

The Vineyard

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

JANUARY 2008

VOL. XXVIII, NO. 14

PROISTAMENOS MESSAGE

CO-WORKERS WITH GOD

Throughout his writings the blessed Paul accents the importance of Christians working together. “For we are God’s fellow workers” he reminds us in 1 Corinthians 3:9.

Paul personally has experienced both the fruits of co-operate action and the awful divisions which lack thereof brings about.

That is why he cautions his fellow Christians that they must avoid divisions at all cost. We all should heed his words if we want the Church to remain faithful to its founder.

While the Church is not immune from divisions (consider the many denominations which continue to split from each other) and history will attest to that, the awful reality is that differences of opinion have brought about much harm to the Church of Christ and continue to this very hour.

There will be those who say one can’t avoid differences, that such are a normal occurrence and that we should learn to live with them. There is no way that you can avoid conflict, others assert. People will choose positions, which they adopt and hold on to with a vice like grip and they don’t abandon them. Thus, it is obvious that they will

not change their positions.

It is true that many opinions often are manifested and differ from each other. Is it realistic then to think that those on opposite sides will ever come to accept the views of the other?

Well, if we continue to dwell on the negative, and

“The parish is the first place we can give evidence that we are truly God’s co-workers.”

allow those feelings to define who we are and what we stand for, then yes, common action is then difficult if not impossible. However, as Christians we are called to be co-workers not only with each other but with God himself. What a great honor to be God’s fellow workers. To the extent that we are willing to

work with God to bring about God’s grace and love to a humanity starving for acceptance, understanding, and compassion, we will succeed. We are reminded by the Lord Jesus himself who said “what is impossible with men, is possible with God”. (Luke 18:27)

The parish is the first place where we can give evidence that we are truly God’s co-workers. We are called by the Apostles to the Nations to offer our best first to those of the household of God. We are thus called to reach out and serve the needs first of those with whom we share the same faith.

(Continued on page 3)

THE VINEYARD

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

EDITOR: FATHER JAMES S. DIAVATIS

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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 - 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>

CO-WORKERS WITH GOD

(Continued from page 1)

Working together is the secret for whatever we may achieve. Those who love the Lord and their fellow human beings will never cease to choose to work together for the common good. And nothing will be impossible to them!

Friends, please reassess your present relationship with Christ, with our Orthodox faith, with our parish of St. John's and with our fellow members. Is it what it ought to be? Can it be improved? Consider the many ministries of the parish. Do we "work together" to improve them? Complaining and doing nothing does not honor us, nor does it bring about a much hoped-for solution.

I close by citing something, which we don't often consider. Twelve men working together, on fire for the Risen Christ, conquered the entire Roman Empire. And none of them had a formal education. God's invincible power enabled them to conquer all obstacles although nobody gave them any reason for success. They succeeded because they first offered themselves to the Lord. Turning their lives to Christ, God granted them his invincible grace, which enabled them to free the known world from the delusion of idolatry.

Friends, I call upon you as ambassadors for Christ to work with the Lord to bring about God's redemption to a world that is lost and is in need of healing. Let us pray in earnest that we may be given His grace and love, to enable us to work cooperatively in his Vineyard. Christ is always ready to give us the tools needed to carry out his salvation.

Wisdom from the Desert- ST. PAPHNUTIUS

It was said of Abba Paphnutius that he did not readily drink wine. One day he found himself on the road facing a band of robbers who were drinking wine. The captain of the band was acquainted with him and knew that he did not drink wine. Seeing how weary he was, he filled him a cup of wine and holding his sword in his hand he said to him, 'If you do not drink this, I will kill you.' So the old man, knowing that he was fulfilling the commandment of God and in order to win the confidence of the robber took the cup and drank it. Then the captain asked his forgiveness, saying, 'Forgive me, abba, for I have made you unhappy.' But the old man said, 'I believe that, thanks to this cup, God will have mercy on you now and in the age to come.' Then the robber captain said, 'Have confidence in God that from now on I shall not harm anyone.' So the old man converted the whole band by giving up his own will for the Lord's sake.

(St. Paphnutius was born early in the fourth century and was influenced by St. Anthony the Great. He became a disciple of Isidore and of Macarius. He was trained first in a cenobitic monastery, then became a solitary. He was called 'the Buffalo' for his love of solitude. When Cassian visited Egypt, he was head of the four monasteries of the desert.)

What have we done for our souls this past year?

Twenty eight yeas ago, the late John Lennon wrote and recorded a song entitled “Merry Christmas (War is over) In this song, the following lyrics appeared:

“And so this is Christmas, and what have you done? another year over and a new one just began.” As I was listening to this song on the radio a few days ago, I realized that the older I got, the quicker time seemed to pass. It seems like only yesterday that I was celebrating the Incarnation of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It seems like only yesterday that I was celebrating the Divine Liturgy of the Epiphany. And then it hit me. I was one year closer to the day when my soul would metastasize from this life into the next one. And what have **I** done to prepare for it.? What have **I** done in order to, as we read in the Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom, to give a “Good account at the fearsome judgment seat of Christ”?

