

The Vineyard

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

OCTOBER 2008

VOL. XXVIII, NO. 23

PROISTAMENOS MESSAGE

THE SIGN OF THE CROSS

One of the most commonly observed gestures in our Orthodox Church is the constant ritual hand motion made by our worshippers. This is known as the sign of the Cross.

There are two principal forms, one followed by us Orthodox and the other by the Western Churches (Anglican and Roman Catholicism) and the Oriental Orthodox. (Armenians, Copts, Ethiopian etc. who are known also as Non-Chalcedonians because they reject the 4th Ecumenical Council held in Chalcedon in 451)

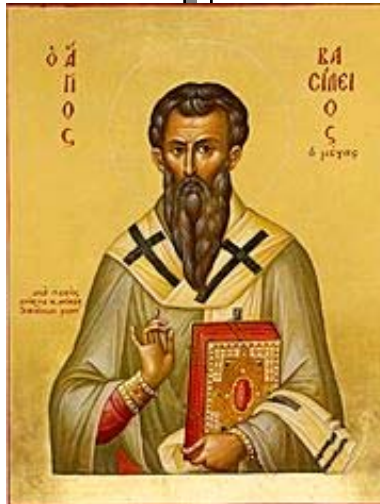
Origins of the Sign of the Cross

Some form of the sign of the Cross was in practice as early as the second century. About the year 200 in north Africa, (Carthage) Tertullian says “we Christians wear out our foreheads with the sign of the Cross.” By the fourth century, the sign of the cross involved other parts of the body beyond the forehead. And by the sixth century the larger sign in use now was in effect.

The Gesture

In the West, the open right hand is used. The five

fingers represent the Five Wounds of Christ. In the Eastern Orthodox Church the thumb, index, and middle finger are brought to a point, symbolizing the Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Spirit-three persons sharing a single essence), the remaining two fingers (kept pressed together and touching the palm) representing the human and divine natures of Jesus Christ.



Some Christians make the Sign of the Cross outside of the worship experience. For example before starting a voyage, when one rises from sleep or goes to bed; before and after meals, when passing outside a Church.

The Motion

The sign of the Cross is made by touching the hand sequentially to the forehead, chest (sternum) and both shoulders, but always right to left, in the Orthodox tradition. Western Christians and Oriental Orthodox touch the left shoulder before the right.

Use of the Sign

The Sign of the Cross is made by individuals upon themselves and by the bishop and priest as an act of blessing. Orthodox priests use the right hand in

(Continued on page 3)

THE VINEYARD

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

EDITOR: FATHER JAMES S. DIAVATIS

REV. FR. JAMES S. DIAVATIS, PROTOPRESBYTER

REV. FR. NICHOLAS ANDREWS, OIKONOMOS

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Organist/Choir Director *Elsa Libowitz*
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Secretary *Anna Prasongsy*
Custodian..... *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 Sunday of the Month

Little Angels - 3rd Thursday of the Month

G.O.Y.A - 1st Sunday and 3rd Friday 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>

THE SIGN OF THE CROSS

(Continued from page 1)

blessing while bishops may bless with both. While individuals may make the sign at any time, clergy must make it at certain times during the liturgy and other sacraments and services)

In our Orthodox Church, both celebrant and congregation make the Sign of the Cross much more frequently than in Western Christianity. In some Eastern Orthodox Churches it is customary to cross oneself at each petition in the liturgy. The Sign of the Cross is also made upon entering or leaving a church building, at the start and end of personal prayer, when passing the altar, whenever all three persons of the Trinity are addressed, when approaching an icon, when commemoration is made of the Theotokos or Saints of the day.

When an Orthodox priest or bishop blesses with the sign of the Cross, he holds the fingers of his right hand in such a way that they form the Greek abbreviation for Jesus Christ IC XC. The little finger is extended to make the "I"; the index finger and middle finger are also raised, with the middle finger bent slightly so that the two fingers together form the "X"; the thumb touches the lowered third finger to signify the two "C"s. When a priest blesses in the sign of the cross, he positions the fingers of his right hand in the manner described as he raises his right hand, then moves his hand downwards, then to his left, then to his right. The bishop blesses with both hands (unless he is holding some sacred object such as a blessing cross, chalice, Gospel Book, icon, etc.), holding the fingers of both hands in the same configuration, but when he moves right hand to the left, he simultaneously moves his left hand to the right, so that the two hands cross, the left in front of the right, and then the right in front of the left. The blessing of both priests and

bishops consists of three movements, in honor of the Holy Trinity.

Something else needs to be considered. When the priest (or bishop) blesses with the sign of the Cross in the Liturgy or other services, the worshipers should bow at the waist and they may, if so inclined, do the sign of the cross, although that is not customary. Also when the priest intones the "EIRINI PASI" (Peace be to all) the congregation should bow, even as they bow when the priest invites them to "Let us bow our heads to the Lord".

A final word! Our children, dear parents, should be taught the right use of the sign of the Cross. They are so quick to learn as they try to emulate their parents. Once they learn and use it as children, it becomes second nature and they will continue to perform it, with reverence, during their entire life.

