

The Vineyard

“I AM THE VINE, YOU ARE THE BRANCHES” (John 15:51)

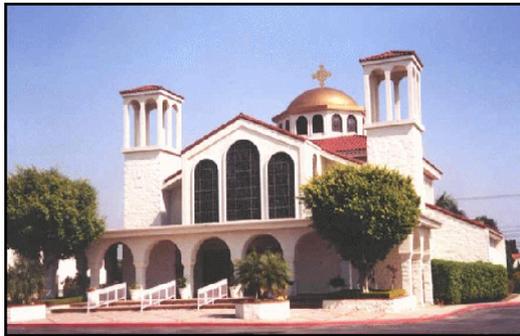
January 2007

VOL. XXVIII, NO. 4

Proistamenos Message:

LOVE! What does that have to do with it?

The other day while driving the freeway I was startled by what I saw. A large tanker truck (I don't know what it was hauling) had the following message in big, bold letters that could be seen from a distance: JOHN 3:16. To those who drive oblivious to ads, or bumper stickers, this brief citing chapter and verse from the Gospel of St. John probably did not register. Yet, if there is one biblical citation which has received and continues to receive continuous exposure in the workplace, it is John 3:16.



For many Christians today, the desire to “witness” for Christ in a tangible way has become a fundamental act of faith. The blessed Apostle of Love, St. John the Beloved, reminds us that **“God so loved the world that He gave His only Son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life..”**

The operative word here is “loved”. Let’s take a closer look.

To say that God “loved” the world, shows us that love is the cause of His Incarnation. While nothing is impossible with God, His assuming our flesh and blood, speaks volumes of His desire to save us from “perishing”. God took this road after all His efforts to reconcile man met with the usual resistance from us humans. And as we

were becoming “extinct” (in the words of St. Athanasios) his great love for us (after all He created us out of love) led him to assume our humanity. Our response to this love is to accept Him in faith. This great love which the Lord Jesus demonstrated often during His earthly sojourn, is what motivates us to live our life in union with the Christ. There is no “compulsion” in the Christian faith. We have freely received (salvation) and so we freely give ourselves, through faith, to Jesus. The Lord always prefaced his invitation with the words “whosoever wishes...” (ostis theli)

Yet, the Christ whom we accept by the act of baptism which is rooted in faith, calls His followers to also be people of love and compassion. In our inter-personal relations we are “commanded” by the Lord to “love one another”. Indeed , it’s a very great challenge to be able to love each other in the way Christ loves us. Can our love for another human being, cause us to give our life for him/her?

Difficult? Yes! Impossible? No! Often our love is restricted to a “very few” and “select”

(Continued on page 3)

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THE VINEYARD

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH,
ANAHEIM, CALIFORNIA

EDITOR: FATHER JAMES S. DIAVATIS

REV. FR. JAMES S. DIAVATIS, PROTOPRESBYTER

REV. FR. SIMEON CORONA, PRESBYTER

Parish Council President*John Ohanian*
Philoptochos President.....*Mary Ohanian*
Religious Education.....*Ann Lewis*
Chantor.....*John Mestakides*
Sexton*Theofilos Russos*
Senior Citizens (St. John's Golden Stars).....*Freda Chrest*
Organist/Choir Director*Elsa Libowitz*
Office Manager*Sarah Smathers*
Secretary*Angie Chakos and Anna Prasongsy*
Custodians.....*Jose Perez and Obed Gastelum*

Schedule of Sunday Worship Services

Orthros & Divine Liturgy.....9:00 A.M.

Memorials at Conclusion of Divine Liturgy
Fellowship in Church Hall Following Divine Liturgy

WEEKDAY/HOLY DAY SERVICES.....9:00 A.M.

