain; and you’ve cursed him to an early death. Why?” The surgeon's tears were hot, but his anger was hotter: “You created that boy, and you created that heart. And he'll be dead in months. Why?”

And thus, a dialogue began between the surgeon and God. And in that dialogue, this frustrated physician discovered a new understanding of God's providence and love. And the surgeon wept. Well, the next day following the surgery, the doctor sat beside the boy's bed; the boy's parents sat across from him. The boy awoke, saw the doctor, and whispered, “Did you cut open my heart?”

“Yes I did,” said the surgeon.

“What did you find?” asked the boy.

“I found Jesus there,” said the surgeon.

My dear brothers and sisters, we live in a world where our Christian faith is being persecuted. Let us look at Great Lent with a new understanding, a new faith that Jesus Himself died in order that we may have eternal life! In times of persecution and suffering, in times of grief and stress, when it all comes down to it, we have only one place to turn, and that is to the power of the Jesus Christ, the Son of God. If there is not at the heart of the universe a heart of love, then nothing else we believe really matters.

So, if anyone asks you why all this fuss about Great Lent, why all the depriving of oneself, why all the Services, why all this buildup? You will know why and what to answer — we do it because God loved the world and mankind so much that He would always be here for us. The key word during this Season is ‘LOVE’!

So, as the Epistle of Peter says, “Fervently love one another from the heart...” So, if we are ever asked what is and should be the ultimate secret of the Christian?...the correct and only answer is “Love.”

+ A M E N
Parish Council President…

Parish Council Update
By Peter J. Panton, M.D.

It is a pleasure to greet you as the new President of the Parish Council, and I thank my Parish Council colleagues for entrusting me with this responsibility. I also thank Dean Sarantos who served as our Parish Council President for the past two years. Dean has agreed to continue his Parish Council service and will serve as the Vice-President for Finance. The Assumption Church is fortunate to have someone with Dean's talents willing to share his expertise with the community.

2015 is a special year for the Assumption Church. We commemorate 90 years of ministry to the faithful culminating in our Anniversary Gala on October 18th at the Carlisle Banquets in Lombard. The theme of our year long celebration is: Honoring the Past, Embracing the Future. Our goals for the current year include: (a) revitalization of our Stewardship Program (Vice President of Stewardship--Dr. Voula Spyropoulos) as a core principle of Orthodox Christianity; (b) review of our Church's infrastructure from the underground pipes to the dome with appropriate remedial measures being implemented (Vice President of Maintenance--Rose Marie Stewart); and (c) coordination of activities with nearby not-for-profit institutions--namely, Loretto Hospital and the charter school leasing our school building, the Plato Learning Academy--to ensure that the Austin Community can again be a vibrant place to live and worship (Ad hoc Chair of External Affairs--James Lakerdas).

Lastly, I would like to highlight an activity that truly embraces a future committed to The Lord. Our Sunday Church School, under the inspired leadership of Father Timothy and Christina Arvanites, has embarked on a year-long program of Christian philanthropy entitled: ‘The 90 Acts of Kindness Challenge’. Here are a few of the Acts completed to date by our children and young people of our SCS: fulfilling the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge (Act #2); sewing fleece blankets for the patients at Ronald McDonald House--Loyola University (Act #7); collecting toys for distribution through the Department of Children and Family Services (Act #21); comforting pediatric cancer patients at Rush Medical Center (Acts #13 and 16). Every week, we glance at the 90 Acts thermometer in St. Catherine Chapel to monitor our children's progress. As of February 5th, 33 Acts have been completed, 13 are in progress, and 44 more are under development. Many of us can talk about the Parable of the Good Samaritan; the children of our Sunday Church School are living it. Keep it up, kids! You make us proud to be your parents, grandparents, and friends.

If you have any thoughts or concerns, feel free to call me at 708-452-7200.

Lenten/Easter Needs

Below is a list of items that are used during our Great Lent and Holy Week experience.