And need I say it? Yes, it must be said! When you do the sign of the Cross, do it slowly and meaningfully. Some do it as if they were plucking a guitar; others don't bother to do it correctly, touching both shoulders. It seems as if some are ashamed or embarrassed to do the sign of the Cross correctly. Remember, dear friend, the sign of the Cross is your own prayer of thanksgiving, petitions and the like. Do it with abiding faith, for "*lo through the Cross joy has come into the world...*" (Sunday Orthros service)

“On Earth As It Is In Heaven ”

by Fr. Nicholas Andrews

It is a generally accepted fact that our thoughts as well as our motivations have a direct influence on our behavior, in every aspect of our life. This is especially true in our spiritual life. We have been given a free will by God and therefore have full control over how we live our lives and what choices we make. Even people who have had a very difficult childhood, whether due to poverty, abuse, or other extenuating circumstances, have become productive members of society, because that's what they chose to do and therefore set their minds, as well as focused all their energies toward positive goals. By doing this, these individuals were able to overcome not only any immediate obstacles in their childhood but also any obstacles that appeared later on in their lives that would keep them from attaining their goals. This very principle applies to the salvation of our souls. Our salvation depends on what we do now in this life. This is what our Lord teaches us when he taught us how to pray, as we read in Matthew 6:9. This prayer is known as “The Lords Prayer”. It is the protocol of prayers, integrating all of the necessary elements that we must include in our own prayers. These elements include, offering praise and glorification to God, recognizing that there is an after life and that His Divine Will is carried out concurrently on earth, that is this present life, as it is in heaven asking for God to provide us with nourishment for both our bodies as well for our souls. To forgive others, so that we must can also be forgiven; and finally to guide us away from that which is harmful to us as well as detrimental to our salvation; and protect us from the Devil and his machinations. God's kingdom begins in this life. Many of the great philosophers have tried to answer the question of mankind's relationship to this life. The answer is a relatively easy one. This life is nothing more that a preparation for the next life.

Our Orthodox theology teaches us that there is only one church, divided up into two spheres, the church militant, that is, those of us who are preparing and struggling to attain salvation, as well as the church triumphant; those souls who have gained salvation. It is for this reason why we must begin preparing from now. Although we have heard or read about certain individuals who have repented at the very last hour and have been accepted into God's kingdom, such as Saint Constantine, who, on his death bed, accepted Christ as his savior, or the thief on the cross, who, at the last minute, was granted salvation, to name just a couple of examples, how many of us actually know the time and date of our departure from our earthly life? Did the victims of the barbaric attack of 9/11 know that they would die that day? How many traffic fatalities occur every day in this State and Country of ours? What about the victims of natural disasters? We who live here in California know very well the reality of earthquakes, and how they occur without even a moment's notice. How many people die during surgical procedures due to complications or physician error? None of us really know when our time will come. The question is will we be prepared? Will we have time to ask God for forgiveness and attempt to mend our ways as did Saint Mary of Egypt? Or will we caught off guard as were the virgins who fell asleep and did not prepare for the coming of the Bridegroom? These is a very serious issue that we must all must face as well as come into terms with at some point in our lives...BEFORE it is too late. Let us keep in mind the words of Saint John the Baptist ‘Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand’. The Ecclesiastical New Year, which begins on September 1st gives us yet another opportunity in order to refocus, as well as redirect our thoughts, motives, energies, and subsequent actions to our spiritual lives, in order that we may obtain the ultimate goal: The salvation of our souls.

In His service,

Fr. Nicholas Andrews

Feasts/Saints of October

September 2

St John IV, Patriarch of Constantinople, known as John the Faster (595)

He was born and raised in Constantinople. When he came of age he worked as a goldsmith and an engraver at the mint; but, renouncing worldly things, he was ordained a deacon and given charge of the distribution of alms in Constantinople. He gave freely to all with no consideration of their worthiness. The Synaxarion says 'the more he distributed the more God filled his purse, so that it seemed inexhaustible.'

Upon the death of Patriarch Eutyches in 582, John became Patriarch and reigned for thirteen years, reposing in peace in 595. (It was during his reign that the term "Ecumenical Patriarch" began to be used to refer to the Patriarch of Constantinople.) St John was known for his great asceticism and fasting, and as a powerful intercessor and wonderworker. So generous was he to the poor that he used up all his funds in almsgiving and had to ask the Emperor for a loan, which he used to give more alms. After his repose, his only possessions were found to be an old cassock, a linen shirt and a wooden spoon.

September 9

† Holy Ancestors of God Joachim and Anna

St Joachim was of the tribe of Judah and a descendant of King David. St Anna was of the tribe of Levi, the daughter of a priest named Matthan. Matthan's three daughters were Mary, Zoia and Anna. Mary became the mother of Salome the Myrrhbearer; Zoia bore Elizabeth, mother of St John the Baptist; and Anna married Joachim in Nazareth. Joachim and Anna, to their great sorrow, were barren for fifty years. They lived prayerfully and kept only a third of their income for themselves, giving a third to the poor and a third to the Temple. Once when they had come to Jerusalem to offer sacrifice at the Temple, Joachim was publicly scorned by the High Priest Issachar for his childlessness. Joachim and Anna, greatly grieved, prayed fervently that God would grant them the miracle that he had wrought for Abraham and Sarah, and give them a child in their old age. Once, as each was praying separately in a secluded place, angels appeared to each of them and revealed to them that they would be given a blessed daughter, 'bywhom all nations will be blessed, and through whom will come the salvation of the world.' They both rushed home to tell one another the joyous news, and embraced when they met. (This is the moment depicted in their icon.) Anna conceived and gave birth to the Most Holy Theotokos. Both reposed in peace, not long after they had sent her to live in the Temple.