Parish Programs

ADULT GREEK CLASS - Thursdays 5:30 & 7:00 P.M.
ALTAR BOYS - Each boy serves in the Altar once every four weeks.
BIBLE STUDY - Tuesdays 11:30 A.M.
CLASS FOR THOSE ENGAGED TO BE MARRIED - As scheduled.
CLASS ON THE ORTHODOX FAITH - Wednesdays 7:00 P.M.
FOLK DANCE GROUPS - Rehearsals Monday
J.O.Y. & H.O.P.E. - Third Saturday of the month at 3:30 P.M.
G.O.Y.A. - Third Saturday of the month following Vespers 5P.M.
Y.A.L. - First Saturday of February.
GREEK SCHOOL - Tuesdays & Thursdays.
PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY - First Thursday of the month - 7:00 P.M.
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - September to June each year.
CHOIR - Thursdays 7:00 P.M.
ST. JOHN'S GOLDEN STARS - Meets informally.

Now on the internet at: <http://www.stjohnanaheim.org>

Fr. James' Message (cont.)

individuals. Does not this attitude go against the grain of everything our Christian faith stands for? How can I honestly be the follower of Him who out of an immense love DIED for me and yet continue to live my life in continued enmity with my fellow man. Such a life or should I say such an "existence" betrays my sincerity to "accept and follow the Lord".

The world is filled with animosity towards one another. Even within the Church, there is often a very large void when it comes to the love which members should have for each other. It seems that there is more so called "toleration" rather than a sincere love. And this lack of love shows itself very often in the way we treat fellow members and even our clergy. Real love, what the Bible calls "agape" is often difficult to find. Thanks be to God, now and then, we see some rare examples of "unselfish love" which essentially transforms those involved in the exchange but also motivates others to do the same.

There cannot be a sincere, true love for God without a sincere, true love for our fellow man. Since love can also be a verb (as well as a noun) it must be demonstrated by works of compassion. When St. Peter was asked by Christ three times if he loved Him, and Peter answered that he did, he was told to show his love for Christ by works of compassion towards others.

Finally, consider if you will again the words of John 3:16. God's love for the world is manifested in a most dramatic fashion. He GAVE His Son for the salvation of the world. In the words of St. Paul God "emptied Himself" of his glory, of his majesty, of his awesome power and he assumed the form of a slave;. Now that is

true love! Boundless love! Genuine agape!

What is left to say, dear friends? Simply this! Consider the following words which St. Paul shares with us on the subject of love—and act accordingly

**"If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love,
I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.
And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.
If I give away all I have, and if I deliver my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.
Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful;
it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way;
it is not irritable or resentful;
it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right.
Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.
Love never ends;"** (1 Corinthians 13:1-8)

And we are forever reminded by the blessed Apostle to "make love your aim!"

In the love of Christ our Lord and God,

Father James

Fr. Simeon's Message

Baptized into Christ

Hopefully, everyone is familiar with the Hymn of Epiphany, Baptism and many of the Great Feasts: *As many as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ, Halleluiah!* As we enter the season of Epiphany, the Baptism of our Lord Jesus by our own St. John the Baptist in the Jordan, we will do well to consider some of the ramifications of our Lord's Baptism and our *being baptized* and *putting on Christ*, for us, our homes and our families.

For the early Christians, Baptism became THE sacrament of initiation into the Body of Christ. It actually fulfills and transcends the old rite of initiation into the People of God which was Circumcision. St. Paul expresses this clearly in his letter to the Colossians 2:8-12:

See to it that no one makes a prey of you by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the universe, and not according to Christ. For in him the whole fullness of deity swells bodily, and you have come to fullness of life in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of flesh in the circumcision of Christ; and you were buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.

So, in answer to our Protestant friends we can say, "Yes, in as much as I was, *buried with Him in baptism and raised with Him through faith*, I am saved!" But we see it more holistically than just this. For us Orthodox it's more akin to asking, "Are you married?" We are always "in process". We are hopefully "acting married", growing in a relationship of love and sacrifice with our spouse and we are also either growing or regressing in our life of salvation which will only ultimately come to its completion when *He comes again in glory to judge the living and the dead*. Until He comes again in glory we are always *taking off the old man (sin)* by repentance, prayer, almsgiving, our life in Christ, in order to *put on Christ*. We are always learning to say NO to self and sin in order to say YES to our true life in Christ. It is a day-in, day-out relationship.

