Our Orthodox Christian tradition is rich in so many ways. And we see how this is brought out so beautifully and so meaningfully in our expression, our adoration, our respect, and our veneration of the saints of our Holy Orthodox Church. “Love for God and love for man”, says Saint Dorotheos, “are inseparable”. Our Faith tells us that IF man is united with God, then he must also be united with all others who love God. And, as man advances on the path to eternal union with God, he becomes increasingly aware of his membership in a Community…the Community or Communion of Saints.

To live a Christian life today sometimes means to go against the norm of the day…to go against what we see happening around us in our society. But, while doing this, our Church tells us that we also must remain steadfast in our faith, and look to the support of our fellow Christian brothers and sisters for a common bond as we search for God. As Orthodox Christians, we are not meant, nor instructed, to search alone and without the support mechanism that other people can give us. Rather, our Church tells us that we are, in fact, saved “in and through others”. And since for us Christians, death does not constitute an impassable barrier or wall of separation, we look for help and companionship, not only to the living, but also to those who already have completed their earthly course.

And for us, as Orthodox Christians, this is brought home most vividly through the veneration and inclusion of saints in our Churches that we so beautifully see decorated on the walls of our Churches. And why do we do that? One of the principle reasons why we place such iconography on the walls of our Churches is to bring home the fact of how important it is to use their prayers, their examples, and their intercessions for our own spiritual growth and progress in a Christ-like existence.

As Orthodox Christians and believers in God, we beseech others to pray for us, because we believe that by God’s grace, they are of benefit to us as. Since our Faith tells us that the saints of our Church are not divided from us, and still belong to the “Christian family” even after their death, we adorn our Churches with them, and we use them in and during our religious services in that we request, from them, help in lifting up our souls to a higher level in our communion with God. Saints, as we called and instructed to use them by our Church, are to be “helpers or intercessors” for us, who work on our behalf to communicate with God for and along with us. This is why we, along with the Roman Catholics, hold the saints in such high esteem, because they work with us and help us on our path to theosis….to become Christ-like and holy and saved!

Our Protestant brothers and sisters look on with skepticism and pessimism and even disdain, as we venerate and use the saints to assist us in our prayer life. But why do they feel this way? Well, because they don’t believe saints really do have a role, or even should play a part in it. Protestants believe, rather, that all saints do is to tend to clutter and only confuse us in our primary focus, which should be only on God. However, our Orthodox Church

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**Feast Day of Saint Catherine**

*continued from page 2*

Mount Sinai and taken to the shrine of Orthodoxy in Sinai that to this day bears her name.

Finally, it is some 1800 years since the young Catherine was beheaded and martyred for her faith in the Lord. She has been accorded sainthood by our Holy Orthodox Church. Catherine and the countless other saints serve as a constant reminder to us of how our Church was started, how it was defended, and how it is here, and thrives today because of precious and holy people like Catherine. Sainthood, as deemed and granted by our Holy Church, is a level that a man or woman has attained through exemplary life and contribution to mankind, as well as steadfast defense and witness for Jesus Christ and commitment to His Church. Each of us should come to know the contribution and holy work of our own Patron Saint, the saint we are named after, and we should read and absorb what and who they were, and we each should mimic and become like our patron saint in work, in mind, in heart, and in commitment to the glory of God.

As Orthodox Christians, we should embrace ourselves to the patron saint we are named after and were given his/her name at the time of our own baptism. It is to our benefit to bring him or her into our existence, into our decision making, and into our lifestyle, because when we allow the saints, the Theotokos, and above all, God our Creator, to enter into our lives, we form a communion, a dialogue, a family which is there constantly directing us physically, mentally, and spiritually. For man and woman, our Church says that “Saintliness most definitely, IS next to Godliness”.

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**Parish Council President…**

*President’s Report*

*By Andrew Kanel*

Panagia’s and the festival are behind us and Sunday School has begun. This is a true sign that fall is upon us.

I would like to extend my thanks once again to our Parish Council and our Philoptochos for their support and preparation for August 14 and 15. We received many guests on those two days and it could not have happened without these wonderful groups and their fantastic members.

More thanks are due to our Festival volunteers who not only gave us their time and effort but resiliently handled countless calls and emails. A special thanks to Christina Arvanites and Ted Pappas for all of their efforts in making sure the festival went off without a hitch.

To those of you that assisted at the festival who worked before, during and after, many thanks to each of you. Your efforts and dedication speak for our results. To our many donors thank you for your support and commitment to Panagia.

Our upcoming autumn events now take center stage starting with the Smoker/Grand Raffle on Thursday, October 18 at the Diplomat in Elmhurst. I am sure Dean Bastounes has a special, fun filled evening planned for us.

In addition, I hope that we will see you at Harvest Day (two nights after the Grand Raffle) to sit back and enjoy an evening of good eats and games.

