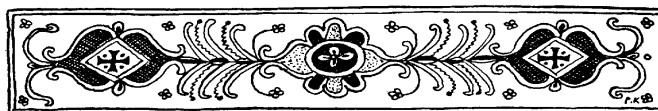
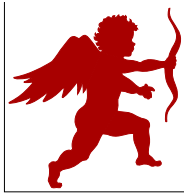


RELIGIOUS CALENDAR

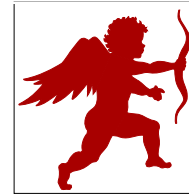
February 2006

- | | | | |
|----|---------|--|---------------------|
| 2 | (Thurs) | The Presentation of Our Lord Into the Temple
Orthros
Divine Liturgy | 9:00 AM
10:00 AM |
| 5 | (Sun) | Sunday of the Canaanite Woman
Orthros
Liturgy | 9:00 AM
10:00 AM |
| 12 | (Sun) | Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee
Orthros
Divine Liturgy | 9:00 AM
10:00 AM |
| 19 | (Sun) | Sunday of The Prodigal Son
Orthros
Liturgy | 9:00 AM
10:00 AM |
| 24 | (Fri) | 1st and 2nd Finding of the Venerable Head of St. John the Baptist
Orthros
Liturgy | 9:00 AM
10:00 AM |
| 25 | (Sat) | 1st Saturday of the Souls
Orthos & Liturgy | 9:00 AM |
| 26 | (Sun) | Judgment Sunday
Orthros
Liturgy | 9:00 AM
10:00AM |





COMMUNITY CALENDAR
FEBRUARY 2006
Weekly Events



MONDAY	DANCE REHEARSALS Ta Pedakia (5-7 Years Old) 4:00 - 5:30 p.m. Mikri Levendia (8-10 years old) 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. Elliniki Omorfia (12-16 years old) 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. Levendia (17-20 years old) 8:00 -10:00p.m. (OTHER DAYS/TIMES DESIGNATED BY DANCE DIRECTORS) DANCE DIRECTORS MTG. (1 st Monday/Monthly) 6:00 p.m.	
TUESDAY	BIBLE STUDY 11:30 -1:00 p.m. GREEK SCHOOL 4:00 -7:00 p.m. PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 7:30 p.m. (First & Third Tuesdays)	
WEDNESDAY	CLASS ON THE ORTHODOX FAITH 7:00- 8:30 p.m. PHILOPTOCHOS 7:30 p.m. (First Wednesday of the month)	
THURSDAY	ADULT GREEK SCHOOL 5:30 - 8:30 p.m. BIBLE STUDY 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. ADULT CHOIR PRACTICE 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. RUSTY BUCKET BASKETBALL 8:00 - 9:30 p.m.	

♥ **MEETINGS AND EVENTS FOR FEBRUARY 2006** ♥

February 1	Philoptochos 7:30 pm
February 7	Parish Council Meeting 7:30 pm
February 6	Greek Dance Director's Meeting 6:00 pm
February 14	Valentine's Day
February 21	Parish Council Meeting 7:30 pm
February 16-19	FDF (NO CLASSES)

PROSFORO SCHEDULE

THURSDAY	FEBRUARY 2	MRS. MERSINA VATAKIS
SUNDAY	FEBRUARY 5	MRS. MERSINA VATAKIS
SUNDAY	FEBRUARY 12	MRS. ALEXANDRA MARGIAS
SUNDAY	FEBRUARY 19	MRS. MARIA MENDINIS
FRIDAY	FEBRUARY 24	MRS. KATHERINE GLAVAS
SATURDAY	FEBRUARY 25	MRS. KATHERINE GLAVAS
SUNDAY	FEBRUARY 26	MRS. DIMITRA GLENTOS

NOTE: If you are unable to bring the Prosforo on your designated date, please call Joanne Kalogeropoulos at (714) 991-8126, or (714) 848-1422.

We are looking for additional volunteers to help in this vital and ongoing aspect of Orthodox Church life. If you like to bake, and are willing to offer the Prosforo for Communion, please call the church office at (714) 827-0181, or Joanne Kalogeropoulos at the numbers listed above.