Should you wish to offer a donation for one of the items below, please call the Church Office at: 773.626.3114

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item Needed</th>
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<tr>
<td>Palm Leaves for Palm Sunday</td>
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<td>Icon for The Salutations to the Theotokos (5 Fridays)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jonquils for the Sunday of the Veneration of the Cross (3rd Sunday of Lent)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Icon for Bridegroom Services (Holy Week)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Icon for Bridegroom Services (Holy Week)</td>
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<td>Large Icon of the Last Supper (Holy Week)</td>
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<td>Three Wreaths for Holy Thursday (Holy Week)</td>
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<td>Rose Petals, Holy Friday (Holy Week)</td>
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<td>Carnations, (Good Friday)</td>
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<td>Lavaro (Anastasis Service)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Easter Lilies for Holy Pascha</td>
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Philoptochos...

Philoptochos News
By Ann Dervis

Christmas Party and Sing-a-Long
Our annual party was held on December 6\textsuperscript{th} at the Greek Islands restaurant in Lombard. After lunch Father Timothy led us in singing traditional Christmas carols. Proceeds from the raffle were sent to assist the building of the St. Nicholas Shrine in New York. Attendees also brought wrapped Christmas candy to fill take-home goodie bags for Feed the Hungry.

Feed the Hungry
On December 9\textsuperscript{th} our members were at the Annunciation Cathedral serving a delicious meal. In addition to goodie bags of candy to take home, scarves and mittens were distributed. A big thank you to all who helped with this good work.

Bake Sale
On December 13\textsuperscript{th} the ladies prepared and packaged traditional Greek cookies to sell on Sunday, December 14\textsuperscript{th}. There were chocolate-covered treats, tsourekia and other goodies. Proceeds of the sale were donated to the St. Nicholas Shrine fund.

Metropolis Open House
Several members attended the Metropolis Open House on December 14\textsuperscript{th}. It was a lovely get together.

Vasilopita
On Sunday, January 11\textsuperscript{th}, Father Timothy distributed slices of Vasilopita to members of the Parish Council and leaders of various church organizations. The proceeds from the extra collection tray were sent to St. Basil Academy in New York. Thank you to our generous parishioners.

2015 Membership
Demetra Lakerdas and Pat Karabas set up a table in Plato Hall after Diving Liturgy every Sunday during November and December. Each lady who paid her membership for 2015 received a blue Greek tote bag. We have nine new members.

Apokreatiko Glendi
The annual Apokreatiko Glendi was held on Sunday, February 15\textsuperscript{th} at the Carlisle Banquet Hall in Lombard. For more details and pictures from the event, please turn to page 11 of the newsletter.

Coming Up
The next general meeting and Lenten lecture will be held on Thursday, March 19\textsuperscript{th} in the St. Catherine meeting room at 10:30 a.m.
Finding Time to H.A.L.T. During Great Lent
By Fr. Athanasios Papagiannis

How does a priest really know that great lent has really arrived? Some people will say he knows because he has a calendar and pays close attention to it. Others will say he can tell by the gospel readings that proceed great lent. For me, I know when great lent is officially here when a parishioner asks a familiar question. “Father,” he or she begins to ask, “why do we have to fast so extensively in great lent?

That annual question is usually asked many times, and when it’s asked, it’s most often asked in the spirit of annoyance. And that’s appropriate because fasting is exactly meant to bother us. Most people don’t know this but one of the aims of fasting is to enter a person into an irritable state so that he can familiarize himself with being in that state and better himself.

The acronym H.A.L.T. (Hungry, Angry, Lonely, Tired) works well with explaining one of the main reasons we fast. H.A.L.T. has been used to inform people that when they are in a hungry, angry, lonely or tired mode, they tend to sin more. Who doesn’t get irritable when they need to sleep or when they’re tired? Indeed, this is when we tend to say things we don’t want to say or do things to others we regret.

The Orthodox Church, in her great wisdom, purposely calls for us to go into these modes and stay there for an extended period. We’re called to fast from food and become hungry; we’re called to expose ourselves to the silence of being alone; we’re called to make ourselves susceptible to becoming angry; and to push ourselves to the point of exhaustion. This is mainly the work of fasting. And it is through this type of life that we can become sanctified individuals.

