

## **This Summer Soak Up the Sun of the Son**

**Fr. Demetrios Kazakis**

*Reprinted from www.goarch.org June 2016*

It's a play on words, but I'm not playing around. As a priest, there is nothing more depressing than seeing the joyous faces of our youth in Church one week, and then NOT seeing them the next simply because Sunday school has ended for the school year. There is no such thing as a 'vacation' from Church!

There is the old adage, "Children are like sponges; they soak everything up!" This is true! What is a sponge? A real sponge is a multi-cellular organism with pores and channels, so when it's dried, any liquid or dry material will be naturally soaked up into its crevices. A sponge will forever maintain the elements of that with which it first comes into contact. If our children are sponge-like, they will soak up the first thing they are exposed to, and it will remain with them for the rest of their existence. Can we look at our children and be satisfied with that which they have been 'soaking up?' What have they been exposed to? What is the first thing with which they may have come into contact?

We are products of our own environment. Our main environment should be our Church! Like the sponge, we must soak up Jesus Christ and His Church to our full capacity! Our entire lives should be immersed into the Church and we will maintain its elements, properties and fragrances. When we are surrounded by the beauty and love of Christ, we will be changed and affected for the better!

*...continued on p. 2*

### ***Looking for Information?***

Flyers, announcements, advertisements are posted on bulletin boards in the Church Hall. If you see something you like? Make a copy!

Meeting minutes and budget reports are posted monthly following Parish Council meetings.

Want more? Ask! Have a complaint? Be prepared to discuss solutions and volunteer to help!!

## **June 2017 Newsletter**



### **Inside...**

The President's Perspective

News from:

- ◆ Philoptochos
- ◆ GOYA
- ◆ Sunday School
- ◆ J&M Home Helpers

*...continued from cover*

There is a danger when people want their Church only when it's to their convenience. This inconsistency is a detriment to our faith and our growth towards Christ. The Church is constant and will last forever – but just because the Church is always available to us, does not mean that we should stroll in haphazardly. Summer vacation, for example, may be a time of rest and relaxation, but does not mean that we take a 'vacation' from our faith and prayer life in the Church. Vacation means the action of leaving something which preoccupies.

Does church preoccupy you? Is it something that causes stress? Our faith cannot stop or 'take a break!' Imagine if God took a break from answering our prayers and blessing us! Imagine if the Holy Spirit took a vacation from carrying out God's will. Where would we be? Why do we come to church in the first place? People say, 'I come because I was baptized in this church.' 'I come to church because I like seeing people.' 'I come to church because I have nothing better to do,' etc. There are many misguided reasons for coming to church.

The correct reason we come to church is because the Church is the Body of Christ! The Church is our liturgical family. St. Paul says to the Corinthians: "When one suffers, the whole body suffers. You (the Church) are the Body of Christ!" (1 Cor. 12:26-27). You should not leave this body! Even if it's during summer vacation, our place is to be in Divine Liturgy. The Divine Liturgy is the 'work of the people' and therefore when someone is missing the work is not complete!

Our priorities are often ill advised and incorrect. Sports, school, career, so-called 'family functions' all replace the Divine Liturgy throughout the year, and when it comes time for vacation, Divine Liturgy makes its way to the lowest point in the priority pole -- if it wasn't there already. We are all sponges in the presence of Jesus Christ, through His Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church. We are products of His Church. We are a result of the work and sacrifice of the Saints. We are the continuation of this ministry and faith!

As parents, it is our responsibility to expose our children to our precious Orthodox Faith but exposure is not enough. Our children will also be soaking up our attitude towards our faith and Church. If our opinion of the church is that it's only a 'place to congregate socially' and something that we can take vacation from, our children will grow up with the same mindset.