******* WANTED! WOMEN WHO LOVE TO BAKE! *******

✂ "YES", I would like to volunteer my efforts in the sacred work of making Prosforo.

Name: _____

Telephone: Home: (____) _____ Work: (____) _____

✂



CHURCH REGISTRY

WEDDINGS

Stamatios Fournaris & Anastasia Tsetseris

DATE

1/14/06

SPONSORS

Anastasios Tsetseris

BAPTISMS

Athanasios

PROUD PARENTS

Peter Begakis & Maria Tountas Begakis

DATE

1/8/06

GODPARENTS

Dino & Connie Foutris

FELL ASLEEP IN THE LORD

James Paris Nickolas

DATE

12/2/2005

+ *MAY HIS MEMORY BE ETERNAL* +

BOOKS, PAMPHLETS, ICONS, ETC.

All of these items and more, are available every Sunday in our Fellowship Hall. They are reasonably priced and are of great interest. We hope that you will take the opportunity to check our Bookmobile, which is filled with many worthwhile books and other goods.

YOU
ARE INVITED TO ATTEND OUR BIBLE CLASSES
(2nd Monday of the Month - 7:00 P.M.)
TUESDAY MORNINGS - (11:30A.M.- 1:00 P.M.)
THURSDAY EVENINGS - (7:00 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.)

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT THE BIBLE OR EVEN HAVE A BIBLE (WE'LL GIVE YOU ONE.)

THERE IS NO FEE, AND YOU CAN COME AS OFTEN AS YOU ARE ABLE. YOU WILL MEET SOME OF THE FINEST PEOPLE, WHO ARE AS EAGER AS YOU ARE TO LEARN AND LIVE THEIR PRECIOUS ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN FAITH.

ALL YOU NEED IS A DESIRE TO DEEPEN YOUR FAITH AND TO KNOW MORE ABOUT CHRIST, CHURCH, SACRAMENTS, SAINTS, AND ALL THE BELIEFS OF OUR CHURCH WHICH ARE ROOTED IN THE BIBLE AND HOLY TRADITION.

BUT BE CAREFUL . . . BY ATTENDING REGULARLY, YOU WILL FIND YOURSELF TURNING MORE TOWARDS CHRIST. YOU WILL LEARN GOD'S ETERNAL PLAN TO SAVE MANKIND AND YOU WILL BECOME A MORE COMMITTED CHRISTIAN EAGER TO LIVE YOUR LIFE ACCORDING TO HIS WORD AND WILL.

YOU WILL BETTER UNDERSTAND OUR CHURCH AND HER WORSHIP SERVICES. THE LITURGY WILL ESPECIALLY BECOME MORE MEANINGFUL.

SINCE OUR CHURCH IS RIGHTLY FOUND IN THE PAGES OF THE NEW TESTAMENT, STUDYING GOD'S WORD, THE HOLY BIBLE, IS A NECESSITY. BUT YOU MUST ALWAYS BE GUIDED BY THE CHURCH TO CORRECTLY INTERPRET THIS BLESSED DIVINE BOOK WHICH BELONGS TO THE CHURCH.



**CLASS ON THE ORTHODOX FAITH
WEDNESDAY EVENINGS (7:00 P.M.-8:30 P.M.)**

Continuing a long standing program, Fr. James will once again offer an Inquirers Class on the basics of the Orthodox Faith. This class will be held every Wednesday evening from 7:00-8:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome and even long-time members will learn much about their faith. Of course non-members are welcome and there is no obligation whatsoever.

