

The Vineyard

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

DECEMBER 2007

VOL. XXVIII, NO. 13

PROISTAMENOS MESSAGE

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

What a Wonderful Blessing!

My dear members and friends,

What does the concept of family mean to you? What do you think of it?

Just the sound of it causes many of us to smile as we consider the many aspects of the role of our family. It also brings back memories of our childhood family and of our parents or grandparents who may no longer be with us.

Family connotes a certain intimacy. But it is more than a blood relationship. It includes many others who form our extended family.

A family is a blessing! The offspring which issues from the family structure tends to bond

all into a cohesive unit. Yes, there are dysfunctional families where either parents and or children do not live to the ideal. But for the most part we have pleasant memories of our family structure and its contribution to our formation.

Today the concept of the traditional family is under attack. And on account of this it is imperative that we strengthen the bonds which bind father, mother and children into the unit called the family.

The family's survival depends to a great degree on the continuance of those values which have kept it a "haven from the world" supplying absolute fulfillment

for the spouses and the children that issue from such a union. The family unit encourages intimacy, love and trust where individuals may escape the competition of dehumanizing forces in modern society.

We must admit that all is not well with the family. The continued decay of the traditional family is seen as a sign of the crumbling of contemporary society. The destructive forces which are united against the

traditional family are bent on forcing changes which will bring the ultimate demise of the family unit as we know it unless people of faith do something about it. In fact this is well on its way and we should not ignore it.

In this "post Christian" world, where the Judeo-Christian value system is being replaced with so

called "alternative lifestyles" we Orthodox Christians need to retrench and begin to listen to our Church which has the ability to help us strengthen our family unit. For two thousand years the Orthodox Church has given us the necessary tools to maintain a healthy family unit. Christian marriage has allowed the family to flourish and so empowering those who make up the family to grow and prosper. Christian marriage has a sacramental quality. It is one of the seven sacraments which brings into unity "those who before had been separate." It is God's will that those whom he created should marry and become "one flesh." Male and female are joined sacramentally into this mystery which Paul likens to

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THE VINEYARD

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

EDITOR: FATHER JAMES S. DIAVATIS

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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 - 4:00 P.M.

J.O.Y & H.O.P.E - 3rd Thursday of the Month

Little Angels - 3rd Thursday of the Month

G.O.Y.A - 1st Sunday and 3rd Thursday of the Month

Y.A.L - To be Announced

PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY - First Wednesday 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>

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

What a Wonderful Blessing!

(Continued from page 1)

Christ (the bridegroom) and the Church. (The bride) In fact he calls it a "great mystery." And from that union come our children who are truly a blessing to us.

Dear members of Christ's family. Stay faithful to the values which have given us true joy and happiness. For Christian marriage is more than personal fulfillment. It is God's will. And it is the cornerstone of all that we cherish and hold dear. Support this family unit. It has kept us together.

AN EXPLANATION

The November 4th Sunday's Bulletin had certain omissions which seems to have offended some and perplexed others. The purpose was not that! Nor was it as someone characterized it "spiteful". (very poor choice of words, by the way and very negative). It was simply a journalistic tool aimed at bringing to the attention of our fellow Orthodox Christians certain very important concerns. It served as a didactic, a learning tool. Its aim was not negative as some have opined but rather served to bring into a clear focus some of the problems the parish faces when our important offerings are continuously being ignored by a large number of our membership. If the Bulletin is to serve the purpose for which it is intended,--to inform, to encourage, to challenge, to educate-- then its contents should be devoured by a hungry membership eager and willing to come into a closer relationship with Christ and the Church.

As your spiritual leaders, we priests are trying our best to communicate with you. However, if you don't read the material posted in the Bulletin and the Vineyard then all we have is a monologue. Reading the bulletin carefully and yes prayerfully, serves to bring priests and congregants into a DIALOGUE which benefits the individual and the church as a whole. I ask you how can we grow in Christ? How can we progress when people choose to ignore most of the material found in our weekly and monthly bulletin? How do I conclude that? Simply by the attitude of our people

which is acutely evident. Ask most anyone if they read the spiritual messages in our weekly and monthly publications and they will tell you (as they told me) "no, they don't interest me." Yes, the apathy is there and so is the indifference. A couple of examples will suffice. In addition to posting same in the weekly and monthly bulletin, I personally sent during the middle of August over 500 first class letters, detailing the new direction in our youth, young adults and adult ministries. Yet, the majority has chosen to not get involved. Without even giving these programs a chance to get off the ground, most choose to just ignore them. We have (always respectfully and positively) pleaded with our beloved members to try the new programs. Silence is what we get back. And oh yes, complaints that we are not doing anything with programming. Come again? We promote the LITTLE ANGELS, the HOPE, the JOY, the GOYA, the ALTAR BOYS, the JUNIOR CHOIR, and so forth. Then we have the FOLK DANCE GROUPS and GOYA BASKETBALL. What about RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (Sunday School)? What about our BIBLE STUDY (attended by less than 10 most of the time) and CLASS ON THE ORTHODOX FAITH (attended by only 5 or 6.) Would anybody really mind or miss them if I canceled these last two extremely important catechetical ministries? The critics (who by the way seldom if ever, participate in these offerings) would certainly raise their voices in protest.

Now, what about the young adults? I sent to each of those 18 to 35 years of age (about 225) a personal letter and flyer with the invitation to come and discuss the formation (long overdue) of YAL. Only 4 -5 showed up even though we had Pete Sotiras, Metropolis Youth Director come down from San Francisco to help us get started. Furthermore, for more than two months we have been requesting the names and addresses of our College Students so as to give them the opportunity to become involved in a College ministry called Orthodox College Fellowship. Only one has responded. One therefore must conclude that either our members are NOT reading our description of these activities or else they do not care to get involved.

Instead of complaining about our ministries, I would suggest that our critics take a more positive attitude towards our ministries. While nobody is going to force anyone to participate, we nevertheless should be reminded that **"unless we are part of the solution, we are part of the problem."**

Saint Stephen the Protomartyr

by Father Nicholas

In the month of December, the biggest focus of our Ecclesiastical calendar is, of course, the Incarnation of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who came into this world for the purpose of reuniting mankind with God, in order that mankind may be granted forgiveness of his sins, thus being offered the opportunity for salvation, that is, eternal life with God. There are, however, the people who gave up everything that they had, including their own families, even their own lives, in order that the Christian faith may not only survive, but be propagated. These people are the many saints and martyrs, many who are unknown, who endured numerous tortures their life for the Faith, who must also be acknowledged. One of these Saints is Saint Stephen. Saint Stephen has the distinction of being the first Christian martyr, as well as one of the seven deacons of the original Church of Christ in Jerusalem. As we read in the book Orthodox Saints by Fr. George Poulos, St. Stephen, (who at that time was Deacon Stephen) shared his ecclesiastical duties with his fellow Deacons Philip, Prochoros, Nikanor, Parmeans, and Nicholas. This group of deacons had the distinct honor of being the first such group to serve the Messiah. As it is the tradition today, the main function of the deacons in those days was to assist the priest during the Divine Liturgy, especially with administering the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Additionally, at that time, the deacons had the added responsibility of spreading the new faith as well as being alert and watchful for the dangers that came with being a Christian in those days.

Before entering the service of Christ, Saint Stephen had studied under the renowned rabbinical tutor Gamaliel, who had been the mentor of St. Paul. Not unlike Paul, he was a qualified religious scholar who once sought to discredit the Savior, until he came to know Jesus Christ and to embrace him as Paul did in that dramatic confrontation on the road to Damascus. The full attention he had been giving to the Law of the ancient covenant he now directed to the new faith with zeal equal to that of those who enjoyed the company of the Messiah. There was no hint that he would be the very first casualty in the cause for Christ. But like all the saints and martyrs, St. Steven was aware of the dangers involved, and yet chose to ignore them in his enthusiasm to serve The Master.

St. Stephens confined his ministry and preaching to the city of Jerusalem. Well versed in the Old Testament, he used this knowledge to his advantage in order to promote the Messiah. With all the erudition and eloquence at his command, he constantly exhorted all who would hear him to answer the call to Christ, and therefore find Salvation promised to the world in the pronouncements to the world in the pronouncements of the Bible, and in the writings of the biblical scholars. It was with considerable anger and frustration that the men who had studied with him under Gamaliel now removed him from their ranks, becoming particularly angry when Steven challenged them in the Synagogues. At one point, a mob turned on St. Stephen while he was preaching, seized him, and dragged him into the street, to the gates of Jerusalem, where he was stoned to death. He was buried in a small chapel in Jerusalem which was dedicated to his memory, known as the chapel of St. Steven the Protomartyr.

