

The Vineyard

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

JULY/AUGUST 2007

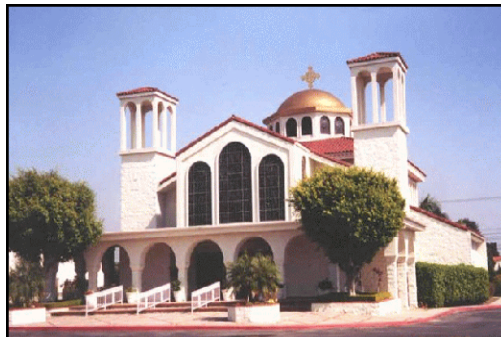
VOL. XXVIII, NO. 10

A Message From Father James

Dear beloved fellow parishioners and friends,

I offer my profound thanks to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for bringing me through some difficult months. Your zealous and continuous personal prayers have further aided my cause. I thank you also for your many telephone calls and cards.

Let me briefly explain my situation. In order to better maintain my health with the problem of morbid obesity, I chose to have a popular, current surgical procedure, one of several bariatric surgeries, that is known as duodenal switch. It involves the reduction of the stomach and removal of both the gall bladder and the appendix. While the normal recuperative period is a three or four day stay in the hospital, I would be forced to stay for more than nine weeks because of complications that required additional surgeries.



For the last two weeks, I have been recuperating at home and following a rehabilitation program that will get me back to full recovery.

Recently, I was very saddened to learn of the passing of our dear and beloved members, Penny Gallanes, Sophia Roumpos, Ted Bizakis, Larry Chrest, Tom Stavrakas, and Steve Margaretis. May their souls be ever embraced by the bosom of Abraham, their memory be eternal, and divine strength be richly bestowed upon their loved ones.

Please continue to pray for me. It will take several more weeks of recuperation, but with your help and prayers it will be accomplished.

I miss you all, and I can hardly wait to be back before the Holy Altar.

With the love of the Lord,

Father James

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. NICHOLAS ANDREWS, OIKONOMOS

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*

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.
CHILDREN'S GREEK CLASS - Tuesdays 4:00 P.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 - To be Announced.
G.O.Y.A - To be Announced
Y.A.L - To be Announced
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>

“Help on the Way for Transfiguration”

by Father Nicholas

On August 6th the Orthodox Churches around the world celebrate the Feast of the Transfiguration. For centuries the feast has been associated with the blessing of grapes, because the grape harvest occurs at this time every year. However, the feast celebrates the Lord’s Transfiguration upon the mountain, as recorded the Gospel according to Matthew, with parallels in Mark 9:2-10) and Luke9:28-36)

The original event probably occurred in the autumn during the Jewish feast of Booths called Sukkoth (pronounced su-COAT). During this feast, the men climb a mountain, or go into the roof tops of their homes, and build a small booth of tree branches. Then they offer prayers to God beneath the starry night sky of autumn, celebrating the autumn harvest.

On this day, Jesus took with him Peter, James, and John, and climbed up to Mt. Tabor. While Jesus was praying on the mountain His appearance changed, and He began to shine like the sun. Then Moses and Elijah appeared standing next to Him. A voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son with whom I am well pleased; listen to Him”. The disciples fainted, just like the soldiers that were guarding the tomb later fell to the ground when Jesus rose from the dead. This event was so impressive, that Peter wrote about it again in his second letter (II Peter 1:16-18), and John began his first letter with a similar account of seeing the Divine Light (1 John 1-3

The church understands the light which the disciples saw to be the holy fire which Moses saw in the burning bush, and the same fire which led the Hebrews out of Egypt. It is the uncreated energies of God. Jesus’ Transfiguration represents the nature of our own salvation. In Christ, we are changed from the darkness of sin

to the light and holiness of God. For those who love God, the divine fire is cleansing and energizing. For those who choose sin, the same uncreated light is caustic and feels like punishment. It is the fire which burns eternally but does not destroy.

We must be mindful of our own journey of spiritual change. Let us meditate on the following points in order to facilitate our own personal transfiguration.

- 1) We must initially meditate on the Gospels so that we may be able to integrate the word of Jesus into our own heart and life.
- 2) Allow our decisions in life, most especially the major ones) to be guided and directed by the Holy Spirit, in light of the Word.
- 3) Provide time for daily prayer.
- 4) Obey Jesus’ command to trust the Father, who feeds the sparrows. (i.e.. give control of our lives to God instead of trying to run them ourselves)
- 5) Believe in the love of the Father, and therefore ask His forgiveness for our sins.
- 6) Value the spiritual nourishment we receive from the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Discover the unity of the Church by living in the grace and humility of Jesus Christ.
- 7) Know that what is foolish in the eyes of men is often wise in the eyes of God.

It is **only** by putting our faith into practice that we can truly be transfigured into new spiritual beings; otherwise we are, as St. Paul states, “Clanging cymbals”. May our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ give us the necessary strength to achieve this transformation.

In His service,

Fr. Nicholas

Philoptochos News

There is no beautifier of complexion, or form, or behavior, like the wish to scatter joy and not pain around us. *-Ralph Waldo Emerson*

We would like to say Hi to Father James, let him know we miss him and wish a speedy recovery. Here's wishing you well Father James from all of us and to Presbytera Helen, Stasi, Joanna and Sperry for their spirit and caregiving during Father James' difficult time.