Part of the yearly reminder of our whole life being *baptized into Christ* is the "baptism" of our homes. After the water is blessed during Epiphany, the priests make themselves available to visit every willing home to pray the prayers and bless with the Holy Water. Why? It simply is a reminder that our life in Christ has to do with our WHOLE life. Where do we live our lives? Our homes. The living of our life in Christ is centered on a constant remembering that He is Lord of our homes, our jobs, our daily lives, and our every breath. When we bless our homes and businesses we are simply living in the reality that it's all His. We are simply His children, grateful stewards of the gifts that He has given. He is Lord of and in our homes and daily lives. Since this is a dynamic, living relationship we offer daily prayer, daily repentance and yearly rededication of our homes and families.

As there are now two of us, this year take advantage! Call and or say "Yes" to a phone call and make the time to have your home blessed. After the short service, take a few minutes to sit down and relate with your priests who are praying with and for you. Personally speaking, as one who struggles with the sin of gluttony, don't feed this priest! Offer me a glass of water, a cup of tea, share a few meaningful minutes and send me on my way. This is a beautiful aspect of our living tradition. It is how we practically remember and live in a dynamic relationship with Christ. We simply, constantly remember Him and dedicate *ourselves, each other and all our life to Christ our God*. We take every opportunity to live in this life of constant remembrance and rededication.

So a blessed New Year to us all! A blessed Great Feast of Epiphany and through this a blessed *baptism into Christ* of our homes, families and our whole lives.

Your grateful to be blessed and blessing Fr., Simeon

ACOLYTES OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Attention all Altar Boys and Parents:

Over the months, I (Fr. Simeon) will be systematically calling and/or trying to contact all the young men presently listed as well as those who might be interested in the angelic honor and discipline of serving the Altar of God. The question to ponder: Are you still willing to be involved in this vital ministry? Would you come to regular fun/educational gatherings so as to better prepare yourself? Would you be interested in claiming a Saturday Afternoon (before or after Vespers) or other time during the week for our meeting? Whom would you like to help as your Sponsors for this ministry besides the Priests and Sexton?

TEAM 1		TEAM 2	
Nick Basdakos John Chase Stephen Stylianides Armodios Vestakis Bradley Jung		Kyriakos Alyousef Kyriakos Psaras Dimitri Pappas Paul Stephens	
September 24, 2006 October 22, 2006 November 19, 2006 December 17, 2006	January 14, 2007 February 11, 2007 March 11, 2007 April 8, 2007	September 3, 2006 October 1, 2006 October 29, 2006 November 26, 2006	December 24, 2006 January 21, 2007 February 18, 2007 March 18, 2007
TEAM 3		TEAM 4	
John Hourigan Vasili Kapogianis Spero Mantas Nick Mestakidis Pano Nikolaou		Niko Begakis Nicholas Foutris Chris Glinkie Bobby Glinkie Theodore Kapogianis George Stenos Antonio Georgakopoulos	
September 10, 2006 October 8, 2006 November 5, 2006	December 31, 2006 January 28, 2007 February 25, 2007	September 17, 2006 October 15, 2006 November 12, 2006	January 7, 2007 February 4, 2007 March 4, 2007