In the scripture we read that we must be “Doers of the Word.” In other words, while it essential to pray, to read the Scriptures, to fast, and to attend church, and receive the Holy Sacraments, these actions are simply not enough. The Bible tells us that we must take a much more active approach, in carrying out God’s word not only for ourselves, but as well as unto others. Elsewhere in the Scripture we read that “Faith without works is dead” And what have we done this past year? Have we made time to listen, as well as help others who are in need? Be it a lending a helping hand, or visiting someone who is in the hospital or jail, and giving them a kind word of encouragement. What about buying groceries for someone or for a family that is truly destitute? Christ tells us that “Whatsoever ever you do unto the least of my brothers, that you do unto me.” Every little action of kindness counts. These are the only things, other than our faith in Christ that we can take with us to the next life. These are the only accomplishments that count in Jesus’ eyes, toward the salvation of our souls. Material possessions remain in this life, and eventually break down and are subjected to corruption.

How appropriate it is indeed that one of the first major Feast days that we celebrate in the new calendar year is the Baptism of our Lord and Savior. Jesus’ Baptism, through water and spirit, represents a new beginning, regeneration, and specifically, a spiritual rejuvenation. As we begin the new calendar year, let us make the best resolution that we can, that is, to contemplate on how we may rejuvenate our own baptism, our new spiritual renewal, through focusing, as well as acting upon on the needs of others It is only in this manner that we can give “A good account at the fearsome judgment seat of Christ. Let us remember the story of the farmer who had so many crops that he did not know what do with, and as a result, became extremely complacent. That very night, he left his earthly life and never had time to prepare in order to give “A good account” The same theme is brought out in the story of Lazarus and the rich man. Let us learn from these parables and not make the same mistake that is, not focusing on what really counts in this life that is, not the constant indulgence of our own needs and wants, but rather the recognition, as well as the resolution of the needs of others.

May the New Year bring health as well as spiritual prosperity to all of us.

Fr. Nicholas

-Fr. Nicholas

Feasts/Saints of January

January 6

† The Holy Theophany of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ

'About the beginning of our Lord's thirtieth year, John the Forerunner, who was some six months older than our Saviour according to the flesh, and had lived in the wilderness since his childhood, received a command from God and came into the parts of the Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance unto the remission of sins. Then our Saviour also came from Galilee to the Jordan, and sought and received baptism though He was the Master and John was but a servant. Whereupon, there came to pass those marvelous deeds, great and beyond nature: the Heavens were opened, the Spirit descended in the form of a dove upon Him that was being baptized, and the voice was heard from the Heavens bearing witness that this was the beloved Son of God, now baptized as a man (Matt. 3:13 17; Mark 1:9 11; Luke 3:1 22). From these events the Divinity of the Lord Jesus Christ and the great mystery of the Trinity were demonstrated. It is also from this that the present feast is called "Theophany," that is, the divine manifestation God's appearance among men. On this venerable day the sacred mystery of Christian baptism was inaugurated; henceforth also began the saving preaching of the Kingdom of Heaven.' (Great Horologion)

When Thou was baptized in the Jordan, O Lord, the worship of the Trinity was made manifest; for the voice of the Father bare witness to Thee, calling Thee His beloved Son. And the Spirit in the form of a dove confirmed the certainty of the word. O Christ our God, Who hast appeared and hast enlightened the world, glory be to Thee. — Troparion of Theophany

'But Christ's descent into the river has also a further significance. When Christ went down into the waters, not only did he carry us down with Him and make us clean, but He also made clean the nature of the waters themselves... The feast of Theophany has thus a cosmic aspect. The fall of the angelic orders, and after it the fall of man, involved the whole universe. All God's creation was thereby warped and disfigured: to use the symbolism of the liturgical texts, the waters were made a "lair of dragons". Christ came on earth to redeem not only man but through man the entire material creation. When He entered the water, besides effecting by anticipation our rebirth in the font, he likewise effected the cleansing of the waters, their transfiguration into an organ of healing and grace.' Bishop Kallistos, "Background and meaning of the Feasts" in the Festal Menaion.

The western feast of Epiphany, also on this day, commemorates not Christ's baptism but the adoration of the Magi.