I would like to thank the dedicated, hard-working Philoptochos Board for making the last two years successful, effortless, fun and days filled with fellowship and philanthropy. We gratefully say good-bye to Katherine Glavas after 8 years on the board serving in many positions, taking care of all our supplies, chairing the Vasilopeta to help St. Basil's Academy and helping wherever she was needed. We also are losing Marie Miller from the Board after 10 years of service. Marie has been Vice-President and Historian for Philoptochos and we appreciate all her hard work and dedication. We are fortunate to have all the other board members returning, in addition to three new board members.*

Congratulations to the new elected Philoptochos Board for 2007-2009:

President	Mary Ohanian
Vice President	Electra Christ
Recording Secretary	Christine Pappas
Corresponding Secretary	Cindy Kezos
Treasurer	Christina Dourbetas
Assistant Treasurer	Julie Sarres
Advisor/Golden Stars	Freda Chrest
Membership	Kiki Chryssogelos
Ways & Means	Argie Pastis & Raza Kitsigianis*
Hospitality	Tena Kosebas
Welfare	Joyce Attard

Historian
Hostess Chairman
Event Chairman
Member
Member

Penny Hatzis*
Jerry Kallaos
Linda Wronski
Giota Glavas
Katherine
Giannetakis*

Congratulations to our Father Hadjis Memorial Scholarship recipient, James Kezos, an outstanding student who we are certain will be very successful in his educational endeavors. James comes from a fine family that have been dedicated members of St. John's for many, many years. Thank you to Dr. Constantine Glezakos for assisting us in selecting this outstanding recipient. **If you would like to contribute to the Father Hadjis Memorial Scholarship Fund in memory of a loved one or just to help Philoptochos with their scholarship expenses, please make your checks payable to Fr. Hadjis Scholarship Fund. Send it to the church C/O of Philoptochos. This is tax deductible. Thank you.**

The summer coffee hour after church services will continue and during the month of July, we are pleased to announce that the GOYANS will be taking care of this. If you are interested in helping serve coffee, please call a board member to volunteer your services. We appreciate your help.

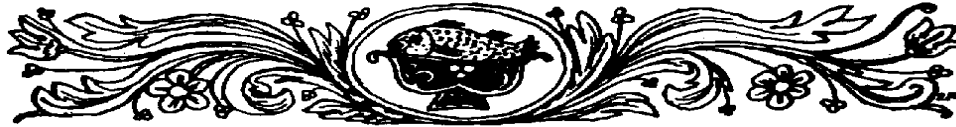
Here's wishing you all a wonderful, fun filled and safe summer.

Mary Ohanian, President



Pastries Festival

2007



WHAT A GREAT FESTIVAL AGAIN!!! **WE SOLD OUT!!!**

The dedication and hard work of all of our wonderful Ladies who helped with the baking of our pastries cannot be measured. Year after Year, almost the same tireless Ladies, have come forth to help and do what they can. When we would call the Ladies, the question was, “when and what time”. What a good feeling to have such wonderful gals to come forth. St. John’s is so fortunate to have you! We appreciate all of you and also the Ladies who traveled a distance and from the South County to come to our rescue.

Also, our gratitude and appreciation to Eleni and Maria and their Ladies for making 70 pans of Galactobouriko at home and bringing it fresh everyday of the Festival, and their spouses and family for delivery. What a tremendous help. Thank you...Thank you. Also, we want to thank Sophia Rinos for the pastry balloons.

Thank you also to all the Ladies who helped in the booths. Without you we could not have done it. What a tremendous and exuberant feeling to **sell out** by 8:00 P.M. Sunday!

A “BIG, BIG THANK YOU” to all the wonderful people who donated and sponsored some of the pastry and others who donated and made them. You are such a tremendous asset to our church.

Lastly, Ladies and Donors THANK YOU from our heart for all your help and support. We promise we won’t “bug” you again until Street Fair and next year’s Festival. We love you all. May God Bless You. And Ladies, if things get better with age, we are approaching magnificent!!!

With Love and Gratitude,

Julie B. Sarres
Nancy Foxhall
Pastry Co-Chairman

What's New???

Congratulations!

Mary Nichols
Mother of the Year

Alex Dourbeta
Father of the Year

Thank you both for your love, devotion and years of service to the church. There is a quote by Leo Rosten - "The purpose of life is not to be happy - but to *matter*, to be productive, to be useful, to have an influence that you have lived at all." You have generously given of yourselves in your lives and dedicated yourself to the many organizations of our church.

UPCOMING GREEK FESTIVALS 2007

St. Katherine,
Redondo Beach
July 13-15

St. Barbara,
Santa Barbara
July 28-29

Assumption of the
Blessed
Virgin Mary
Sept. 1-3

GREEK SCHOOL 2007-2008

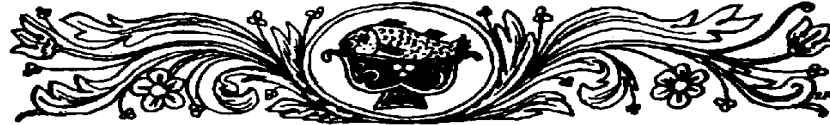
Registration is still open for Greek School classes: Pre-school through 6th Grade. Please turn in your registration materials to the church office. Registration packets are available in the church office, or e-mail or Angela Psaras at (714) 879-8479. Classes begin September 11, 2007.