January 2007

St. John's Monthly Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																										
	<p>1</p> <p>The Circumcision of Jesus Christ; St. Basil the Great 9AM</p> <p>Greek Dance Class, 4-10PM</p> <p>Happy New Year!</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Bible Study, 11:30-1PM Children Greek School, 4-7PM</p> <p>Parish Council Mtg, 7PM</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Orthodox Faith Class, 7-8:30PM</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Adult Greek School & 6th Grade, 5:30-8:30PM Choir Practice, 7-9PM</p> <p>Philoptochos Mtg., 7PM</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Royal Hours of Theophany, Vespers & Liturgy of St. Basil, 9AM</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Holy Theophany of our Lord, 9AM</p> <p>Great Vespers of St. John the Baptist, 7PM</p>																																																																																																										
<p>7</p> <p>Feast of St. John the Baptist, Orthros & Liturgy 9AM</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Greek Dance Class, 4-10PM</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Bible Study, 11:30-1PM Children Greek School, 4-7PM</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Orthodox Faith Class, 7-8:30PM</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Adult Greek School & 6th Grade, 5:30-8:30PM Choir Practice, 7-9PM</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>																																																																																																										
<p>14</p> <p>Sunday after Theophany, Orthros & Liturgy 9AM</p> <p>Vasilopeta Sunday</p> <p>G.O.Y.A. Business</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Greek Dance Class, 4-10PM</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Bible Study, 11:30-1PM Children Greek School, 4-7PM</p> <p>Parish Council Mtg, 7PM</p>	<p>17</p> <p>St. Anthony the Great, 9AM</p> <p>Orthodox Faith Class, 7-8:30PM</p>	<p>18</p> <p>St. Athanasios 9AM</p> <p>Adult Greek School & 6th Grade, 5:30-8:30PM Choir Practice, 7-9PM</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Vespers, 5PM</p> <p>H.O.P.E & J.O.Y Mtg., 3:30PM</p> <p>G.O.Y.A. Mtg. following Vespers</p>																																																																																																										
<p>21</p> <p>15th Sunday of Luke, Orthros & Liturgy 9AM</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Greek Dance Class, 4-10PM</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Bible Study, 11:30-1PM Children Greek School, 4-7PM</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Orthodox Faith Class, 7-8:30PM</p>	<p>25</p> <p>St. Gregory the Theologian 9AM</p> <p>Adult Greek School & 6th Grade, 5:30-8:30PM Choir Practice, 7-9PM</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Philoptochos Membership Tea</p>																																																																																																										
<p>28</p> <p>Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee: Triodion Begins Today, Orthros & Liturgy 9AM</p> <p>Philoptochos Sunday/ Humanitarian Award</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Greek Dance Class, 4-10PM</p>	<p>30</p> <p>The Three Hierarchs, 9AM</p> <p>Bible Study, 11:30-1PM Children Greek School, 4-7PM</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Orthodox Faith Class, 7-8:30PM</p>	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="7" style="text-align: center;">December 06</th> <th colspan="7" style="text-align: center;">February 07</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1 2</td> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1 2 3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td> <td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9 10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td> <td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16 17</td> </tr> <tr> <td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td> <td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23 24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td> <td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td></td><td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> </table>			December 06							February 07							S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S							1 2						1 2 3	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	4	5	6	7	8	9 10	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	11	12	13	14	15	16 17	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	18	19	20	21	22	23 24	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	25	26	27	28			31												
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Community Calendar

January 2007

MONDAY

Dance Rehearsals

Training Group 4-5:00PM

Ta Pedakia 4-6:00PM

Mikri Levendia 5-7:00PM

Elliniki Omorfia 6-7:30PM

Levendia 8-10:00PM

Dance Directors Meeting

First Monday/Monthly 6PM

TUESDAY

Bible Study

11:30-1:00PM

Greek School

4-7:00PM

Parish Council Meeting

Normally First & Third Tuesdays

7:00PM

WEDNESDAY

Class on Orthodox Faith

7-8:30PM

THURSDAY

Philoptochos Meeting

First Thursday of the Month

7:00PM

Adult Greek School & 6th Grade

5:30-8:30PM

Choir Practice

7-9:00PM

MEETINGS AND EVENTS FOR JANUARY 2007

Jan. 2, 2006

Parish Council Mtg.

7PM

Jan. 4, 2006

Philoptochos Mtg.

7PM

Jan. 14, 2006

Vasilopeta Sunday

G.O.Y.A Business

Jan. 16, 2006

Parish Council Meeting

7PM

Jan. 20, 2006

H..O.P.E & J.O.Y Mtg.