January 10

† Our Holy Father Gregory, Bishop of Nyssa (395)

"Saint Gregory, the younger brother of Basil the Great, illustrious in speech and a zealot for the Orthodox faith, was born in 331. His brother Basil was encouraged by their elder sister Macrina to prefer the service of God to a secular career (see July 19); Saint Gregory was moved in a similar way by his godly mother Emily, who, when Gregory was still a young man, implored him to attend a service in honor of the holy Forty Martyrs at her retreat at Annesi on the River Iris. Saint Gregory came at his mother's bidding, but being wearied with the journey, and feeling little zeal, he fell asleep during the service. The Forty Martyrs then appeared to him in a dream, threatening him and reproaching him for his slothfulness. After this he repented and became very diligent in the service of God. He became bishop in 372, and because of his Orthodoxy he was exiled in 374 by Valens, who was on one mind with the Arians. After Valens' death in 378 he was recalled to his throne by the Emperor Gratian. He attended the Local Council of Antioch,

Feasts/Saints of January

which sent him to visit the churches of Arabia and Palestine, which had been defiled and ravaged by Arianism. He attended the Second Ecumenical Council, which was assembled in Constantinople in 381. Having lived some sixty years and left behind many remarkable writings, he reposed about the year 395. The acts of the Seventh Ecumenical Council call him "Father of Fathers." (Great Horologion)

January 17

† Our Holy Godbearing Father Anthony the Great (356)

'Saint Anthony, the Father of monks, was born in Egypt in 251 of pious parents who departed this life while he was yet young. On hearing the words of the Gospel: "If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell what thou hast, and give to the poor" (Matt. 19:21), he immediately put it into action. Distributing to the poor all he had, and fleeing from all the turmoil of the world, he departed to the desert. The manifold temptations he endured continually for the space of twenty years are incredible. His ascetical struggles by day and by night, whereby he mortified the uprisings of the passions and attained to the height of dispassion, surpass the bounds of nature; and the report of his deeds of virtue drew such a multitude to follow him, that the desert was transformed into a city, while he became, so to speak, the governor, lawgiver, and master-trainer of all the citizens of this newly-formed city. But the cities of the world also enjoyed the fruit of his virtue. When the Christians were being persecuted and put to death under Maximinus in 312, he hastened to their aid and consolation. When the Church was troubled by the Arians, he went with zeal to Alexandria in 335 and struggled against them in behalf of Orthodoxy. During this time, by the grace of his words, he also turned many unbelievers to Christ.

'He began his ascetical life outside his village of Coma in Upper Egypt, studying the ways of the ascetics and holy men there, and perfecting himself in the virtues of each until he surpassed them all. Desiring to increase his labours, he departed into the desert, and finding an abandoned fortress in the mountain, he made his dwelling in it, training himself in extreme fasting, unceasing prayer, and fierce conflicts with the demons. Here he remained, as mentioned above, about twenty years. Saint Athanasius the Great, who knew him personally and wrote his life, says that he came forth from the fortress "initiated in the mysteries and filled with the Spirit of God." Afterwards, because of the press of the faithful, who deprived him of his solitude, he was enlightened by God to journey with certain Bedouins, until he came to a mountain in the desert near the Red Sea, where he passed the remaining part of his life. Saint Athanasius says of him that "his countenance had a great and wonderful grace. This gift also he had from the Saviour. For if he were present in a great company of monks, and any one who did not know him previously wished to see him, immediately coming forward he passed by the rest, and hurried to Anthony, as though attracted by his appearance. Yet neither in height nor breadth was he conspicuous above others, but in the serenity of his manner and the purity of his soul."

'So passing his life, and becoming an example of virtue and a rule for monastics, he reposed on January 17 in the year 356, having lived together some 105 years.' (Great Horologion)

Speaking of the demonic temptations and struggles with the passions that beset those who seek their salvation, St Anthony said: "All these trials are to your advantage. Do away with temptation and no one will be saved."

January 18

(Continued on page 7)

Feasts/Saints of January

† Our Holy Fathers Athanasius the Great (373) and Cyril (44), Patriarchs of Alexandria

Saint Athanasius, pillar of Orthodoxy and Father of the Church, was born in Alexandria in 275, to pious Christian parents. Even as a child, his piety and devotion to the Faith were so notable that Alexander, the Patriarch of the city, took Athanasius under his protection. As a student, he acquired a thorough education, but was more interested in the things of God than in secular learning, and withdrew for a time into the desert to sit at the feet of Saint Anthony (January 17), whose disciple he became and whose biography he later wrote. On returning to Alexandria, he was ordained to the diaconate and began his public labors for the Church. He wrote his treatise *On the Incarnation*, when he was only twenty. (It contains a phrase, still often quoted today, that express in a few words some of the depths of the Mystery of the Incarnation: God became man that man might become god.)

Just at this time Arius, a priest in Alexandria, was promoting his enticing view that the Son and Word of God is not of one essence with the Father, but a divine creation of the Father. This view, which (as Athanasius realized) strikes at the very possibility of mankind's salvation, gained wide acceptance and seemed for a time to threaten the Christian Faith itself. In 325, the Emperor Constantine the Great convoked a Council of the Church at Nicaea to settle the turmoil that had the Arian teaching had spread through the Church. Athanasius attended the Council, and defended the Orthodox view so powerfully that he won the admiration of the Orthodox and the undying enmity of the Arians. From that time forth his life was founded on the defense of the true consubstantiality (*homoousia*) of the Son with the Father.