-Fr. Nicholas Andrews

THE 1600 ANNIVERSARY OF THE REPOSE OF THE BELOVED AND SAINTLY JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

(407-2007)

One of the most important and truly glorious saints of our Church is St. John Chrysostom, Patriarch of Constantinople. He was a man who possessed a great love for God, who served the people of God with great humility and dedication. He suffered a great deal because he chose to devote his life in total submission to God's will and because he was the champion of the poor and the disenfranchised.

He personally loved the monastic life. And he would devoted his life to that calling had not his very strict ascetic regiment brought ruin to his health.

He was a great homilist and during the twelve years he served the principal church in Antioch (386-387) he discharged this office with such zeal, ability and success that he established the title Chrysostom (i.e. Golden mouth) and has been universally acclaimed as the greatest of the Christian orators of all time.

He had a great love and compassion for the poor. His great sense of social justice was shocked by the violent contrasts of wealth and poverty in both Antioch and Constantinople. While he constantly upbraids the rich for their selfish indifference to the fate of their less fortunate brethren, he never forgets to insist on the duty of almsgiving. Such was his devotion to the poor that he was given the title St. John the Almsgiver.

He was ruthless when it came to defend the worship experience of the Church. In a sermon entitled "*Against the Circus Games and the Theater*" he addresses his congregation lamenting that he found the Church half empty

because many of his flock had gone to the circus. In his eyes the Circus and other such amusements especially held on holy days, is nothing more than the "assembly of satan." (What would he say if he were here today and saw the lack of participation in the liturgy?)

Among the many writings which have survived is the treatise "**On the Priesthood**". It has been regarded as "as a classic...and one of the finest treasures in Patristic literature." (Quasten) In six books Chrysostom expounds on the sacredness of the office of the priesthood and of the many pitfalls. He defends his fleeing upon hearing that he would be forced to accept the office. Deeply conscious of his unworthiness for the priesthood he offers in one of the finest passages, the greatness of the priesthood.

In his treatise "**On the Education of Children**" he laments and criticizes the upbringing of children. He states that the "deepest root of all corruption is the lack of moral training of the future generation". He continues, "the corruption of the world remains unchecked because nobody guards his children, nobody speaks to them of chastity, of despising riches and glory, of the commandments of God." He urges parents to regard the education of their children as the highest and holiest of tasks and to provide them with the true riches of the soul rather than with worldly wealth. They must train their boys and girls not for time, but for eternity.

The Blessed St. John Chrysostom left us a great legacy. He greatly influenced the church's direction and for that he is greatly esteemed. He together with Basil the Great and Gregory the Theologian make up the Three Hierarchs and

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THE 1600 ANNIVERSARY OF THE REPOSE OF THE BELOVED AND SAINTLY JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

(407-2007)

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Ecumenical Teachers of the Church.

His last words on September 14, 407 were
“Glory to God for all things.”

ON THE PRIESTHOOD. (3,4-6) BY ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

For the office of the priesthood is executed upon earth, yet it ranks among things that are heavenly, and with good reason. For it was neither an angel nor an archangel nor any other created power, but the Paraclete Himself that established that ministry, and commanded that men yet abiding in the flesh should imitate the functions of angels. Wherefore, it behooves the priest to be as pure as if he stood in heaven itself amidst those Powers. Picture to yourself Elias, and the immense multitude standing around and the victim laid on the altar, and all in stillness and deep silence, while the prophet alone prays; and fire forewith descends from heaven upon the altar. Then pass from thence to the sacrifice which is now offered, and you will behold what is not only wonderful, but what exceeds all admiration. For the priest stands bringing down not fire, but the Holy Spirit, and he prays long not that fire may descend from heaven and consume the oblations, but that grace may descend upon the victim, and through it inflame the souls of all and render them brighter than silver fire-ried...

For if you consider what it is for a man yet

clothed in flesh and blood to approach that pure and blessed nature, you will easily understand to what dignity the grace of the Holy Spirit has raised priests. For by them these things are accomplished, and others not inferior to these pertaining to our redemption and salvation. For they who have their abode and sojourn upon earth have been entrusted with a heavenly ministry and have received a power which God has not granted to angels or archangels. For it was not said to them, Whatsoever you shall bind on earth, shall be bound also in heaven, and whatsoever you shall loose, shall be loosed.” (Matthew 18,18) They who rule on earth have the power of binding, but they can bind the body only. But this bond reaches to the soul itself, and transcends the heavens; and what priests do upon earth God ratifies above, and master confirms the sentence of his servants...

It is to priests that spiritual birth and regeneration by baptism is entrusted. By them we put on Christ, and are united to the Son of God, and become members of the blessed head. Hence we should regard them as more august than princes and kings, and more venerable than parents. For the latter begot us of blood and the will of the flesh, but priests are the cause of our generation from God, of our spiritual regeneration, of our true freedom and sonship according to grace.



Saints of December

December 4

† Our Righteous Father John of Damascus (760)

This divinely-enlightened Harp of the Spirit was at the same time one of the Church's greatest hymnographers and one of Her greatest theologians and defenders of the Faith.

The city of Damascus in Syria fell to the Muslims in 635. At the time of the Caliph Abdul-Malik, responsibility for government of the Christian population was given to Sergius Mansur, a prominent Christian of the city. This Sergius strove to govern in a godly way under the many disabilities imposed by the Caliph, and devoted his wealth to almsgiving and to ransoming Christian prisoners. His son John was born in 675, and along with his adoptive brother Cosmas (October 14) was brought up to love and serve Christ.

John, whose exceptional education included a perfect knowledge of both Greek and Arabic, entered the civil administration and eventually succeeded to his father's position under the Caliph. When the Emperor Leo the Isaurian began to attack the holy icons, Saint John undertook a spirited defense of the Faith through letters to correspondents throughout the Empire. Normally the Emperor would have killed or exiled the Saint directly, but since he lived in Muslim lands the Emperor could not touch him (an interesting example of Islam unwittingly contributing to the defense of the Christian faith). So the wicked Emperor circulated a forged letter which made it appear that John was plotting against the Caliph. When this letter fell (as planned) into the Caliph's hands, he was furious, and ordered that the Saint's right hand be cut off. That evening John placed his severed hand before the icon of the Mother of God and prayed with tears that it might be restored. On awaking he found that his hand had been miraculously restored to him. The miracle convinced the Caliph of his counselor's innocence, and John was restored to favor; but now John wanted nothing more of worldly honor and wished only to be a monk. Giving up his position, he distributed his fortune among the poor and left for Jerusalem to become a monk at the Monastery of St Sabas.

The Abbot of the monastery put John under an Elder who ordered him to have nothing to do with philosophy, science, poetry, chanting or reading, but to give himself uncomplainingly to menial tasks so as to advance in humility. This the Saint did. Some time later, however, a monk grieving over his brother's death persuaded John to write a funeral hymn for his consolation. Out of compassion, John wrote the hymn which is used to this day in the Funeral Service. For his disobedience, John was given the job of cleaning all the latrines of the monastery by hand, which, again, he did without complaint. A few days later the Theotokos appeared to the Elder and told him to allow John to compose hymns and poems, which, she told, him, would surpass the Psalms of David in beauty and grace.

Thus the monk John began to write the large body of inspired hymns which grace the Church's services. Among these are the Canon chanted at the Pascha Service, as well as most of the Resurrectional hymns of the Octoechos.

Saint John's poetical gifts were matched by his gifts for expressing the Church's theology: he composed a powerful defense of the icons (in print under the title *On the Holy Images*), a complete exposition of the Orthodox Faith (*On the Orthodox Faith*), and the first written refutation of Islam, which he had come to understand well while serving in the Caliph's court. In old age, John was ordained a priest by the Patriarch of Jerusalem. He reposed in peace in 760 at the age of eighty-four.