3:30PM

G.O.Y.A Mtg. following Vespers 5PM

Jan. 27, 2006

Philoptochos Membership Tea

Jan. 28, 2006

Philoptochos Sunday/ Humanitarian

Award

WORSHIP SERVICES

SERVICES THIS MONTH

Monday, Jan. 1st

The Circumcision of Jesus
Christ; St. Basil the Great

Orthros-9am

Divine Liturgy-10am

Friday, Jan. 5th

The Royal Hours of
Theophany, Vespers &

Liturgy of St. Basil,
9am

Saturday, Jan. 6th

The Holy Theophany of
our Lord, 9am

Great Vespers of St. John
the Baptist, 7pm

Sunday, Jan. 7th

Feast of St. John the
Baptist

Orthros-9am

Divine Liturgy-10am

Sunday, Jan. 14th

Sunday after Theophany

Orthros-9am

Divine Liturgy-10am

Wednesday, Jan. 17th

St. Anthony the Great
9am

Thursday, Jan. 18th

St. Athanasios

9am

Sunday, Jan. 21st

15th Sunday of Luke

Orthros-9am

Divine Liturgy-10am

Thursday, Jan. 25th

St. Gregory the

Theologian

9am

Sunday, Jan. 28th

Sunday of the Publican
and Pharisee: Triodion

begins Today

Orthros-9am

Divine Liturgy-10am

Tuesday, Jan. 30th

The Three Hierarchs: St.
Basil the Great, St.

Gregory the Theologian
and St. John Chrysostom

9am

Philoptochos News

Philoptochos hopes that you had a blessed Christmas filled with joy and love and may the New Year bring to you and your family good health and happiness.

We wish to thank everyone who donated canned goods and other food stuff for the needy families for Thanksgiving and Christmas. A special thanks to those individuals who gave a cash donation to purchase whatever else was needed. Thank you to Giota Glavas and Joyce Attard, our welfare chairman, for making 100 food baskets, feeding at least 400 people. Job well done ladies !

The Golden Stars Christmas Luncheon, planned by chairman Freda Chrest and her committee, was enjoyed by all 75 members that attended. A delicious luncheon was served, prepared by Bobby Klentos from Paul's Place, that was truly enjoyed by all. Kiki Chryssogelos arranged for this year's entertainment to have some of our young people perform. We had Alex Koutzoukis playing the trumpet and piano and his young friend Mike Selfridge on the bass, Thea Chryssogelos performed gracefully 2 numbers on the piano and young Paul Stephens played masterfully on the piano. Bravo to all our young people for their fine work and accomplishments and to the parents and grandparents for their support and encouragement.

Our annual Vasilopeta will be held on Sunday, January 14th. Our Chairman Katerina Glavas and Helen Attard would appreciate your donations of a vasilopeta or a cash donation that will assist St. Basil's Academy. This is the main source of funding for the operating expenses of the Academy. Many thanks to all of you for baking the delicious vasilopeta bread and for your dona-

tions. Thank you to our chairman for all their hard work and baking the large pita.

MEMBERSHIP TEA - SAVE THE DATE - "STEPPING OUT" SAT. JAN. 27TH.

Dancing With The....We will have a professional couple performing a variety of popular dances and after their performances they will be very happy to teach us some of the dance steps. It will be a toe tapping, very entertaining afternoon planned for our enjoyment by Kiki, our Membership Chairman. A light lunch will also be served. Don't miss this fun filled afternoon

SUNDAY, JAN. 28TH WILL BE PHILOPTOCHOS SUNDAY. There will be a memorial service for our departed Philoptochos members and the presentation of the annual Humanitarian Award. Following services, In Memory of Our Philoptochos members, Philoptochos is hosting the coffee and desert in the hall.

Seniors...Any High School Senior who plans to attend college should consider applying for the Father Hadjis Scholarship. Applications can be found in the church office or see Kiki Chryssogelos for an application. Deadline is March 31, 2007.

May all your skies be blue ones, may all your dreams be seen. May all your friends be true ones and all your joys complete. May happiness and laughter fill all your days. Today and ever after, may all your dreams come true.