September 26

† Repose of the Holy Apostle and Evangelist St John the Theologian

The holy Apostle was, by the world's reckoning, the nephew of our Savior, since his mother Salome was the daughter of St Joseph the Betrothed. Called 'the beloved disciple, St John was the only one of Christ's disciples to follow Him to the Cross. He was entrusted by the Savior with the care of the most holy Theotokos, and became like another son to her, providing for her care until the day of her repose. He preached the Gospel of Christ throughout Asia Minor, especially in Ephesus. During the persecutions of the Emperor Domitian, he was taken in bonds to Rome, where he was subjected to various tortures; but when he emerged from these miraculously unharmed, he was exiled to the island of Patmos, where he wrote the book of Revelation. After the death of Domitian, he returned to Ephesus and there wrote his Gospel and Epistles. He reposed in peace at a great old age. When his disciples later opened his grave, they found that his body was not there. He is called the Theologian because of the sublimity of theological expression in his New Testament writings.

President's Message

October 2008

Welcome back, everyone! Another summer has come and gone so quickly. We hope all have enjoyed vacations and some extra leisure time to recoup and regroup. So now we hear the common phrase, "back to the old grind". We're back at work and our kids our back at school. And, of course, your fearless Parish Council is back on duty!

Here at Saint John's we are anxious to start another year, which will bring us, closer to our goals. We have so many wonderful programs at our church. To highlight just a few, we have our Sunday School (including a Toddler/Pre-School class), there's an excellent staff of teachers this year who are committed to offer an enjoyable and enriching learning experience for our young children as well as our teens. The Greek School serves an important role of teaching our children the language and history of their Greek heritage. Then of course we have two choral groups, the Adult Choir as well as the Youth Choir. For those who enjoy singing, this would be a great way of serving your church. The Folk Dance program is very strong and we are striving to have more of our youths as well as college-age participate this year. The big goal for these groups is to compete at the FDF in February of 2009. For those interested in sports, we have our basketball program. And of course, there is GOYA, Bible Study groups and so muh more. For all the above programs, please contact the church office.

As you have all noticed, the wall in the back of our properties is now completed and paid for. Two of the rental properties are now vacant and the third house will be vacated in the near future. By the time you read this letter we would have met with the Anaheim City officials to discuss the possibility of the city helping us monetarily with improvements to the properties, including sidewalks and other services. I assure all our members here at St. John's that our expansion program is alive and well, even if it appears that progress is slow. I encourage all members to attend our next General Assembly meeting on Sunday, October 26, 2008. At that time we will be providing more information on our Expansion Program.

I'm sure all of you have received Father James' letter, which informs us that he will be retiring on December 31, 2010. By the time he retires, Father James would have served our community for over 30 years. Under his leadership, Saint John's has grown and flourished. I have personally served 7 years as Parish Council President as well as many years as a Parish Council member under Father James. I thank him for his service and love for his community. I have always looked up to him for spiritual guidance and counseling. I will surely miss him.

**Harry Benetatos,
Parish Council President**

Philoptochos News

A beautiful definition of love, which is applicable to our Philoptochos Society, "love is the doorway through which the human soul passes from selfishness to service and from solitude to kinship with all mankind."

I am delighted to welcome you back from your summer excursions and activities! Fall is in the air! Here's looking forward to cooler days, earlier sunsets and all the fall activities. The schoolrooms are filled with children, teachers are hard at work and your Philoptochos is getting ready for some awesome fall activities.

On July 13th - 18th, Jerry Kallaos and I attended the 39th Clergy Laity Congress in Washington, DC. Archbishop Demetrios recognized Philoptochos for their extraordinary outreach programs within the Greek Orthodox community and the national and international communities. His Eminence noted that in two years \$4 million was given by Philoptochos to charities. Philanthropy in its purest forms involves more than just the financial aspect. It includes the giving of our hearts, our minds and our talents to enrich the lives of all people regardless of race or social status. Philanthropy is selflessness.

One of the Resolutions submitted by the National Philoptochos Board during this Congress was **Autism In the Life of An Orthodox Child.** Autism is a complex, life-long, neurological disorder that inhibits a person's ability to communicate and develop social relationships. Just 10 years ago, the incidence of children born with autism was 1 in 500. Today, 1 out of every 150 children is born with autism and other developmental disorders. Therefore, the chance is great that every parish in America has a family dealing with this type of challenge. Philoptochos goal is to raise awareness of the issues families face in their quest to offer children with autism a spiritual life, open hearts and minds of fellow parishioners.

The Resolution stated: That the Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society, establishes the national Philoptochos Autism Assistance Fund as a national commitment to heighten awareness of Autism and to provide assistance and support to person within the Autism Spectrum to be supported by each Philoptochos chapter by a yearly contribution. This resolution was PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

At this Congress, National Philoptochos President Georgia Skeadas announce the newly revamped website for the National Philoptochos Society which is available at **www.philoptochos.org**. This is designed to increase awareness of the scope of the charitable work of the society. It also serves as a resource for the 28,000 Philoptochos members and the 480 Philoptochos chapters throughout the United States.

Philoptochos General Meeting - October 1st at 7PM. Jim and Linda Wronski will be teaching us new fun ways to play Bingo. We have had many request to bring Jim and Linda back. Don't miss this fun evening.

***SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15TH - "Fall Back In Fashion"
VINTAGE FASHION SHOW/LUNCHEON - Cultural Hall***

You will experience a unique and special fashion event. Your day will begin with a HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE in our small hall. You will find many wonderful & unusual items to decorate your home with for the holidays! We will have lunch and THEN, "Fall Back in Fashion" for a Vintage Fashion Show with fashions dating back to the 1800's with professional models. Viewing this collection of Vintage clothing is a "MUST SEE EXPERIENCE". Invitations will be coming to you soon. **SAVE THIS DATE - NOVEMBER 15TH.**

*Mary Ohanian,
Philoptochos President*

Parish Programs

2008

ADULT BIBLE STUDY (1)
Tuesday Mornings
11:30AM-1PM

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION(SUN. SCHOOL)
Every Sunday, September to June

**ADULT CLASS ON THE
ORTHODOX FAITH**
Wednesday Evenings 7-8:30PM

**GREEK FOLK DANCING
MONDAYS**

**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 Friday of the Month
G.O.Y.A BASKETBALL
Registration to be held soon

**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

October 2008

St. John's Monthly Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																									
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<p>12</p> <p>Sunday of the 7th Ecumenical Council, Orthros & Liturgy, 9AM</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Greek Dance, 4PM</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Bible Study, 11:30-1PM</p> <p>Greek School, 4PM</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Orthodox Faith Class, 7PM</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Adult Greek School, 5:30PM</p> <p>Choir Practice, 7PM</p>	<p>17</p> <p>G.O.Y.A Mtg.</p>	<p>18</p>																																																																																																									
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<p>26</p> <p>6th Sunday of Luke, Orthros & Liturgy, 9AM</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Greek Dance, 4PM</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Bible Study, 11:30-1PM</p> <p>Greek School, 4PM</p> <p>OXI Day</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Orthodox Faith Class, 7PM</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Adult Greek School, 5:30PM</p> <p>Choir Practice, 7PM</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Halloween</p>																																																																																																										

Worship Services

OCTOBER 2008



OCTOBER

Sunday, October 5, 2008

**2nd Sunday of Luke,
Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 9AM**

Sunday, October 12 2008

**Sunday of the 7th Ecumenical Council,
Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 9AM**

Sunday, October 19, 2008

**3rd Sunday of Luke,
Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 9AM**

Sunday, October 26, 2008

**6th Sunday of Luke,
Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 9AM**

Church Registry

OCTOBER 2008

BAPTISMS

AUGUST 17, 2008

JOSHUA NICHOLAS & MICHAEL MANES

Proud Parents: Kenneth & Joann Manes

God Parent: Eugenia Pagalides

AUGUST 30, 2008

NIKOLAOS PANAGAKIS

*Proud Parents: Konstantinos & Briar
Panagakis*

God Parent: Emmanuel & Maria Pelargos

WEDDINGS

AUGUST 23, 2008

Peter Benardis & Rejina Catalasan

Sponsor: Stavro Pilafas

MEMORIALS

AUGUST 31, 2008

Kostakis Sigas - 1 Year

Dimitrios Sigas - 25 Year

Kalioppe Sigas - 21 Year

Marina Sigas - 4 Year

Konstandinos Sigas - 9 Year

FELL ASLEEP IN THE LORD

AUGUST 18, 2008

Crystalia Demetra Kaiser

AUGUST 30, 2008

Nancy Marie Dramitinos

+ *May their memories be eternal* +

PROSFORO OCTOBER SCHEDULE

Sunday, October 5

Mrs. Katherine Glavas

Sunday, October 12

Mrs. Katherine Glavas

Sunday, October 19

Mrs. Mercina Vatakis

Sunday, October 26

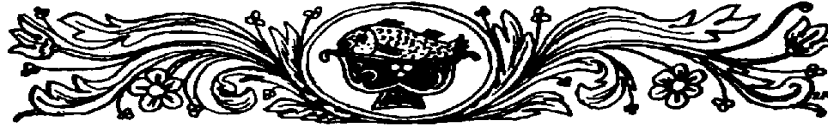
Mrs. Demetra Klentos

*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.*

WOMEN WHO LOVE TO BAKE!

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

ACOLYTES OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST 2008



TEAM 1	TEAM 2
Armodios Vestakis Nick Basdakis George Dalis Nicholas Foutris Sotirios Eliopoulos Richard Rosentrater Kosta Dalis	Dimitri Pappas Bradley Jung Kyriakos Alyousef Michael Bangos Kyriakos Psaras Dimitri Hondrogiannis Stephen Stylianides
October 19, 2008 November 16, 2008 December 14, 2008	October 26, 2008 November 23, 2008 December 21, 2008
TEAM 3	TEAM 4
John Hourigan Pano Nikolaou Stefan Malmlund Alexander Malmlund Antonio Georgakopoulos Carl Cantonis Aleko Culp	George Alexopoulos Niko Begakis Argirios Alexopoulos Speros Mantas Dimitri Dimopoulos Paul Stephens
October 5, 2008 November 2, 2008 November 30, 2008	October 12, 2008 November 9, 2008 December 7, 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. John Koukouzelis

October 1



Christian Orthodox Stewardship is a practice that is often misunderstood and misused in the Church. Many think of Stewardship solely from a monetary perspective, as a means to financially support the sacred work of the Church. This is, of course, important, but Stewardship should not be limited to this - it is much more!

Christian Orthodox stewards are taught to give their Time, Talents, and Treasure to the glory of God. There are many opportunities in parish life that enable us to support the Lord's work. It is a sacred privilege for each of us to participate in the life of the Church. We pledge ourselves to the Lord so that our offerings may be faithful and obedient to His teachings and the Sacred Traditions of our Christian Orthodox Faith.