December 6

† Our Father among the Saints Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra (345)

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Saints of December

Our beloved holy Father Nicholas is, along with St George (and second to the All-holy Theotokos), probably the best-loved Saint of the Church. His numberless miracles through the ages, on behalf of the countless Christians who have called on him, cannot be told. He was born in Lycia (in Asia Minor) around the end of the third century, to pious Christian parents. His love of virtue, and his zeal for observing the canons of the Church, were evident from his infancy, when he would abstain from his mother's breast every Wednesday and Friday until the evening. From early youth he was inclined to solitude and silence; in fact, not a single written or spoken word of the Saint has come down to us. Though ordained a priest by his uncle, Archbishop Nicholas, he attempted to withdraw to a hermit's life in the Holy Land; but he was told by revelation that he was to return home to serve the Church publicly and be the salvation of many souls.

When his parents died, he gave away all of his inheritance to the needy, and thereafter almsgiving was his greatest glory. He always took particular care that his charity be done in secret. Perhaps the most famous story of his open-handedness concerns a debt-ridden man who had no money to provide dowries for his daughters, or even to support them, and in despair had resolved to give them into prostitution. On three successive nights the Saint threw a bag of gold into the window of the man's house, saving him and his daughters from sin and hopelessness. The man searched relentlessly to find and thank his benefactor; when at last he discovered that it was Nicholas, the Saint made him promise not to reveal the good deed until after he had died. (This story may be the thin thread that connects the Saint with the modern-day Santa Claus). God honored his faithfulness by granting him unparalleled gifts of healing and wonderworking. Several times he calmed storms by his prayers and saved the ship that he was sailing in. Through the centuries he has often done the same for sailors who call out to him, and is considered the patron of sailors and all who go to sea.

He was elected Bishop of Myra not long before the great persecutions under Diocletian and Maximian (c. 305), and was put in prison, from which he continued to encourage his flock in the Faith. When the Arian heresy wracked the Church not long after Constantine came to the throne, St Nicholas was one of the 318 Bishops who gathered in Nicea in 325. There he was so incensed at the blasphemies of Arius that he struck him on the face. This put the other bishops in a quandary, since the canons require that any hierarch who strikes anyone must be deposed. Sadly, they prepared to depose the holy Nicholas; but in the night the Lord Jesus and the most Holy Theotokos appeared to them, telling them that the Saint had acted solely out of love for Truth, not from hatred or passion, and that they should not act against him. While still in the flesh, he sometimes miraculously appeared in distant places to save the lives of the faithful. He once saved the city of Myra from famine by appearing to the captain of a ship full of grain, telling him to take his cargo to the city. He appeared in a dream to Constantine to intercede for the lives of three Roman officers who had been falsely condemned; the three grateful soldiers later became monks. The holy bishop reposed in peace around 345. His holy relics were placed in a church built in his honor in Myra, where they were venerated by throngs of pilgrims every year. In 1087, after Myra was conquered by the Saracens, the Saint's relics were translated to Bari in southern Italy, where they are venerated today. Every year, quantities of fragrant myrrh are gathered from the casket containing his holy relics.

December 12

† Our Holy Godbearing Father Spyridon the Wonderworker (348)

He was a humble shepherd who lived on the island of Cyprus with his wife and his one child, a daughter

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Saints of December

named Irene. Though he was poor himself, his house and table were always open to travelers and those in need. He kept his money in a box which he left open and available to all, not concerning himself with who took from it or whether they were deserving or not. In time, his wife died and, with less worldly cares, he redoubled his prayers and his almsgiving.

He became so well-loved on the island that, when the bishop of the town of Tremithos died, the faithful unanimously chose Spyridon to succeed him, and he thus became a shepherd of rational sheep as well as the beasts he had tended. Despite his sudden elevation in rank, he kept to his former manner of life, traveling everywhere on foot, tending his animals as before, while fulfilling all the duties of a bishop as well. (To portray this godly humility, his icon shows him wearing bishop's vestments and a peasant's woven straw hat.)

His compassion for others was boundless. Though he was very strict with himself, he would always break a fast to give comfort to a traveler. Once a band of robbers broke into his sheepfold by night, but found themselves confined there by an invisible force. When Spyridon found them in the morning, he freed them, admonished them to live honestly, and gave them two sheep in compensation, he said, for their keeping an all-night vigil.

Pages could be filled with stories of the miracles wrought by the holy bishop for the good of his flock: by his prayers he ended a drought, turned a snake to gold to help a poor man, and even raised the dead son of a poor widow. His radiant virtue touched the consciences of those he met so that many would spontaneously fall at his feet and confess their sins.

When the Emperor Constantine summoned the First Ecumenical Council in 325, Spyridon attended, dressed in his simple peasant's garb. At one of the sessions, a proud Arian philosopher challenged the Orthodox to a debate about the Holy Trinity, and was amazed when the simple Spyridon stepped forward to accept the challenge. He and all the other bishops were far more amazed when the uneducated peasant bishop confounded all the Arian's arguments with his eloquent, Spirit-inspired words. The humbled philosopher admitted that he was convinced, embraced the Orthodox faith, and called upon the other Arians to abandon their human wisdom and embrace the true and life-giving Faith.

The holy bishop always celebrated the Divine Liturgy with joy. Once, serving in a remote, almost empty church, he turned to the invisible congregation and said "Peace be unto all!", and his disciple heard a choir of angels respond "And with thy spirit!"

Saint Spyridon reposed in peace in 348 at the age of seventy-eight. His incorrupt and wonder-working relics poured forth miracles for the people of Cyprus until the seventh century, when they were moved to Constantinople to escape the Arab invasion; when the City fell to the Turks, the relics were again moved to Corfu, where they are venerated to this day. Even after 1,500 years, the holy relics remain incorrupt and work many life-giving wonders. Saint Spyridon is venerated as the Patron of Corfu.



Worship Services

DECEMBER 2007



Sunday, December 2, 2007

14th Sunday of Luke

Orthros & Divine Liturgy

9am

Thursday, December 6, 2007

St. Nicholas

Orthros & Divine Liturgy

9am

Sunday, December 9, 2007

10th Sunday of Luke

Orthros & Divine Liturgy

9am

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

St. Spyridon

Orthros & Divine Liturgy

9am

Sunday, December 16, 2007

11th Sunday of Luke

Orthros & Divine Liturgy

9am

Sunday, December 23, 2007

Sunday before Nativity

Orthros & Divine Liturgy

9am

Monday, December 24, 2007

Vespers/Liturgy of Nativity

6PM

Tuesday, December 25, 2007

Holy Nativity

9am

Thursday, December 27, 2007

St. Stephen

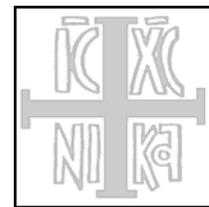
9am

Sunday, December 30, 2007

Sunday after Nativity

Orthros & Divine Liturgy

9am



UPCOMING DATES
FOR
PHILOTOCHOS

Wednesday, December 5
Philoptochos Meeting

Sunday, January 16
Vasilopita Sunday

Saturday, January 26
Philoptochos
Membership Tea

Sunday, January 27
Philoptochos Sunday

**ST. JOHN THE
BAPTIST
STEWARDSHIP
LUNCHEON**

**SUNDAY
DECEMBER 9, 2007**

Hear a brief
presentation on our
Stewardship Program
and Progress Report.
Renew your support for
our church with
our continued
stewardship program.