Happy New Year !
Mary Ohanian, Philoptochos President



Philoptochos News

GREEK ORTHODOX LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY January 1 – December 31, 2005 Donations

A total of \$1,512,424 was donated for the calendar year 2005 from the following National Philoptochos Commitments/Programs and Special Collections:

Saint Basil Academy	
Vasilopita.....	\$325,000
Sisterhood Fund.....	\$2,800
Graduation Ceremonies	\$5,812
Zoe Cavalaris Education Fund.....	\$25,256
Hellenic College / Holy Cross	
Scholarship Fund	\$81,500
Lenten Event.....	\$75,000
Archbishop Iakovos Chair Of Orthodox Theology.....	\$25,000
Social Services	\$99,464
Cardiac Program.....	\$2,637
Bessie Pappas Children's Charities	\$4,600
Cancer Fund	\$26,659
Retired Clergy Association Benevolence Fund (RCA).....	\$30,000
Ecumenical Patriarchate	\$175,000
Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC).....	\$40,000
Support a Mission Priest (SAMP)	\$40,000
International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC).....	\$50,000
St. Photios Shrine	\$28,000
UNICEF	\$25,000
Children's Medical Fund	\$173,000
Wheelchair Project	\$40,600
Asia Disaster Relief Fund.....	\$113,340
Florida Hurricane Victims Fund	\$13,459
Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund	\$110,837

For more detailed information, please contact Mary Ohanian.

Church Registry

BAPTISM

November 18, 2006

Sophia Lynn & Alexandria Anne

Proud Parents:

Peter Bickley & Jennifer Mitchel- Bickley

God Parent: Steve Mitchell

November 19, 2006

Alexios Nicolaos

Proud Parents:

Nico Dourbetas & Niki Vitakis Dourbetas

God Parents: Vasili & Sara Gatsinaris

MEMORIALS

December 3, 2006

Athena Zounatiotis - 1 year

Dimitrios Zounatiotis - 8 years

December 10, 2006

Irene Kalaitzes - 3 years

Petros Parr - 1 year

December 17, 2006

Mary George - 17 years

John Koukladas - 40 days

Vasilios Sklavounos - 29 years

Stavroula Sklavounos - 10 years

+ *May their memory be eternal* +

PROSFORO SCHEDULE

JANUARY 2007

Monday	Jan. 1	Mrs. Maria Frousakis
Friday	Jan. 5	
Saturday	Jan. 6	
Sunday	Jan. 7	
Sunday	Jan. 14	
Wednesday	Jan. 17	

ATTENTION: BAKERS!!!

**THE SCHEDULE FOR THIS
MONTH'S PROSFORO IS
CURRENTLY UNAVAILABLE,
PLEASE CONTACT JOANNE
KALOGEROPOULOS AT
(714) 991-8126 FOR ASSIGNMENT
DATES.**



We have come to the end of the first full year of our Church Building Expansion Fundraising project, and I would like to thank all of those who have supported and endorsed our program. We have made some giant strides in the campaign, but we still have a tremendous amount of work ahead of us.

Thanks to the passion and commitment of our Building Fund Committee members and those of you that have pledged your support, we are much better off than we were when the year began.

Fundraising is never easy, especially in this day and age when there are so many charities requesting donations. But we've stayed the plan and kept our vision for a bigger and better St. John's in the years ahead . . .and continued to dream for our children . and our children's children.

For those of you that have supported us in this first year, we owe you a tremendous debt of gratitude and appreciation. It is because of people like you, and the stories you have shared with us of giving to St. John's that we are inspired and motivated to continue focusing on our goals !!

There are just a few more days left in 2006 for you to give your pledge and commitment to our Building Expansion Fund Program. Let's close out the year in grand style, and keep our dreams alive for making St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church the finest state of the art facility in Southern California for years to come !!!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Louis Chelekis
St. John's Building Fundraising Chairman

The Stewardship of St. Basil the Great January 1



St. Basil the Great, the eloquent preacher and foremost classical scholar of the Patristic Age, expresses his gratitude, love, and care for the Church in his many letters and homilies. The life of St. Basil is familiar to all Orthodox Christians. We know him for his generosity and for his abilities as an orator, a teacher of rhetoric, and for establishing monastic life and orders.

