

St. Iakovos Retreat Center Newsletter

Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago
Newsletter—Great Lent, 2011



This issue

More than Summer Camp P.1
A special Movie Night P.2
Celebrate the Feastday P.3
How you can help P.4

St. Iakovos Retreat Center

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Upcoming Activities

"Mysteries of the Jesus Prayer"

Special Movie Showing:

Thursday, April 14th 7pm.

Pickwick Theatre

Interim Chapel Feast Day

Friday, April 29th

Hierarchical Divine Liturgy 10am

Cook out to follow!

Come and see the beautiful site!

More than a Summer Camp Facility...

The vision which prompted the acquisition of the St. Iakovos Retreat Center included more than just providing a home for the long running very fruitful Fanari Camp program. So far many groups have taken advantage of the beautiful surroundings of the 137 acre property located just an hour north of Chicago and 1/2 hour south of Milwaukee in Kansasville, WI. Tom Kanelos, a board member who coordinates the various groups interested in utilizing the facility reports the following:

"In the four and one half years since the purchase of the Saint Iakovos Retreat Center we have had over 50 groups join us for events. The types of events include day long retreats, picnics, family gatherings, overnight retreats, weekend tent camping and small group outings. The groups have been representative of the many ministries which exist within the parishes of the Metropolis of Chicago. Youth groups, senior, parish councils, Philoptochos, family outings, ministries to those with special needs, pan Orthodox events, scouts and ethnic associations. No group is too large or too small to enjoy the Saint Iakovos Retreat Center."

Cindy Tsaoussis "I LOVE IT HERE!!! I was just there Saturday! BEAUTIFUL CAMPUS! I miss it!"

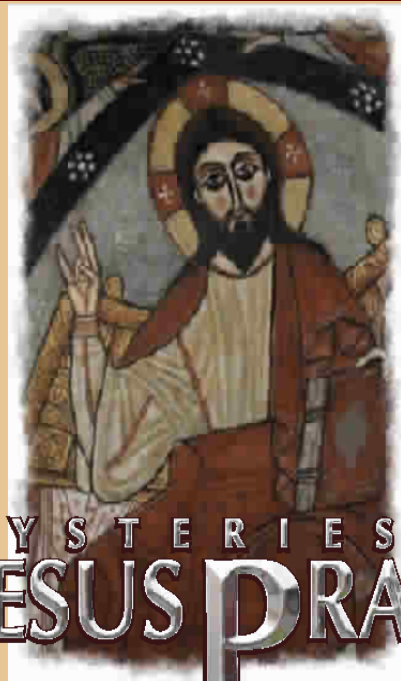
Lenten Movie Premiere Benefit for the Retreat Center

"The Mysteries of the Jesus Prayer" Thursday, April 14th 7pm

As we journey through Great Lent to Pascha, we are excited to present to all our faithful a spiritually uplifting opportunity to attend a screening of *Mysteries of the Jesus Prayer*, a new film by Emmy Award-winning filmmaker and author Dr. Norris J. Chumley and the noted Orthodox author, Very Rev. Prof. John A. McGuckin. Dr. Chumley will be present to offer a reflection and answer questions from the audience.

All proceeds from the sale of tickets will benefit the Saint Iakovos Retreat Center of our Holy Metropolis. With thanks to the owners of the Pickwick Theatre of Park Ridge, IL, each ticket will provide admittance to the screening, as well as a free popcorn and soft drink. Free parking is available, and it is certain to be a spiritually rewarding event during this Lenten season. Additional information about the movie and to view the trailer please visit www.chicago.goarch.org. You may purchase tickets through your Parish Priest or by contacting The Metropolis of Chicago at (312-337-4130).

MIDWEST
PREMIERE



THE MYSTERIES OF THE JESUS PRAYER

PICKWICK THEATRE

5 South Prospect Ave. • Park Ridge, IL
Thursday, April 14, 2011 • 7:00 p.m.

Ticket Price - \$20*

(Please contact your Parish Priest)

100% of the profits benefit the
Saint Iakovos Retreat Center

www.mysteriesofthejesusprayer.com
www.chicago.goarch.org

*Complimentary popcorn and soft drink • Free parking available



Our Interim Chapel Feastday—The Life Giving Fountain

The **Life-Giving Spring** or **Life-Giving Font** of the Mother of God (in Greek: Ζωοδόχος Πηγή) is both the feast day of a historic church just west of Constantinople in Valoukli, and an icon of the Theotokos.

The feast day of the Life-Giving Spring is commemorated on Bright Friday of each year (the Friday following Pascha), being the only feast day which may be celebrated during Bright Week. The Life-Giving Spring *Icon* of the Most Holy Theotokos is commemorated by the Orthodox Church on April 4.

There are two accounts extant concerning the revelation of the Life-Giving Font. It is likely in either case, that before the 5th-6th century monastery was erected, a shrine with a spring of water by a grove of trees dedicated to the Theotokos, had already existed outside the City of Constantinople from early times. Over time, the grove had become overgrown and the spring had become fetid.

Nicephorus Callistus

The traditional account is recorded by Nicephorus Kallistos Xanthopoulos, the last of the Greek ecclesiastical historians, who flourished around 1320. This tradition begins with a miracle that occurred involving a soldier named Leo Marcellus, who would later become the Byzantine Emperor Leo I the Thracian (457-474). While Leo was on his way to Constantinople he encountered a blind man near the Golden Gate who was thirsty. Though he agreed to search for water, he was unable to find any. A female voice was then heard who told the future Emperor that there was water nearby. Looking about, he could see no one, and neither could he see any water. Then he heard the voice again:

"Emperor Leo, go into the deepest part of the woods, and you will find water there. Take some of the cloudy water in your hands and give it to the blind man to drink. Then take the clay and put it on his eyes. Then you shall know who I am."^[2]

The same voice added that she had chosen that very place to be worshiped and prophesied that he would one day receive the crown to the empire. Leo followed her order and at once the blind man recovered his eyesight. After his accession to the throne, the Emperor erected a

magnificent church on this place, and the water continued to work miraculous cures. Therefore, it was called "The Life-Giving Spring."

Procopius

A second account is given by the prominent Byzantine scholar Procopius of Caesarea (flourishing ca.500-565). In this version, the Emperor Justinian was out hunting when he came upon a small chapel in a beautiful wooded area, surrounded by a large crowd of people and a priest in front of a spring. Inquiring about this site, he was told that this was the "source of miracles". He at once ordered that a magnificent church be built there, utilizing materials that had remained after the erection of the Hagia Sophia. The church was erected in the last years of his reign, ca.559-560, near the holy spring. After the erection of the sanctuary, the Gate that was situated outside the walls of Theodosius II was named by the Byzantines *Gate of the spring* (Greek: Πύλη τῆς Πηγῆς).

Come and See...Celebrate the Feastday with us!

Friday, April 29th

Hierarchical

Divine Liturgy

10am

Cookout to follow!

How to Reserve an outing for your group.

To reserve a date for your group outing please send an email to:

saintiakovosrc@aol.com

Include the dates, approximate number of people, contact information and name of parish group or association.

Join us on Facebook!





Planned New Facilities

35 Room Hotel Style Residence Hall

We currently have 8 of the 35 rooms donated and are looking for additional \$100,000 donors.

Each donor will have a naming opportunity for the room. Please consider this gift! Thank you!

Annual Giving Campaign

We are also looking for donors who are willing to making an Annual Commitment to the Retreat Center. This Annual Giving Campaign will insure the future of Retreat Center. Thank you!

Please send all Donations to: St. Iakovos Retreat Center
40 East Burton Pl. Chicago, IL 60610

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