**Luncheon Hosted by:
St. John's Parish
Council**

To Thank All of You
for your Expression
of Loyalty to our
Church

Community Calendar

DECEMBER 2007

MEETINGS AND EVENTS FOR DECEMBER

December 1, 2007

Bible Bowl in Covina, 10AM
St. John's Anniversary Dinner Dance, 6:30PM

December 2, 2007

G.O.Y.A Mtg., 12:15PM

December 4, 2007

Parish Council Meeting, 7PM

December 5, 2007

Philoptochos Meeting, 7PM

December 8, 2007

G.O.Y.A Christmas Party
Golden Stars Christmas Party, 11:30AM

December 9, 2007

Stewardship Sunday
Parish Council Elections

December 16, 2007

J.O.Y Mtg., 12:15PM

December 18, 2007

Greek School Christmas Party, 5PM
Parish Council Mtg., 7PM

December 20, 2007

Little Angels & H.O.P.E Mtg., 4PM
G.O.Y.A Mtg., 7PM

December 31, 2007

New Year's Eve

December 2007

St. John's Monthly Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 St. John's Anniversary Dinner Dance, 6:30PM Bible Bowl in Covina, 10AM
2 14th Sunday of Luke, Orthros & Liturgy, 9AM G.O.Y.A Mtg., 12:15PM	3 Greek Dance Class, 4-10PM	4 Bible Study, 11:30-1PM Children's Greek School, 4-7 Parish Council Mtg., 7PM	5 Class on the Orthodox Faith, 7PM Philoptochos Mtg., 7PM	6 Choir Practice, 7-9PM St. Nicholas, 9AM 6th Grade, 4PM Adult Greek School, 5:30-8:30PM	7	8 G.O.Y.A. CHRISTMAS PARTY Golden Stars Christmas Party, 11:30AM
9 10th Sunday of Luke Orthros & Liturgy, 9AM Stewardship Sunday Parish Council Elections	10 Greek Dance Class, 4-10PM	11 Bible Study, 11:30-1PM	12 St. Spyridon, 9AM Class on the Orthodox Faith, 7PM	13 Choir Practice, 7-9PM 6th Grade, 4PM Adult Greek School, 5:30-8:30PM	14	15
16 11th Sunday of Luke Orthros & Liturgy, 9AM J.O.Y Mtg., 12:15PM	17 Greek Dance Class, 4-10PM	18 Bible Study, 11:30-1PM Greek School Christmas Party, 5PM Parish Council Mtg., 7PM	19 Class on the Orthodox Faith, 7PM	20 Choir Practice, 7-9PM Little Angels & H.O.P.E Mtg., 4PM G.O.Y.A Mtg., 7PM	21	22
23 Sunday before Nativity Orthros & Liturgy, 9AM	24 Service of Royal Hours, 9AM Vespers/Liturgy of Nativity, 6PM	25 Holy Nativity, 9AM	26	27 St. Stephen, 9AM	28	29
BLACKOUT WEEK, NO CLASSES!!!						
30 Sunday after Nativity Orthros & Liturgy, 9AM BLACKOUT WEEK, NO CLASS...	31 New Year's Eve	November 07 S M T W T F S 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30		January 08 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31		

Church Registry

DECEMBER 2007

BAPTISMS

October 27, 2007

Ioannis (Jonathon) Darling

Proud Parents: Michael & Dina Darling

God Parents: Gary & Georgia Culp

MEMORIALS

November 18, 2007

Christopher Lambides - 15 Years

Mary Elias - 20 Years

Sotiris Elias - 64 Years

Sophia Lambides - 43 Years

Harry Lambides - Years

Sophia Kolocousis - 28 Years

Theodore Kolocousis - 36 Years

November 25, 2007

George Chelekis - 6 Months

Anna panagiotou - 6 Months

Nicholas Kendros - 6 Months

Pantelis "Pete" Antoniou - 40 Days

SLEEPING IN THE LORD

October 21, 2007

Pantelis Antoniou

+ *May his memory be eternal* +



PROSFORO SCHEDULE DECEMBER

Sunday, December 2

Mrs. Maria Nicolaou

Thursday, Decmeber 6

Mrs. Alexandra Margias

Sunday, December 9

Mrs. Alexandra Margias

Wednesday, December 12

Mrs. Eleni Kousoulas

Sunday, December 16

Mrs. Anastasia Mandas

Sunday, December 23

Mrs. Katherine Glavas

Monday, December 24

Mrs. Joanne Kalogeropoulos

Tuesday, December 25

Mrs. Joanne Kalogeropoulos

Thursday, December 27

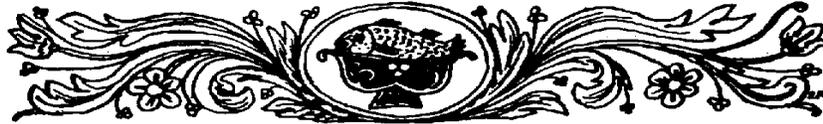
Mrs. Mercina Vatakis

Sunday, December 30

Mrs. Mercina Vatakis

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.

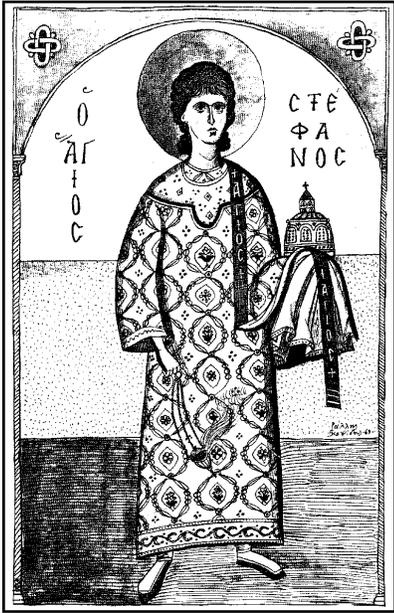
ACOLYTES OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST 2007



TEAM 1	TEAM 2
<p>Armondios Vestakis Nick Basdakis George Dalis Nicholas Foutris Sotirios Eliopoulos Richard Rosentrater</p>	<p>Dimitri Pappas Bradley Jung Kyriakos Alyousef Michael Bangos Kyriakos Psaras Dimitri Hondrogiannis Stephen Stylianides</p>
<p>December 16, 2007 January 13, 2007 February 10, 2007</p>	<p>December 23, 2007 January 20, 2007 February 17, 2007</p>
TEAM 3	TEAM 4
<p>John Hourigan Pano Nikolaou Theodore Kapogiannis Stefan Malmlund Alexander Malmlund Antonio Georgakopoulos Carl Cantonis</p>	<p>George Alexopoulos Niko Begakis Argirios Alexopoulos Spiros Mantas Dimitri Dimopoulos Paul Stephens</p>
<p>December 2, 2007 December 30, 2007 January 27, 2007</p>	<p>December 9, 2007 January 6, 2007 February 3, 2007</p>

- 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.

The Stewardship of St. Stephen the Archdeacon and Protomartyr - Dec. 27



“...when the number of disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. Then the twelve summoned the multitude of disciples and said...brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business...And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit...”
(Acts 6:16)

Stephen was the first of the seven deacons ordained by the Holy Apostles in order to provide service to the poor. This is why he is regarded the “Archdeacon,” the first among deacons.

Born into a faithful Jewish family, he spent his youth studying the Old Testament and desired to become a rabbi. Stephen was driven with the desire to be the most competent rabbi so he became the student of the famous rabbinical theologian, Gamaliel. Stephen lived during a time when the Christian Church was being established. Upon completion of his studies, Stephen questioned the validity of the Christian teachings. In short time, he discovered its truth in Jesus Christ, the Risen Messiah. The descent of the Holy Spirit fifty days following the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ inspired many to be baptized (Pentecost). The first Christians sold all their possessions and made their offerings at the feet of the Apostles. This generous act was one that freed them from worldly cares and enabled them to live as one community. However, the growth of the Church meant that the Apostles had less time for prayer and ministry. To assist them, the Apostles established the ministry of the diaconate.

As the Archdeacon, Stephen did more than serve the material needs of the Christian community, he also preached with a knowledge and power that comes only from God. The leaders of the Jewish community in Jerusalem became angry at Stephen’s ability to bring people to belief in Jesus Christ and brought charges of blasphemy against him. As Stephen stood before the Jewish tribunal, *“the council looking steadfastly at him, saw his face as the face of an angel”* (Acts 6:15). In chapter seven of the Book of Acts we read the account of Stephen’s remarks to high priest and his council. As he spoke of God’s love and kindness their hatred towards him grew and they were convinced that he should be put to death. As he concluded his God inspired testimony Stephen said: *“Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!”* This infuriated them and they dragged him out of the city and *“they stoned Stephen as he was calling on God and saying, ‘Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.’ Then he knelt down and cried with a loud voice, ‘Lord, do not charge them with this sin.’ And when he said this, he fell asleep”* (Acts 7:39-40). Being the first to give his life for Christ earned him the title of “Protomartyr”.

How did this young Christian express his stewardship to his new Church and Faith? A learned scholar of the Old Testament, Stephen did not aspire for positions of leadership or honor as other learned men would expect, but to a life of service and teaching. He was ordained a deacon, and as such, he spent his life assisting the priests in their liturgical functions and teaching the people everyday. As a deacon, but a position that was offered in imitation of Christ Whose example is one of servant leadership. We, too, can learn from the example of St. Stephen if we contemplate upon the words of St. Paul in his Second Epistle to the Corinthians and apply them to our lives: *“For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus’ sake”* (2 Cor. 4.5).