>FR. JAMES' LATEST UPDATE

Fr. James continues to recuperate at home and following a rehabilitation program. Please keep him in

ACOLYTES OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST 2007



TEAM 1		TEAM 2	
Armondios Vestakis Nick Basdakis George Dalis Nicholas Foutris Sotirios Eliopoulos		Dimitri Pappas Bradley Jung Kyriakos Alyousef Michael Bangos Kyriakos Psaras Dimitri Hondrogiannis	
April 8, 2007 May 6, 2007 June 3, 2007 July 1, 2007	July 29, 2007 August 26, 2007 September 23, 2007	April 15, 2007 May 13, 2007 June 10, 2007 July 8, 2007	August 5, 2007 September 2, 2007 September 30, 2007
TEAM 3		TEAM 4	
John Hourigan Pano Nikolaou Theodore Kapogiannis Stefan Malmlund Alexander Malmlund Antonio Georgkopoulos		George Alexopoulos Niko Begakis Argirios Alexopoulos Spiros Mantas Dimitri Dimopoulos Paul Stephens	
April 22, 2007 May 20, 2007 June 17, 2007 July 15, 2007	August 12, 2007 September 9, 2007 October 7, 2007	April 29, 2007 May 27, 2007 June 24, 2007 July 22, 2007	August 19, 2007 September 16, 2007 October 14, 2007

- 1.) The Divine Liturgy begins promptly at 10:00 AM. Please be vested no later than 10:05 AM.
- 2.) Clothing preference is white (or light) shirt and tie with dark shoes. NO SNEAKERS PLEASE.

Church Registry

July-August 2007

WEDDINGS

June 16, 2007

Angelo Pergantis & Alicia McField

Sponsor: Elly Gabrielian

June 23, 2007

J Kent Welker & Kostadina Kalogeropoulos

Sponsor: George Chrisikos

BAPTISMS

June 3, 2007

Nathan Blalock

Proud Parents: Paul & Nektaria Blalock

God Parents: Robert & Bessie Ferrell

June 10, 2007

Juliana Lattin

Proud Parents: Trevor & Mary Lattin

God Parents: Thomas & Athanasia Solowczuk

MEMORIALS

June 3, 2007

Athanasios "Tom" Stavrakis - 40 Days

Sotirios Kalogeropoulos - 6 Months

June 10, 2007

Maria Mohlakis - 6 Years

Lazarus "Larry" Chrest - 40 Days

Theodore "Ted" Bizakis - 40 Days

June 24, 2007

Steve Margaretis - 40 Days

+ *May their memories be eternal* +



PROSFORO SCHEDULE

JULY

Sunday, July 1

Mrs. Gail Mitchell

Sunday, July 8

Mrs. Dimitra Klentos

Sunday, July 15

Mrs. Eleni Kousoulas

Sunday, July 22

Mrs. Anastasia Mandas

Sunday, July 29

Mrs. Maria Mendonis

AUGUST

Sunday, August 5

Mrs. Maria Nicolaou

Monday, August 6

Mrs. Joanne Kalogeropoulos

Sunday, August 12

Mrs. Joanne Kalogeropoulos

Wednesday, August 15

Mrs. Maria Frousakis

Sunday, August 19

Mrs. Maria Frousakis

Sunday, August 26

Voula Kitsigianis

WANTED!!!

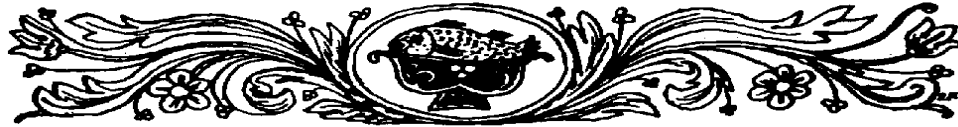
★ WOMEN WHO LOVE TO BAKE! ★

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.



Worship Services

July- August 2007



AUGUST

JULY

Sunday, July 1, 2007

5th Sunday of Matthew
Orthros & Divine Liturgy
9-11am

Sunday, July 8, 2007

6th Sunday of Matthew
Orthros & Divine Liturgy
9-11am

Sunday, July 15, 2007

Sunday of the Holy Fathers
Orthros & Divine Liturgy
9-11am

Sunday, July 22, 2007

8th Sunday of Matthew
Orthros & Divine Liturgy
9-11am

Sunday, July 29, 2007

9th Sunday of Matthew
Orthros & Divine Liturgy
9-11am

SUMMER SCHEDULE BEGINS

ON JULY 1st

Summer Liturgy hours at St. John's will begin on Sunday, July 1, and continue until September 9. During this time, Orthros and the Divine Liturgy will be held 9-11 a.m. Memorials will be offered at the conclusion of the Liturgy.

Sunday, August 5, 2007

10th Sunday of Matthew
Orthros & Divine Liturgy
9-11am

Monday, August 6, 2007

Holy Transfiguration
9am

Monday, Wednesday, Friday

August 6, 8, 10, 2007

Paraklesis
6:30pm

Sunday, August 12, 2007

11th Sunday of Matthew
Orthros & Divine Liturgy
9-11am

Wednesday, August 15, 2007

Dormition of the Theotokos
9am

Sunday, August 19, 2007

12th Sunday of Matthew
Orthros & Divine Liturgy
9-11am


Sunday, August 26, 2007

13th Sunday of Matthew
Orthros & Divine Liturgy
9-11am



July 2007

St. John's Monthly Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																		
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Community Calendar

July-August 2007

MEETINGS AND EVENTS FOR JULY- AUGUST 2007

July 3, 2007

Parish Council Meeting
7PM

July 4, 2007

Happy Independence Day!!!!
Office Closed*

July 5-11, 2007

Sarah on Vacation thru July 11th

July 5-19, 2007

Father Nicholas on Vacation thru July 19th

July 20-27, 2007

Jose on Vacation thru July 27th

August 7, 2007

Parish Council Meeting
7PM

Have A Nice Summer Everyone!!!