One of the fundamental truths that describes the life of this great saint of the Church is the passage taken from the Epistle of James, chapter 2:26 *“For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.”* In his own words the saint states: *“I will show my faith by my works, and that must be the touchstone of my sincerity!”*

We call St. Basil “Great” because of his life, the success in living true Christian stewardship and expressing himself in his sermons and writings. His knowledge and love for Ancient Greek literature gave him the opportunity to transpose this intellectual love into the truth of the Christian Orthodox Faith.

St. Basil’s writings encourage us to supply our soul with all that is best for her. He has written in his essay entitled “To Young Men on How They Might Derive Profit from Pagan Literature” the need for harmony between profession and lifestyle, emphasizing that you must strive to *be* what you *appear* - virtuous!

Our young people are greatly influenced by today’s world. One must realize that the examples placed before them from the music they hear to the movies they view do not always project a positive message. These influences affect the morals and values that are needed for our young people to develop the mature and responsible priorities out of order as evidenced in their responses to the call to follow the Biblical teachings regarding regular and proportionate giving to the Lord’s ministry.

Examining the life of St. Basil, we see that among his major contributions to the Church were his establishing monastic disciplines. Although we may not have the calling to become a monastic, the lessons and direction offered by St. Basil are applicable to the Christian steward of every age. St. Basil set Christian perfectionism as the goal. In the monastery, the monks were to practice Christian virtues together, especially those of brotherly love - the practice obedience to a spiritual father - the practice chastity and poverty, and the sharing of common goods of the monastery. After they achieved Christian perfection, they were allowed to come back to the world and help others to achieve Christian perfection. Thus, the monks had the mission of “social workers” as well. In addition to St. Basil’s contributions to monasticism, he established orphanages, hospitals and schools. This was St. Basil’s way of utilizing the monastic movement to benefit the mission of the Church in the world.

St. Basil recognized the importance of Christian Stewardship. He encouraged it for both the monastic community and for the stewards of the local parish. From St. Basil’s teachings we, too, can become better Christian stewards and sing to this great Father of the Church:

“Your voice resounded throughout the world that received your word by which, in godly manner, you taught dogma, clarified the nature of beings, and set in order the character of people. Venerable father, Royal Priesthood, intercede to Christ God to grant us great mercy.”

Pacesetters 2007

The following have submitted their 2007 pledge cards. We thank them and we invite the others to make their gift to their church.

Rev. & Mrs. James S. Diavatis
Mr. & Mrs. Christos Angelatakis
Mr. & Mrs. Louie Attard
Mr. & Mrs. Nick Begakis
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Benetatos
Mrs. Venetta Birakos
Mr. & Mrs. Chris Bonorris
Miss Catherine Christ
Mr. & Mrs. Nick Christ
Mrs. Vivian Christian
Mr. & Mrs. William Christian
Mr & Mrs. Andrew Chrysosgelos
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Culp
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Darling
Mr. & Mrs. Alex Dourbetas
Mr. & Mrs. William Futris
Mr. & Mrs. Leon Gabrielian
Mr. & Mrs. Nicos Ganis
Ms. Patricia Gauvain
Mrs. Pota Grammas
Mr. & Mrs. John Hadjis
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Halfhill
Mr & Mrs. Tom Harbilas
Mr. & Mrs. John Hatzidakis
Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Hatzis
Mr. & Mrs. Hourigan
Mr. & Mrs. Ken Jones
Mr. & Mrs. Kostas Kapogianis
Mr. & Mrs. Theodore Karnezis
Ms. Cynthia Kezos