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. Ted Bizakis	Mr. & Mrs. George Coccas
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Akkerman	Mr. & Mrs. Michael Blackwell	Mr. & Mrs. Nick Cokas
Ms. Constance Alavizos	Mr. & Mrs. Paul Blalock	Mr. & Mrs. Dimitri Conostas
Mr. & Mrs. George Alavizos	Mr. & Mrs. Paul Bogris	Mr. & Mrs. Chris Contes
Mr. & Mrs. Themis Alexopoulos	Mr. & Mrs. Theodore Bogris	Mr. & Mrs. Dukas Contos
Ms. Mary Amandos	Mrs. Helen Boltinghouse	Mr. & Mrs. John Cooper
Mr. George Ambatielos	Mr. Aris Bonias	Mr. & Mrs. Richard Cote
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Amerine	Mr. & Mrs. Chris Bonorris	Mr. & Mrs. Gary Culp
Mr. & Mrs. George Anas	Mr. & Mrs. George Borovilos	Mr. Demetrios Dalietos
Mr. & Mrs. Nick P. Anas	Mr. & Mrs. Costa Bostinelos	Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Dalis
Mr. & Mrs. C.J. Anasis	Mr. & Mrs. Angelo Boussiacos	Mr. & Mrs. Tom Dallas
Mr. & Mrs. A. Anastasiadis	Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Bozekas	Mr. & Mrs. Michael Darling
Mrs. Loula Anderson	Mr. & Mrs. Aleksandar Bozovic	Dr. & Mrs. Theodoros Daskalakis
Mrs. Connie Andros	Mr. & Mrs. Michael Buelna	Mr. & Mrs. Pete Dedes
Mr. & Mrs. C. Angelatakis	Mr. & Mrs. Robert Burns	Mr. & Mrs. Nick Delis
Mr. Pete Angelus	Mr. & Mrs. James Callas	Mr. Chris Deralas
Mr. & Mrs. Gus Anton	Mr. & Mrs. Nick Callas	Mr. & Mrs. Peter Deralas
Mrs. Maria Antonara	Mr. Andrew Canellos	Mr. & Mrs. William Deralas
Mr. & Mrs. Pantelis Antoniou	Mr. & Mrs. Carl Cantonis	Ms. Janet Diamant
Mr. & Mrs. Chris Argyrakis	Mr. & Mrs. George Cantonis	Mr. & Mrs. Nick Diamant
Mr. & Mrs. A. Asimakopoulos	Mr. & Mrs. William Carkagis	Mr. & Mrs. A. Dimopoulos
Ms. Joyce Attard	Mr. & Mrs. John Chakos	Ms. Irini Dimopoulos
Mr. & Mrs. Louie Attard	Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Chapralis	Mr. Johnny Dimopoulos
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Attard	Mr. & Mrs. N. Charalambous	Mr. & Mrs. Michael Dionisiou
Mr. & Mrs. Peter P. Attard	Mr. & Mrs. Gene Chase	Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Dodge
Mr. & Mrs. Chris August	Mr. & Mrs. N. Chatzipetrou	Mr. & Mrs. Tom Dorlis
Mr. & Mrs. Costa Awadalla	Mr. & Mrs. George Chatzis	Mr. & Mrs. Spiro Doukas
Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Badounas	Mrs. Stella Chavos	Mr. & Mrs. Alex Dourbetas
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Baglin	Mr. & Mrs. Louis Chelekis	Mr. & Mrs. Nico Dourbetas
Mrs. Kiki Ballas	Mr. & Mrs. Peter Cherpas	Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Dovalis
Ms. Lisa Balsavage	Mr. & Mrs. Larry Chrest	Mr. & Mrs. Angelos Dritisopoulos
Mr. & Mrs. Anastasios Barouxis	Miss Catherine Christ	Mrs. Joanne Drulias
Mr. & Mrs. Dino Basdakis	Mr. & Mrs. Nick Christ	Mr. & Mrs. Michael Duvall
Mr. & Mrs. Nick Begakis	Mrs. Vivian Christian	Ms. Georgia Eid
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Begakis	Mr. & Mrs. William Christian	Mr. & Mrs. George Eleopoulos
Mr. Peter Benardis	Mr. & Mrs. Jim Christides	Mr. & Mrs. Xenophan Eliopoulos
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Benetatos	Mr. & Mrs. Nick Christofer	Mr. & Mrs. John Fahrnbruch
Mrs. Patricia Benetatos	Mr. & Mrs. A. Chryssogelos	Mr. & Mrs. Fred Fascenelli
Mrs. Venetta Birakos	Mr. Michael Close	Mr. George T. Feles