In 326, not long before his death, Patriarch Alexander appointed Athanasius to be his successor, and Athanasius was duly elevated to the patriarchal throne. He was active in his pastoral role, traveling throughout Egypt, visiting churches and monasteries, and working tirelessly not only to put down the Arian heresy, but to resolve various schisms and moral declines that effected his territory.

Though the Arian heresy had apparently been condemned once and for all at Nicaea, Arius had many powerful allies throughout the Empire, even in the Imperial court, and Athanasius was soon subjected to many kinds of persecution, some local, some coming from the Imperial throne itself. Though he was Patriarch of Alexandria for more than forty years, a large amount of that time was spent in hiding from powerful enemies who threatened him with imprisonment or death. Twice he fled to Rome for protection by the Pope, who in the early centuries of the Church was a consistent champion of Orthodoxy against its various enemies. From his various hiding places, Athanasius issued tracts, treatises and epistles which helped to rally the faithful throughout Christendom to the Orthodox cause.

In 366, the Emperor Valens, fearing a revolt of the Egyptians on behalf of their beloved Archbishop, officially restored Athanasius to favor, and he was able to spend the last seven years of his life in peace. Of his forty-seven years as Patriarch, about seventeen were spent in hiding or exile. He reposed in peace in 373, having given his entire adult life, at great suffering, to the defense of the Faith of Christ.

With St Athanasius, the Church commemorates St Cyril (Kyrillos), also Archbishop of Alexandria (412-44). His lot was to defend the Faith against the heretic Nestorius, Patriarch of Constantinople, who denied that Christ in his Incarnation truly united the divine with the human nature. Cyril attempted in private correspondence to restore Nestorius to the Christian faith, and when this failed he, along with Pope Celestine of Rome, led the defense of Orthodoxy against Nestorius' teaching. Saint Cyril presided at the Third Ecumenical Council in 431, at which the Nestorian error was officially overthrown. After guiding his flock for thirty-two years, he reposed in 444.

PHILOPTOCHOS
JANUARY
MEETING

We will not be having a Philoptochos Meeting in January. Please join us for the following January Philoptochos events:

Vasilopeta Sunday
January 20th

Membership Tea
January 26th

Philoptochos Sunday
&
Humanitarian Award
January 17th

Our next Philoptochos Meeting will be Weds., February 6th.

VASILOPETA
BAKING
JANUARY 19th

St. John's Philoptochos Society will be preparing Vasilopeta on Saturday, January 19th in our Cultural Hall. If you would to help or are interested in learning how to make Vasilopeta, please join us. The baking crew will begin at 9:00 am and there will be a demonstration at 12 noon. So, please join us in the morning, for the demonstration and stay the afternoon to help package the Vasilopeta for Sunday's Bake Sale. Proceeds from the Vasilopeta Bake Sale will benefit Saint Basil's Academy. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Ohanian.

Community Calendar

JANUARY 2008

MEETINGS AND EVENTS FOR JANUARY

January 1, 2008

New Years Day

January 2, 2008

Philoptochos Mtg. Cancelled

January 6, 2008

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

January 17, 2008

Little Angels & H.O.P.E. Mtg., 4PM

G.O.Y.A. Mtg., 7PM

January 20, 2008

Vasilopeta Sunday

January 21, 2008

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

January 26, 2008

Philoptochos Membership Tea

January 27, 2008

Philoptochos Sunday/ Humanitarian Award

ALTAR ITEMS TO BE REPLATED

Dear Friends,

The following Altar items are in need to be refinished. They are presently being worked on and will be ready in a couple of weeks. If anyone is interested please contact me (Fr. James)

CENSER STAND	\$110
BOOK OF GOSPELS	\$245
BOOK OF GOSPELS	\$245
4 PROCESSIONAL LANTERNS	\$145 (each)
CHALICE	\$275
PATTEN (DISKARION)	\$175
2 CENSERS	\$175 (each)
PRESANCTIFIED LITURGY BOX	\$110
RELIQUARY BOX	\$85
GOBLET USED IN WEDDINGS	\$115
ZEON	\$35
3 LABITHES (SPOONS)	\$45 (each)