This summer, SOAK UP JESUS, AS THE SON. I'm not saying don't enjoy the time with family, enjoy them and thank God for blessing you with this precious time together. I'm not saying you will be in church every waking second of the summer, but I am asking you to make it the foundation on which your summer is planned. Church attendance should be constant, meaningful and prayerful whether we are at our home parish or an Orthodox Christian parish where we are vacationing (see [www.assemblyofbishops.org](http://www.assemblyofbishops.org) to find canonical Orthodox Christian parishes throughout the United States). Surround yourself with the beauty that is the Orthodox Church! Be a part of the Body of Christ's Church and grow in the Church as part of your parish family! Be in the presence of Christ and His Church and soak up the SON!

*Fr. Kazakis is the presiding priest at St. Nicholas Church in West Babylon, N. Y.*

## THE PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

---

Georgiana Wilton, Parish Council President [georgiana.wilton@gmail.com](mailto:georgiana.wilton@gmail.com)

Does Church preoccupy me? If you read the opening article—you know why I ask myself that. I can definitely say YES, Church does preoccupy me. Asking questions and thinking of better ways to accomplish the many tasks needed to run the Church can be very preoccupying...who can trim the budding bushes, who can help keep the lawn looking fresh, how can we increase the internet speed, who is willing to help plan a kitchen update to bring us back to code, what direction should we go with the bequest we received, how can we increase our usher pool, why is the elevator chime so loud...and don't even get me started on GreekFest<sup>PLUS</sup>!!

But, I suspect that's not what Fr. Kazakis had in mind.

Lately, my thoughts have been preoccupied with syncing my love of the Church with my various stances on social justice, acceptance and compassion, and not sitting in a place of judgment (or accepting anybody's stance that *excludes* when we need to focus on more ways to *include*). All while keeping Christ in the center.

I would disagree with Fr. Kazakis when he writes certain 'reasons' for coming to Church are misguided. I think for some people those reasons are a starting point. If you are coming solely because you were baptized in the Church (or faith) then *we* as a community have not done our job to engage you and show you what we have to offer. Now, don't get me wrong...it's not our responsibility to make Church fun and we are not solely responsible for engaging you. That has to come from your heart. What I am saying is that we as a Parish Council, we as a Community, and Fr. Michael as a Spiritual Leader must all take an interest in fostering your faith and encouraging and providing opportunities for growth and participation.

But we can't do it without you. And we certainly can't do it if we don't know your motivations. So, I invite you to *Coffee with Fr. Michael* where we can discuss anything you'd like! No agenda—just coffee and conversation! What do you want to see? What do you like? What don't you like? Please join us and be part of the dialogue:

Friday, June 16  
8:30 am  
Barrique's Park Street  
961 S. Park Street, Madison

As always—my email is working fine and my phone is on. Please feel free to start a conversation!

---

**Parish Council Officers:** Tom Cameron, Vice President; Bruce Hansen, Secretary, Niko Papadopoulos, Treasurer **Members:** Petros Anagnostopoulos, Christy Chappell Belkin, Conn Choles, Nico Fatsis, Dori Hosek, Georgia Marsh, Mike Smith, and Scott Storck **Alternates:** John Soloninka and Nick Topitzes

---

## PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

---

*Patti Cameron, President pcameron@tds.net or pcameron10@gmail.com 608-219-1659*

We had over 18 women at our May 8<sup>th</sup> meeting at church. Thank you all for taking time from your busy schedules to come! We elected our board for the 2017-2019. They are: Christy Belkin, Alice Beneker, Nancy Briamis, Patti Cameron, Athena Daniolos, Draga Gakovich, Lena Giakomopoulos, Jenny Glatch, Korinna Hansen, Raina Haralampopoulos, Maria Heide, Georgia Marsh, Elene Patenaude, Margo Schmidt & Sue Soloninka. We will have the swearing in of the board once our roster has been approved by National. We will keep you posted. Also, Raina, our treasurer reported that we have 52 members this year. We are growing! Thank you to all!

Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, I attended the Presidents Meeting at St. Iakovos Center. I will report on this at our September meeting. Coffee Hour Schedules and Checklist should be out sometime in June.

