

# The Vineyard

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

JANUARY 2009

VOL. XXVIII, NO. 1

PROISTAMENOS MESSAGE

## PAVING THE WAY FOR CHRIST

**O**n January 7, our church honors one of the greatest men who walked this earth, the honorable, glorious, prophet, forerunner and Baptist John. For us it is even more of a special celebration seeing that our beloved parish is honored to bear his revered name.

While his life was cut short by Herod's edict, his profound legacy and impact has enriched the entire inhabited world and especially the Church of Christ.

John received a divine call to, "prepare the way of the Lord," as foretold by the prophet Isaiah. He was that prophetic and truly charismatic "voice crying in the wilderness" with the charge to "make His paths straight."

The son of Zacharias and Elizabeth was truly a credit to his calling. His was a dynamic voice for renewal, justice and truth. He spoke of the new relationship one was to have with God. His constant admonition of repentance as the sole way in our dealings with God, touched the hearts of many who heard him and as a consequence altered their very lives. His voice thundered across the desert landscape and not only his lifestyle, but also his message, touched peoples lives, especially those who were searching for a meaning to their existence and existence to their meaning. And they gladly accepted the baptism of repentance which he advocated.

The blessed Forerunner never wavered from his

appointed task, reminding his followers that "after me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me." "I have baptized you with water; but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

John "saw" and "has borne witness" to the arrival of the "Sun of Justice", the one who "takes away the sin of the world." Yet, even in the presence of this awesome "theophany" with which he was singularly honored by God, he remained humble to the very end and he would utter those telling words, "He must increase and I must decrease."

In everything the baptizer of the Lord served Christ with extreme humility, fidelity and love. He never took upon himself any honor or glory. You see, his life was always "turning" and "pointing" to the Lord Jesus.

While we rightly celebrate the Forerunner's feast with hymns of praise, we would do well to especially pay attention to the content of his message which was first and foremost rooted in repentance. Even today St. John's words serve to chastise us for our spiritual failings and continue to call us to a spiritual change in our lives which only repentance can provide.

Friends, let us endeavor to live our lives in penitence and fidelity to Christ. That alone would please the beloved St. John the Baptist and Forerunner more than anything.



# **THE VINEYARD**

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

**EDITOR: FATHER JAMES S. DIAVATIS**

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**REV. FR. JAMES S. DIAVATIS, PROTOPRESBYTER**

**REV. FR. NICHOLAS ANDREWS, OIKONOMOS**

Parish Council President..... *Harry Benetatos*  
Philoptochos President ..... *Mary Ohanian*  
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Chantor ..... *John Mestakides*  
Sexton ..... *Theofilos Russos*  
Senior Citizens (St. John's Golden Stars) ..... *Freda Chrest*  
Organist/Choir Director ..... *Elsa Libowitz*  
Office Manager ..... *Sarah Smathers*  
Secretary ..... *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** - 1st 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>

# NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

**M**any people customarily make New Years' resolutions year after year. Some of the most common are, to lose weight, to be better spouses, parents, be more patient, and in general to reach a higher level of spirituality.

On January 6<sup>th</sup>, we celebrate a major Feast day, the Baptism of our Lord and Savior by St John in the River Jordan, and the subsequent revelation of the third person of the Holy Trinity, that is the Holy Spirit, in a form of a dove. Jesus' baptism was the beginning for him. He was now ready to begin His public three year ministry proclaiming the Kingdom of God. Our baptism was a new beginning for us, also. When we were baptized, we were welcomed into the church and began our new life in Jesus Christ.

While here on earth, our lifelong struggle is to grow closer to Christ, thus becoming more "Godlike". In Orthodox terminology, this is called "Theosis". Jesus did not leave us alone to accomplish this great goal. He left us His Holy Church, which He Himself established. Additionally, we have many other recourses that we can utilize order to achieve this great goal of Theosis. These include prayer, both private as well as public. As for example, active participation in the Divine Liturgy as well as other opportunities for worship offered by our Church, donating our time, talents, as well as our treasures toward helping others, nurturing our spiritual selves through reading of the Scripture, the lives of the Saints, the writing of our Church Fathers, and most importantly, through receiving the Sacraments of our Church.

There are however many obstacles on the road to Theosis. Among these are the "various hustles and bustles" of the material world as well as the various weaknesses of our human nature. We are tired, stressed, which in turn, causes us to lose our patience, lower our frustration tolerance, causing us to become more easily angered.