What we do during Great lent is akin to the cultivation of an inner desert experience. There is a tradition in our Church that one can trace back to the life of St. Mary of Egypt. The monks of that time used to travel into the desert with only a little food and water. There they would imitate Christ and spend forty days in the desert fasting. Then they would come back on Palm Sunday to celebrate Holy Week together. The forty day struggle was meant to challenge them then, and it’s meant to challenge us even today.

God knows that the desert is far away from Chicago, but the Church calls for us to bring this type of experience into our very lives by participating in a desert experience of our own through fasting and abstinence. You cultivate the desert by removing the obstacles, by fasting and by praying. The Church does this because she knows that men and women go into the desert, not because they’re lost, but because they’re thirsty. And that’s what all this activity is about – to make us realize that the only thing we’ve ever thirsted for is Christ. The more we fast, the more this thirst becomes obvious.

In a very real way the Church is calling for each soldier of Christ to go on the offensive during Great Lent. In deciding to fast we are telling the evil one that we are voluntarily entering into the states he so easily defeats us in. In other words we taking the battle to him and we are making the statement that with God on our side we will not be defeated.

Entering into the states represented by H.A.L.T through fasting isn’t easy. Human strength and the desire to stay the course usually wane when we engage in prolonged fasting. To counter this the Church calls for us to fast and pray. So if we find ourselves a little annoyed by the fast – if we’re questioning why we fast in the first place – maybe this is a sign that we’re going at it alone.

May our good and merciful father continue to bless you and your family as we enter this wonderful time of the year. And may all of us experience the joy of God’s grace as we push ourselves in the weeks ahead.

In Christ-

+Fr. Athanasios Papagiannis
Sunday School News…

Update on 90 Acts of Kindness  
By Christina Arvanites

A great big Assumption Family welcome to the Giannetos and Kapsouris families, we are blessed to have you join the Church School Family and Assumption!!

Our 90 Acts of Kindness Challenge is in full speed. As of the time of this writing we have completed 45 Acts of Kindness. HALF WAY TO OUR GOAL!! A tremendous amount of thanks to our fellow parishioners for your overwhelming support of this program! And of course a great big thank you to Fr. Timothy for getting the team spirit going and helping us raise $5,000 to use toward future Acts of Kindness by “graciously” volunteering to go tubing. I heard of the Flying Nun but never the Flying Priest……..

A few updates from some of our recently completed Acts of Kindness:

- 100 winter items given to the homeless to whom our Ladies Philoptochos served a meal
- 320 pairs of gloves were given to children in the Austin community
- 25 lip glosses, 25 nail polishes, 10 nail files and 12 pairs of fuzzy socks, (some assembled into goody bags) and given to children in the Pediatric unit at Rush Hospital on 12/23 as a Christmas treat
- 32 lbs of pop tabs were donated to Ronald McDonald House, (Loyola Hospital)
- 202 magazines were collected and donated to Teen Living Program
- 22 5x7 or larger & 150 3x5 or smaller Icons were donated to OCMC
- 102 bags of trail mix for Night Ministry
- 57 sack lunches packed for area homeless
- 42 pairs of glasses for Lions Recycle for Sight program

Countless hearts touched by one AMAZING parish with the most generous parishioners!

THANK YOU!!!!!!!!!

We have been blessed with the opportunity to work with many amazing organizations and have had some truly eye opening experiences. We’re looking forward to the remaining 45 Acts of Kindness and all the good that we hope to do.
Parish Happenings…

*Trip to Art Institute Connects us to Heritage*
*By Fr. Athanasios Papagiannis*

One of the great developments in the study of the Christianity has been the establishment of a field titled Byzantine Studies. Decades ago it was common for people to be ignorant of what the Byzantine empire was or how it functioned. But times have changed and Christians of all backgrounds are becoming familiar with the Byzantine Empire and, by extension, the Orthodox faith.