January 2008

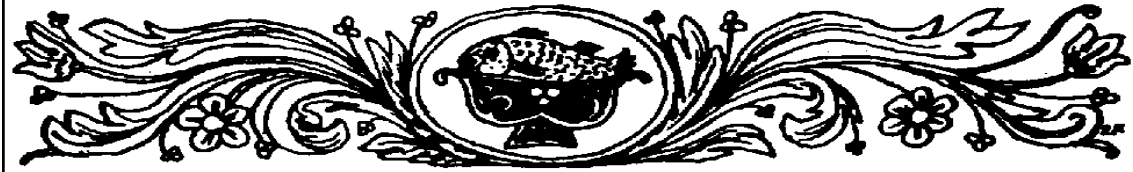
St. John's Monthly Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																										
<p>December 07</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td></tr> <tr><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td></tr> <tr><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>		S	M	T	W	T	F	S	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						<p>1</p> <p>New Year's Day</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Greek School, 4-8:30PM Choir Practice, 7-9PM</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Royal Hours of Theophany, 9AM</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Orthros, Liturgy & Lesser Blessing of Waters, 9AM</p>
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<p>6</p> <p>Holy Theophany, Orthros & Liturgy, 9AM</p> <p>Great Vespers of St. John the Baptist, 7pm</p> <p>G.O.Y.A. Mtg., 12:15PM</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Synaxis of John the Baptist, 9AM</p> <p>Greek Dance Class, 4-10PM</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Bible Study, 11:30-1PM Greek School, 4-7PM</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Orthodox Faith Class, 7PM</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Greek School, 4-8:30PM Choir Practice, 7-9PM</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>																																										
<p>13</p> <p>Sunday After Theophany, Orthros & Liturgy, 9AM</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Greek Dance Class, 4-10PM</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Bible Study, 11:30-1PM Greek School, 4-7PM</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Orthodox Faith Class, 7PM</p>	<p>17</p> <p>St. Anthony the Great, 9AM</p> <p>Choir Practice, 7-9PM</p> <p>G.O.Y.A. Mtg., 7PM</p> <p>Little Angels & H.O.P.E., Mtg., 4PM</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Sts. Athanasios & Cyril, 9AM</p>	<p>19</p>																																										
<p>20</p> <p>Sunday of the Ten Lepers, Orthros & Liturgy, 9AM</p> <p>J.O.Y. Mtg., 12:15PM</p> <p>Vasilopeta Sunday</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Greek Dance Class, 4-10PM</p> <p>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Bible Study, 11:30-1PM Greek School, 4-7PM</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Orthodox Faith Class, 7PM</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Greek School, 4-8:30PM Choir Practice, 7-9PM</p>	<p>25</p> <p>St. Gregory the Theologian, 9AM</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Philoptochos Membership Tea</p>																																										
<p>27</p> <p>Sunday of Zacchaeus, Orthros & Liturgy, 9AM</p> <p>Philoptochos Sunday/ Humanitarian Award</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Greek Dance Class, 4-10PM</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Bible Study, 11:30-1PM Greek School, 4-7PM</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Orthodox Faith Class, 7PM</p> <p>Three Hierarchs, 9AM</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Greek School, 4-8:30PM Choir Practice, 7-9PM</p>	<p>February 08</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1 2</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td></tr> <tr><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td></td></tr> </table>		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	
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Worship Services

JANUARY 2008



Friday, January 4, 2008
Royal Hours of Theophany,
9am

Saturday, January 5, 2008
**Orthros, Liturgy &
Lesser Blessing of Waters**
9am

Sunday, January 6, 2008
**Holy Theophany &
Great Blessing of Waters**
Orthros & Divine Liturgy
9am