OUR PRIEST'S VACATION

With the written permission and blessings of Metropolitan Gerasimos, Father Nicholas will take his annual vacation: He will be absent from his pastoral duties from July 6 to July 19. In the absence of Fr. Nicholas, Fr. Haralambos Fox and Fr. Anthony Savas will be substituting, and has received episcopal permission to serve the Sunday Divine Services. In case of any emergencies, funerals or other critical needs, Fr. John Constantine will cover for Fr. Nicholas. During the summer, the following hours are in effect for Sunday services: Orthros & Divine Liturgy 9-11:00 a.m.

COMMUNITY ADDRESS BOOK

This summer, we will be updating our Community Address Book. We need your help. Please notify the Church Office if you have any name, address and/or telephone corrections. Thanks.

"SAVE THE DATE"

ST. JOHN'S

46TH

ANNIVERSARY

DANCE

Call your friends and mark your calendars. Our 46th Anniversary Date will be Saturday, December 1st. Look for more information in upcoming Vineyards.

STREET FAIR

2007

Street Fair 2007 is just around the bend and **W E N E E D VOLUNTEERS.** See John Ohanian for further details.

SUMMER

SCHEDULE

BEGINS

ON JULY 1st

Summer Liturgy hours at St. John's will begin on Sunday, July 1, and continue until September 9. During this time, Orthros and the Divine Liturgy will be held 9-11 a.m. Memorials will be offered at the

COMMUNITY UPDATE **CAPITAL CAMPAIGN PROGRAM**

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

We want to update you on exciting and important matters with respect to our beloved Church expansion and future. As we begin, we would be remiss without sending our ongoing prayers and well wishes to Father James as he continues to recuperate from his surgery.

At the January 28, 2007 General Assembly meeting you approved the Capital Campaign Program as presented by Father Anthony Scott of Stewardship Advocates. As part of the Program, Father Scott performed an assessment of our community and previous campaigns. Over the past several months, Father Scott has visited our community and interviewed a group of parishioners. Interviews were conducted both individually and in a group setting at his choosing. He met with Father James on numerous occasions, reviewed the previous campaign documentation, and studied the progress of the total fundraising campaign thus far. Upon completion of his assessment, Father Scott recommends that we continue to the next phase of his Fund Raising Program. Below is Father Scott's summary of his assessment and recommendation.

“After my review and interviews with a small cross section of St. John's parishioners, I believe this Community has the ability and resources to reach a goal of raising an additional \$2 to \$3 million above and beyond the amount currently pledged. Every capital campaign has its challenges. However, it also has many seen and unseen opportunities. Below is a summary of my assessment, observations and recommendations:

Opportunities for the Campaign – Fact: Seventy-one families have committed to the campaign thus far. This indicates that there is a sizeable pool of potential new contributors within St. John's community. Approximately half of the parishioners I interviewed stated they will pledge or plan to increase their pledge to the campaign. These parishioners also conveyed that there exists a core group of people who work very hard for the Parish. Part of this core group is the Parish Council which is growing in strength and talent. I also observed that there is a comprehensive and professional effort taking place now to define the goals and objectives of the physical development of the facilities. This is clearly a very positive sign as evidenced by the decades of hard work by dozens to hundreds of families/other leaders in this church who helped it get started, grow and then in turn passed the torch to the existing (next generation) of dedicated leaders and faithful servants of the Lord.

Challenges to the Campaign – Fact: The expansion program has a 25 year history of starts and stops, including three different chairmen. During this time, families capable of making major gifts were not properly cultivated or approached regarding their commitment to the campaign. There is a general perception that the present goal is unattainable. Overall, there is a poor understanding and practice of sacrificial giving in the Parish as taught by our Lord Jesus Christ. The goal is obtainable and this is nothing we have not seen or heard before by other parishes in California and around the Country. We have been blessed to have met and/or greatly exceeded our conservative projections of fundraising where we have been hired to serve you. St. John's will be no exception.

Recommendations for the Campaign – Based on my assessment of your Community, I believe you have the ability to raise additional funds towards the expansion program. I recommend that you immediately continue to the next phase of the Fund Raising Program that was approved at the January 28, 2007 General Assembly. Along with continuing the Fund Raising Program, I recommend you further define and detail Phase I of the expansion plan and develop a sound financial plan for the construction and maintenance of Phase I. Finally, utilize the resources within your own community by identifying a team of dedicated and committed parishioners to participate in the Fund Raising Program.”

We will continue to update you with the progress of the campaign. Please feel free to contact one of us if you have any questions or comments regarding the capital campaign assessment.

Sincerely, yours in Christ,

John Ohanian, President
Parish Council

Louis Chelekis, Chairman
Expansion Fund Committee

Paul Nikolau, Chairman
Expansion Plan Committee

The Stewardship of St. Irene Chrysovalantou - July 28



“Welcome Irene, Servant of God. Proceed to the Imperial City in joy because the convent of Chrysovalantou needs you in the community.”

This welcoming of the saintly hermit Ioannifkos was rendered to a beautiful young lady from Cappadocia named Irene. It was the ninth century, the most beautiful and virtuous young women were being summoned to Constantinople so that Empress Theodora’s son, Michael, could choose a wife. Irene was from an aristocratic family of Cappadocia and she gladly accepted the invitation. The envoys of the Empress were impressed with Irene’s presence and were confident that she would be chosen to be the future emperor’s wife.