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. Michael Fidelis	Giannetakis	Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Jung
Mr. & Mrs. Scott Fields	Mr. & Mrs. John Giforos	Mrs. Crystalia Kaiser
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Flynn	Mr. & Mrs. Dino Glavas	Mr. & Mrs. Savas Kallaos
Mr. James Fortunes	Ms. Giota Glavas	Dr. & Mrs. Stephen Kallaos
Mr. & Mrs. Athanasios Foskaris	Dr. & Dr. Constantine Glezakos	Mr. & Mrs. H. Kalogeropoulos
Mr. & Mrs. Stamatios Fournaris	Mrs. Grammatia Glinkie	Mr. John Kandara
Mrs. Mina Fourtounis	Miss Bessie Gonos	Mr. & Mrs. George Kantzavelos
Mr. & Mrs. Chris Foutris	Mrs. Mary Goode	Mr. & Mrs. Bill Kapogianis
Mr. & Mrs. Dino Foutris	Mr. & Mrs. Hariton Gouma	Mr. & Mrs. John Kapogianis
Mr. & Mrs. John Foutris	Dr. & Mrs. Dimitri Grammas	Mr. & Mrs. Kostas Kapogianis
Mr. George A. Futris	Mrs. Pota Grammas	Miss Ann Karagines
Mr. & Mrs. William Futris	Mr. & Mrs. George Hadjis	Mr. & Mrs. Peter Karagines
Mr. & Mrs. George Frousiakis	Mr. & Mrs. John Hadjis	Mrs. Thelma Karagines
Mr. & Mrs. Spiros Gabriel	Mr. & Mrs. John G. Hadjis	Mr. & Mrs. Ioannis Karambelas
Mr. & Mrs. Leon Gabrielian	Mr. & Mrs. Larry Halfhill	Mr. & Mrs. Hristos Karanastasis
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Galanis	Mrs. Shirley Picoulas Hallock	Mr. & Mrs. Theodore Karnezis
Mr. & Mrs. C. Gallanes	Mr. & Mrs. Christos Harbilas	Mr. & Mrs. Angelo Karpouzis
Mr. Harry Gallanes	Mr. & Mrs. Tom Harbilas	Mr. & Mrs. Nick Karvouniaris
Mr. & Mrs. Nicos Ganis	Mr. & Mrs. R. Michael Hartman	Mrs. Alberta Keffalas
Mr. & Mrs. Jose Garcia	Mrs. Demetra G. Harvalos	Ms. Cynthia Kezos
Mrs. Sophia Garrity	Mr. & Mrs. A. Hashtroudi	Mr. & Mrs. James Kezos
Mr. & Mrs. George Gatsinaris	Mr. George Hassapis	Mrs. Nickey Kezos
Dr. & Mrs. Vasili Gatsinaris	Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Hassapis	Mr. John Kiousis
Ms. Patricia Gauvain	Mr. & Mrs. John Hatzidakis	Mr. Nick Kitakis
Mrs. Magdelan Genkos	Mr. & Mrs. Mike Hatziefstratou	Mr. & Mrs. Steve Kitsigianis
Mr. & Mrs. G. Georgakopoulos	Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Hatzis	Mrs. Voula Kitsigianis
Miss Constance George	Mr. & Mrs. James Hill	Mr. & Mrs. George Kitsinis
Mr. & Mrs. Peter George	Miss Eleni Hioureas	Mr. & Mrs. Gus Kitsios
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Georgitsis	Mr. & Mrs. Peter Hioureas	Mr. & Mrs. Gus Klentos
Mr. Anthony Georgopoulos	Mr. & Mrs. Denny Hocking	Mr. & Mrs. Haralambos Klentos
Mr. & Mrs. George Georgopoulos	Mr. & Mrs. Tim Holtermann	Mr. & Mrs. Peter Klentos
Mrs. Demetra Georgouses	Mrs. Athena Homayouni	Jean & Heidi Koclanakis
Mr. & Mrs. Fred Gerth	Mr. & Mrs. S. Hondrogiannis	Mrs. Gabriela Koliass
Mr. & Mrs. Gus Gialamas	Mrs. Ruby Hopkins	Mr. & Dr. John Koliass
Ms. Athena Gianakakos	Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Hourigan	Mrs. Eleftheria Konstantourakis
Mrs. Rania Giannakou-Ariqat	Ms. Katerina Hoyo	Mrs. Eugenia Konstantouros
Mr. & Mrs. John Gianakakos	Mr. & Mrs. George Janis	Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Kort
Mr. & Mrs. Kiriakos Gianakakos	Mr. & Mrs. Ken Jones	Mr. & Mrs. George Kosebas
Mr. & Mrs. Emmanuel	Mrs. Olga Joseph	Ms. Christina 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. K. Kotsiovos	Mr. & Mrs. George P. Mantas	Dr. & Mrs. James Pilafas
Mr. & Mrs. Chris Koukladas	Mr. & Mrs. George S. Mantas	Ms. Belia Palas
Mr. & Mrs. Dino Koukladas	Miss Tina G. Mantas	Mr. & Mrs. Nick Panagakis
Mr. & Mrs. Gregory Koukladas	Mr. & Mrs. Steve Margaretis	Miss Maria Panagakis
Mr. & Mrs. George Kouloumbis	Mr. & Mrs. Paul Margias	Mr. & Mrs. Costa Panagiotou
Mr. & Mrs. Yanni Kouloumbis	Mr. & Mrs. Peter Margias	Mr. & Mrs. Costa Panagiotou
Mr. & Mrs. Spiro Kouridakis	Mr. & Mrs. Michael Maridakis	Mr. Peter S. Panagos
Mr. & Mrs. James Kousoulas	Mr. & Mrs. Dean Marinos	Mr. & Mrs. Pete Pandeles
Mr. & Mrs. Pete Kousoulas	Mr. & Mrs. John Maris	Mr. & Mrs. Mike Panos
Mrs. Anne Koutzoukis	Mr. & Mrs. Milton Maris	Mr. & Mrs. Pano Pappas
Mr. & Mrs. C. Koutzoukis	Mr. & Mrs. George Massouris	Mr & Mrs. C. Papacharalambous
Mrs. Doris Koutzoukis	Mr. & Mrs. Michael McFann	Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Papadon
Mr. & Mrs. John Koutzoukis	Mr. & Mrs. Kirk McMullin	Mr. & Mrs. James Papastathis
Mr. & Mrs. Dimitrios Kritikos	Mr. & Mrs. Wendall Meadows	Mr. & Mrs. George W. Pappas
Mrs. Angelike Lambides	Mr. & Mrs. George Medenas	Mrs. Georgia Pappas
Mr. Bill Lambropoulos	Mr. & Mrs. Ted Medenas	Mr. & Mrs. James Pappas
Mr. & Mrs. George Lambros	Mr. & Mrs. Chris Mellas	Mr. & Mrs. Kostas Pappas
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Lanyi	Mr. Joe Metzidis	Mrs. Mary Parris
Mr. & Mrs. Angelo Lardas	Mrs. Marie Miller	Mrs. Argie Giannetakis Pastis
Mr. & Mrs. Trevor Lattin	Mr. & Mrs. Bill Mitchell	Mr. & Mrs. Adam Paul
Mr. & Mrs. James Learakos	Mrs. Mary Mitchell	Mr. & Mrs. Vasili Paxos
Ms. Anna Les	Mr. & Mrs. Peter Mitchell	Mr. & Mrs. Sotirios Pelonis
Mrs. Koula Les	Mr. & Mrs. George Mousmoules	Mrs. Connie Perakis
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Lewis	Mrs. Sofia Moysidis	Mr. & Mrs. Alex Persakis
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Libowitz	Mr. & Mrs. Brian Mull	Mr. Bill Petropoulos
Mrs. Katherine Livieratos	Mrs. Mary Naylor	Mr. & Mrs. John Petropoulos
Mr. & Mrs. John Lopez	Mr. & Mrs. Harry Nichols	Ms. Ria Petropoulos
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Loukatos	Mr. Pete Nichols	Mr. & Mrs. Lee Petros
Mr. Earnest L. Love	Ms. Maria Nicolaides	Mr. & Mrs. George Petsas
Mr. & Mrs. Bjorn Malmlund	Mrs. Maria Nicolaou	Mr. John Petsas
Dr. Alexander Mamounas	Ms. Peggy Nicolaou	Mr. & Mrs. Philip T. Phillips
Mr. & Mrs. K. Mandas	Ms. Politimy Nicolaou	Dr. & Mrs. Denis Pieratos
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Mandas	Mr. & Mrs. Paul Nikolau	Mr. & Mrs. James Pierce
Mr. & Mrs. Pete Mandas	Miss Barbara Nonis	Mr. & Mrs. Stavro Pilafas
Mr. & Mrs. Christ Manes	Mr. Jason Nonis	Mr. & Mrs. K Poulidis
Mr. & Mrs. L. Maniatogiannis	Mr. & Mrs. Chris Novikoff	Mr. & Mrs. Kostas Pouloupoulos
Mr. & Mrs. Rouso Manos	Mr. & Mrs. John Ohanian	Mr. & Mrs. Tim Preston
Mr. & Mrs. Aristos Mantas	Mr. & Mrs. Pete Pafilis	Ms. Leah Psilovikos
Mr. & Mrs. Demetrios Mantas	Ms. Eugenia Pagalidis	Mr. & Mrs. Vlash Pullos

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. Nick Rados
Mr. & Mrs. Georgios Rigas
Mrs. Mary N. Riley
Miss Sophia Rinos
Mr. & Mrs. Cristo Ristas
Mr. & Mrs. Gregory Roumpos
Mr. & Mrs. Julian Rusinek
Mr. & Mrs. John Russell
Mr. & Mrs. Theofilos Russos
Mr. & Mrs. Matthew Salcedo
Mr. Paul Sarandos
Mr. & Mrs. Chris Sarantos
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Sargologos
Mr. & Mrs. Tim Sarres
Dr. & Mrs. Randal Schoeman
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Sdrales
Mr. & Mrs. Gregorios Shakola
Mr. Van Shunda
Mr. & Mrs. Chris Sigas
Mr. & Mrs. Nikolas Siokos
Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Siouris
Ms. Karen Sirus
Mr. Alexander Soles
Mr. & Mrs. Dean Soles
Mr. & Mrs. Petros Sourias
Ms. Adamantia Sourvanos
Mrs. Bess Stavrades
Mrs. Georgia Stavrades
Mr. Stephanos Stavropoulos
Mr. & Mrs. James Stavropoulos
Mr. & Mrs. Brian Stratouly
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Stavros
Mr. & Mrs. George Stephens
Miss. Athena Stump
Mr. & Mrs. John Stylianides
Mr. & Mrs. Andreas Syrengelas
Mr. & Mrs. D. Syrengelas
Mr. & Mrs. George Syrengelas
Mr. & Mrs. K. Syrengelas

Miss Maria Tambouris
Mr. & Mrs. P. Tasigeorgos
Mr. & Mrs. Angelo Tavlarides
Mr. Matthew Tavlarides
Mr. & Mrs. George Tavoularis
Miss Katerina Tavoularis
Mr. & Mrs. George Thalassas
Dr. & Mrs. Nicholas Thanos
Ms. Gloria Themaras
Mr. & Mrs. William Thomas
Mr. & Mrs. Spiro Tragos
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Tragos
Ms. Maria Treantafelles
Mr. & Mrs. Antoine Triantos
Mr. & Mrs. Chris Tsachpinis
Dr. & Mrs. Bill Tsagris
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Tsatas
Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Turner
Mrs. Mary Van den Raadt
Mrs. Foula Vanikiotis
Mr. & Mrs. Antonios Vatakis
Miss Lisa Vatakis
Mrs. Helen Vest
Mr. & Mrs. Lefteris Vestakis
Mr. & Mrs. E.J. Vlachos
Mrs. Sophia Voulimeneas
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Vourakis
Mr. & Mrs. Chris Vovos
Mr. & Mrs. Derek Welsbie
Mr. & Mrs. Randall Wemmer
Mr. & Mrs. George P. Williams
Mr. & Mrs. James Wilson
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Winders
Mr. & Mrs. James Wronski
Ms. Maria Xanthos-Hilding
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Xanthos
Ms. Christina Xenos
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Xenos
Mr. & Mrs. John Ybarra

Miss Elli Yorgiadis
Ms. Teri Zaharioudakis
Ms. Josephine Zorzy
Mr. & Mrs. George Zonos
Mr. & Mrs. A. Zounatiotis

NOTE: There are pledging members that prefer to not have their names listed, but are still members in good standing. If you prefer to not have your name listed, please contact the church office.