On a cold day in January dozens of our parishioners took advantage of a wonderful opportunity. After celebrating the Divine Liturgy we boarded a bus and traveled to the art institute to view a display titled: *Heaven and Earth: Art of Byzantium from Greek Collections. Heaven on Earth* explores the rich legacy of the Byzantine Empire through five main themes: the transition from the Classical to the Byzantine world, spiritual life, intellectual life, the pleasures of life, and crosscurrents between East and West during the final days of the 15th Century. This spectacular display, originally exhibited at the National Gallery of Art in Washington DC, presented 63 superb artworks from the Byzantine era. These works ranged from mosaics and iconography to architectural fragments to ancient manuscripts.

We began the visit by going on a tour and listening to basic information about Byzantium. We learned a lot of wonderful information about our ancestors through the tour. And our guide was impressed with us, too. At one point, when she was talking about the last days of Byzantium and the fall of Constantinople, I asked her to ask our parishioners the specific date the city fell. “May 29th, 1453,” they shouted in unison. “Now ask them what day of the week it was,” I remarked. She paused for a moment and then asked: “What day of the week was it?” To which the group replied by saying: “Tuesday.”

She was stunned and openly wondered if we as a group should take over the tour. Such was the knowledge and enthusiasm of the parishioners that attended. When the tour was concluded we took the time to walk around the exhibit ourselves.

So many wonderful conversations surfaced as we viewed many wonderful pieces. We talked about icons and the symbolism behind them. We also talked about how many pieces had more of a western look to them. Art always arouses in people not only curiosity but deep moments of reflection. And yet there were also moments of being thankful, too. How often does one get the opportunity to view such precious artifacts? How often do we get to view a centuries old icon? What a great inheritance our ancestors have given us.

After viewing the exhibit I compared what I just viewed with the art that’s being produced by us today and I told myself that the depth and meaning that was apparent in these works is sadly missing from much of the pieces we call art today. We can learn a lot from this culture and this time period, that much is certain.

Someone wise once said that some people stay with you longer in fifteen minutes than others do in a week. After the art institute experience we can say the same with art.

In Christ-

+Fr. Athanasios Papagiannis
The Assumption Greek Orthodox Church’s Parish Council has voted to support the building of the Saint Nicholas Shrine at the World Trade Center. The National Shrine is being erected at ground zero, replacing Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church that was destroyed on September 11, 2011, when the World Trade Center’s South Towers fell.

The Church of Saint Nicholas that will be built at the heart of Ground Zero replacing the one destroyed on 9/11 will make the most stirring statement that any house of worship has made in the United States in a long time.  It will tell America in brilliant visual images what we are, where we come from, and where we are going.

Selecting Santiago Calatrava to design the church was an inspired choice, for he is able to capture in his designs the past and the future in such imaginative ways as to astound both the eye and the mind.  There is a small bridge in Athens that he designed over a roadway halfway between the city center and Aghia Paraskevi, that at first looks like futuristic spaceship ready to take off from its launching pad, but then seems to take the form of an ancient Greek trireme gliding over the Aegean.

A fusion of the past and the future is what characterizes the new Saint Nicholas Church. Calatrava has taken his inspiration from some of the great churches in Constantinople in creating his design.  The shallow dome will have 40 ribs as does the dome of the Aghia Sofia, and alternating bands of stone at the corners will echo the walls of the Church of the Holy Savior Church in Chora.  But the church will also be constructed in such a way as to create an ethereal effect reminiscent of the more mystical scenes of "2001: A Space Odyssey."  This will be achieved by fusing the exterior stone cladding with glass that in the evening hours will create a luminous aura and make the whole church appear to glow from within.

Most of all, Saint Nicholas Church will have something entirely its own—what Laurence Durrell called "spirit of place."  The original church, a neighborhood parish built in 1916, was completely buried by the collapse of the South Tower of the World Trade Center on 9/11, the only place of worship destroyed in the terrorist attack.  The new church will be built on a platform 25 feet above street level at the end of an open space that will include a non-denominational bereavement center for rest and meditation, a shrine that will attract pilgrims of all beliefs from all over America and the world.