While traveling to Constantinople, Irene asked to visit Ioannifkos, a holy recluse who lived on Mt. Olympus in Asia Minor. The saintly hermit possessed the gift of spiritual insight and foresaw not only the arrival of this young girl but also her future role in the life of the convent of Chrysovalantou.

When Irene arrived in the Imperial City she was greeted by her relatives. In the meantime, however, it had been arranged for young Emperor Michael to marry another girl. Far from being disappointed, Irene gave thanks to God who had led the Emperor to make this decision. Remembering the hermit’s prophecy Irene visited the holy convent of Chrysovalantou. She was so impressed with the environment of

the monastery that she freed her slaves, gave all her wealth to the poor, and entered the convent.

While in the monastery, this young aristocratic girl served the community with humility and obedience. Not once did she reminisce about her past and she cheerfully accepted the most despised tasks of the day-to-day chores in the convent.

In accordance with discipline of the monastery, she read the lives of the saints and was impressed with the life of the great Arsenios who taught a discipline of nightlong prayers. She requested permission to emulate this teaching regarding prayer. Her devotion to communicate with God through prayer enabled her to stand for 24 hours without movement. Through abstinence and prayer, she was now totally free of worldly temptations. So great was her devotion to God that she was blessed with the Holy Spirit in the manner of St. Paul, living no more according to the flesh, but so dwelling in Christ and Christ in her that she appeared transfigured to those who sought her spiritual counsel. In time, the Abbess of the monastery would die breathing her last wishes to the nuns who had gathered in her cell. She said, **“Do not lament my departure for in my successor you have a leader who is wiser than I. Be obedient to her, this daughter of light, lamb of Christ and vessel of the Holy Spirit. Do not accept anyone but Irene.”** Then closing with the words: **“Glory to you, O Lord, in your mercy”** she committed her soul to the care of the angels. Irene would become the spiritual mother of the convent and she increased her prayer life and received wisdom from above to lead her community. The Holy Convent of Chrysovalantou grew and enriched the lives of many pilgrims who would seek the humble guidance of Irene. There are many miraculous stories that pertain to the life of St. Irene. People from all walks of life experienced a renewal of faith when they spoke with her and followed her advice.

We, too, can be strengthened in our faith if we consider the lives of the saints. The life of St. Irene Chrysovalantou offers Christian Orthodox stewards the opportunity to understand that our involvement in the Church is an expression of faith. We are expected to be humble, obedient, and faithful as individuals and as members of an assembly of the faithful who glorify the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit through ministries offered by the Church. Prayerfully and faithfully let us move forward into the 21st century encouraged by the holy example of the saints.

The Stewardship of St. Phanourios - August 27



“A spiritual man is the man who shares in the grace of God, who is a participant in divine life. Or to express it in Palamite terminology, a spiritual man is a created man who shares in the uncreated grace of God.”

Giorgios I. Mantzarides

Life’s journey for the Christian Orthodox steward may be expressed in a variety of experiences, but each steward must walk that narrow road to the Lord. In the soul’s quest for holiness, we seek union with God through theosis. This union enables the steward to love God with his whole heart, soul, and mind, and one’s neighbor as oneself.

According to Christian Orthodox teaching, authentic Christian living requires a synergy, cooperation, between the Christian and God. The synergy that takes place does not mean that God does half the work and the Christian the other half. It does mean that while God does all the work necessary for our salvation, the Christian responds freely and completely to God. There can be no intimate union with God if our own will is not surrendered and conformed to the divine will.

In our study reflecting the Stewardship of the Saints we recognize many Christian stewards who have distinguished themselves and continue to be very popular among the faithful people of God. St. Phanourios is a saint who, though his life story is unknown, is well known and venerated by our Church. We are not sure when or where he lived or what he accomplished. What we do know is that he is greatly respected on the islands of Rhodes and Crete. Whatever else we know is taken from studying his icon.

First, we must learn how the icon of St. Phanourios came about. The island of Rhodes was invaded and pillaged by the foreign intruders. As these malefactors looked for treasures among the rubble of one of the churches they had destroyed, they came across a number of icons that were in decay, except for one. That one icon appeared as if it had been written that day. The invaders gave no significance to this icon and left it with the rest. Watching the events from a hidden vantage point, a group of monks observed what had happened. When it was safe, the monks went to the church and retrieved the icon dedicated to St. Phanourios. Upon inspecting the icon, they became visibly moved by what they saw. Bordering the icon were twelve scenes depicting the persecution that the saint had suffered. The monks desired to learn more about the life and martyrdom of St. Phanourios, but their research proved unsuccessful. Only the icon remained as a witness to the life of this saint who remained steadfast in his faith. There is one story about the saint that does remain. It is said that his mother was a great sinner who refused to accept Christianity. Saddened by her decision to deny Christ, St. Phanourios prayed fervently for his mother’s salvation. While he was being tortured and about to surrender his soul to God, St. Phanourios prayed: **“For the sake of these my sufferings, Lord, help all those who will pray to You for the salvation of Phanourios’ sinful mother.”** Lost and forgotten for many years, the recovery of the icon is the reason that St. Phanourios is known as the patron saint of lost things.

Reviewing the lives of the saints enables us to realize the holiness of life that they have lived in a stewardship that transforms the world. Though our deeds and efforts may be largely unknown by many, it is our faith that will be revealed for eternity. By managing the resources that God has given us, that is, our Time, Talents, and Treasure, as those saintly Christian stewards exemplify what it means to be obedient stewards of Christ and His Church.