2005 SCHEDULE OF GAMES

Date	Visitor	Home
<u>FOLK DANCE FESTIVAL NO GAMES</u>		
2/18 - 2/20		
WK#1	St. Anthony	St. George
SUNDAY	St. Nicholas	St. Katherine
FEB. 27/05	St. John	St. Sophia
	BYE ASSUMPTION	
WK#2	St. Sophia	St. Nicholas
SATURDAY	St. John	St. Anthony
MAR. 5/05	Assumption	St. Katherine
	BYE ST. GEORGE	
WK#3	St. John	St. Nicholas
SUNDAY	St. Sophia	St. George
MAR. 6/05	St. George	Assumption
	BYE ST. KATHERINE	
WK#4	St. Nicholas	St. Assumption
SUNDAY	St. Katherine	St. Sophia
MAR. 13/05	St. George	St. John
	BYE ST. ANTHONY	
WK#4	St. Nicholas	St. Anthony
SATURDAY	St. George	St. Katherine
MAR. 19/05	Assumption	St. John
	BYE ST. SOPHIA	
	NO GAMES - SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY	
WK#5	Assumption	St. George
SUNDAY	St. Sophia	St. Anthony
MAR. 27/05	St. Katherines	St. John
	BYE ST. NICHOLAS	
WK#6		St. SophiaAssumption
SUNDAY		St. GeorgeSt. Nicholas
APR. 3/05		St. AnthonySt. Katherine
APR. 9/05	SATURDAY	BYE ST. JOHN
APR. 10/05	SUNDAY	QUARTER FINALS
APR. 17/05	SUNDAY	SEMI FINALS
		PASADENA
		PASADENA
		ST. SOPHIA

January 29, 2006

**Stella Alavizos
Tina Angelus
Adamantine Beers
Frances Boukides
Dikea Boyiazis
Sue Chilimpis*
Christine DeMet
Agnes Desepris
Penny Dorlis
Kathryn Dunton*
Mary Elias*
Josephine Englezos
Christine Galanis*
Mary George
Martha Gionis
Sotiria Grillas
Panagiota Grillas
Presbytera Katherine Hadjis
Susan Haretakis
Stella Harris
Tula Horn*
Irene Kiouisis*
Helen Kitakis
Haritiny Koliass
Marie Madouras
Eleanor Mamounas
Mary Margaretis**

**Alexandra Marious
Chrysoula Massouris
Mary Ann Mouradian
Eva Nicholudis
Ana Nonis*
Suzanne Ohanian
Julia Otis
Violet Pashalides
Pat Panichas*
Ann Pappas
Tula Pappas
Basiliki Petropoulos
Mary Prantalos
Helen Ramos
Polixenie Rinos
Athena Saros
Marjorie Stanitsas
Antoinette Story
Stella Theodosiou*
Chris Ulam
Olga Vrattos
Sylvia Vrattos
Pat Wronski*
Lula Xarhis
Renia Yawn*
Penny Yorgiadis**

+May their memory be eternal +

+ Αιωνία η μνήμη αυτών +

***Past Presidents**

Philoptochos News

Kindness is given so softly, so gently, falling like tiny seeds along our paths - and brightening them with flowers. □

Pam Brown

Our annual Vasilopita Sunday, held on January 16, 2005 and chaired by Katerina Glavas was a great success. Thank you to all the wonderful women of our community who baked vasilopites and those who purchased them to help the children of St. Basil's Academy. The members of our church are indeed very generous and supportive.

Our annual Membership Tea was a great event enjoyed by all of those who attended. Thank you to our membership chairmen, Jerry Kallaos and Linda Wronski, who planned the program and the Philoptochos Board members who prepared the tasty food and pastries. We also thank Sandy Walters whose presentation on African Violets was entertaining and very informative. All the ladies of the parish are invited to join Philoptochos and participate in its good works and fellowship.

Congratulations to our 2005 recipient of the **Philoptochos Humanitarian Award, Tena Kosebas**. Tena has been a long time member of the Philoptochos who has served in many positions on the Board including heading up our Welfare committee. She has dedicated herself to helping the needy families in the Anaheim community by preparing the food baskets which we distribute during the holidays. Bravo, Tena!

SAVE THE DATE! Plan on attending this year's Fashion Show Benefit Luncheon to be held Saturday, March 5th at the charming Santa Ana Performing Arts and Event Center featuring our Sweethearts of St. John's. Young ladies, if you are 16 or sophomore in High School see Mary Ohanian or Christina Dourbetas to sign up for this once in a lifetime event. Ladies, look for your invitation in the mail and get your reservations in early as seating is limited. We will be having a Silent Auction and Grand Raffle in conjunction with the Fashion Show. If you would like to donate any items, services, gift certificates or monetary donations to help us raise money for the Alzheimer's Association of O.C., please see Mary Ohanian, Christina Dourbetas, or Christine Pappas. We greatly appreciate all of your help.