Among the many ways we can participate in our parish ministries is as a chanter, a reader, or member of the choir. We emulate the angelic choirs in heaven when we sing to the glory of God. There are also a number of saints whose example we follow by managing our Time and using our musical Talent to sing to the Lord. Among them are: St. Romanos the Melodist, St. John of Damascus, St. Andrew of Crete, Joseph the Hymnographer, and St. Kassiane. There is also another saint who is known for his love for the music of our Church, a pious man who possessed a marvelous voice, and a steward of the Faith who gave his Time and Talent to the glory of God. Who was the person? St. John Koukouzelis!

As a young man, St. Koukouzelis was recognized for his musical talent. He was sent to the Conservatory of Music in Constantinople, where he became a popular singer for the Imperial Court. The success he enjoyed as an entertainer for the Emperor and his court should have given him every satisfaction, but John was not content with his life. He was concerned about the flattery and praise brought upon him for his musical talent and felt that his voice was not being used for its real purpose. John knew that the Emperor would never allow him to leave his position, so he fled to the Holy Mountain to search his soul and to pray to God for guidance. The Emperor became concerned about the disappearance of his favorite singer and offered a reward to anyone who could give him information about him.

At the Great Lavra Monastery, John did not reveal who he was or what position he had held in the Imperial Court. He simply wanted to be a shepherd and monk. While taking care of the flock, John would sing hymns to the Lord and to the Theotokos. One day, a couple of monks heard him singing with a voice so sweet and melodic that they thought that it was that of an angel. They moved quietly, hoping to see the vision of an angel but instead they saw John with his flock. The monks rushed back to the monastery and told the abbot what they had heard and seen. When John returned, he was summoned by the abbot who asked him why he was not willing to use his voice during the divine services. John explained his story to him, but the abbot assured him that the Emperor would understand and accept his desire to pursue the monastic life. The abbot instructed him to never hide the Talent that God had given him, but to use it to praise and glorify the His Almighty Name. From that moment on, John served as the lead chanter in the monastery. As the Akathist Hymn was being sung during Great Lent one year, John was exhausted and sat down and fell asleep near the icon of the Holy Mother of God and soon fell asleep. The Theotokos appeared to him and said: ***"Greetings, John! Sing, and don't stop singing; and for this, I will never leave you."*** She then placed a gold coin into his hand and disappeared. John woke up immediately, and in his hand was the gold coin.

The life of St. John Koukouzelis is an example of how important it is to manage our Time so that we may use our Talents properly. We have all been entrusted with blessings from God, and He desires that we put them to good use. Take a moment from your busy schedule and ask yourself: "Am I managing God's blessings as a good and faithful steward?" May St. John Koukouzelis intercede on your behalf and be an inspiration so that you use your Talents for the glory of God.

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.