Stewardship 2007

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

Mrs. Arlene Agalos	Mr. & Mrs. George Cantonis	Mr. & Mrs. Steve Flynn	Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Hatzis
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Akkerman	Mr. & Mrs. William Carkagis	Mr. & Mrs. Athanasios Foskaris	Mr. & Mrs. James Hill
Ms. Constance Alavizos	Mr. & Mrs. John Chakos	Mr. & Mrs. Stamatios Fournaris	Miss Eleni Hioureas
Mr. & Mrs. George Alavizos	Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Chapralis	Mr. & Mrs. Chris Foutris	Mr. & Mrs. Peter Hioureas
Mr. & Mrs. Themis Alexopoulos	Mr. & Mrs. N. Charalambous	Mr. & Mrs. Dino Foutris	Mr. & Mrs. Denny Hocking
Ms. Mary Amandos	Mr. & Mrs. Gene Chase	Mr. George A. Futris	Mr. & Mrs. Tim Holtermann
Mr. George Ambatielos	Mr. & Mrs. N. Chatzipetrou	Mr. & Mrs. William Futris	Mrs. Athena Homayouni
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Amerine	Mr. & Mrs. George Chatzis	Mr. & Mrs. George Frousiakis	Mr. & Mrs. S. Hondrogiannis
Mr. & Mrs. George Anas	Mrs. Stella Chavos	Mr. & Mrs. Spiros Gabriel	Mrs. Ruby Hopkins
Mr. & Mrs. Nick P. Anas	Mr. & Mrs. Louis Chelekis	Mr. & Mrs. Leon Gabrielian	Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Hourigan
Mr. & Mrs. C.J. Anasis	Mr. & Mrs. Peter Cherpas	Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Galanis	Ms. Katerina Hoyo
Mr. & Mrs. A. Anastasiadis	Mr. & Mrs. Larry Chrest	Mr. & Mrs. C. Gallanes	Mr. & Mrs. George Janis
Mrs. Loula Anderson	Miss Catherine Christ	Mr. Harry Gallanes	Mr. & Mrs. Ken Jones
Mrs. Connie Andros	Mr. & Mrs. Nick Christ	Mr. & Mrs. Nicos Ganis	Mrs. Olga Joseph
Mr. & Mrs. C. Angelatakis	Mrs. Vivian Christian	Mr. & Mrs. Jose Garcia	Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Jung
Mr. Pete Angelus	Mr. & Mrs. William Christian	Mrs. Sophia Garrity	Mrs. Crystalia Kaiser
Mr. & Mrs. Gus Anton	Mr. & Mrs. Jim Christides	Mr. & Mrs. George Gatsinaris	Mr. & Mrs. Savas Kallaos
Mr. & Mrs. Pantelis Antoniou	Mr. & Mrs. A. Chryssogelos	Dr. & Mrs. Vasili Gatsinaris	Dr. & Mrs. Stephen Kallaos
Mr. & Mrs. Chris Argyrakis	Mr. Michael Close	Ms. Patricia Gauvain	Mr. & Mrs. H. Kalogeropoulos
Ms. Joyce Attard	Mr. & Mrs. Nick Cokas	Mr. & Mrs. G. Georgakopoulos	Mr. John Kandara
Mr. & Mrs. Louie Attard	Mr. & Mrs. Chris Contes	Miss Constance George	Mr. & Mrs. George Kantzavelos
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Attard	Mr. & Mrs. Dukas Contos	Mr. & Mrs. Peter George	Mr. & Mrs. John Kapogianis
Mr. & Mrs. Peter P. Attard	Mr. & Mrs. John Cooper	Mr. & Mrs. Peter Georgitsis	Mr. & Mrs. Kostas Kapogianis
Mr. & Mrs. Chris August	Mr. & Mrs. Richard Cote	Mr. & Mrs. George Georgopoulos	Miss Ann Karagines
Mr. & Mrs. Costa Awadalla	Mr. & Mrs. Gary Culp	Mrs. Demetra Georgouses	Mr. & Mrs. Peter Karagines
Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Badounas	Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Dalis	Mr. & Mrs. Fred Gerth	Mrs. Thelma Karagines
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Baglin	Mr. & Mrs. Tom Dallas	Mr. & Mrs. Gus Gialamas	Mr. & Mrs. Ioannis Karambelas
Mrs. Kiki Ballas	Mr. & Mrs. Michael Darling	Ms. Athena Gianakakos	Mr. & Mrs. Hristos Karanastasis
Mr. & Mrs. Anastasios Barouxis	Dr. & Mrs. Theodoros Daskalakis	Mrs. Rania Giannakou-Ariqat	Mr. & Mrs. Theodore Karnezis
Mr. & Mrs. Dino Basdakis	Mr. & Mrs. Nick Delis	Mr. & Mrs. John Gianakakos	Mr. & Mrs. Angelo Karpouzis
Mr. & Mrs. Nick Begakis	Mr. Chris Deralas	Mr. & Mrs. Kiriakos Gianakakos	Mr. & Mrs. Nick Karvouniaris
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Begakis	Mr. & Mrs. Peter Deralas	Mr. & Mrs. Emmanuel Giannetakis	Mrs. Alberta Keffalas
Mr. Peter Benardis	Mr. & Mrs. William Deralas	Mr. & Mrs. John Giforos	Ms. Cynthia Kezos
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Benetatos	Ms. Janet Diamant	Mr. & Mrs. Dino Glavas	Mr. & Mrs. James Kezos
Mrs. Patricia Benetatos	Mr. & Mrs. Nick Diamant	Ms. Giota Glavas	Mrs. Nickey Kezos
Mrs. Venetta Birakos	Mr. & Mrs. A. Dimopoulos	Dr. & Dr. Constantine Glezakos	Mr. John Kiouisis
Mr. & Mrs. Ted Bizakis	Ms. Irini Dimopoulos	Miss Bessie Gonos	Mr. Nick Kitakis
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Bogris	Mr. Johnny Dimopoulos	Mrs. Mary Goode	Mr. & Mrs. Steve Kitsigianis
Mr. & Mrs. Theodore Bogris	Mr. & Mrs. Michael Dionisiou	Dr. & Mrs. Dimitri Grammas	Mrs. Vouls Kitsigianis
Mrs. Helen Boltinghouse	Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Dodge	Mrs. Pota Grammas	Mr. & Mrs. George Kitsinis
Mr. Aris Bonias	Mr. & Mrs. Spiro Doukas	Mr. & Mrs. George Hadjis	Mr. & Mrs. Gus Kitsios
Mr. & Mrs. Chris Bonorris	Mr. & Mrs. Alex Dourbetas	Mr. & Mrs. John Hadjis	Mr. & Mrs. Gus Klentos
Mr. & Mrs. George Borovilos	Mr. & Mrs. Nico Dourbetas	Mr. & Mrs. John G. Hadjis	Mr. & Mrs. Haralambos Klentos
Mr. & Mrs. Costa Bostinelos	Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Dovalis	Mr. & Mrs. Larry Halfhill	Jean & Heidi Koclanakis
Mr. & Mrs. Angelo Boussiacos	Mrs. Joanne Drulias	Mr. & Mrs. Christos Harbilas	Mrs. Gabriela Kolia
Mr. & Mrs. Aleksandar Bozovic	Mr. & Mrs. George Eleopoulos	Mr. & Mrs. Tom Harbilas	Mr. & Dr. John Kolia
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Buelna	Mr. & Mrs. Xenophan Eliopoulos	Mrs. Demetra G. Harvalos	Mrs. Eleftheria Konstantourakis
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Burns	Mr. & Mrs. John Fahrnbruch	Mr. & Mrs. A. Hashtrouidi	Mrs. Eugenia Konstantouros
Mr. & Mrs. James Callas	Mr. & Mrs. Fred Fascenelli	Mr. George Hassapis	Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Kort
Mr. & Mrs. Nick Callas	Mr. George T. Feles	Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Hassapis	Mr. & Mrs. George Kosebas
Mr. Andrew Canellos	Mr. & Mrs. Michael Fidelis	Mr. & Mrs. John Hatzidakis	Ms. Christina Kotsiovos
Mr. & Mrs. Carl Cantonis	Mr. & Mrs. Scott Fields	Mr. & Mrs. Mike Hatziefstratou	Mr. & Mrs. K. Kotsiovos