Monday, January 7, 2008
Synaxis of John the Baptist
Orthros & Divine Liturgy
9am

Sunday, January 13, 2008
Sunday After Theophany,
Orthros & Divine Liturgy
9am

Thursday,



January 17,

2008

St. Anthony the Great
Orthros & Divine Liturgy
9am

Friday, January 18, 2008
Saints Athanasios & Cyril,
9am

Sunday, January 20, 2008
Sunday of the Ten Lepers,
Orthros & Divine Liturgy
9am

Friday, January 25, 2008
St. Gregory the Theologian,
9am

Sunday, January 27, 2008
Sunday of Zacchaeus,
Orthros & Divine Liturgy
9am

Wednesday, January 30, 2008
Three Hierarchs
Orthros & Divine Liturgy
9am

Church Registry

JANUARY 2008

WEDDINGS

DECEMBER 1, 2007

Mark Marincovich & Leah Psilovikos

Sponsor: Nick Zamvakelis

MEMORIALS

DECEMBER 9, 2007

Vasilios Pergantis - 24 Years

Edward (Eleftherios) Wronski - 7 Years

Patricia (Panagiotia) - 6 Years

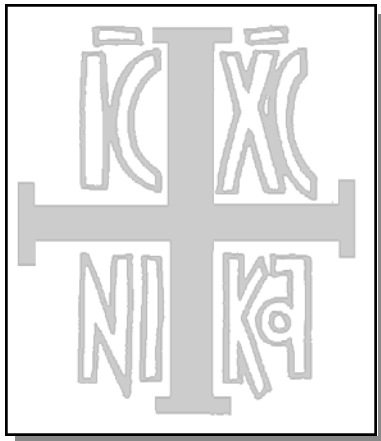
Dorothy (Dorothea) Vafeades - 40 Days

SLEEPING IN THE LORD

DECEMBER 14, 2007

Doris Koutzoukis

+ *May her memory be eternal* +



PROSFORO SCHEDULE JANUARY

Saturday, January 5

Mrs. Gail Mitchell

Sunday, January 6

Mrs. Voula Kitsigiannis

Monday, January 7

Mrs. Joanne Kalogeropoulos

Sunday, January 13

Mrs. Maria Mendonis

Thursday, January 17

Mrs. Eleni Kousoulas

Friday, January 18

Mrs. Eleni Kousoulas

Sunday, January 20

Mrs. Dimitra Klentos

Friday, January 25

Mrs. Katherine Glavas

Sunday, January 27

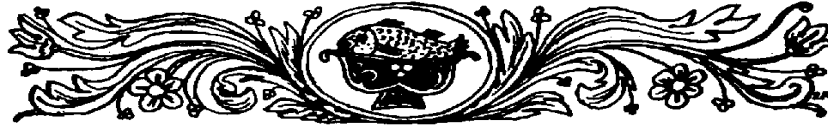
Mrs. Maria Nikolaou

Thursday, January 30

Mrs. Maria Massouris

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 2008

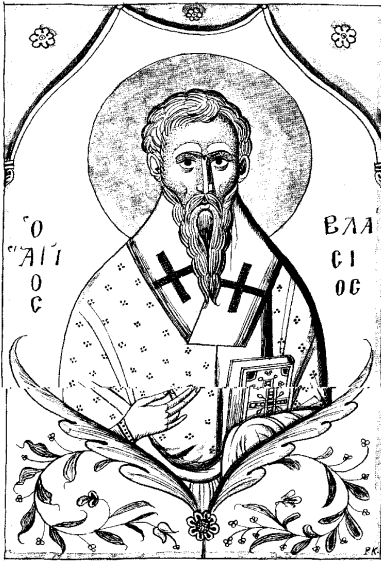


TEAM 1	TEAM 2
Armondios Vestakis Nick Basdakis George Dalis Nicholas Foutris Sotirios Eliopoulos Richard Rosentrater	Dimitri Pappas Bradley Jung Kyriakos Alyousef Michael Bangos Kyriakos Psaras Dimitri Hondrogiannis Stephen Stylianides
January 13, 2008 February 10, 2008 March 9, 2008	January 20, 2008 February 17, 2008 March 16, 2008
TEAM 3	TEAM 4
John Hourigan Pano Nikolaou Theodore Kapogiannis Stefan Malmlund Alexander Malmlund Antonio Georgakopoulos Carl Cantonis	George Alexopoulos Niko Begakis Argirios Alexopoulos Spiros Mantas Dimitri Dimopoulos Paul Stephens
December 30, 2008 January 27, 2008 February 24, 2008	January 6, 2008 February 3, 2008 March 2, 2008

- 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. Basil the Great

January 1



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Stewardship 2008

The following have submitted their 2008 pledge cards.
We thank them and we invite the others to make their gift to their church.

Mr. & Mrs. George Alavizos
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Amerine
Mr. & Mrs. Nick Anas
Mrs. Loula Anderson
Mrs Connie Andros
Mr. & Mrs. Christos Angelatakis
Mrs. Alice Antoniou
Mr. & Mrs. Louie Attard
Mr. & Mrs. Chris August
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Baglin
Mrs. Kiki Ballas
Mr. & Mrs. Anastasios Barouxis
Mr. & Mrs. Dino Basdakis
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Begakis
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Benetatos
Mrs. Maria Bizakis
Mr. & Mrs. Theodore Bogris
Mr. & Mrs. Chris Bonorris
Mr. & Mrs. George Borovilos
Mr. & Mrs. Costa Bostinelos
Mr. & Mrs. Angelo Boussiacos
Mr. & Mrs. Aleksander Bozovic
Mr. Mihale Brailas
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Buelna
Mr. & Mrs. James Callas
Mr. Andrew Canellos
Mr. & Mrs. George Cantonis
Mr. & Mrs. Nicolas Charalambous
Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Chatzipetrou
Mrs. Freda Chrest
Miss Catherine Christ
Mr. & Mrs. Nick Christ
Mr. & Mrs. William Christian
Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Chryssogelos
Mr. & Mrs. Dukas Contos
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Cote
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Culp
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Dallas
Ms. Janet Diamant
Mr. & Mrs. Nick Diamant
Rev. & Mrs. James Diavatis
Mr. & Mrs. Argirios Dimopoulos
Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Dodge
Mr. & Mrs. Alex Dourbetas
Mr. & Mrs. Nico Dourbetas
Mr. & Mrs. Angelos Dritsopoulos
Mrs. Joanne Drulias
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Duvall
Mrs. Mina Fourtounis
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Futris
Mr. & Mrs Leon Gabrielian
Mr. & Mrs. Nicos Ganis