Being a parent, as much as it is a blessing, and as much as it enriches of people's lives, can also be a stressor at times. Parents are responsible, not only for their own spiritual growth and development, but also for their children's. Parents have the moral obligation to not only instill, but also to actively nurture a "spiritual seed" unto their children. Children's behavioral experts tell us that parental example (positive or negative) is one of the biggest determining factors in a child's formation. In the Book of Proverbs we read: "Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will never depart from it." (Proverbs 22:6) Realizing this, our young people are a very high priority here at our parish of St. John the Baptist. It is for this reason that we have developed various age appropriate activities for our youth, in order to help them grow closer to Christ, so that they too will be able to achieve Theosis. This can only be done

*(Continued on page 4)*

# NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

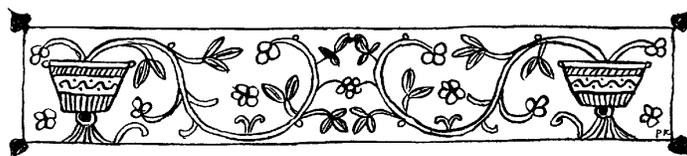
with parental support. Please encourage your children to come to church as well as participate in the various youth programs. Many times, young people present a myriad of excuses for not attending church services or church related activities. "I have a test tomorrow, "I am tired", "I've had a busy week at school",and/or "It's boring!" Interesting, however, is the fact that I have rarely heard a young person offer excuses for not attending a sports or ethically oriented event. While these events are important to a child's development, how can a child deal with the myriad of stressors that occur in life without the spiritual fortification that can be obtained through the active participation in the worship services as well as through the Sacraments, particularly through the Sacrament of Holy Communion?

According to a report released by the centers for Disease Control and Preventions Morbidity and Mortality weekly Report, the suicide rate for 10 to 24 year-olds increased by 8 percent in 2007, the largest single year rise in 15 years. In an age where teenage suicide has reached such high proportions, would it not make sense that parents make every effort to motivate their children to participate in any spiritual activity that would give them strength, guidance, a sense of belonging as well as a sense of fellowship with peers who share the same beliefs?

I hope you will agree with me and consider making a New Year's resolution to motivate your children to participate in our youth programs.

Wishing you happiness as well as health, both physical as well as spiritual, in the new calendar year.

*-Fr. Nicholas*



# Saints of January

## January 2

### † St Seraphim of Sarov (1833)

"Saint Seraphim was born in the town of Kursk in 1759. From tender childhood he was under the protection of the most holy Mother of God, who, when he was nine years old, appeared to him in a vision, and through her icon of Kursk, healed him from a grave sickness from which he had not been expected to recover. At the age of nineteen he entered the monastery of Sarov, where he amazed all with his obedience, his lofty asceticism, and his great humility. In 1780 the Saint was stricken with a sickness which he manfully endured for three years, until our Lady the Theotokos healed him, appearing to him with the Apostles Peter and John. He was tonsured a monk in 1786, being named for the holy Hieromartyr Seraphim, Bishop of Phanarion (Dec. 4), and was ordained deacon a year later. In his unquenchable love for God, he continually added labours to labours, increasing in virtue and prayer with titan strides. Once, during the Divine Liturgy of Holy and Great Thursday he was counted worthy of a vision of our Lord Jess Christ, Who appeared encompassed by the heavenly hosts. After this dread vision, he gave himself over to greater labours.

"In 1794, Saint Seraphim took up the solitary life in a cell in the forest. This period of extreme asceticism lasted some fifteen years, until 1810. It was at this time that he took upon himself one of the greatest feats of his life. Assailed with despondency and a storm of contrary thoughts raised by the enemy of our salvation, the Saint passed a thousand nights on a rock, continuing in prayer until God gave him complete victory over the enemy. On another occasion, he was assaulted by robbers, who broke his chest and his head with their blows, leaving him almost dead. Here again, he began to recover after an appearance of the most Holy Theotokos, who came to him with the Apostles Peter and John, and pointing to Saint Seraphim, uttered these awesome words, 'This is one of my kind.'