Philoptochos now has its own bulletin board on the wall to the right of the door into the kitchen. Please look there for other pertinent information or add something you would like to share!

### Local Ministries:

- May 26<sup>th</sup> Cooked and served 250+ dinners at the River Food Pantry
- May 30<sup>th</sup> Cooked for Grace Episcopal Homeless Shelter
- Purchased a couch for Salvation Army Women's Shelter



Cooking and serving our first meal for the River Pantry! Check out more photos on River Pantry's Facebook Page!



### Upcoming Events:

- Monday, June 12<sup>th</sup> 6-8:30 Spring Social at Elene Patenaude's condo community room. Sue Soloninka co-hostess. The Weston Place Social Room and Rooftop, 625 N Segoe Rd, Madison. RSVP: elene.papas@gmail.com
- Mondays starting June 26<sup>th</sup> 6:30-8:00 Greek Dancing lessons and refresher
- July 29 & 30: GreekFest<sup>PLUS</sup>! Please volunteer wherever needed!
- Saturday, August 19<sup>th</sup>: Visit to Mrs. Karabatsos's farm in Brodhead
- Monday, September 11<sup>th</sup> 6:30 pm. Next Philoptochos Meeting at church.



Want to support Philoptochos in another way?  
Shoppe Philoptochos!!!  
Check out the fun things we have to offer!

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

---

**Jenny Josheff, Director**, [agocssdirector@gmail.com](mailto:agocssdirector@gmail.com)  
**Fr. Michael, Spiritual Advisor**, [frmichael@agocwi.org](mailto:frmichael@agocwi.org)

We'd like to thank the teachers, parents, and students for a wonderful school year. Please contact us if your child did not receive a certificate of participation.

We'd also like to congratulate all the graduating seniors this year. We wish you well in your new chapter in life. Also in need of recognition are a few of our students: Elena, Zoe, and Eva who took a more non-traditional approach to Sunday School by ushering and participating in choir. While you may not have been in class, your presence has not gone unnoticed. There are certificates for you, so please be sure to stop in and get yours and thank you for your service to our church. We apologize for not formally recognizing your service at our end of year ceremony.

School may be out; choir will wrap up for summer very soon; GreekFest<sup>PLUS</sup> will be upon us before we know it... but please remember that the church is open and still needs you and your prayers. Don't be a stranger this summer!

Thank you all again!

## **GOYA**

---

GOYA is in need of a new parent leader, please contact Valerie McCarthy at [mccarthy\\_6623@msn.com](mailto:mccarthy_6623@msn.com) if you are interested.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

---

Mary and Billy McCarthy are graduating high school and invite you to their graduation party on June 24, from 1-4 pm. It will be at the West Shelter in Lakeview Park at 6300 Mendota Avenue, Middleton, WI. There will be indoor/outdoor dining, and Ian's Pizza and Culver's Custard will be served. So, we can have a count to order food, please RSVP by June 1 to <http://bit.ly/BestGradParty> or call (608) 831-2952. Everyone is invited back to our home for Greek pastries after the party. Our address is 6623 Clovernook Road, Middleton, WI.

## **J and M Home Helpers**

---

AGOC's handymen, John and Mike, will do minor home repairs and maintenance for \$25/hour, with the money for their work being donated to the church.



*Call Mike at (608) 516- 9188 and John at (608) 575-1014 today!*

## **SACRAMENTS DURING MAY 2017**

---

Weddings: **0**      Chrismations: **0**      Baptisms: **1**      Funerals: **0**

### **NOTICE OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup>**  
**Immediately Following Church Services**  
**Agenda Items:**

- 2017 Financial Audit Results
- Budget Update
- GreekFest<sup>PLUS</sup>
- Options for Safeguarding/Monitoring Forsyte Bequest

We plan to have an open discussion with the community regarding the status of the Forsyte bequest and inform you of several options for long-term savings under consideration.