Rev. and Mrs. James S. Diavatis	Mr. & Mrs. George Cantonis	Mr. George Futris	Mr. & Mrs. Tim Holtermann
Mrs. Arlene Agalos	Mr. & Mrs. William Carkagis	Mr. & Mrs. Spiros Gabriel	Mrs. Athena Homayouni
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Akkerman	Mr. & Mrs. John Chakos	Mr. Gavriel Gabriel	Mr. & Mrs. S. Hondrogiannis
Mr. & Mrs. George Alavizos	Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Chapralis	Mr. & Mrs. Leon Gabrielian	Mrs. Ruby Hopkins
Mr. & Mrs. Themis Alexopoulos	Mr. & Mrs. Nicolas Charalambous	Mr. & Mrs. Chris Gallanes	Mr. & Mrs. Joe Hourigan
Ms. Mary Amandos	Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Chatzipetrou	Mr. Harry Gallanes	Mr. & Mrs. Ken Jones
Mr. George Ambatielos	Mr. & Mrs. George Chatzis	Mr. & Mrs. Nicos Ganis	Mrs. Olga Joseph
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Amerine	Mrs. Freda Chrest	Mr. & Mrs. Jose Garcia	Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Jung
Mr. & Mrs. Nick Anas	Miss Catherine Christ	Mrs. Sophia Garrity	Mr. & Mrs. H. Kalogeropoulos
Mr. & Mrs. Conatantine Anasis	Mr. & Mrs. Nick Christ	Mr. & Mrs. George Gatsinaris	Mr. & Mrs. Savas Kallaos
Mrs. Loula Anderson	Mrs. Vivian Christian	Dr. & Mrs. Vasili Gatsinaris	Dr. & Mrs. Stephen Kallaos
Mrs Connie Andros	Mr. & Mrs. William Christian	Ms. Patricia Gauvain	Mr. John Kandara
Mr. & Mrs. Christos Angelatakis	Mr. & Mrs. Jim Christides	Mrs. Magdalen Genkos	Mr. & Mrs. Bill Kapogianis
Mr. Pete Angelus	Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Chryssogelos	Miss Constance George	Mr. John Kapogianis
Mr. & Mrs. Gus Anton	Mr. Michael Close	Mr. & Mrs. Peter George	Mr. & Mrs. Kostas Kapogianis
Mrs. Maria E. Antonaras	Mr. & Mrs. Nick Cokas	Mrs. Demetra Georgouses	Miss Ann Karagines
Mrs. Alice Antoniou	Mr. & Mrs. Dukas Contos	Mr. Fred Gerth	Mr. & Mrs. Peter Karagines
Mrs. Rania Giannekou-Ariqat	Mr. & Mrs. Richard Cote	Mr. & Mrs. Gus Gialamas	Mrs. Thelma Karagines
Mr. & Mrs. A. Asimakopoulos	Mr. & Mrs. Gary Culp	Mr. & Mrs. K.. Gianakakos	Mr. & Mrs. Ioannis Karambelas
Mrs. Joyce Attard	Mr. & Mrs. Tom Dalis	Ms. Athena Gianakakos	Mr. & Mrs. Hristos Karanastasis
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Attard	Mr. & Mrs. Tom Dallas	Mr. & Mrs. E. Giannetakis	Mr. & Mrs. Angelo Karpouzis
Mr. & Mrs. Peter P. Attard	Mr. & Mrs. Michael Darling	Mr. & Mrs. John Giforos	Mrs. Stella Karvouniaris
Mr. & Mrs. Louie Attard	Mr. Chris Deralas	Mr. Alexandros Gikas	Mr. & Mrs. Evangelos Kazas
Mr. & Mrs. Chris August	Mr. & Mrs. Peter Deralas	Mr. Anthony Giourgas	Mrs. Alberta Keffalas
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Baglin	Mr. & Mrs. William Deralas	Ms. Giota Glavas	Mr. & Mrs. John Kesoglou
Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Badounas	Ms. Janet Diamant	Dr. & Dr. Constantine Glezakos	Ms. Cynthia Kezos
Mrs. Kiki Ballas	Mr. & Mrs. Nick Diamant	Mrs. Grammatia Glinkie	Mr. & Mrs. James Kezos
Mr. & Mrs. Anastasios Barouxis	Mr. & Mrs. Argirios Dimopoulos	Miss Bessie Gonos	Mrs. Nickey Kezos
Mr. & Mrs. Dino Basdakis	Mr. John Dimopoulos	Mrs. Mary Goode	Mr. John Kiouisis
Mr. & Mrs. Nick Begakis	Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Dodge	Mr. & Mrs. Arty Grammas	Mr. Nick Kitakis
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Begakis	Mr. & Mrs. Tom Dorlis	Dr. & Mrs. Dimitri Grammas	Mr. & Mrs. Steve Kitsigianis
Mr. & Mrs. Evangelos Benardis	Mr. & Mrs. Spiro Doukos	Mr. & Mrs. George Hadjis	Mrs. Voula Kitsigianis
Mr. Peter Benardis	Mr. & Mrs. Alex Dourbetas	Mr. & Mrs. John Hadjis	Mr. & Mrs. George Kitsinis
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Benetatos	Mr. & Mrs. Nico Dourbetas	Mr. Thomas Hadjis	Mr. & Mrs. Gus Kitsios
Mrs. Venetta Birakos	Nicholas & Lillian Dovalis	Mr. & Mrs. Christ Hadzoglou	Mr. & Mrs. Gus Klentos
Mrs. Maria Bizakis	Mr. & Mrs. Angelos Dritsopoulos	Mr. & Mrs. Larry Halfhill	Mr. & Mrs. Haralambos Klentos
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Bogris	Mrs. Joanne Drulias	Mrs. Shirley Picoulas Hallock	Jean & Heidi Koclanakis
Mr. & Mrs. Theodore Bogris	Mr. & Mrs. Michael Duvall	Mr. & Mrs. Christos Harbilas	Mr. & Mrs. Nick Kokkinos
Mrs. Helen Boltinghouse	Mr. & Mrs. George Eleopoulos	Mr. & Mrs. Tom Harbilas	Mr. & Mrs. John Kolias
Mr. & Mrs. Chris Bonorris	Mr. & Mrs. Xenophon Eliopoulos	Mr. Harris G. Harisis	Mr. & Mrs. George Konstantarakis
Mr. & Mrs. George Borovilos	Mr. & Mrs. Michael Fidelis	Mr. & Mrs. R. Michael Hartman	Mrs. Eugenia Konstantouros
Miss Mary Borovilos	Mr. & Mrs. Scott Fields	Mr. & Mrs. John Hatzidakis	Mr. & Mrs. George A. Kosebas
Mr. & Mrs. Costa Bostinelos	Mr. & Mrs. Flynn	Mrs. Demetra G. Harvalos	Mr. & Mrs. K. Kotsiovos
Mr. & Mrs. Angelo Boussiacos	Mr. James Fortunes	Mr. & Mrs. Alex Hashtroudi	Mr. & Mrs. Dino Koukladas
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Bozekas	Mr. Athanasios Foskaris	Mr. George Hassapis	Mr. & Mrs. Chris Koukladas
Mr. & Mrs. Aleksander Bozovic	Miss Maria Foskaris	Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Hassapis	Mr. & Mrs. Yanni Kouloumbis
Mr. Mihale Brailas	Mr. George Founaris	Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Hatzis	Mr. George Koumbis
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Buelna	Mrs. Mina Fourtounis	Mr. John Hatzis	Miss Venette Koumbis
Mr. & Mrs. Nikki Burns	Mr. & Mrs. George Frousiakis	Mr. & Mrs. James Hill	Mr. & Mrs. James Kousoulas
Mr. & Mrs. James Callas	Mr. & Mrs. Dino Foutris	Miss Christina Hioureas	Mr. & Mrs. Pete Kousoulas
Mr. Andrew Canellos	Mr. & Mrs. Bill Futris	Miss Eleni Hioureas	Mrs. Anna Koutzoukis
Mr. & Mrs. Carl Cantonis		Mr. & Mrs. Denny Hocking	