The church and the park area it will crown will become a national destination that some 10 million people are expected to visit every year.  That will make Saint Nicholas Church at Ground Zero one of the most popular sites in New York City, attracting twice as many visitors as the Metropolitan Museum of Art, for example, and many times more than other churches in the area, including the most majestic cathedrals.

A terrible tragedy has brought us the opportunity to leave our mark on our new-found land and to do it in a way that is worthy of our faith, fitting to the memory of all those who perished on 9/11, and mindful of the promise of Jesus when he said, My house shall be called a house of prayer for all people."

Donations will be solicited from the beloved Community of Panagia.  A generous sponsor of the 2015 Palm Sunday Luncheon has humbly asked that the proceeds of the luncheon go toward this endeavor.  The Parish Counsel will also make a donation from its philanthropy fund that was established to support charities both local and national.

Some donations have already been collected.  For those wishing to support this historic cause, please contact Father Timothy or the Church office.
**Church Bells Bring Joy to the Neighborhood**  
**By Allyson Johnson, Austin Community Resident**

The church office recently received a lovely letter from a resident in the Austin community regarding the sounds of the church bells.

The letter has been reprinted below.

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Dear Christian Friends-

I wanted to take this opportunity to say thank you for the beautiful sounds of the church bells. I live two blocks over from the church. I remember several months ago when I first heard the bells. It made me stop in my tracks and I listened intently until they were finished. I love the sound of the bells every hour. The bells remind me that in the midst of the chaos in our community, God is near. The music of the bells tells me to constantly focus on God and to pray without ceasing. The heavenly sounds of the bells have given me a renewed hope for the Austin Community.

Finally, thank you for the extra gift of the holiday tunes played by the bells. How awesome! How many communities get to experience the celebration of the glory of God this way? I was so excited. The bells set the tone for my family’s holiday. We loved decorating the house, watching our Christmas lights flash, sipping cinnamon tea and wrapping gifts with the holiday bells.

I thank God for giving your church the vision and means to allow the bells to play. Please accept my heartfelt donation into the Kingdom. I truly believe lives will be changed by the continued ringing of the bells.

To God be the glory!

Peace & numerous blessings-

Allyson Johnson
Parish Happenings…

*Apokreatiko Glendi Roars Back to the 1920s*
*By Helen Kolettis*

On Sunday, February 15, families and friends of the Assumption community braved the cold to travel back in time to the 1920s to attend the annual Apokreatiko Glendi.

Those who attended enjoyed a delicious meal at the Carlisle Banquet Hall in Lombard, a performance by the Assumption Dance Troupe, games, dancing, and a raffle.

Kudos to the ladies Philoptochos for hosting yet another fun and successful event. Pictures from the evening are below and are also posted on the Assumption website at: [http://www.assumptionchicago.org/photo-gallery](http://www.assumptionchicago.org/photo-gallery).
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<thead>
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<th>Name</th>
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<td>MRS EMILY DEAM</td>
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<td>MR JAMES S BOUNARDJ</td>
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MR & MRS JOHN STEC
MRS ROSE MARIE STEWART
MR & MRS JOHN SZUBERT
DR CHRISTOS TAKOUDIS & DR MARIA FOUS-TALIERAKI
MS ANASTASIA TEROVOLAS
MS EUGENIA THEODOSOPoulos
MR & MRS GEORGE THEODOSOPOULOS
DRS. NICK & ELAINE THOMOPOULOS
MR AND MRS MICHAEL TIERNEY
MR & MRS CHRISTOPHER D TORCHIA
MR JOHN E TRAHANAS
MRS BESSIE TRIHAS
MR & MRS STEVEN TRUNCALE
MR & MRS JOHN G. TSIGOLIS
MR & MRS JAMES TSIOULIS
MS ANNA TSIRONIS
MRS VASILIKI TSIRONIS
MRS ARITA VALESSARES
MR & MRS PETER VALESSARES
MRS JAYNE VELIS
MR & MRS PETER VLAGOS
MR ANDREW VLAHOPOULOS & MRS IMOZA BAHOLLI
MR & MRS GEORGE VLAHOS
MR & MRS GEORGE VLAHOS
MR & MRS THOMAS VOLLMAN
MRS MARIA VOULGARAKIS
MR & MRS PETER VOULGARAKIS
MR & MRS BILL J VRANAS
MR & MRS JASON VRANAS
MS MARY ELLEN WOODS
MRS MARIKA XINOS
MR & MRS CONSTANTINE YANNIAS
MRS ELAINE YANNIAS
MRS MARY YANNIAS
MS TRACY YANNIAS
MR & MRS IOANNIS E ZOGRAFOS
MR & MRS PETER ZOURAS
BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS:
• Congratulations to William and Carla Dagiantis on the birth of their daughter on October 13, 2014.