Mr. & Mrs. George Gatsinaris
Dr. & Mrs. Vasili Gatsinaris
Ms. Patricia Gauvain
Mrs. Magdalen Genkos
Miss Constance George
Mr. & Mrs. Peter George
Mrs. Demetra Georgouses
Mr. & Mrs. Gus Gialamas
Dr. & Dr. Constantine Glezakos
Miss Bessie Gonos
Mrs. Mary Goode
Mr. & Mrs. George Hadjis
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Halfhill
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Harbilas
Mrs. Demetra G. Harvalos
Mr. George Hassapis
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Hassapis
Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Hatzis
Mr. & Mrs. James Hill
Miss Christina Hioureas
Miss Eleni Hioureas
Mr. & Mrs. Ken Jones
Mr. & Mrs. Kostas Kapogianis
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Karagines
Mr. & Mrs. Ioannis Karambelas
Mr. & Mrs. Hristos Karanastasis
Mrs. Alberta Keffalas
Ms. Cynthia Kezos
Mr. John Kiouisis
Mr. Nick Kitakis
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Kitsigianis
Jean & Heidi Koclanakis
Mr. & Mrs. Nick Kokkinos
Mr. & Mrs. George Konstantarakis
Mr. & Mrs. Chris Koukladas
Mr. & Mrs. Yanni Kouloumbis
Mr. & Mrs. James Kousoulas
Mrs. Anna Koutzoukis
Mr. & Mrs. John Koutzoukis
Mrs. Angelike Lambides
Mr. Basilios Lambropoulos
Mr. & Mrs. George Lambros
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Lanyi
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Lewis
Mrs. Katherine Livieratos
Mr. Earnest L. Love
Mr. & Mrs. Bjorn Malmund
Mrs. Nada Margaretis
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Marincovich
Mr. & Mrs. John Maris
Mr. & Mrs. Michael McFann
Mr. & Mrs. George Medenas

Mrs. Marie Miller
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Mitchell
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Mitchell
Mr. & Mrs. George Mousmoules
Mrs. Sofia Moysidis
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Nichols
Mr. Pete Nichols
Mr. & Mrs. John Ohanian
Mrs. Eugenia Pagalides
Mr. & Mrs. George W. Pappas
Mr. & Mrs. Kostas Pappas
Mr. & Mrs. Pano Pappas
Mr. Timothy Pappas
Mrs. Argie Pastis
Mr. & Mrs. Vasili Paxos
Mr. & Mrs. Alex Persakis
Mr. & Mrs. John Petropoulos
Mrs. Shirley Picoulas Hallock
Mr. & Mrs. James Pierce
Dr. & Mrs. James Pilafas
Mr. & Mrs. Gregory Roumpos
Mr. & Mrs. John Russell
Mr. & Mrs. Theofilos Russos
Mr. Paul Sarandos
Mr. & Mrs. Timothy Sarres
Mr. & Mrs. Chris Sigas
Mr. & Mrs. Nickolas Siokos
Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Siouris
Mr. Alexander Soles
Mr. & Mrs. Dean Soles
Mrs. Bess Stavrides
Mr. & Mrs. George Stephens
Miss Athena Stump
Mr. & Mrs. John Sutch
Miss Maria Tambouris
Mr. & Mrs. George Tavoularis
Mr. & Mrs. George Thalass
Mr. & Mrs. Spiro Tragos
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Tragos
Mr. & Mrs. Perry Valaskantjis
Mrs. Foula Vanikiotis
Mr. & Mrs. Antonios Vatakis
Miss Lisa Vatakis
Mrs. Helen Vest
Mr. & Mrs. E.J. Vlachos
Mrs. Sophia Voulimeneas
Mr. & Mrs. Chris Vovos
Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert Walker
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Winders
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Xanthos
Mr. Ioannis Xilikakis
Ms. Josephine Zorzy

Ms. Josephine Zorzy

**As of
December 18, 2007
Total Pledges: 142
Goal: 600
To Go: 458
Total Pledged:
\$130,644.00
Budgeted Goal:
\$330,000.00
Amount left to reach
Goal:
\$199,356.00**

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.

Parish Programs

2008

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

Youth Corner

2008

Dear Parents,

One of the most important challenges that are faced by both parents as well as priests (many of them who are parents themselves) is to nurture, as well as facilitate the spiritual development of children. In order to achieve this, a synergistic effort must be made by both the priests as well as the parents. Realizing this, the priests here at St John's, in conjunction with the advisors of the various youth ministries, have put together age appropriate programs for the various youth groups. (Little Angels, HOPE, JOY and GOYA) which encompass the four circles of Orthodoxy, namely Worship, (Liturgia) Fellowship, (Koinonia) Service, (Diakonia) and Witnessing of the faith, (Martyria) thus creating well rounded programs.