Please forgive us for failing to recognize Tena Kosebas, Sophia Christian, and Jose Perez who assisted with the Golden Stars Christmas party. Thank you so much for all of your help.

Philoptochos will be having a Bake Sale to benefit the Tsunami Relief Fund on February 6. Please be generous, as you always are, when Kathye LeMonde asks for your assistance.

Philoptochos has donated \$500 to St. Nicholas Ranch in remembrance of our beloved Metropolitan Anthony. *May his memory be eternal.*

The next general meeting will be February 2 at 7:00 in the Small Hall. We hope to see you there!

Christine Pappas President

St John's Greek Festival 2005

*Hello everyone and Happy New Year!! Hope everyone has recovered from the holidays. 2004 was a very special year for me in many regards. First and foremost, our festival cleared over \$100,000 again. This is almost as important as when the **Boston Red Sox won the World Series**. Since we are thinking of a theme for this year's festival, maybe we can use something like the "World Champion Festival" or "Historic Comeback". Just a thought!*

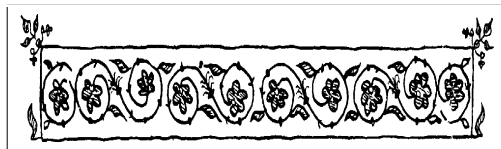
*This year's Festival will be held on May 20, 21, and 22. That is less than 4 months away, and we really need to get moving if we want this year's festival to be a success. As I mentioned last year, I really need a co-chairman that would like to take over the festival next year. If you are interested, please see me so that we can begin making arrangements. We need a chairman for many of the booths, and donors for the **Adopt A- Booth Program**. We also need volunteers to begin helping with the baking of pastries, and other items for the festival.*

Our community has many things to offer everyone, and our festival is this community's biggest fundraiser. Please come forward and offer your assistance. We need new faces, fresh ideas, and it is very important not to let everyone else do all the work. This community is for everyone, so please donate a few hours when possible to help make a difference. Please call me if you have

any questions or concerns at (714) 777-5852.

Alexander D. Soles

2005 Festival Chairman



THE PASCHAL CYCLE

THE TRIODION: The cycle of the moveable feast is built around Pascha. It is comprised of ten weeks before Pascha and is called the period of the Triodion. This period includes the four weeks preceding the Great Fast, the forty days of Lent and Holy Week. This year the period of Triodion begins on February 12 and ends with Holy Saturday, April 22. The ten weeks of the Triodion are as follows

First Week	Publican and Pharisee
Second Week	Prodigal Son
Third Week	Meat-Fare Sunday (Last Judgment)
Fourth Week	Cheese-Fare Sunday (Sunday of Forgiveness)
First Sunday of Lent	Orthodox Sunday (Triumph of Orthodoxy)
Second Sunday of Lent	Commemoration of St. Gregory Palamas
Third Sunday of Lent	Adoration of the Cross
Fourth Sunday of Lent	Commemoration of St. John of the Ladder
Fifth Sunday of Lent	Commemoration of St. Mary of Egypt
Palm Sunday	Triumphant Entry of Christ into Jerusalem

SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND THE PHARISEE (February 12): This first Sunday of the Triodion teaches us to avoid the pride of the Pharisee and imitate the humility of the Publican. The feast receives its name from the parable of the same name found in Luke's Gospel, Chapter 18, verses 10-14. On this and the following two Sundays, the theme is repentance. Repentance is the main entry-point to Lent and is also the starting-point of our journey to Pascha (Easter). Repentance is not just a feeling of self-pity or simple regret. Rather it is a radical and complete turnabout. In Greek "repentance" is translated as metanoia which means "change of mind." To repent then is to be renewed, transformed; to be able to attain a fresh approach in our relationship with God and our fellow men.

SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON (February 19): The gospel reading is taken from Luke 15:11-32. This marvelous parable affords us some keen insights into repentance in its various stages. In the prodigal of the parable we can see ourselves. However, when we remember our present exile in sin and make the resolve to return home to God, then we "find" ourselves. The theme is the forgiveness which God grants to all those who repent.