# June 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
May 28 <b>7<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pascha</b> <b>Fathers of the 1<sup>st</sup> Ecumenical Council</b> Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am	May 29	May 30	May 31  Choir Practice 7:00 pm	1	2	3  <b>Saturday of the Souls</b> Joint Divine Liturgy with the Russian Orthodox Mission 9:00 am  Cemetery Visits to Follow: Forest Hills – 11 am Roselawn – 12:30 am
4  <b>Pentecost / Trinity Sunday</b> Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am  <b>Kneeling Service to Follow / General Assembly Meeting</b>	5  <b>Day of the Holy Spirit</b>	6	7	8	9	10
11 <b>SUMMER SUNDAY HOURS BEGIN!</b>  <b>Feast of All Saints</b>  Orthros 8:30 am Divine Liturgy 9:30 am	12  Philoptochos Spring Social at Elene P's 6:00 - 8:30 pm	13	14  GreekFest Plus Meeting 6:00 pm Church Hall	15  The Typikon: An Appreciation of Our Liturgical Tradition 7:00 pm	16  "Coffee with Fr. Michael" 8:30 am Barriques 961 S. Park St., Madison	17  Russian Orthodox Divine Liturgy 9:00 am
18 <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Matthew</b>  <b>Father's Day</b> Orthros 8:30 am Divine Liturgy 9:30 am	19  Parish Council Meeting 7:00 pm	20	21	22	23	24
25 <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Matthew</b>  Orthros 8:30 am Divine Liturgy 9:30 am	26  Greek Dancing Lessons and Refresher 6:30-8:00 pm	27	28	29  <b>Holy Apostles Peter and Paul</b>	30 <b>Synaxis of the Holy Apostles</b>	July 1  Russian Orthodox Divine Liturgy 9:00 am



# June – August 2017 Liturgies and Services

## June 3

### Saturday of the Souls

Divine Liturgy 9:00 am

**Epistle:** 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17

**Gospel:** John 21:14-25

**Prosforo:** Cathy G

Cemetery Visits to Follow Liturgy:

Forest Hills – Madison – 11:00 am

Roselawn – Monona – 12:30 pm

## June 4

### HOLY PENTECOST

Orthros 9:00 am

Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

**Epistle:** Acts 2:1-11

**Gospel:** John 7:37-52; 8:12

**Prosforo:** Cathy G

**Acolytes: (Group 3)** William M, *captain*, A. Taylor, C. Taylor, Yiannis L, Alexander C, Vasilios P

**Ushers: (Group 3)** Bruce H, Maria M, Patrick M

**Coffee Hour: (Group 10)** Margo S, Jenny J, Betty L

## June 11

### Feast of All Saints

## SUMMER HOURS BEGIN

Orthros 8:30 am

Divine Liturgy 9:30 am

**Epistle:** Acts 11:19-30

**Gospel:** Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38, 19:27-30

**Prosforo:** Tom C

**Acolytes: (Group 1)** Nicholas M, *captain*, Nicholas S, Joshua J, Benjamin J, Stephanos K, Misha O-L

**Ushers: (Group 4)** Mike S, Nancy S, Lisa B

**Coffee Hour: (Group 11)** Kerry M, Barb K, Stacy G, Dori H

## June 18

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Matthew

#### Father's Day

Orthros 9:00 am

Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

**Epistle:** Romans 2:10-16

**Gospel:** Matthew 4:18-23

**Prosforo:** Georgia M

**Acolytes: (Group 2)** Coasta T, *captain*, Aris A, Luke F

**Ushers: (Group 1)** Sam F, Georgiana W, Elene P

## June 11, cont.

**Coffee Hour: (Group 12)** Maria H, Draga G, Gabriella C

## June 25

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Matthew

Orthros 8:30 am

Divine Liturgy 9:30 am

**Epistle:** Romans 5:1-10

**Gospel:** Matthew 6:22-33

**Prosforo:** Anna F

**Acolytes: (Group 3)** William M, *captain*, A. Taylor, C. Taylor, Yiannis L, Alexander C, Vasilios P

**Ushers: (Group 2)** George S, Sabina M

**Coffee Hour: (Group 13)** Traci L, Nancy G, Christy C-B

## July 2

### 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Matthew

Orthros 8:30 am

Divine Liturgy 9:30 am

**Epistle:** Hebrews 9:1-7

**Gospel:** Matthew 8:5-13

**Prosforo:** Elene P

**Acolytes: (Group 1)** Nicholas M, *captain*, Nicholas S, Joshua J, Benjamin J, Stephanos K, Misha O-L

**Ushers: (Group 3)** Bruce H, Maria M, Patrick M

**Coffee Hour: (Group 14)** G. Wilton, Peli K, Ilektra A

## July 9

### 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Matthew

Orthros 8:30 am

Divine Liturgy 9:30 am

**Epistle:** Romans 10:1-10

**Gospel:** Matthew 8:28-34; 9:1

**Prosforo:** Korinna H

**Acolytes: (Group 2)** Coasta T, *captain*, Aris A, Luke F

**Ushers: (Group 4)** Mike S, Nancy S, Lisa B

#### New Coffee Hour Calendar

**Coffee Hour: (Group 1)** Sue S, Katerina P, Eleni G

## July 16

### Sunday of the Holy Fathers

Orthros 8:30 am

Divine Liturgy 9:30 am

## July 16, con't.

**Epistle:** Titus 3:8-15

**Gospel:** Matthew 5:14-19

**Prosforo:** Kathy F

**Acolytes: (Group 3)** William M, *captain*, A. Taylor, C. Taylor, Yiannis L, Alexander C, Vasilios P

**Ushers: (Group 1)** Sam F, Georgiana W, Elene P

**Coffee Hour: (Group 2)** Elene P, Korinna H, Jenny G

## July 23

### 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Matthew

Orthros 8:30 am

Divine Liturgy 9:30 am

**Epistle:** Romans 15:1-7

**Gospel:** Matthew 9:27-35

**Prosforo:** Nia C

**Acolytes: (Group 1)** Nicholas M, *captain*, Nicholas S, Joshua J, Benjamin J, Stephanos K, Misha O-L

**Ushers: (Group 2)** George S, Sabina M

**Coffee Hour: (Group 3)** Nichol S, Nadya H, Athena D, Valerie M

## July 30

### 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Matthew

#### GREEKFEST

Orthros 8:30 am

Divine Liturgy 9:30 am

**Epistle:** 1 Corinthians 1:10-17

**Gospel:** Matthew 14:14-22

**Prosforo:** Jane S

**Acolytes: (Group 2)** Coasta T, *captain*, Aris A, Luke F

**Ushers: (Group 3)** Bruce H, Maria M, Patrick M

**Coffee Hour: GREEKFEST**

[(Group 4)?? Nancy B, Jane S, Beth F]

## August 1

### Dormition Fast Begins

Small Paraklesis 6:00 pm

## August 3

Small Paraklesis 6:00 pm

## August 6

### 9<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Matthew

#### Holy Transfiguration

Orthros 8:30 am

Divine Liturgy 9:30 am



# **GREEK FEST<sup>Plus</sup> 2017**

**Saturday, July 29 - 12 noon to 8 pm**

**Sunday, July 30 - 11:00 am to 6 pm**

**Assumption Greek Orthodox Church**

**11 North Seventh Street, Madison**

**GREEK FOOD**

**DANCING**

**LIVE GREEK  
FOLK MUSIC**

**CHURCH  
TOURS**

**PASTRIES**

**CAFE**



**WINE FLIGHTS**

**AGORA (MARKETPLACE)**

*Menu:*

*Chicken Dinner*

*Lamb Dinner (SUNDAY only)*

*Grecian Sampler Platter*

*Pastitsio*

*Spanakopita (spinach pie)*

*Gyros*

*Greek Fries*

*Greek Salad*

*Loukoumades (Greek honey puffs)*

*Bake Sale*

*Craft Beer*

*Greek Wine/Wine Flights*

*Soft Drinks*