"In 1810, at the age of fifty, weakened by his more than human struggles, Saint Seraphim returned to the monastery for the third part of his ascetical labours, in which he lived as a recluse, until 1825. For the first five years of his reclusion, he spoke to no one at all, and little is known of this period. After five years, he began receiving visitors little by little, giving counsel and consolation to ailing souls. In 1825, the most holy Theotokos appeared to the Saint and revealed to him that it was pleasing to God that he fully end his reclusion; from this time the number of people who came to see him grew daily. It was also at the command of the holy Virgin that he undertook the spiritual direction of the Diveyevo Convent. He healed bodily ailments, foretold things to come,

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# Saints of January

brought hardened sinners to repentance, and saw clearly the secrets of the heart of those who came to him. Through his utter humility and childlike simplicity, his unrivalled ascetical travails, and his angel-like love for God, he ascended to the holiness and greatness of the ancient God-bearing Fathers and became, like Anthony for Egypt, the physician for the whole Russian land. In all, the most holy Theotokos appeared to him twelve times in his life. The last was on Annunciation, 1831, to announce to him that he would soon enter into his rest. She appeared to him accompanied by twelve virgins martyrs and monastic saints with Saint John the Baptist and Saint John the Theologian. With a body ailing and broken from innumerable hardships, and an unspotted soul shining with the light of Heaven, the Saint lived less than two years after this, falling asleep in peace on January 2, 1833, chanting Paschal hymns. On the night of his repose, the righteous Philaret of the Glinsk Hermitage beheld his soul ascending to Heaven in light. Because of the universal testimony to the singular holiness of his life, and the seas of miracles that he performed both in life and after death, his veneration quickly spread beyond the boundaries of the Russian Empire to every corner of the earth. See also July 19." (Great Horologion)

July 19 is the commemoration of the uncovering of St Seraphim's holy relics, which was attended by Tsar Nicholas II.

Saint Seraphim's life became a perpetual celebration of Pascha: in his later years he dressed in a white garment, greeted everyone, regardless of the season, with "Christ is Risen!" and chanted the Pascha service every day of the year.

## 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 honour 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, which sent him to visit

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# Saints of January

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 14

### **Saint Nina, Equal to the Apostles and Enlightener of Georgia (335)**

She is called "Nino" in many accounts. This holy maiden was a Cappadocian, the only daughter of Zabullon, a kinsman of the Great Martyr George. She was captured and enslaved by the Iberians (later called the Georgians) and taken away to their homeland. In captivity, she lived a sober and pious life, devoting every free moment day and night to prayer. Her exceptional virtue attracted the attention of many, especially those hungry for Truth, and she simply and boldly proclaimed the Gospel to all who inquired of her.

Once she healed a woman's sick child by her prayers, and the report of this wonder reached the Queen of Georgia, who was herself suffering from an incurable disease. She asked the slave to come to her, but Nina refused out of humility, so the Queen had her servants take her to Nina's dwelling. The Saint prayed and the Queen was healed instantly. Returning home in joy, the Queen praised Nina and her faith to the King, whose name was Mirian. The king payed her little heed, but later, while hunting, he was suddenly engulfed by a dark cloud, so that he lost his way and was stricken by fear. Remembering his wife's report, he prayed "to the god whom Nina worships," and vowed that if he were delivered he would worship Him alone. Immediately the cloud vanished and the King received the light of faith. Hastening home, he found Nina and, King though he was, cast himself at the feet of the slave and told her that he had resolved that he and his whole nation should be baptized. He sent emissaries to Constantine the Great, who quickly dispatched bishops and priests to the barbarian kingdom.

When the conversion of the country was well under way, Nina, though now freed, determined to stay in Georgia, where she withdrew to the wilderness and prayed fervently that the people would be confirmed in the Faith of Christ. Saint Nina reposed in peace, surrounded by the King, his court and the clergy. Thus did a powerless slave woman, by the power of God, convert an entire nation.

# President's Message

**O**n behalf of the Parish Council and myself, I would like to wish all our members and their families here at St. John's a very Merry Christmas and a happy, prosperous and healthy new year. As the year is coming to an end, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow Parish Council members for allowing me to serve as president of our beloved St. John's for this past year.

The year of 2008 has been very busy for our church. Much has been accomplished; we have replaced all the air-conditioning units in the church and office. The exterior of the church has been repainted and the landscaping around the church grounds has been renewed. The community center has been painted and the carpet has been replaced. The parking lot was also repaired. The three rental houses are now vacant and the project for next will be to demolish these houses and a fence will be built surrounding those three properties. Once this has been accomplished we will then come to the General Assembly for approval to continue our expansion program.