SUNDAY OF MEAT-FARE (APOKREA) (February 26): This Sunday is so named because it is the last day we can consume meat until PASCHA. Eggs, milk, butter, cheese and other dairy products may be eaten this week up to and including the next Sunday. This day is also called Sunday of the Last Judgment, because we read in the Gospel of Matthew (25:31-46) about the Second Coming of Christ. Whereas the two previous Sundays we heard of God's patience, limitless compassion and love, today we are reminded that God's mercy and compassion are tempered with justice. God will be our final judge. He will judge us with the severity of our sin if we do not repent. This is the message of Lent and one of the troparia of the Great Canon reminds us to act now while we still have time. Once death comes there can be no repentance.

"The end draws near; my soul, the end draws near; yet you do not care to make ready. The time grows short, rise up: the Judge is at the door. The days of our life pass swiftly, as a dream, as a flower." (Canticle Four, Troparion 2)

The theme here is preparation. For the Lord will return and his Second Coming will come without warning. This same theme will also be repeated during the first three days of Holy Week.

SUNDAY OF CHEESE-FARE (March 5): On this last day before the beginning of Lent or Pure Monday (Kathara Deftera), we come to the end of the four preparatory weeks. Today's themes are: the expulsion of Adam and Even from Paradise and mankind's mutual forgiveness. As we start on the threshold of the Great Fast, we find ourselves weeping with Adam and Eve before the closed gates of Paradise. On the other hand, our repentance leads us to prepare for the celebration of the saving events of Christ's awful passion, death and resurrection. When we realize what Christ has done for us wretched sinners, our sorrow for our exile from paradise is tempered by the hope of our re-entry into God's Kingdom.

"O precious Paradise, unsurpassed in beauty, Tabernacle built by God, unending gladness and delight, glory of the righteous, joy of the prophets, and dwelling of the saint's with the sound of thy leaves pray to the maker of all: may He open unto me the gates which I closed by my transgression; and may He count me worthy to partake of the Tree of Life and of the joy which was mine when I dwelt in thee before." (Vespers For Sunday Forgiveness)

The other theme, that of forgiveness, is emphasized in the gospel reading for this Sunday, (Matthew 6:14-21). We are reminded that before we enter the Lenten fast we must be reconciled with our brothers and sisters. It is a mockery of the fast to attempt it and yet harbor enmity against a brother, "for whom Christ died." The road to Lent we must travel together as a family of God. We should not allow our fasting to separate us from others.

THE GREAT LENT

The forty-day period of Lent always begins on Monday (this year March 6) and ends on Friday, April 14. It is followed by Saturday of Lazarus, Palm Sunday and Holy Week.

During this forty-day lenten period and Holy Week, we are constantly reminded by the hymnology of our Church that we are on a sacred journey, a trip which ultimately leads us to relive the events that changed humankind; the awful Passion and Resurrection of Christ, which makes possible man's return to paradise and which inaugurates the Telos (End or Final Dispensation). The goal of our spiritual journey is expressed in the closing prayer of the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts: ". . . *may we come uncondemned to worship at the Holy Resurrection.*" The path which we follow will lead us to the pain and anguish of Golgotha but soon thereafter it culminates in the glory of the Empty Tomb.

Lent is a sacred pilgrimage. Each week as we come closer to our goal, we are reminded of our

ultimate goal. Lent is a time to be liberated from our bondage to our sinful passions; a time to contemplate our ultimate destiny; a time to struggle with God against anything and everything which tends to bring us under its tyranny; a time to struggle against ourselves; a time when we receive reassurance from God, a time to draw near the Promised Land and a time to come back "home" which Christ has prepared for us.

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT - SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY (March 12): There is a joyful quality to this celebration of the first Sunday of Lent. On this day we commemorate the final victory over the iconoclasts (icon destroyers). It marks the restoration of the Holy Icons to the churches by Empress Theodora, which took place on the first Sunday of Lent, March 11, 843. This feast is moreover a celebration in honor of all those martyrs and confessors who struggled and suffered for the faith. The special service that takes place following the Liturgy includes the procession of the icons and various hymns and prayers offered on behalf of the living and the dead. Finally, the service celebrates not only the restoration of the icons but more generally, the victory of the True Faith (Orthodoxy) over all heresies and errors.