Additionally, we have included a list of monthly activities, through January 2008, for each group in order that you may gain a better understanding of our programs.

-Fr. Nicholas Andrews

G.O.Y.A

G.O.Y.A meets every first Sunday of the Month at 12:15 P.M. and every third Thursday of the month at 7:00 P.M.

JANUARY 2008

SUNDAY, JANUARY 6th - Regular Business meeting
THURSDAY, JANUARY 17th - Ice Skating at Disney Ice

LITTLE ANGELS AND H.O.P.E

LITTLE ANGELS and H.O.P.E meet on the third Thursday of each month at 4:00 P.M.

JANUARY 2008

The children will learn the life and works of St. Basil.
Subsequently, a Vasilopita will be cut for the New Year

J.O.Y

J.O.Y meets on the third Sunday of every month at 12:15 P.M.

JANUARY 2008

Ice skating at Disney Ice.

Philoptochos News

“No act of kindness is ever wasted” - Aesop

We hope that you had a beautiful Christmas filled with joy and love and we ask God to continue to radiate his light upon you in this New Year.

We hope that you had a beautiful Christmas filled with joy and love and we ask God to continue to radiate his light upon you in this New Year.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all of you for your tireless, devoted and unending efforts for Philoptochos. It is through your continued support and generosity that we are able to reach our goals and support all our ministries. With your help, this has been a very successful and prosperous year for St. John's Philoptochos. As the year came to a close, we can look back at all the accomplishments we have achieved. We have taken care of all our obligations to our Dioceses and National Philoptochos, gave \$5,000 to Habitat for Humanity from our successful fashion show, have made food baskets for 100 families for Thanksgiving and Christmas (feeding about 400 people), donated to Kids 'n' Cancer, St. Basil's Academy, Children Medical Fund, helped the Blind children in Greece, money to the fire victims in Greece. Many, many thanks to all of you. We cannot do all of this without your help and support.

Once again Freda Chrest planned a wonderful fun-filled Golden Stars Christmas Luncheon. We appreciate Fr. James and Fr. Nicholas for attending our luncheon and doing the invocation. We were very happy to see Presbyteria Toni, feeling good enough to attend with her Mother, that is visiting. Thank you to Freda and her great committee which included: Kiki Chryssogelos for providing the entertainment of our three young singers, Thea Chryssogelos, Eleni Kapogianis and Melina Panagiotou, who entertained us with their piano, violin and beautiful voices. A special thank you to Sophia Christian, Julie and Tim Sarres, Bessie Stavrides, Tena Kosebas, Stella and Cristo Ristas, Dimitra Kapogianis, Mary Nichols, Nikey Kezos, Marie Miller, Raza Kitsigianis and Electra Christ. A special thank

you to Nick Christ for all his help in the kitchen and another special thank you to Liz and John Hadjis for decorating our beautiful Christmas tree and Steve Kitsigianis and Jose Perez for putting our tree together. We also want to thank Jim Stavropoulos, from Omega Restaurant, for preparing our delicious lunch. The Philoptochos invites you to join our Golden Stars. Only requirement is 55 years and older. This is a great group of people, enjoying each other's company, having fun at our different events. Please let Freda Chrest know you are interested.

Treasurer's Report from National Philoptochos. The following distributions were approved by the National Board and we would like to share with you the following information:

- *\$52,500 -St. Basil's Academy Sisterhood Fund for new roofing on dormitories.
- *\$37,500 -Hellenic College Scholarship Fund for 25 scholarships to students who are members of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese.
- *\$40,000 -Retired Clergy Benevolent Fund.
- *\$150,000 - Children's Medical Fund distributions for seven Metropolis of San Francisco Hospitals and special children's medical programs.
- *\$30,000 - IOCC for it's work with Park Town Medical Clinic in the Archdiocese of Zibabwe.
- *\$20,000 - Archideocesan Missions
- *\$20,000 - National Emergency Fund to assist the fire victims of So. Calif.
- *\$94,098 - Proceeds from the Philoptochos Hellenic Fire Relief Fund to be presented to the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America for the Greek fire victims.

*Happy New Year !
Mary Ohanian, President*

MM

ST. JOHN'S FEAST DAY SERVICES



*You are cordially invited to participate
in the annual celebration in honor of our patron*

ST. JOHN THE FORERUNNER AND BAPTIST

*Sunday, January 6, 2008
The festal Great Vespers
7:00 p.m.*

**With METROPOLITAN GERASIMOS
& Area Clergy in Attendance**

*Monday, January 7, 2008
The festal Orthros 9:00 a.m.
Liturgy 10:00 a.m.*

Greek Festival

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

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
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Buena Park,
CA

Address Correction Requested -December



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)