As you all know, the Stewardship Pledge from our member unfortunately doesn't cover our everyday expenses in order to keep the doors open. We depend heavily on the May Festival and the Orange Street Fair to meet our budget. I'm very concerned that this year's budget is going to end with a deficit. It is imperative that all of do our best to increase our stewardship commitments and encourage other friends and relatives to do whatever is possible and of course, within their means. These are indeed tough times, but as our facilities are getting older and more maintenance is required. In order to avoid more deficits there are no payroll increases for 2009 and all expenditures will be carefully overseen and managed.

Although this seems odd to address this project so soon, we will be celebrating our 50th anniversary in 2011. This will take place at a major hotel and will be an elegant, black-tie affair. We need full participation from every member and their families in order to make this very special event successful. We will keep you informed of all details as they develop.

Again, thank you for allowing me to serve our community for 2008.

Harry Benetatos,  
*Parish Council President*



# Philoptochos News

Endurance is not just the ability to bear a hard thing, but to turn it into glory.

My warmest wishes to each of you and your families for a happy and healthy New Year, enjoying good health, much happiness and peace.

The Philoptochos hopes that you all had a blessed Christmas. We thank you for helping many families enjoy a nice Christmas with all your support and monetary donations. We have received many thank you letters from the students and their families, thanking St. John's Philoptochos for support during these holidays in making their hardship a little easier.

We were very pleased with our general meeting on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. The small hall was filled with lovely aromas of the delicious food all the ladies brought, pretty tablecloths, lovely centerpieces and the holiday spirit completed the room. We received many toys and gifts from our community to give to the Anaheim Fire Station to distribute to all the children in need. Thank you Joyce Attard and Giota Glavas for handling this.

## **Vasilopita Sunday, January 11, 2009.**

### **Philoptochos needs any donation of Vasilopitas that you can bake.**

#### **Please bring them to church on Sunday, January 11. Thank you for your help.**

The Annual Vasilopita Celebration is the primary fund-raiser for the Academy of Saint Basil. In 1944, the late Ecumenical Patriarch Athenagoras realized his dream of a home and school for Greek Orthodox children with the founding of the Academy of Saint Basil. Today, more than 60 years later, his dream lives on and the Academy continues to serve as a home for children in a loving Christian environment. The proceeds from the sale of the donated pites, the special tray passed in church and any other individual donations is given to support the children of Saint Basil's academy.

**Philoptochos Membership Tea: Saturday, January 24, 2009.** Your chairman, Kiki Chryssogelos has a lovely afternoon planned with a light lunch and entertainment. All are invited to attend and join Philoptochos as an active or supporting member.

**Philoptochos Sunday/Humanitarian Award, January 25, 2009.** There will be a memorial service for our departed Philoptochos members and a presentation of the Annual Humanitarian Award. Following services, we will be serving dessert in the hall.

**High School Seniors:** Any senior that plans to attend college should consider applying for the Father Hadjis Scholarship. Those who applied in the past are urged to resubmit their applications. **The deadline for all applications is March 31, 2009.** For information or applications, please contact Electra Christ. Applications are also available in the church office. We would appreciate any donations for the Father Hadjis Scholarship Fund. Please send donations to St. John's C/O Philoptochos. We appreciate your contributions.

## **SAVE THE DATE SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2009**

### **FOR OUR EXCITING FASHION SHOW LUNCHEON AND OUR SWEETHART PRESENTATION**

This will be held at the beautiful Anaheim Hilton Hotel. If you are 16 years old or a sophomore in High School, you are eligible to be a Sweetheart. Please see Christine Pappas, Christina Dourbetas or Argie Pastis to sign up for this once in a lifetime event.

**NOTE: WE WILL NOT HAVE A PHILOPTOCHOS GENERAL MEETING IN JANUARY.**

**Happy New Year!**

*Mary Ohanian, President*



# Parish Programs

2009

## **ADULT BIBLE STUDY**

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 Afternoons 4PM  
September to June