As of November 20, 2007
Total Pledges: 432
Goal: 600
To Go: 168
Total Pledged:
\$290,314.00
Budgeted Goal: \$330,000.00
Amount left to reach Goal:
\$38,686.00

Parish Programs

2007

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Tuesday Mornings
11:30AM-1PM

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION(SUN. SCHOOL)

Every Sunday through June.

ADULT CLASS ON THE ORTHODOX FAITH

Wednesday Evenings 7-8:30PM

GREEK FOLK DANCING MONDAYS

Training Group 4 - 5PM
Ta Pedakia 4 - 6PM
Mikri Levendia 5 - 7PM
Elliniki Omorfia 6 - 7:30PM
Levendia - Saturdays 3-5PM

YOUTH ADULT LEAGUE ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Contact George Futris at St.JohnYAL.org

GREEK ORTHODOX YOUTH OF AMERICA (G.O.Y.A)

For all teenagers ages 12 - 17.
1st Sunday & 3rd Thursday of the Month
G.O.Y.A BASKETBALL
Practice on Sundays has started

LITTLE ANGELS YOUTH PROGRAM & H.O.P.E YOUTH PROGRAM

3rd Thursday of the Month, 4PM

JUNIOR ORTHODOX YOUTH (J.O.Y.) &

3rd Sunday of the Month, 12:15PM

PROSFORO MINISTRY

Bread for Holy Communion
Please consider making and offering the
prosfora on Sundays.
Contact: Joanne Kalogeropoulos

ACOLYTES

Young men ages 9 & up are invited to
participate in this sacred ministry. Each group
serves once every four weeks. Contact Fr.

PHILOTOCHOS SOCIETY

Meets the first Wednesday of
every month at 7PM.

PRE-MARITAL CLASS

This is a diocese requirement for all persons
wishing to marry in the Church.

CHOIR (ADULT)

Practice is held Thursdays 7-9PM
All are invited to join and offer praise to
God through the gift of singing.
Contact Elsa Libowitz

ST. JOHN'S GOLDEN STARS

For retired parishioners.
Meets informally as announced.

GREEK SCHOOL

Children - Tues. & Thurs. 4 - 7PM
Adults - Thursdays 5:30 - 8:30PM
Contact the office for schedules.

JR. CHOIR

First Sunday - Practice
Second Sunday - Sing in the Choir Loft 9:45AM

PARTICIPATE IN OUR MINISTRIES

INTRODUCING OUR YOUTH AND ADULT MINISTRIES

G.O.Y.A.

Next meeting of our Greek Orthodox Youth of America (GOYA) for ages 12-17 will take place next **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2**. The GOYANS will clean up graffiti in Anaheim as a service project.

Our Goya Advisors are the following: **Fr. Nicholas, George Stephens, Nancy Foxhall, Jenny Kantzavelos, Kosta Kapogiannis, Joanne Vestakis and Renee Jones**. We call upon parents of our teenagers to actively allow their children to participate in this most worth-while ministry. It's a good investment.

LITTLE ANGELS AND HOPE

This ministry is offered to those children ages 3 and 4 (**Little Angels**) and ages 5-7 (**Hope**) The next meeting will be held on **THURSDAY, December 20 at 4 p.m.** At this meeting the children will be given a lesson relating to the significance and meaning of Christmas.

We invite the parents of this group to bring their children for this **once** per month youth ministry. If we have enough interest we will separate these two groups.

Our Advisors for this group are **Raza Kitsigianis, and Charisse Kitsinis**. We could use more advisors.

JOY

This ministry is geared for those children between the ages of 8-11. This group meets **once** per month on the **third SUNDAY following services.** The next meeting will be held on **Sunday December 16**. We will participate in a ceramic painting project at the Brea Mall for an activity. We will also offer refreshments. **Our sole advisor to date is Charisse Kitsinis. We could use three or four more.**

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (Sunday School)

On Sunday, November 18 we had 88 students attend class. We fervently pray that the parents support our catechetical efforts for the benefit of our beloved children.

May I share with you a concern. A good number of parents have voiced strong feelings about the importance of their children attending the Liturgy as opposed to Sunday School. We understand their concerns. However, the children need to be catechized with the basic tenets of our faith. We can do both!

SPECIAL NOTICE. The Sunday School staff requests that the parents refrain from asking their

(Continued on page 22)

PARTICIPATE IN OUR MINISTRIES

child(ren) be excused from their class before 12:00 noon. The teachers need the time to adequately present their lesson. Why not participate in the coffee fellowship? This way you get to meet your fellow parishioners whom you may not know. This builds up the church family.

OUR GREEK LANGUAGE SCHOOL

We invite our members to enroll their children in our Greek Language classes. The classes meet on **Tuesday and Thursday**. (6th Grade and Adults) Our teachers are all Degree holders in Education. They are **Bessie Halfhill, Georgia Kanatsoulis, Foula Vanikiotis and Eugenia Konstantouros**. They are truly dedicated to bringing our children the knowledge of this immortal language. We appreciate their efforts which when coupled with parental assistance at home, the kids truly learn.

Our children deserve to be exposed to one of the world's most important languages, the language of our beloved parents. The Greek language shaped our Western culture and was the language which brought us God's Word, the Holy Bible. You may find enrollment forms in our office and its not too late to register.

ALTAR BOYS

We call on those boys between the ages of 9 to 18 to serve in the Altar. We have several vacancies which need to be filled. Attendance has been very encouraging. **We remind the boys that they should follow the schedule and attend the day for which they are assigned. The other Sundays they are to attend Sunday School class.** Please be on time. Contact Fr. Nicholas if interested.

JR. CHOIR

Choir Director and first class musician Elsa Libowitz has been busy working with our young people and she has done an excellent job considering the many limitations she has to work around.. Between 25 and 30 of our young people sang the liturgy. Truly a moving experience! We also thank Sunday School Director Ann Lewis for her part in bringing the young people together for practice. And yes, dear parents, we thank you for you efforts. Didn't you feel proud to hear the angelic voices of your children sing our most beautiful Liturgy?

The Jr. Choir will sing once a month, but Elsa says maybe more frequently. We must encourage more of our young people to participate in this ministry. Singing the sublime hymns of our faith serves to elevate the minds and hearts not only of our young. but all of us as well. Now is the time for us to cultivate the singing of our glorious Orthodox hymns among our children. Many of our present Sr. Choir members started singing in the Choir at a very young age. We need to consider that without these young singers we have no future.

Please, do your part dear parent to speak to the heart of your child about taking part in this most important choral ministry. Both of you will benefit. And so will our Church.

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PARTICIPATE IN OUR MINISTRIES

OUR FOLK DANCE GROUPS

One of the most popular ministries of our parish is the Greek Folk Dance groups. Over the years this program has brought together hundreds of our beloved children and united them by teaching them the epic dances of our people. This cultural program which rightly celebrates our heritage should be supported. We have the following groups who have started preparing for the 2008 Folk Dance Festival. You may check with **Demetra Kantzavelos** on current openings. Practices are on Mondays and Saturdays.

TRAINING GROUP (ages 4-5) Co-Directors Cathy Georgopoulos and Aliko Gianakakos.

TA PEDAKIA (Ages 6-8) Nancy Kantzavelos and Kandia Triantos

MIKRI LEVENTIA (Ages 9-12) Director, Jenny Kantzavelos, Assistant Director, Paul Mandas

ELLINIKI OMORFIA (Ages 13-17) Director Athanasia Medenas

LEVENTIA (Ages 18-21) Director, Nick Delis

Our Folk Dance Board at present consists of the following.

President -Demetra Kantzavelos,

Treasurer- Andrea Mandas-Sdrales

We thank the former members of the Board **Stella Christoforakis** and **Tasoula Panagiotou** for their positive contributions to our program. We also thank Dennis Sourvanos who led our senior group LEVENTIA for his most valuable services. Dennis has decided to withdraw his services. We welcome the return of Nick Delis our former director for many years of Leventia who assumes once again the position of director.