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. John Koutzoukis
Mr. & Mrs. Demetrios Kritikos
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Kyriakos
Mrs. Angelike Lambides
Miss Sophia Lambides
Mrs. Alexandra Lambropoulos
Mr. Basilios Lambropoulos
Mr. & Mrs. George Lambros
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Lanyi
Mr. & Mrs. Matthew Larabee
Mr. & Mrs. Trevor Lattin
Mr. & Mrs. James Learakos
Ms. Anna Les
Mrs. Koula Les
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Lewis
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Libowitz
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Linn
Mr. & Mrs. Devon Liss
Mrs. Katherine Livieratos
Mr. Earnest Love
Mr. Evangelos Magiatis
Mr. & Mrs. Bjorn Malmund
Mr. & Mrs. Konstantinos Mandas
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Mandas
Mr. & Mrs. Christ Manes
Mr. & Mrs. Kenny Manes
Mr. & Mrs. Rouso Manos
Mr. & Mrs. Aristos Mantas
Mr. & Mrs. Demetrios Mantas
Mr. & Mrs. Loukas Maniatogiannis
Mrs. Nada Margaretis
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Margias
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Margias
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Marincovich
Mr. & Mrs. Dean Marinos
Mr. & Mrs. John Maris
Mr. & Mrs. Milton Maris
Mr. & Mrs. George Massouris
Mr. & Mrs. Michael McFann
Mr. & Mrs. Kirk McMullin
Mr. & Mrs. Wendall Meadows
Mr. & Mrs. George Medenas
Mr. & Mrs. Chris Mellas
Mrs. Marie Miller
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Mitchell
Mrs. Mary Mitchell
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Mitchell
Mr. & Mrs. William Mitchell
Mr. & Mrs. G. Mousmoules
Mrs. Sofia Moysidis
Mr. & Mrs. Brian Mull

Mrs. Mary Naylor
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Nichols
Mr. Pete Nichols
Mr. & Mrs. Nicolas Nicola
Mrs. Maria Nicolaou
Ms. Peggy Nicolaou
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Nikolau
Ms. Zia Nisani
Miss Barbara Nonis
Mr. Jason Nonis
Mr. & Mrs. John Ohanian
Mr. & Mrs. Pete Pafilas
Mrs. Eugenia Pagalides
Mrs. Belia Palas
Mr. & Mrs. Costa Panagioutou
Mr. & Mrs. Pete Pandeles
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Panos
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Papadon
Mr. & Mrs. James Papastathis
Mr. & Mrs. George W. Pappas
Mrs. Georgia Pappas
Mr. & Mrs. James Pappas
Mr. & Mrs. Kostas Pappas
Mr. & Mrs. Pano Pappas
Mr. Timothy Pappas
Mr. & Mrs. D. Paraskevopoulos
Mrs. Mary Parris
Mr. Anthony Pashalides
Mrs. Argie Pastis
Mr. & Mrs. Vasili Paxos
Ms. Connie Perakis
Mr. & Mrs. Alex Persakis
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Petropoulos
Mr. & Mrs. John Petropoulos
Ms. Ria Petropoulos
Mr. James Petros
Mr. & Mrs. Lee Petros
Mr. & Mrs. George Petsas
Mr. & Mrs. Philip Phillips
Mrs. Shirley Picoulas Hallock
Dr. & Mrs. Denis Pieratos
Mr. & Mrs. James Pierce
Dr. & Mrs. James Pilafas
Mr. & Mrs. Stavro Pilafas
Mr. & Mrs. Konstantine Poulidis
Mr. & Mrs. Kostas Pouloupoulos
Mr. & Mrs. Tim Preston
Mr. & Mrs. Vlash Pullos
Mr. & Mrs. Spyridon Rados
Mr. & Mrs. Georgios Rigas
Ms. 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. Paul Sarandos
Mr. & Mrs. Chris Sarantos
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Sargologos
Mr. & Mrs. Timothy Sarres
Mr. & Mrs. Randal Schoeman
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Sdrales
Mr. & Mrs. Chris Sigas
Mr. & Mrs. Nickolas Siokos
Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Siouris
Ms. Karen Sirus
Mr. Alexander Soles
Mr. & Mrs. Dean Soles
Mr. & Mrs. Petros Sourias
Mrs. Bess Stavrakes
Mrs. Georgia Stavrakes
Mr. & Mrs. James Stavropoulos
Mr. Stephanos Stavropoulos
Mr. & Mrs. George Stephens
Mr. & Mrs. Brian Stratouly
Miss Athena Stump
Mr. & Mrs. John Sutch
Mr. John Stylianides
Mr. & Mrs. Andreas Syrengelas
Mr. & Mrs. D. Syrengelas
Mr. & Mrs. K. Syrengelas
Miss Maria Tambouris
Mr. & Mrs. Panagiotis Tasigeorgos
Mr. & Mrs. Angelo Tavlarides
Mr. & Mrs. George Tavoularis
Miss Kathy Tavoularis
Mr. & Mrs. George Thalassinos
Ms. Catherine Thanos
Mr. & Mrs. William Thomas
Mr. & Mrs. Spiro Tragos
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Tragos
Ms. Maria Treantafelles
Miss Michele Tsachpinis
Dr. & Mrs. Bill Tsagris
Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Turner
Mr. & Mrs. Perry Valaskantjis
Mr. Michael Van Duyn
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. Mike Vourakis
Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert Walker
Mr. & Mrs. Randall Wemmer
Mr. & Mrs. James Wilson
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Winders
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Xanthos
Mr. Ioannis Xilikakis
Miss Elli Yorgiadis
Mr. Marcus T. Zambounis
Mr. & Mrs. George Zonos
Ms. Josephine Zorzy
Mr. & Mrs. A. Zounatiotis

**As of August 18,
2008**
Total Pledges: 383
Goal: 600
To Go: 217
Total Pledged:
\$264,652.00
Budgeted Goal:
\$330,000.00
Amount left to reach
Goal:
\$65,348.00

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. Thank You.