## **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**

1st 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

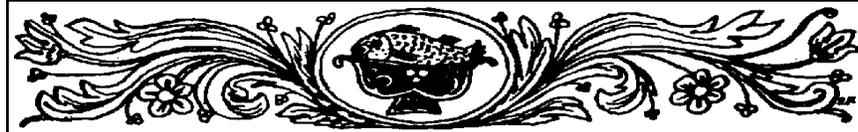
# January 2009

## St. John's Monthly Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <table border="1" style="font-size: small;"> <caption>December 08</caption> <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>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td></tr> <tr><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="font-size: small;"> <caption>February 09</caption> <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>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td></tr> <tr><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div>				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				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				<b>1</b> New Year's Day	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
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<b>4</b> Sunday Before Theophany, Orthros & Liturgy, 9AM G.O.Y.A. Mtg., 12:15PM	<b>5</b> The Royal Hours, Great Vespers & Liturgy of St. Basil and Lesser Service of the Blessing Waters, 9AM Greek Dance, 4PM	<b>6</b> HOLY THEOPHANY, 9AM Greek School, 4PM Great Vespers of St. John, 7PM	<b>7</b> Synaxis of John the Baptist, 9AM *NO Philoptochos Mtg.	<b>8</b> Choir Practice, 7PM Little Angels & H.O.P.E. Mtg., 4PM	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>																																																																																				
<b>11</b> Sunday After Theophany, Orthros & Liturgy, 9A Vasilopeta Sunday	<b>12</b> Greek Dance, 4PM	<b>13</b> Bible Study Resumes, 11:30AM Greek School, 4PM	<b>14</b> Orthodox Faith Class Resumes, 7PM	<b>15</b> Choir Practice, 7PM	<b>16</b> G.O.Y.A. Activity	<b>17</b> St. Anthony, 9AM																																																																																				
<b>18</b> 12th Sunday of Luke, St. Athanasios & Cyril, Orthros & Liturgy, 9AM J.O.Y. Field Trip to 'Color Me Mine'	<b>19</b> Greek Dance, 4PM	<b>20</b> Bible Study, 11:30AM Greek School, 4PM	<b>21</b> Orthodox Faith Class, 7PM	<b>22</b> Choir Practice, 7PM	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Membership Tea																																																																																				
<b>25</b> 15th Sunday of Luke, St. Gregory Theologian, Orthros & Liturgy, 9AM Philoptochos Sunday Humanitarian Award	<b>26</b> Greek Dance, 4PM	<b>27</b> Bible Study, 11:30AM Greek School, 4PM	<b>28</b> Orthodox Faith Class, 7PM	<b>29</b> Choir Practice, 7PM	<b>30</b> Three Hierarchs, 9AM	<b>31</b>																																																																																				

# Worship Services

JANUARY 2009



**Sunday, January 4, 2009**  
**Sunday Before Theophany,**  
Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 9am

**Monday, January 5, 2009**  
**EVE OF THEOPHANY**  
**The Royal Hours, Great Vespers and**  
**Liturgy of St. Basil and Lesser Service of the**  
**Blessing of Waters, 9am**

**Tuesday, January 6, 2009**  
**HOLY THEOPHANY, 9am**  
**Great Vespers of St. John, 7pm**

**Wednesday, January 7, 2009**  
**Synaxis of John the Baptist, 9am**

**Sunday, January 11, 2009**  
**Sunday After Theophany,**  
Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 9am

**Saturday, January 17, 2009**  
**St. Anthony, 9am**

**Sunday, January 18, 2009**  
**12th Sunday of Luke,**  
**St. Athanasios & Cyril**  
Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 9am

**Sunday, January 25, 2009**  
**15th Sunday of Luke,**  
**St. Gregory Theologian**  
Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 9am

**Friday, January 30, 2009**  
**Three Hierarchs, 9am**

## **WELCOME VISITORS**

We welcome all visitors to St. John's. If you are non-Orthodox and are interested in learning who we are and what our beliefs and practices are, we invite you to our Bible Study class and the Class on the Orthodox Faith. If you are an Orthodox Christian and are not member of another Orthodox Church we invite you (and your family) to join our parish. *(Note: While all may receive the Andidoron, the bread which is given at the conclusion of services which of course is not consecrated, only Orthodox Christians in good standing with their church can receive Holy Communion and other Sacraments.)*

PLEASE NOTE: That the Divine Liturgy, on the first Sunday of every month, is conducted in English. This is done so that those persons with a limited understanding of the Greek language can understand, and participate in the worship service. The Greek language alternates with the English language for the remainder of the month.