Please mark your calendar now, for our fall General Assembly on Sunday, November 9.

Special thanks, to Dean Sarantos, who coordinated our first Bridge to Freedom program event at Circle Urban Ministries on September 29. The Bridge to Freedom event featured members of our community supporting the West Austin neighborhood. We will be collecting canned goods for this organization during the month of October.
Philoptochos…

Philoptochos News
By Nancy Pilafas

Philoptochos Conference- July 1-4, Phoenix, Arizona
It was my privilege to represent our chapter at the Clergy/Laity/Philoptochos Conference this past July. This was the third conference that I attended and each time I attend, I gain a new and humbling respect for our sisterhood which celebrated its 80th birthday at the conference. His Eminence chose the theme: Chosen and Appointed by God to Go and Bear Fruit. There were 392 registered delegates from all across the United States. There are approximately 27,000 members and 485 chapters. We passed a two-year budget, distributed monies to all 9 Metropolis charities, dispersed $160,000 to Greece, and in the last 2 years dispersed $2,853,158 to various philanthropic causes. We met in break-out sessions on what seems to be a struggle for ALL chapters in ALL states: Membership. We invite every woman to become a member of Philoptochos and help us in whatever capacity fits your lifestyle schedule. Some might be book members and unable to attend meetings. Others could help us with philanthropic outreach programs. We are eager to work together with our Sunday Church School and involve the youth in some of our programs.

National Philoptochos is in the process of purchasing a building to house our clerical offices and many Social Service offices, also. This building: The Center of Philanthropy, is close to being purchased in Manhattan. To date, we have raised $1.2 million dollars and in a flurry of excitement from the convention floor, we raised an additional $205,000 in just one hour!!!! The National Board donated $10,000 of their own monies in honor of President Aphrodite Skeadas. I witnessed what can be accomplished when doing good for others is at the center of the cause.

It is difficult to put into a few paragraphs the hours of deliberation, reports, and plans for the future. You are invited to visit our Church's website and read the Philoptochos Perspective- our newsletter which won an award for the BEST in the nation!!! It will give you more information on the 4 days in July of which I am SO proud to have attended.

Dates to Remember

**November 4th**
Artoclasia: celebrating the Philoptochos Patron Saints Cosmas and Damianos. Philoptochos will host the fellowship after liturgy.

**November 10th**
Annual Membership Tea in Plato Hall- more details to follow
November 24th- Vespers for St. Catherine with fellowship to follow the liturgy.

**November 25th**
St. Catherine's Feast Day
Philoptochos will be providing refreshments but ask that any woman celebrating her Name Day on this Sunday, please join us at the table to serve the goodies so we may acknowledge your "special day".

**December 1**
Christmas Party at Greek Islands in Lombard- fliers to follow

**December 16th**
Holiday Bake Sale in Plato Hall
Youth Ministry...

The Meaning of Celebrating Names Day
By Father Athanasios Papagiannis

Each and every October we gather together with his Eminence, Metropolitan Iakovos, in honor of his feast day, which takes place on October 23rd of each year. Both clergy and laity join our beloved Metropolitan on this special occasion. The celebration of our Metropolitan’s feast day is a tradition that has gone on for years.

As we most likely know, a feast day is the date a saint, holy event, or a holy object is commemorated in the liturgical life of the Orthodox Church. The Orthodox Church commemorates certain saints or sacred events in her wonderful history every day of the year. The feast day of a saint is generally the date of his or her death.

What makes the concept of feast day so unique is that it developed organically in the life of the Church. Both the feast and the canonization of Saints have always comes from the living devotion of the Christian people. It’s the people who begin the process of the feast day, and the Church hierarchs who officially recognize it. If there were no popular interest and veneration of a certain holy person, there would be no official canonization and no liturgical festival established in their honor.

Living in America, sometimes we lose the meaning behind the traditions that have been passed down to us. Such is the case of the feast day, which many times comes and goes without it being celebrated in the home. Indeed, children many times prefer the celebration of their birthdays rather than their feast days for obvious material reasons. Yet the celebration of the feast day is very beneficial in the life of the parishioner for many reasons.

For starters, we don’t celebrate the feast day by ourselves but with the designated saint. This is very important for one of the great honors one can bestow upon them is to name their child after them. For generation after generation, parents have named their kids after certain saints, so that they can learn about that saint and eventually follow his or her way of life.

Without question the knowledge of the life of the saint builds on the child’s faith, as he or she sees what living out the gospel looks like. In the perfect scenario, the child becomes well versed in the history of that saint and the particular challenges that saint faced. Indeed, many faithful sense undeniable connection with their patron saint, so much so that they incorporate that saint in their prayer life for the purpose of intercession.

