

# Holy Apostles Newsletter

DIOCESE OF THE WEST

ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA



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## From the Holy Fathers

The Elder taught that the basic element of the Spiritual life in Christ, the great mystery of our faith, is unity in Christ. It is that sense of identifying with our brother, of carrying the burdens of one another, of living for others as we live for ourselves, of saying "Lord Jesus Christ have mercy upon ME" and for that "ME" to contain and to become for ourselves the pain and the problems of the other, of suffering like they suffer, of rejoicing like they rejoice, their fall becoming our fall and their getting up again becoming our getting up again.

This is why his last words, his last entreaty to God, his last prayer, his greatest desire was that we "become one." That was what he ached, wished and longed for. In this wonderful and simple way, how many problems were solved and how many sins were avoided. Did my brother fall? I fell. How can I blame him since I am at fault? Did my brother succeed? I succeed. How can I envy him since I am the winner?  
(con't on inside ...) ◆

## TIME, TALENT & TREASURE

**W**e as Orthodox Christians realize everything we have is given to us by God. We serve God to show love and gratitude for the gifts He has given us.

Life is the first and greatest gift of all and carries with it great responsibilities for using our time, talent and treasures as expressions of our love, commitment and thankfulness to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Let us offer to God the very best of our lives that we may continue to grow in Christ and support the ministries of His holy Church.

Below is a list of ways you can give of your time and talents. As you read through the list, please remember:

God has blessed us with individual gifts and talents that He wishes us to use to glorify Him.

We enhance our own lives by exercising the privilege to offer our gifts and talents to Christ's vineyard. Therefore, it's important to review and renew our gifts and talents at least once each year.

As faithful Orthodox Christians, we are called by God to share in the ministries of the Church.

The Holy Spirit has brought us together in unity as members of the body of Christ. Personally and collectively we must offer God our full cooperation and hard work to nurture our talents as faithful stewards to His glory.

Some of the items listed below, are obviously "in the future" events, such as

Sunday School and Youth Group, and others, however, if that is where your interest and talent lies, please feel free put your name down for future service, but it is important not to neglect the current ministries as well. This is very important for the life of our parish, so please fill out and return to Fr. Dimitri as soon as possible. Discuss it among your family and pray about how you can be involved.

\*\*Some of these roles are already being fulfilled properly and in a Godly manner, however, all aspects of Church ministry are open to everyone. Perhaps there are ministries that someone feels called to learn or participate in. This doesn't mean that one has to give up their current ministry, but it is important that we open up the ministries to everyone if this is where someone's particular talent lies.\*\*

Please take the time to read the enclosed article: "A Call to Serve" by Fr. Kevin Scherer. It is a little lengthy but its message is essential for all of us.

Each member of the family has something unique and worthy to offer. God made us unique, unrepeatable creatures and the gifts we are given are given in order to glorify God. Let us do this with His help. Your servant in Christ, Fr. Dimitri+

I N S I D E

What's Happening	2
Kitchen Corner	2
Holy Apostles Schedule	3
May Calendar	
Time, Talent, Treasure	3
Many Years	3

# Community Forum

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### TRANSITIONS PROJECT

The Transitions Project is scheduled for this Monday, May 7. Each sandwich maker should make 25 sandwiches. The bread will be in the fellowship hall by Saturday afternoon. If anyone is interested in joining the sandwich making team, let Matushka Mary know.

### CON'T FROM THE HOLY FATHERS

...The Elder knew that because it's our weakest point, it is here that the evil one does greatest battle. We put our own interests first. We separate ourselves. We want to flee the consequences of our actions for ourselves only. However when such a spirit prevails, there is no salvation for us. We must want to be saved along with everyone else. We should, together with God's saint, say, "If you don't save all of these people, Lord, then erase my name from the book of Life." Or, like Christ's apostle, wish to become accursed from Christ, for the sake of my fellow man, my brothers and my sisters.

This is love. This is the power of Christ. This is the essence of God. This is the royal way of spiritual life. We should love Christ who is EVERYTHING, by loving His brothers and sisters, for whom the least of which Christ died.

- From the sayings of Elder Porphyrios

### OUR NEWEST CATECHUMEN

Congratulations to Doug Topness our newest member of the Catechumenate. Please pray for him that God would protect him during this time and keep him by His grace.

### MEN'S GROUP

We will resume the second part of the "Word of the Cross" by Fr. Thomas Hopko on Thursday, May 10 after Vespers upstairs in the fellowship hall. We will have pizza, so bring a few dollars to contribute.