# Church Registry

JANUARY 2009

## BAPTISMS

**DECEMBER 7, 2008**

**Patrick "Kenny" Manes**

*God Parent: Eugenia Pagalides*

## CHRISTMATION

**DECEMBER 7, 2008**

**Joanne Manes**

*Sponsor: Eugenia Pagalides*

## MEMORIALS

**DECEMBER 7, 2008**

**William Pergantis - 25 Year**

**Dorothea Koutzoukis - 1 Year**

**Nicholas Koutzoukis - 6 Year**

**Constantine Koutzoukis - 7 Year**

**Homer Koutzoukis - 10 Year**

**Byron Koutzoukis - 11 Year**

**Efstratios Koutzoukis - 30 Year**

## FELL ASLEEP IN THE LORD

**DECEMBER 2, 2008**

**Vasilios Nikos Brasinikas**

+ *May their memory be eternal* +

## PROSFORO SCHEDULE

<b>January 4</b>	Mrs. Dimitra Klentos
<b>January 5</b>	Mrs. Dimitra Klentos
<b>January 6</b>	Mrs. Joanne Kalogeropoulos
<b>January 7</b>	Mrs. Joanne Kalogeropoulos
<b>January 11</b>	Mrs. Maria Nikolaou
<b>January 17</b>	Mrs. Katherine Glavas
<b>January 18</b>	Mrs. Katherine Glavas
<b>January 25</b>	Mrs. Mercina Vatakis
<b>January 30</b>	Mrs. Maria Massouris

*\*\*PLEASE 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.**

**"YES", I would like to volunteer my efforts in the sacred work of making Prosfora.**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number(s) Home: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Work: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_**

# ACOLYTES OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST 2009

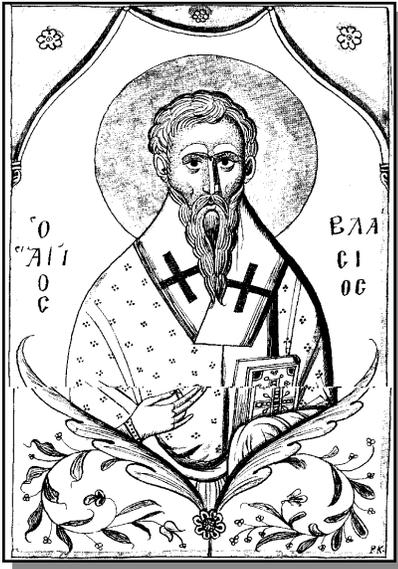


TEAM 1	TEAM 2
Yianni Vestakis Armodios Vestakis Nick Basdakis George Dalis Nicholas Foutris Sotirios Eliopoulos Richard Rosentrater Kosta Dalis	Dimitri Pappas Bradley Jung Kyriakos Alyousef Michael Bangos Kyriakos Psaras Stephen Stylianides
January 11, 2009 February 8, 2009	January 18, 2009 February 15, 2009
TEAM 3	TEAM 4
John Hourigan Stefan Malmlund Alexander Malmlund Christos Malmlund Antonio Georgakopoulos Carl Cantonis Aleko Culp	George Alexopoulos Niko Begakis Argirios Alexopoulos Speros Mantas Dimitri Dimopoulos Paul Stephens Kyle Manes
January 25, 2009 February 22, 2009	January 4, 2009 February 1, 2009

- 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.”*

LOVING NEVER EMPTIES  
YOUR HEART NOR GIVING,  
YOUR HAND.



# Stewardship 2009

The following have submitted their 2009 pledge cards.  
We thank them and we invite the others to make their gift to their church.

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Akkerman  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Amerine  
Mr. & Mrs. Nick Anas  
Mrs. Georgia Anasis  
Mrs. Connie Andros  
Mrs. Alice Antoniou  
Mrs. Bertha August  
Mr. & Mrs. Costandi Awadalla  
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Baglin  
Mrs. Kiki Ballas  
Mr. & Mrs. Anastasios Barouxis  
Mr. & Mrs. Nick Begakis  
Mr. & Mrs. Pete Begakis  
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Benetatos  
Mrs. Venetta Birakos  
Mrs. Maria Bizakis  
Mr. & Mrs. Chris Bonorris  
Mr. & Mrs. George Borovilos  
Mr. & Mrs. Costas Bostinelos  
Mr. & Mrs. Angelo Boussiacos  
Mr. & Mrs. Aleksander Bozovic  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Buelna  
Mr. & Mrs. James Callas  
Mr. Andrew Canellos  
Mr. & Mrs. Carl G. Cantonis  
Mr. & Mrs. George Cantonis  
Mr. & Mrs. N. Chatzipetrou  
Mr. & Mrs. Louis Chelekis  
Mrs. Freda Chrest  
Miss Catherine Christ  
Mr. & Mrs. Nick Christ  
Mr. & Mrs. William Christian  
Mr. & Mrs. Dukas Contos  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Cote  
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Culp  
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Dallas