Mr. John Kiouisis
Mr. & Mrs. Haralambos Klentos
Mrs. Gabriela Koliass
Mr. & Mrs. George Kouloumbis
Mr. & Mrs. Yanni Kouloumbis
Mr. Bill Lambropoulos
Mr. Earnest L. Love
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Margaretis
Mr. & Mrs. George Massouris
Mrs. Marie Miller
Mrs. Mary Mitchell
Mrs. Sofia Moysidis
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Nichols
Mr. & Mrs. John Ohanian
Mr. & Mrs. Vasili Paxos
Mr. Bill Petropoulos
Mr. & Mrs. John Petropoulos
Ms. Ria Petropoulos
Mr. & Mrs. Lee Petros
Mr. & Mrs. Kostas Pouloupoulos
Mr. & Mrs. Theofilos Russos
Mr. & Mrs. Tim Sarres
Mr. Alexander Soles
Mr. & Mrs. Dean Soles
Mr. & Mrs. George Tavoularis
Mr. & Mrs. George Thalass
Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Turner
Miss Lisa Vatakis
Ms. Josephine Zorzy

As of December 21, 2006
Total Pledges: 58
Goal: 600
To Go: 542
Average Pledge: \$1059.48
Total Pledged:
\$61,450.00
Budgeted Goal: \$330,000.00
Amount left to reach Goal:
\$268,550.00

SWEETHEARTS 2007

**St. John's Philoptochos Society is once again preparing
for its Benefit Fashion Show luncheon to be held on
*Saturday April 21, 2007 at the Anaheim Hilton.***

The highlight of our fashion show is the popular presentation of our SWEETHEARTS. Young ladies from St. John and other Orthodox Churches who are 16 years or a sophomore (10th grade) in high school will be eligible to be presented. We encourage all who are interested and meet the above qualifications to please fill out the information below and mail it or give it to any of the ladies listed below.

When you are presented at the fashion show, you will have a choice of escorts. It can be your father, brother, uncle, papou, nono, cousin or we will be happy to provide an escort for you. The escorts will be from St. John's community.

This is a very fun day for you and your family and you will treasure it all your life.

SWEETHEART INFORMATION

Name _____ **Date of Birth** _____

Address _____ **City** _____ **Zip** _____

Phone(day) _____ **(eve)** _____ **(cell)** _____

Fullname of parents _____

Escort name Relationship _____

**Christina Dourbetas
(714) 523- 7188
5802 Crestview
La Palma, CA 90623**

**Christine Pappas
(714) 921-0543
859 S. Parkglen Pl.
Anaheim, CA 92808**

**Cindy Kezos
(714) 738-5890
1329 A. Countrywood #53
La Habra, CA 90631**

SAINT JOHN the BAPTIST
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

2 • 0 • 0 • 7

GREEK FESTIVAL

Friday, May 18

Saturday, May 19

Sunday, May 20

Live Greek Music • Homade Greek Pastries • Greek Dancing Demonstrations • Traditional
Greek Dancing • Church Tours • Games for the Kids • Benefit Drawing • Performances by
St. John's Award Winning Folk Dance Groups

ATTENTION:

GRADUATED OR GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

FATHER GEORGE HADJIS
MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITY!!!
DEADLINE FOR APPLYING IS
MARCH 30, 2007

THOSE WHO HAVE APPLIED IN THE PAST ARE URGED TO RESUBMIT THEIR
APPLICATIONS.

FOR INFORMATION OR APPLICATIONS,
PLEASE CONTACT KIKI CHRYSOGELOS AT (909) 869-7577.
APPLICATIONS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE.

St. John the Baptist
Greek Orthodox Church

405 N. Dale Street
Anaheim, CA 92801
(714) 827-0181

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Buena Park,
CA

Address Correction Requested



Time Dated, Please Do Not Delay



"Behold, I send my messenger before thy face,
who shall prepare thy way; the voice of one
crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of
the Lord, make his paths straight -- "

(Mark 1:2-3)

**EDITOR'S
NOTE:**

*In the next several
months we will
continue to
improve both
content and style.
Please remember
to send in your
article on time and
on a disk, so that
Anna will be able
to format them
accordingly.*

Fr. James, Editor