GOYA BASKETBALL

The popular game of basketball will soon be upon us. St. John's is part of the GREEK ORTHODOX GOYA BASKETBALL LEAGUE. We usually have two Junior and two Senior teams for both boys and girls. The Junior teams consist of boys and girls from 12 to 15 years of age. (Sometimes 11 years old are allowed to play with the permission of Fr. James.) The Senior team is made up of boys and girls from 16 to 19. We invite our young people to participate in this wonderful sport. Over the years our teams have won many championships which the pictures in the gym offer proof. Practice started last Sunday and will be every Sunday after Church. We also want to remind all of last year's players that we expect everyone to turn in their uniforms. **There will also be a fee of \$65 payable to GOYA of which \$30 will be refunded once the uniform is surrendered and in good shape. Father Nicholas will maintain the uniforms and keep record of the Registration fee, etc.**

SPECIAL NOTICE: THE RULE ABOUT PARTICIPATION IN OUR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED. ANYONE WHO DOES NOT ATTEND SUNDAY SCHOOL 3 OUT OF THE 4 SUNDAYS PER MONTH WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO PLAY.

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PARTICIPATE IN OUR MINISTRIES

ADULT MINISTRIES

BIBLE STUDY CLASS

We invite members and non-members to participate in our Adult Educational ministries. Our **Bible Class is held every Tuesday morning** (11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.) We are currently studying **St. Paul's Letter to the Romans, chapter eight**. One of the most important of Paul's epistles. Its content is very challenging for the faithful, especially in today's most anti-Christian times. The Bible is God's inspired word and He speaks to us by these writings. We **MUST** take the time to read and **STUDY** this blessed book. Our whole life is at stake. Don't neglect to attend this vital class. You will benefit immensely. Father James leads this ministry.

SENIOR CHOIR

Our Senior Choir is a welcome and most vital part of our worship experience. In addition to singing the responses they attend weekly practice every Thursday evening. In order to truly appreciate this fine group of men and women who love to sing, one should imagine attending Services without a choir.

Please consider joining the Choir and do it today. You will meet some of the finest people—and voices— who grace the choir loft. Do join them.

Come to practice next Thursday and experience the joy of singing praises to our Creator.

CLASS ON THE ORTHODOX FAITH

On **each Wednesday night at 7:00 p.m.** Fr. James offers a class on the Orthodox Church. The subjects covered are basic to our understanding of the Orthodox faith. We look forward to greater participation and invite our members to announce these presentations to their Orthodox and Roman Catholic friends.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Our **Young Adult** ministry is reaching out to the many other men and women in the 18-35 age group. One of the most encouraging aspects of this newly organized group is the new and most informative web page that has been prepared by **George Futris**. Truly an excellent job. Thank you George! Why not check it out at **stjohnyal.org**? Here are list of board members: President-Peter Frousiakis, Vice President-Georgia Bogris, Treasurer-Peter Bogris, Content Manager-George Futris. The group meets once a month on Wednesday night. For more information check the web page and send George an email. There are other YAL chapters in the surrounding Greek Orthodox parishes. The opportunities are many and exciting.

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PARTICIPATE IN OUR MINISTRIES

Our next meeting is Fun and Fellowship at Dave and Busters at the Block in Orange on **DECEMBER 15, 2007**. Bring an unwrap gift for we will give it to the Church and have them pass it to the needy. Time is TBA and please visit www.stjohnval.org for more information.

ADULT GREEK SCHOOL

Every Thursday our veteran Greek School teacher Mrs. Eugenia Konstantouros teaches a Beginners and Advanced class of Greek. Do take advantage of this offering. The Greek language deserves to be known by our adults. It is the language which makes up a substantial amount of our English language and it is the language which God chose to reveal his divine will in the New Testament

OCF (ORTHODOX COLLEGE FELLOWSHIP)

We need your assistance. Many of our young adults attend Universities and Jr. Colleges in our area. (*Chapman University, Cal State Fullerton, Fullerton College, Cypress Jr. College and other institutions near by*) We are reaching out to these young members in hope that they will want to be part of the Orthodox College Fellowship movement. Many are the benefits to those who participate. **Please submit the names of any students to our office (and the institution they are attending)so that we may contact them.**

OUR INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES (IOCC)

This Orthodox Christian charity group has been in existence around ten years. They have done wonders and continue in the name of Orthodoxy to serve the needs of our fellow man throughout the world irrespective of color or creed.

Our representative to this organization for several years has been **Foula Vanikiotis**. She has decided to step down. We thank her for the dedication she has shown to this most valuable ministry.

We are pleased to announce the **Nick** and **Angie Nicolau** have accepted to be the new parish representatives of IOCC. We thank them for offering their services.

May the Lord continue to bless both Foula and Nick and Angie.

Philoptochos News

“Let us rejoice and celebrate the children” Theme of the Children’s Medical Fund Luncheon

Under the High Patronage of His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios and with the spiritual blessings of his Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos, our Ladies Philoptochos of the Metropolis of San Francisco was honored to host our first Children’s Medical Fund Luncheon, held Saturday, November 10th at the Fairmont Hotel in Newport Beach. It was an outstanding success ! From the proceeds of this event, we will provide medical grants for Orthodox Children afflicted with life threatening illnesses and we will also provide vital support for all critically ill children, whose families are unable to afford appropriate and necessary medical treatment. In my next article, I will report the results and amount raised. A special Thank You goes to Cindy Kezos for being with me every step of the way. We spent three days working together and it was not possible to do it without her. Thank You to all the hostesses for coming to help and to all who attended this wonderful event.

At our November 7th. General Meeting, we enjoyed having Jan Mongell back just in time for the holidays. Jan demonstrated the art of napkin folding for all our holidays tables. Our hostess for the evening, Jerry Kallaos, out did herself with delicious treats and incredible table decorations. Thank you Linda Wronski for bringing us another fine program and to all the ladies that attended. This evening was a lot of fun.

Our last General Philoptochos meeting for the year will be held on WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5TH. in the small hall at 6:30 PM. It will be pot luck so ladies here is a chance to try out that “new” recipe. We are asking for Hot or Cold Hors D’oeuvres or dessert for 6 or more people. Husbands, mothers and friends are

always welcomed. Please bring an unwrapped gift for boys or girls, ages 6 yrs. to 18 yrs. of age. This year we will donate our gifts to Brookhurst Jr. High School for their Santa’s Workshop Program. If you cannot attend this meeting, please bring your gift to the coffee area on Sunday and Christine Pappas will be very happy to take it to the children.

Seniors...Seniors... It’s is not too early to be thinking about applying for the Father George Hadjis Scholarship/ The amount is \$1,000 and applications may be picked up at the church office or see ELECTRA CHRIST, our Scholarship Chairman for information.

SAVE THE DATE:

**PHILOPTOCHOS MEMBERSHIP TEA,
SATURDAY, JANUARY 26TH**

Membership Chairman, Kiki Chryssogelos with the help of Linda Wronski, have planned an outstanding afternoon for your enjoyment with a very special guest, NOAH FRENCH, the Corporate Pastry Chef for the fine ROY’S RESTAURANTS. He will be demonstrating 2 of his award winning desserts that we will all get to sample and learn to make. Noah is a charming young man who will brighten our afternoon, not only with his creativity but with his wit, humor and experience. DON’T MISS THIS EXCITING AFTERNOON. Invitations will be mailed in January.

UPCOMING EVENTS TO PUT ON YOUR CALENDAR

JAN. 13TH -VASILOPETA SUNDAY

JAN. 27TH - PHILOPTOCHOS SUNDAY/

HUMANITARIAN AWARD PRESENTATION

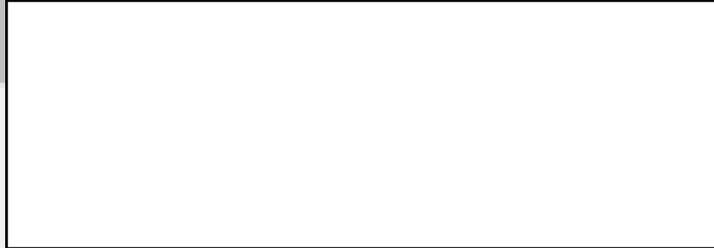
Honor the Old Year with a farewell toast, welcome the New Year within. Offer thanks. Celebrate all you have and how much you have learned. A very Merry Christmas and a healthy

Greek Festival

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

Non-Profit Org.
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Buena Park,
CA

Address Correction Requested -November



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)