Stewardship 2007

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

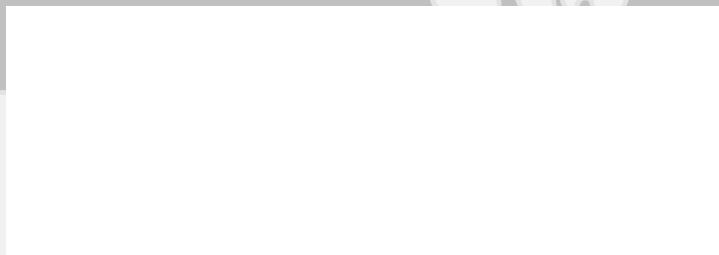
Mr. & Mrs. Chris Koukladas	Mr. & Mrs. Peter Mitchell	Mr. & Mrs. Kostas Pouloupoulos	Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Turner
Mr. & Mrs. Gregory Koukladas	Mr. & Mrs. George Mousmoules	Mr. & Mrs. Tim Preston	Mrs. Mary Van den Raadt
Mr. & Mrs. George Kouloumbis	Mrs. Sofia Moysidis	Ms. Leah Psilovikos	Mrs. Foula Vanikiotis
Mr. & Mrs. Yanni Kouloumbis	Mr. & Mrs. Brian Mull	Mr. & Mrs. Vlash Pullos	Mr. & Mrs. Antonios Vatakis
Mr. & Mrs. Pete Kousoulas	Mrs. Mary Naylor	Mr. & Mrs. Nick Rados	Miss Lisa Vatakis
Mrs. Anne Koutzoukis	Mr. & Mrs. Harry Nichols	Mrs. Mary N. Riley	Mrs. Helen Vest
Mr. & Mrs. C. Koutzoukis	Mr. Pete Nichols	Miss Sophia Rinos	Mr. & Mrs. Lefteris Vestakis
Mrs. Doris Koutzoukis	Ms. Maria Nicolaides	Mr. & Mrs. Cristo Ristas	Mr. & Mrs. E.J. Vlachos
Mr. & Mrs. John Koutzoukis	Mrs. Maria Nicolaou	Mr. & Mrs. Gregory Roumpos	Mrs. Sophia Voulimeneas
Mr. & Mrs. Dimitrios Kritikos	Mrs. Peggy Nicolaou	Mr. & Mrs. Julian Rusinek	Mr. & Mrs. Mike Vourakis
Mrs. Angelike Lambides	Ms. Politimy Nicolaou	Mr. & Mrs. John Russell	Mr. & Mrs. Derek Welsbie
Mr. Bill Lambropoulos	Mr. & Mrs. Paul Nikolau	Mr. & Mrs. Theofilos Russos	Mr. & Mrs. Randall Wemmer
Mr. & Mrs. George Lambros	Miss Barbara Nonis	Mr. & Mrs. Matthew Salcedo	Mr. & Mrs. George P. Williams
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Lanyi	Mr. Jason Nonis	Mr. & Mrs. Chris Sarantos	Mr. & Mrs. James Wilson
Mr. & Mrs. Angelo Lardas	Mr. & Mrs. Chris Novikoff	Mr. & Mrs. Peter Sargologos	Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Winders
Mr. & Mrs. Trevor Lattin	Mr. & Mrs. John Ohanian	Mr. & Mrs. Tim Sarres	Mr. & Mrs. James Wronski
Mr. & Mrs. James Learakos	Mr. & Mrs. Pete Pafilis	Dr. & Mrs. Randal Schoeman	Ms. Maria Xanthos-Hilding
Ms. Anna Les	Ms. Eugenia Pagalidis	Mr. & Mrs. Jim Sdrales	Mr. & Mrs. Peter Xanthos
Mrs. Koula Les	Dr. & Mrs. James Pilafas	Mr. & Mrs. Gregorios Shakola	Ms. Christina Xenos
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Lewis	Ms. Belia Palas	Mr. & Mrs. Chris Sigas	Mr. & Mrs. Steve Xenos
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Libowitz	Mr. & Mrs. Nick Panagakis	Mr. & Mrs. Nikolas Siokos	Mr. & Mrs. John Ybarra
Mrs. Katherine Livieratos	Miss Maria Panagakis	Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Siouris	Miss Elli Yorgiadis
Mr. & Mrs. John Lopez	Mr. & Mrs. Costa Panagiotou	Ms. Karen Sirus	Ms. Josephine Zorzy
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Loukatos	Mr. & Mrs. Costa Panagiotou	Mr. Alexander Soles	Mr. & Mrs. George Zonos