Our current generation has slowly let go of this tradition as they’ve decided to name children in a different way. In a society that highlights radical individuality, no one wants to share the same name. It’s far better to give the new child a unique name, one that stands out. This is a current pattern, and the consequence of this is the inability for the child to personalize or latch onto the saint. They don’t see before them someone they can grow into in virtue and conduct. They can surely latch onto other saints with different names and grow connected in this way, but the concern here is the wilting away of a wonderful tradition.

The celebration of the feast day is also unique in that, opposed to a birthday, the parishioner celebrates the occasion in an unselfish manner. Unlike the birthday, he does not get showered with gifts on his feast day. Instead, the opposite happens. Our tradition states he is the one who gives; and this giving is usually in the form of a meal.

Symbolically, this tradition is more Christian than the celebration of the birthday, for when the Orthodox Christian celebrates his feast day, it’s not individually, but collectively. Having people over and catering to them instead of the other way around is an indication that this person sees himself as part of the body instead of an individual. If one considers himself as the body of Christ, who else would one want to celebrate it with than the body of Christ?

So the next time our feast day comes around let us take our beloved Metropolitan’s lead and have those we love come over as we shower them with the joy and love each feast day brings.

In Christ’s abiding love,
+Fr. Athanasios Papagiannis
Sunday Church School…

Welcome Back Celebration!

We all know there is no place like Assumption Sunday Church School! On September 9th our Church School students were welcomed back to kickoff the 2012-2013 year with this in mind. They followed the yellow brick road to fun, fun, fun! Along the way they had to watch out for flying monkeys, and even spotted the scarecrow who of course even without a brain knew that Assumption is the best. No witches here; she melted away before she even took a step.

As they crossed over the rainbow they entered Emerald City aka Plato Hall and were entertained by “Circus Boy”, they enjoyed a feast fit for royalty because of course all our children ARE royalty at Assumption. There were sno-cones, (thanks to the Woods family), a candy bar to make Willy Wonka jealous and so many other snacks (thanks to a group of very generous SCS families). Many thanks to Ann Dervis, Erin Godellas, Helen Torchia Elisabeth Koulouris, Patty Laggas, Georgia Tsaganos and of course my family who helped me transform everything. But most of all thank you to our beautiful students and Church School families who continue to inspire us and remind us why, there is no place like Assumption Church!!

Diving for the Cross Event September 19

On Saturday, September 15th children of all ages jumped into the water in search of a cross. This was our first “Dive for the Cross” event and it was a well attended event that took place at the Oak Brook Park District. Fr. Timothy and Fr. Athanasios began with a prayer and brief explanation of the significance of the cross. Then the children, broken down into several age groups jumped in, searching for the cross that Fr. Timothy tossed into the water. The evening ended with dinner and an opportunity to splash around with friends!

Stewardship…

Christian Stewardship Is…From Oriented Leadership by Williams & McKibben reprinted from www.goarch.org

…learning how to be a responsible and concerned caretaker of Christ’s Church; it is learning how to enjoy Church life and be happy in Church work, for in Her dwells the fullness of the Spirit of God.

…our active commitment to use all our time, talent and treasure for the benefit of humankind in grateful acknowledgment of Christ’s redeeming love.

…caring for the needs of others.

…offering one’s self to God as He offered Himself to us.

…what a person does after saying “I believe…”, as proof of that belief.

…devotion and service to God and His Church as persons, as families, as parish, as diocese/metropolis, as national Church and as Church universal.
Parish Happenings...

Community Service Event

A crew of 12 Assumption volunteers convened at 118 N Central Avenue on Saturday, September 29th to help our neighbors by painting a two-bedroom apartment soon to be used by the Bridge To Freedom residential re-entry program. The unoccupied apartment is being rehabbed to soon allow the Bridge To Freedom program to accept additional ex-offenders looking to turn their life around.

The team also received a tour of the food pantry next door (in the previous St. Siena Church) and learned more about the great need in our Austin community and additional ways in which we can help, such as counseling, job skills training, clothing and personal care items. The food pantry, which is run by Circle Urban Ministries, in partnership with Bridge To Freedom, will receive the proceeds from Assumption's September to October food drive. If you would like to learn more about community service opportunities, please contact Dean Sarantos or the church office.
Stewardship List thru September 2012...