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT (March 19): On this day we honor the memory of another champion of Orthodoxy, St. Gregory Palamas, Archbishop of Thessalonica. This Sunday was dedicated to him in 1368 and with obvious reason. St. Gregory struggled against Barlaam Akindynos and other heretics of his time. His eloquent defense of the faith follows the pattern of other great bishops of the Church, such as Athanasius, Cyril, Basil, Chrysostom and Gregory.

"O wise Gregory, you have burnt up the error of the heretics and has revealed in its true beauty the faith of the Orthodox, bringing light to all the world. You are triumphantly victorious, a pillar of the Church and a true bishop. Never cease to intercede with Christ, that we may all be saved." (Matins, Second Sunday of Lent)

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT - VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS (March 26): On this half-way point of the fast, the Church presents to us the Cross, the symbol of victory, to aid us in our spiritual struggle during the remainder of Lent. At the end of the Liturgy, the Precious and Life-giving Cross set high on a tray adorned with spring flowers is presented in solemn procession to the faithful. This ceremony closely parallels the feast of the Exaltation of the Cross celebrated on September 14. The dominant theme of this Sunday, as on the two preceding Sundays, is one of joy and triumph. We are thus reminded of the victory which Christ brought us, by His death on the cross and His resurrection.

"Hail! Life-giving Cross, unconquerable trophy of the true faith, door to Paradise, help of the faithful, rampart set about the Church. Through you the curse is utterly destroyed, the power of death is swallowed up and we are raised from earth to heaven: invincible weapon, adversary of demons, glory of martyrs, true ornament of holy monks, haven of salvation bestowing on the world great mercy." (Vespers, Third Sunday of Lent)

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (April 2): On this day the Church remembers St. John

Climacus, abbot of Mt. Sinai (6th - 7th Century). Thanks to his writings and his own exemplary life, the pattern of the true Christian ascetic is formed. His major work, *The Ladder of Paradise*, is one of the spiritual works the Church has appointed to be read in Church during Lent. It is filled with sage advice to the lay person, as well as to the monastic, who is honestly striving to live the Christian life.

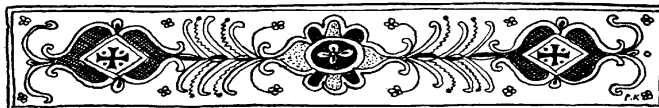
THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (April 9): The Church today honors the memory of a marvelous model of Christian asceticism, St. Mary of Egypt. Although her actual feast day is April 1, she is commemorated on this day as a shining example of true repentance to assist us in our repentance. From her we see vividly the transformation which is possible when one chooses to forego the ways of sin. St. Mary lived a life of sin in her youth. One day she traveled with some pilgrims to Jerusalem and arrived in time for the Feast of the Exaltation of the Precious Cross (September 14). When out of curiosity she tried to enter the church, an invisible and strange force blocked her entrance. Having tried unsuccessfully to gain entrance several times, she came to the realization that her past life was responsible for her inability to enter the church. Repenting on the spot, she prayed all night with tears to the Mother of God. The next morning she entered the church without difficulty. After joyfully venerating the Precious Cross, she left Jerusalem that same day and crossed the Jordan remaining in a remote region of the desert for the rest of her life - some forty-seven years. With constant prayer and fasting, she conquered all that which separated her from God.

The story of blessed St. Mary is set forth as a shining example for all of us to emulate. We need to purify ourselves in order to be made worthy to celebrate the glorious Resurrection. Without repentance, a true and sincere change of mind, Holy Week and Easter will not benefit us but rather remain an empty festival.

FROM THE WISDOM OF THE CHURCH FATHERS

"Offer to Christ the labours of your youth, and in your old age you will rejoice in the wealth of dispassion. What is gathered in youth nourishes and comforts those who are tired out in old age. In our youth let us labour ardently and let us run vigilantly, for the hour of death is unknown. We have very evil and dangerous, cunning, unscrupulous foes, who hold fire in their hands and try to burn the temple of God with the flame that is in it. These foes are strong; they never sleep; they are incorporeal and invisible. Let no one when he is young listen to his enemies, the demons, when they say to him: 'Do not wear out your flesh lest you make it sick and weak.' For you will scarcely find anyone, especially in the present generation, who is determined to mortify his flesh, although he might deprive himself of many pleasant dishes. The aim of this demon is to make the very outset of our spiritual life lax and negligent, and then make the end correspond to the beginning."

