



The Voice of Holy Apostles
Greek Orthodox Church of Indianapolis
Αγιοι Αποστολοι Ελληνορθοδοξη Εκκλησια Ινδιαναπολεως
+Metropolis of Detroit

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Liturgy: 10:30 a.m.

Volume 9

October 2018

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings in the Lord of Light!! I hope and pray that this finds you all well. We have begun our Journey into the Church New Year. May it be peaceful and abundantly blessed, in Christ!

When most people think of October, they think of Halloween. Much is made of this in modern American society, ranging from the harmless to the sinister. Reactions by Christians vary from total acceptance and support and celebration on one end of the spectrum, to complete and vehement rejection and condemnation of it on the other end. While there are dark elements to do with Halloween that are definitely best avoided, there is a light side to it as well, which we would be better focusing on.

The name comes from All Hallows Eve, from much earlier times in Europe. It was the eve of preparation for celebrating All Saints Day on November 1st. In other words, it was a time to remember God, and the things of God, in Christ, and to glorify God in His saints. I recommend this as our overall focus at that time. Some cute or funny costumes, and some wholesome activities and refreshments are not wrong. However, any participation in that which clearly celebrates the dark or satanic is absolutely and clearly wrong.

Would you invite a known criminal into your home? Would you invite the Devil or demons into your home? That is not corny, crazy or uselessly "old-fashioned." That is what happens when we allow certain kinds of pictures, tv shows, music, books or other media into our homes, and thus into our hearts, minds and souls. We watch what we eat and drink. What about our mental, emotional and spiritual diet? How important is that? It should be VERY important to us, and we should be even more watchful concerning it. This is part of traditional Orthodox Christianity, folks. Fighting to overcome our own passions and weaknesses and failings, makes us much better able to resist being seduced by the "Dark Side." This is a fundamental part of Conscious Christianity, which is what the following of Christ requires and demands. Things of Darkness are only overcome by the Light of Christ. I recommend that you look up and read the story of Saints Cyprian and Justina, who are commemorated on October 2. It is an awesome and inspiring story of one (Cyprian) who overcame great Darkness through the example and prayers of a holy Christian woman (Justina), and by the supreme power of the Cross of Christ. It is especially good to read and remember this story before Halloween.

All the very best to each and all of you! May we ever walk and grow and witness in the Light, Life and Love of Christ!

In the Name and Light of Christ,
Fr. John

NOTEWORTHY DATES IN OCTOBER:

October 6 – St. Thomas, The Apostle

October 9 – Last day to register to VOTE in the 2018 U.S. General Elections

October 27 – Historic Irvington Halloween Festival – See below on how you can help

October 26 – St. Demetrios

October 28 – OXI Day

Happiest of Name Days to all who celebrate this month! Χρόνια πολλά! Να χαίρεσαι το όνομά σας!

A LITTLE LESSON IN GREEK HISTORY:

No doubt you have heard of “**Oxi Day**” but do you know why it is important in Greece’s history?

Oxi Day commemorates the rejection, in 1940, by Greek Prime Minister, Ioannis Metaxas, to an ultimatum given to him by Italian dictator Benito Mussolini. The ultimatum, presented to Metaxas on October 28, demanded that Axis forces (Germany, Italy, Japan) be allowed to enter Greek territory and occupy unspecified strategic locations throughout Greece. Refusing to comply would result in war. According to history, Metaxas answered this ultimatum in a single word: a firm *όχι* (No!). In response to Metaxas's refusal, Italian troops began attacking Greek borders thus marking the beginning of Greece's immersion in World War II.

October 28 became a public holiday in Greece and Cyprus after WWII and is commemorated yearly with military and student parades.

STEWARD NEWS:

Congratulations to Hayden Alexander Kessler on his recent baptism in the Greek Orthodox Church. Hayden is the son of Leia Magdalinos and Timothy Kessler, Jr., the great grandson of Evangelia Magdalinos, and the great nephew of Ethel and Nearhos Darzentas. Godparents are Aly and Jordan Steinmetz. Να σας ζήσει!

LITURGICAL BOOKS:

We have a small number of the Divine Liturgy liturgical books available for purchase. Cost for the book is \$25.00. If you would like to purchase a copy please see any Parish Council member.

CONGRATULATIONS TO HOLY TRINITY – Congratulations to our sister church, Holy Trinity in Carmel, Indiana, on being elevated to Cathedral status. This wonderful rank of honor occurred on Sunday, September 23 by his Eminence, Metropolitan Nicholas. It should be noted that while this is a blessed event for Holy Trinity, they do not have administrative or spiritual authority over other Greek Orthodox churches in the general area.

WHAT’S HAPPENING AT HOLY APOSTLES:

UPDATE ON THE HISTORIC IRVINGTON HALLOWEEN FESTIVAL – Volunteers are needed on **Saturday, October 27** to staff our food booth during the Historic Irvington Halloween Festival. Shifts are available beginning at 7am and end at 5pm (or until we sell out). Help sell our delicious Greek pastries to thousands of festival-goers attending this fun-filled event. If selling is not your strength, we need your help maintaining our cash drawer. This is the third year that Holy Apostles will be participating in the festival. It is a tremendous fundraising and outreach opportunity for our church! If you would like to volunteer, please contact Ethel Darzentas at 317-840-3250 or Debbie O’Reilly at 317-252-4466 or fox6060@comcast.net.

UPDATE ON CALL FOR WINTER CLOTHING DONATIONS FOR SCHOOL 70 – Colder weather is knocking on our door and time to help those less fortunate tolerate bitter winter conditions. We are holding a clothing drive to collect winter clothing for the less fortunate children attending School 70, located at 46th and Central. Please consider donating scarves, hats, gloves, boots, socks, and underwear for children up to the 8th grade. There will be a collection box in our social gathering room for your donations. Thank you to those who have already graciously donated!!

SAVE THE DATE:

FALL GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING: The Fall General Assembly meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, November 18**. In the next few weeks pre-read materials and meeting protocol will be sent to you. Until then, please consider fulfilling your stewardship pledge.

HOLY APOSTLES COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CARD AND ORNAMENT: Be on the lookout for information about our annual community Christmas card. Consider joining many of our parishioners to proclaim the birth of our Lord and Savior.

VASILOPITA LUNCHEON – It's not too early to mark your calendar and make plans to attend our annual Vasilopita luncheon scheduled for **Sunday, January 6, 2019**. Will you get the lucky coin? Join us to find out. Tom Kocoshis has graciously offered to Chair this event. More information to come.

YOUR 2018 PARISH COUNCIL:

President – Elijah McKnight, Secretary – Helen Kostarides, Treasurer – Debbie O'Reilley, Xanthippi and Nearhos Darzentas, Angelus Kocoshis, Dr. Tom Kocoshis.