### SPECIAL FEASTS COMING UP

The Feast of the Ascension is Thursday, May 17. We will have Vigil w/Lity the night before at 6 pm, and Divine Liturgy the next morning at 7 am. The Feast of Pentecost, which is a feast of the Holy Trinity and is realized 50 days after Pascha, is always celebrated on a Sunday, this year May 27. We will have Vigil w/Lity the Saturday evening before, May 26 at 6 pm.

## MEMORIAL DAY BARBECUE

All are invited to a Memorial Day BBQ (Monday, May 28th) at the home of Nick & Bev Aiello from 12-5. Hamburgers, sausages, utensils and paper goods will be provided by the Church. Please bring your own drinks and a side dish that has been assigned to each family (see below). If you can't make it to the BBQ, let Matushka Mary know.

Aiello - green salad  
Beckel - fruit salad  
Campbell - dessert  
Dingman - potato chips and dips  
Donnor - scalloped potatoes  
Farmer - cheese & crackers  
Goakey - french bread  
Harmon - potato salad  
Haub - baked beans  
Hudanish - out of town  
Kojenov - dessert  
Meinhardt - macaroni salad  
Perez - deviled eggs  
Schmitt - tortilla chips & salsa  
Story - smoked salmon  
Virosteck - dessert  
Watt - vegetable tray with dip



## Kitchen Corner

### Apricot Mango Cheesecake

4 cups Honey-Puffed Cereal  
8 Tbs. unsalted butter, melted  
24 oz. cream cheese, room temperature  
1 cup sugar  
4 large eggs  
1 tsp. pure vanilla extract  
1 cup apricot mango yogurt  
Ripe mangoes, sliced and peeled, for garnish

Heat oven to 300 F. For the crust, finely pulverize the cereal in a food processor. Stir in the melted butter, then press the crumbs over the bottom and partially up the sides of a well-buttered 9-inch springform pan. Place pan on a baking sheet. Bake until light brown, about 15 minutes. Cool. Beat cream cheese in large bowl of electric mixer until smooth. Gradually beat in sugar, about 3 minutes. Beat in eggs, one at a time, until smooth. Beat in vanilla. Use a rubber spatula to stir in yogurt. Scrape batter into prepared pan. Bake until perimeter of cake is set, but center jiggles, when pan is tapped, about 40-50 minutes. Turn off heat and leave oven door ajar for about 1 hour. Cool, then refrigerate at least 4 hours. Slice mangoes over cheesecake and serve.



# Holy Apostles Schedule

DATE	COFFEE HOUR AGAPE MEAL	COFFEE HOUR CLEAN UP	CHURCH CLEANING TEAM	FLOWERS
<b>MAY 6</b>	Joanna Donnor & team	Campbell & Dingman		Laura Virosteck
<b>MAY 13 (Mother's day)</b>	Bev Aiello & team	Farmer & Harmon	George & Joanna	Matushka Mary
<b>MAY 20</b>	Thomaida Hudanish & team	Haub & Goakey		Laura Virosteck
<b>MAY 27 (Feast of Pentecost)</b>	Elena Kojenov & team	Meinhardt & Perez	George & Joanna	Matushka Mary
<b>JUNE 3</b>	Joanna Donnor & team	Kojenov & Hudanish		Laura Virosteck

## **IMPORTANT!! COFFEE-HOUR CLEAN UP**

We're going to try something new with clean-up on Sundays. We've been running short on volunteers for clean-up after the coffee hour on Sundays, and thus, we need a schedule that works better than the model we currently have. In order to take the strain off a few individuals, we have decided to adopt a clean-up model that is working for other parishes. Beginning in March, two families will be assigned to clean-up, starting alphabetically and cycling through the phone list. Every family will be assigned to clean-up. If you are unable to clean-up on your day or know you will not be at service, PLEASE TRADE WITH ANOTHER FAMILY. \*\*It will be up to each family to make sure they clean on their day or trade with someone\*\* This is the only way to ensure that clean-up happens, AND, if we all do our part, each family will only be on clean-up about once every 2-3 months. Questions? Talk to Father Dimitri or Matushka Mary!

## **GOD GRANT YOU MANY YEARS!**

Happy Feast Day to the following people who celebrate their names day in May:

April 22/May 5 St. Alexandra  
Sasha Kojenov

April 23/May 6 GM George  
George Donnor, Alexei Kojenov

8/21 St. Emmelia, mother of St. Basil the Great  
Emmelia Beckel

10/23 St. Simon the Zealot  
Simon Beckel

16/29 St. Brendan the Voyager  
Brendan Nash



If you don't see your name listed, please let Joanna Donnor know, as she updates the names day list.

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