Mr. Earnest L. Love	Mr. Peter S. Panagos	Mr. & Mrs. Dean Soles	Mr. & Mrs. A. Zounatiotis
Mr. & Mrs. Bjorn Malmund	Mr. & Mrs. Pete Pandeles	Mr. & Mrs. Petros Sourias	
Dr. Alexander Mamounas	Mr. & Mrs. Mike Panos	Ms. Adamantia Sourvanos	
Mr. & Mrs. K. Mandas	Mr. & Mrs. Pano Pappas	Mrs. Bess Stavrakas	
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Mandas	Mr. & Mrs. C. Papacharalambous	Mrs. Georgia Stavrakas	
Mr. & Mrs. Pete Mandas	Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Papadon	Mr. Stephanos Stavropoulos	
Mr. & Mrs. Christ Manes	Mr. & Mrs. James Papastathis	Mr. & Mrs. James Stavropoulos	
Mr. & Mrs. L. Maniatogiannis	Mr. & Mrs. George W. Pappas	Mr. & Mrs. Brian Stratouly	
Mr. & Mrs. Rouso Manos	Mrs. Georgia Pappas	Mr. & Mrs. Peter Stavros	
Mr. & Mrs. Aristos Mantas	Mr. & Mrs. James Pappas	Miss. Athena Stump	
Mr. & Mrs. Demetrios Mantas	Mr. & Mrs. Kostas Pappas	Mr. & Mrs. John Stylianides	
Mr. & Mrs. George P. Mantas	Mrs. Mary Parris	Mr. & Mrs. Andreas Syrengelas	
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Margaretis	Mrs. Argie Giannetakis Pastis	Mr. & Mrs. D. Syrengelas	
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Margias	Mr. & Mrs. Vasili Paxos	Mr. & Mrs. George Syrengelas	
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Maridakis	Mr. & Mrs. Sotirios Pelonis	Mr. & Mrs. K. Syrengelas	
Mr. & Mrs. Dean Marinos	Mrs. Connie Perakis	Miss Maria Tambouris	
Mr. & Mrs. John Maris	Mr. & Mrs. Alex Persakis	Mr. & Mrs. P. Tasigeorgos	
Mr. & Mrs. Milton Maris	Mr. Bill Petropoulos	Mr. & Mrs. Angelo Tavlarides	
Mr. & Mrs. George Massouris	Mr. & Mrs. John Petropoulos	Mr. & Mrs. George Tavoularis	
Mr. & Mrs. Michael McFann	Ms. Ria Petropoulos	Miss Katerina Tavoularis	
Mr. & Mrs. Kirk McMullin	Mr. & Mrs. Lee Petros	Mr. & Mrs. George Thalass	
Mr. & Mrs. Wendall Meadows	Mr. & Mrs. George Petsas	Ms. Gloria Themaras	
Mr. & Mrs. George Medenas	Mr. John Petsas	Mr. & Mrs. William Thomas	
Mr. & Mrs. Ted Medenas	Mr. & Mrs. Philip T. Phillips	Mr. & Mrs. Spiro Tragos	
Mr. & Mrs. Chris Mellas	Dr. & Mrs. Denis Pieratos	Mr. & Mrs. Tom Tragos	
Mrs. Marie Miller	Mr. & Mrs. James Pierce	Ms. Maria Treantafelles	
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Mitchell	Mr. & Mrs. Stavro Pilafas	Mr. & Mrs. Chris Tsachpinis	
Mrs. Mary Mitchell	Mr. & Mrs. K. Poulidis	Dr. & Mrs. Bill Tsagris	

As of June 21, 2007
Total Pledges: 387
Goal: 600
To Go: 213
Total Pledged:
\$265,104.00
Budgeted Goal:
\$330,000.00
Amount left to reach
Goal:
\$64,896.00

St. John the Baptist
Greek Orthodox Church
405 N. Dale Street
Anaheim, CA 92801
(714) 827-0181

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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)