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MR & MRS BILL DEMAKIS
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MR AND MRS NICHOLAS KANEL
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MRS MARIANTHE VLAHOS
MR & MRS PETER VLAHOS
MR & MS THOMAS VOLLMAN
DR & MRS PERRY VOORNAS
MRS MARIA VOLULARAKIS
MR & MRS PETER VOULGARAKIS
MR & MRS BILL VTRANAS
MS FRANCES WAHY
MR & MRS JACK WOODS
MS MARY ELLEN WOODS
MR & MRS GUS XINOS
MRS MARIKA XINOS
MR & MRS CONSTANTINE YANNIAS
MS DONNA YANNIAS
MRS ELAINE YANNIAS
MRS MARY YANNIAS
MS TRACY YANNIAS
MR & MRS ARMAND ZIKE
MR IOANNIS ZOGRAFOS
MR & MRS PETER ZOURAS

Assumption-Chicago
The Assumption Newsletter
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40 DAY BLESSING
Daughter of Stavroula Kademoulou
Daughter of Michael and Roula Borkowski
Son of Harriet and Nick Senese

BAPTISMS
• Daughter of Anarilo and Ergela Tole, was Baptized, taking the name, Evdoxia
  Godparent: Eleni Tole
• Son of Emmanuel and Emily Theodorou, was Baptized, taking the name, Demetrios
  Godparent: George Papadatos
• Daughter of John and Jeanette Geroulis, was Baptized, taking the name, Triantafilia
  Godparent: Dino Geroulis
• Son of Maria and Lucas Bolchert, was Baptized, taking the name, Nikita
  Godparents: Jim and Naomi Tselepis

WEDDINGS
• Nicholaos Solomos and Jennifer Sfeir were joined in Holy Matrimony.
  Sponsor: Athena Margaris

FALLEN ASLEEP IN THE LORD
+ Andrew (Andreas) Penesis
+ Theresa (Amphie) Presvelos
+ Alexander Psarras

MEMORIALS
40 Days:
William D. Bakakos
Mary P. Lempeotis
James Mestouis
Andrew Penesis
Theresa (Amphie) Presvelos

3 Years:
Nicholas Boznos
Niki Georgacakis

5 Years:
Joan (Yannula) Ganios

6 Months:
Angelo (Evangelos) Glotsos

37 Years:
George Georgacakis

2 Years:
Fotini Mansour

Next Book Club Gathering: October 11
Book Club Began - September 20
Led by Father Athanasios, First book is Wounded by Love
Gathering at the AHEPA.

If you are interested in coming together for fellowship and interesting discussion contact Dr.
Voula Spyropoulos (630) 217-0078 or the Church office.
Now through December 4th
Donations can be placed in
Collection boxes in Narthexes

Little Lambs: Hot chocolate, marshmallows, tea
PREK/Kindergarten: pie fillings (including pumpkin), non-perishable pie shells, instant puddings, jellies
1st/2nd grade: canned fruits and vegetables, (including cranberries), canned soups
3rd/4th grade: crackers, stuffing mixes, snack items
5th/6th grade: spaghetti sauce, pastas, mac & cheese
7th/8th grade: cold cereals, instant oatmeal
HS: canned tuna, chili, instant potatoes, rice
Adults: Bread mixes, muffin mixes, flour, sugar

**This is a suggested list of donations, any donation would be greatly appreciated. Monetary donations can also be made and will be used to buy fresh food items.

“A generous man will himself be blessed, for he shares his food with the poor.”
Proverbs 22:9
JOIN US FOR
THE
ASSUMPTION CHURCH
ANNUAL HARVEST DAY CELEBRATION!!

Saturday
October 20th
5:00 PM
Plato Hall

Adults $7
Kids 5-18 $4
Under 5 free

Fellowship! Favorite Fall Foods! Crafts!
and the always fun-filled,
TRIVIA CHALLENGE!

RSVP:
(773) 626-3114
by 10/17
St. Jude Give thanks. Walk.

Saturday, November 17th, 2012

at the Yorktown Mall in Lombard, IL

Walk. Give.

To Help them live.

Join the St. Jude Give thanks. Walk.

Location:
Yorktown Mall
203 Yorktown Center
Lombard, IL 60148

Event schedule:
Walk is held indoors
Registration starts at 7 a.m.
Walk starts at 8 a.m. near Lucky Strike Lanes

Please see Eileen Szubert for information regarding either joining our team of walkers or donating to support St. Jude and our team!!"
JOIN US FOR THE ASSUMPTION CHURCH ANNUAL DECORATE THE HALL & TREE!!

Saturday, December 1st
4:00 PM
Plato Hall

Make ornaments to place on the tree and other fun activities!

Dinner - Fellowship - Fun for all ages
Adults: $5
Children: $3

Please RSVP by November 29th!
773-626-3114
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Important Upcoming Dates:

**October 18th**  
Annual Grand Raffle Banquet

**October 20th**  
Harvest Days and Trivial Pursuit Night

**Save the Date:**  
Monday, October 22 at 7:00pm  
Adult Bible Study

**October 23rd**  
Annual Metropolitan Iakovos  
Namesday Banquet

**November 11th**  
Parish Fall General Assembly Meeting

**November 25th**  
Feast Day of Saint Catherine

**December 1st**  
Decorate the Hall & Christmas Tree