40 DAY BABY BLESSING
• Daughter of William and Carla Dagiantis was Churched
• Son of Nick and Jennifer Solomos was Churched

BAPTISMS
• Daughter of Valerie and Andreas Skoubis was Baptized, taking the name, Georgia.
  Godparents: George and Lori Chiampas

MEMORIALS

40 Days:
Sophia Karagiannis
Cynthia Marie Gatziolis
Eleni Pappas
Beverly Cherimpes

9 Months:
Aspasia Zasdekis

1 Year:
Alice (Aliki) Gallios
Sam (Sotirios) Romas
Effstathia (Effie) Georgafentis
Perry (Periklis) Voornas

14 Years:
Magdalene Dervis

29 Years:
Alexandra Dervisis

48 Years:
Vasilios Dervisis

60 Years:
Mary Dervis Sothras
BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT:
• Son of Maria and Lucas Bolchert was born on December 8, 2014

40 DAY BABY BLESSING
• Son of Maria and Lucas Bolchert was Churched

BAPTISMS
• Daughter of Britany Ferguson and James Allgood was Baptized, taking the name, Alice (Aliki).
  Godparent: Catherine Kaczmarczyk
• Son of Katherine and Steve Jones was Baptized, taking the name Theodore.
  Godparent: Jay Kott

SPECIAL RECOGNITION:
Montini Catholic High School has informed our Church that Marisa Arvanites has achieved the “Honor Roll” during her first semester of the 2014-2015 academic year. Congratulations, Marisa!

FALLEN ASLEEP IN THE LORD
+ Lee M. Forres + Nicholas Krongos + Nick Scourletos
+ Bessie Mavreas + George Cherimpes + Jennie (Demetra) Potolou
+ Tasoula Soulides + Emile Mantzakides

MEMORIALS

9 Days:
Emile Mantzakis

40 Days:
Helen (Eleni) Maniates
Alkistis Wonais
Bessie (Vasiliki) Mavreas
Nicholas Krontgos

3 Years:
Chris (Xristos) P. Lageotakes
Terry (Panagiota) Kokas
Konstantinos (Gus) Tsironis
Efthimia (Effie) Gekas
Angelo (Evangelos) Glotsos

6 Years:
Peter (Panayioti) Karagiannis

8 Years:
Michael (Mihali) Gekas

1 Year:
Presbytera Christina Blathras
Helen (Eleni) Constant
John P. Vlahos
Penelope G. Vlahos
Georgia Loulousis

20 Years:
Vasiliki Jouris

45 Years:
Alexandra Kokos
First Issue, 2015

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Dates to Remember:

March 14th
Annual SCS Youth Lenten Retreat: 9am - 2pm

April 5th
Palm Sunday/Annual Palm Sunday Luncheon

April 5th-11th
Holy Week

April 12th
Holy Pascha (Easter)
AGAPE MEAL following Anastasis Midnight Divine Liturgy

April 18th
Youth and Teen Bright Saturday Celebration

May 10th
SCS Mother’s Day Program

May 16th
Third Annual Assumption Golf Outing

May 22nd-24th
Annual Metropolis Jr. Olympics

June 7th
Annual SCS Family Divine Liturgy & Picnic in the Park

July 25th & 26th
Annual Assumption Church Festival

October 18th
Assumption 90th Anniversary Dinner Dance Carlisle Banquets, Lombard, Illinois