(St. John. "The Ladder of Divine Ascent" Step 1, par. 24)



“YEAR OF THE FAMILY” TO BE OBSERVED IN 2005 BY THE GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

New York, NY- His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, Primate of the Greek Orthodox Church in America, has announced on behalf of the Holy Eparchial Synod that 2005 will be observed as the “Year of the Family.” This national campaign, which will include programs, activities, and resources for all levels of the Church in America, was officially launched at the 37th Biennial Clergy-Laity Congress held in New York City, July 25-30, 2004.

In announcing the “Year of the Family,” Archbishop Demetrios stated, “Through this special emphasis on the family, our goal is both to affirm the importance of the family as a blessed gift of God and to address the specific needs of families as they try to live in a very challenging culture and world. As Orthodox Christians we know that each and every family needs to be connected to the Church, a place where true relationships with God and one another are nurtured and sustained. Thus, through this program we will be working to bring more aspects of our faith into the home and to bring more families into the Church.”

The theme for the “Year of the Family” will be “Family as Church,” a program that follows the biblical phrase used by the Apostle Paul, *kat’oikon ecclesia*, “the church in the home” (Romans 16:5, Colossians 4:15). In explaining the significance of the theme, Rev. Father Constantine Sitaras, coordinator of the Archdiocesan Center for Family Care, stated, “We know the early Christians met in homes for worship, teaching, and fellowship. This undoubtedly formed a unique connection between Church and Family. We hope to renew this relationship by showing families that the Church and its attributes are essential to the well-being of the family.”

To assist this effort, resources for use in the home and the parish are being prepared and distributed. One resource is a table prayer guide that encourages families to pray together. Another is a brochure on establishing a home *iconostasion*, a place for regular family and personal prayer. Parishes will receive resources for planning and conducting a monthly parish family night. Further, regional retreats and one-day family conferences will be held throughout the year to provide additional support and training. To distribute these and other resources, an extensive “Year of the Family” web site has been established at <http://www.familyaschurch.org>. Currently, the site includes introductory material for the “Year of the Family,” and more resources will be added as they are produced or made available.

The “Year of the Family” is the first initiative of the Archdiocese toward the establishment of a national center for family care. This major effort was announced by Archbishop Demetrios at the 2002 Congress in Los Angeles. Following the Congress, the Archbishop appointed a Roundtable on the Family consisting of clergy, marriage, and family specialists, physicians, and other professionals. The Roundtable has met regularly over the past two years to plan and implement this national campaign.

For more information on the “Year of the Family” visit the web site at <http://www.familyaschurch.org> or contact the Center for Family Care at 845-424-8175 or by email at familycare@goarch.org.

NEWS FROM OTHER COMMUNITIES AND OTHER UPDATES!

*Valentine's Adventure
& Retreat-Feb.14th,2006*

Experience a rustic-romantic, nature-inspired, retreat in the nearby foothills. Laugh and learn how to make special herbal gifts for your sweetheart, view the star-filled sky, join us for happy hour, candlelight dinner, and lodging with breakfast and more! For information, call Rosemary Nightingale @ (559)332-2909 or (800) 579-8043. Please call to register: St. Nicholas Ranch & Retreat Center (559) 338-2103, or visit our website at: www.stnicholasranch.org.

PLEASE HELP YOUR PARISH BY FULFILLING ANY OUTSTANDING AMOUNT YOU MAY OWE ON YOUR 2005 PLEDGE COMMITMENT. THERE IS STILL A LARGE NUMBER OF PLEDGES WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN FULFILLED. WE HOPE THAT THE CHARACTERISTIC GOOD WILL OF OUR MEMBERS WILL AGAIN BE MANIFESTED. THANK YOU FOR YOUR UNDERSTANDING.