Proposed Activities for the G.O.Y.A. Ministries for the Ecclesiastical Year 2008-2009

The G.O.Y.A. Ministry will meet on the first Sunday as well as the third Friday of the month **unless otherwise noted.**

SEPTEMBER 2008

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14 - First G.O.Y.A Meeting. Agenda will include election of Officers as well as presentation of calendar of activities for 2008-2009.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19 - Swim party at the home of Angelina Psaras.

OCTOBER 2008

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5 - General business meeting. At the conclusion of meeting, Fr.Nicholas will give a presentation entitled, "Signs and Symptoms of Teenage Suicide."

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24 - Annual visit to Knott's Berry Farm Haunted House.

NOVEMBER 2008

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2 - General Business Meeting.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21 - Community Service Project - Setting up beds and serving food at Fullerton Armory.

DECEMBER 2008

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6 - Bible Bowl- Location T.B.A.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7 - General business meeting.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12 - Community Service Project - G.O.Y.A. members will take toys to patients at St. Joseph's Children's Hospital.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20 - Annual G.O.Y.A. Christmas Party at church hall.

JANUARY 2009

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4 - General business meeting.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 23 - Community Service Project-Graffiti cleanup in Anaheim.

FEBRUARY 2009

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7 - (Tentative) Pan Orthodox Rally- Presentation by Fr. Joseph Trenitam entitled, "Choosing a Spouse: Dating from an Orthodox Christian Perspective."

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20 - Lesson on Christian Charity (Lesson #4 pgs 41-58 in GOYA Curriculum Binder)

MARCH 2009

SUNDAY, MARCH 1 - General business meeting.

FRIDAY, MARCH 20 - G.O.Y.A members to attend Salutation Services.

APRIL 2009

SUNDAY, APRIL 6 - General Business meeting. Agenda to include discussion of annual Palm Sunday Luncheon

SATURDAY, APRIL 11 - Make crosses for Palm Sunday.

SUNDAY, APRIL 12 - (Palm Sunday) Serve Lunch/Help clean up.

MAY 2009

SUNDAY, MAY 3 - General Business meeting.

FRIDAY, MAY 15 - Combined Parent/Youth bowling with JOY Ministry.

Proposed Activities for the J.O.Y. Ministries for the Ecclesiastical Year 2008-2009

The JOY Ministry will meet on the third Sunday of every month following the Divine Liturgy.

SEPTEMBER 2008

SEPTEMBER 23, 2008 - The children will play a religious board game

OCTOBER 2008

OCTOBER 19, 2008 - The children will make a Bible folder

NOVEMBER 2008

NOVEMBER 16, 2008 - Field trip to St. Nektarios Church and Shrine

DECEMBER 2008

DECEMBER 21, 2008 - Presentation by Fr. Nicholas entitled "Giving, not receiving an Orthodox Christian prospective of Christmas."

JANUARY 2009

JANUARY 18, 2009 - Field Trip to "COLOR ME MINE" (Ceramic Painting).

FEBRUARY 2009

FEBRUARY 15, 2009 - Ice Skating at Disney Ice.

MARCH 2009

MARCH 15, 2009 - The children will play a board game.

APRIL 2009

APRIL 26, 2009 - (Date changed due to Holy Week/Pascha) Presentation by Fr. Nicholas entitled "The meaning of the Cross". The Children will subsequently make crosses.

MAY 2009

MAY 15, 2009 - Combined bowling with members of G.O.Y.A and their parents.

Proposed Activities for the Little Angles/HOPE Ministries for the Ecclesiastical Year 2008-2009

The Little Angeles/HOPE ministry will meet every first Thursday of the Month at 4:00 P.M., beginning Thursday, October 2.

OCTOBER 2, 2008

THEME - Honesty

ACTIVITY - Presentation of the Life of St. Luke. The children will subsequently color a picture of St. Luke.

NOVEMBER 6, 2008

THEME - Significance and meaning of Icons.

ACTIVITY - The children will be taken on a tour of the church and shown the various Icons.

DECEMBER 4, 2008

THEME - Helping the less fortunate.

ACTIVITY - The life and works of St. Nicholas will be presented. Subsequently, the children will color pictures of St. Nicholas.

JANUARY 8, 2009

(date is modified due to New Years' Holiday)

THEME - How we are renewed.

ACTIVITY - Each child will verbalize two expressions of kindness.

FEBRUARY 5, 2009

THEME - Love.

ACTIVITY - The children will color pictures of hearts.

MARCH 5, 2009

THEME - Freedom from death.

ACTIVITY - Fr. Nicholas will present the meaning of the Annunciation. The children will subsequently color pictures of the Annunciation.

APRIL 2, 2009

THEME - The Resurrection of our Lord.

ACTIVITY - Easter Egg Hunt/ Races.

MAY 7, 2009

THEME - The finding of the Holy Cross by St. Helen.

ACTIVITY - The Children will make crosses.

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

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Buena Park,
CA

Address Correction Requested -October



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)