THE PARISH COUNCIL FOR 2006

The members of this year's Parish Council are the following: **Harry Benetatos, Jerry Baglin, Andrew Hatzis, Renee Lewis Jones, Steve Kitsigianis, Cynthia Kezos, Kosta Kapogianis, Harry Klentos, Gus Mavritsakis, Paul Nikolau, John Ohanian, Kosta Pappas, Lee Petros, Tim Sarres, and Alex Soles.** We congratulate them and may our Lord bless them as they labor for His holy Church.

We offer our thanks for the dedicated service to our Parish as members of our Parish Council to outgoing members **Alex Dourbetes, George Ambatielos, Sam Kallaos, Dino Basdakis, and Chris Bonorris.** They have served the Church well for many years. The sudden death of newly elected Chris Daley was filled by Alex Soles. Also a warm welcome to first time Parish Council members **Andrew Hatzis, Renee Lewis Jones, Steve Kitsigianis, and Cynthia Kezos.**

The officers of this year's Parish Council are the following: **PRESIDENT- John Ohanian (re-elected) FIRST VICE PRESIDENT-Paul Nikolau, SECOND VICE PRESIDENT- Harry Benetatos, SECRETARY- Jerry Baglin, TREASURER- Lee Petros, and ASSISTANT TREASURER- Alex Soles.**

Opportunities for LEARNING



YOU
ARE INVITED IN THE STUDY OF
THE BOOK OF REVELATION
ON TUESDAY MORNINGS (11:30A.M.-1:00P.M.)

THESE BIBLE CLASSES ARE FREE

AND ARE OFFERED BY FATHER JAMES

We will be utilizing **THE ORTHODOX STUDY BIBLE**
We can provide you with a copy or you can purchase your own from the Bookmobile.

CLASS BEGINS ON OCTOBER 4 AND 6 - In the Boardroom

ALSO

THE CLASS ON

“THE ORTHODOX FAITH”

WILL AGAIN BE TAUGHT EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 7:00 P.M.

**WE INVITE MEMBERS AND NON-MEMBERS TO JOIN IN
EXAMINING THE CONTENT OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH.**

**THIS CLASS IS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT FOR THE THOSE
WHO MAY BE CONSIDERING JOINING THE ORTHODOX CHURCH**

CLASS BEGAN ON WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 5

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

A belated Happy New Year to all of St. John's parishioners.

Once again I have been given the honor to serve as your Parish Council President. This was decided right after Vespers Service on Friday, January 6th, following the swearing in of the new Parish Council.

First, I want to thank the five outgoing Parish Council members who completed their three year term: George Ambatielos, Dino Basdakis, Chris Bonorris, Alex Dourbetas, and Sam Kallaos. These men have each served their community for many years in many capacities. Thank you for your fine work, dedication and service to the Parish Council and St. Johns.

Welcome to the incoming members who will serve on the Parish Council board from 2006-2009. They are: Harry Benetatos (past president), Andrew Hadjis, Renee Lewis Jones, Cindy Kezos, and Steve Kitsigianis. This will complete the fifteen board members needed on the Parish Council.

Our Expansion Project has advanced further since our last general assembly meeting. Our plans are now at the City of Anaheim Planning Dept., waiting for our public hearing date. I would like to take a few minutes of your time and speak about our Expansion Project and clear up some misconceptions some of you might have. This misconception is about A PAROCHIAL SCHOOL. Please let me assure you any decision about a PAROCHIAL SCHOOL would have to be approved by you, the parishioners of St. John's, at a general assembly.

What has been planned is the size and quantity of rooms required by the State of California, IF in the future YOU, the parishioners, decide to have a parochial school that's when that will happen. There are many issues and details that would have to be explored and researched before any decisions could be made.

By the way, the number of classrooms is the same that was proposed in 1989. The difference is size of classrooms for today's state requirement.

I have stated many times at the general assembly meetings that we are only building the education wing for our needs now and "IF " in the future the parishioners want a school then they will have the proper facility for this purpose.

Our goal has required many years of long-range planning, many real estate acquisitions and numerous modifications to our expansion plan. It has also required the patient faith of our members as we have allowed God's plan to be revealed to us over the past quarter-century. Now our direction is clear. Now our property is adequate. Our community of faith has said "We are ready."

John Ohanian, President