Mr. & Mrs. Peter Deralas  
Mr. & Mrs. William Deralas  
Mr. & Mrs. Nick Diamant  
Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Dodge  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Elias  
Mr. & Mrs. Athanasios Foskaris  
Mr. & Mrs. George Frousiakis  
Mr. & Mrs. Leon Gabrielian  
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Galanis  
Mr. & Mrs. Nicos Ganis  
Mr. & Mrs. Jose Garcia  
Mr. & Mrs. George Gatsinaris  
Ms. Patricia Gauvain  
Miss Constance George  
Mrs. Demetra Georgouses  
Mr. & Mrs. Gus Gialamas  
Ms. Athena Gianakakos  
Mr. & Mrs. John Giforos  
Dr. & Dr. Constantine Glezakos  
Ms. Bessie Gonos  
Mrs. Mary Goode  
Dr. & Mrs. Dimitri Grammas  
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Harbilas  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Hassapis  
Mr. & Mrs. John Hatzidakis  
Mr. & Mrs. James Hill  
Mr. & Mrs. Denny Hocking  
Mr. & Mrs. S. Hondrogiannis  
Dr. & Mrs. Stephen Kallaos  
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Karagines  
Mr. & Mrs. Hristos Karanastasis  
Mrs. Alberta Keffalas  
Ms. Cynthia Kezos  
Mrs. Nickey Kezos  
Mr. & Mrs. Jean Koclanakis  
Mr. & Mrs. Nick Kokkinos

# Stewardship 2009

The following have submitted their 2009 pledge cards.  
We thank them and we invite the others to make their gift to their church.

Mr. & Mrs. G. Konstantourakis  
Mr. & Mrs. Chris Koukladas  
Mr. & Mrs. Yanni Kouloumbis  
Mrs. Anne Koutzoukis  
Mr. & Mrs. John Koutzoukis  
Mrs. Angelike Lambides  
Mr. & Mrs. James Learakos  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Lewis  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Pallas Linn  
Mrs. Katherine Livieratos  
Mr. Ernie Love  
Mr. & Mrs. Aristos Mantas  
Mrs. Nada Margaretis  
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Marincovich  
Mr. Milton Maris  
Mr. & Mrs. George Massouris  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael McFann  
Mr. & Mrs. Kirk McMullin  
Mr. & Mrs. Chris Mellas  
Mrs. Marie Miller  
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Mitchell  
Mrs. Mary Mitchell  
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Mitchell  
Mr. & Mrs. G. Mousmoules  
Mrs. Sofia Moysidis  
Mrs. Mary Naylor  
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Nichols  
Mr. Pete Nichols  
Ms. Peggy Nicolaou  
Mr. & Mrs. John Ohanian  
Ms. Eugenia Pagalides  
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Panos  
Mrs. Georgia Pappas  
Mr. Timothy Pappas  
Mr. & Mrs. Vasilios Paxos  
Mrs. Connie Perakis

Mr. & Mrs. Alex Persakis  
Mr. James Petros  
Mr. & Mrs. Georgios Rigas  
Mr. & Mrs. Cristo Ristas  
Mr. & Mrs. Tim Sarres  
Dr. & Mrs. Randy Schoeman  
Mr. & Mrs. James Sdrales  
Mr. & Mrs. Chris Sigas  
Mr. & Mrs. Nickolas Siokos  
Mr. & Mrs. Dean Soles  
Mrs. Bess Stavrakes  
Mr. & Mrs. Brian Stratouly  
Mr. & Mrs. John Sutch  
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Szary  
Miss Maria Tambouris  
Mr. & Mrs. G. Tavoularis  
Mr. & Mrs. George Thalassas  
Mr. & Mrs. William Thomas  
Mr. & Mrs. Spiro Tragos  
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Tragos  
Mrs. Foula Vanikiotis  
Miss Lisa Vatakis  
Mrs. Helen Vest  
Mrs. Estella Vlachos  
Mrs. Sophia Voulimeneas  
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Vourakis  
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Wilson  
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Winders  
Mr. & Mrs. R. Wemmer  
Ms. Josephine Zorzy

**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.**

**As of  
December 12, 2008**

**Total Pledges: 140**

**Goal: 600**

**To Go: 460**

**Total Pledged:**

**\$104,341.00**

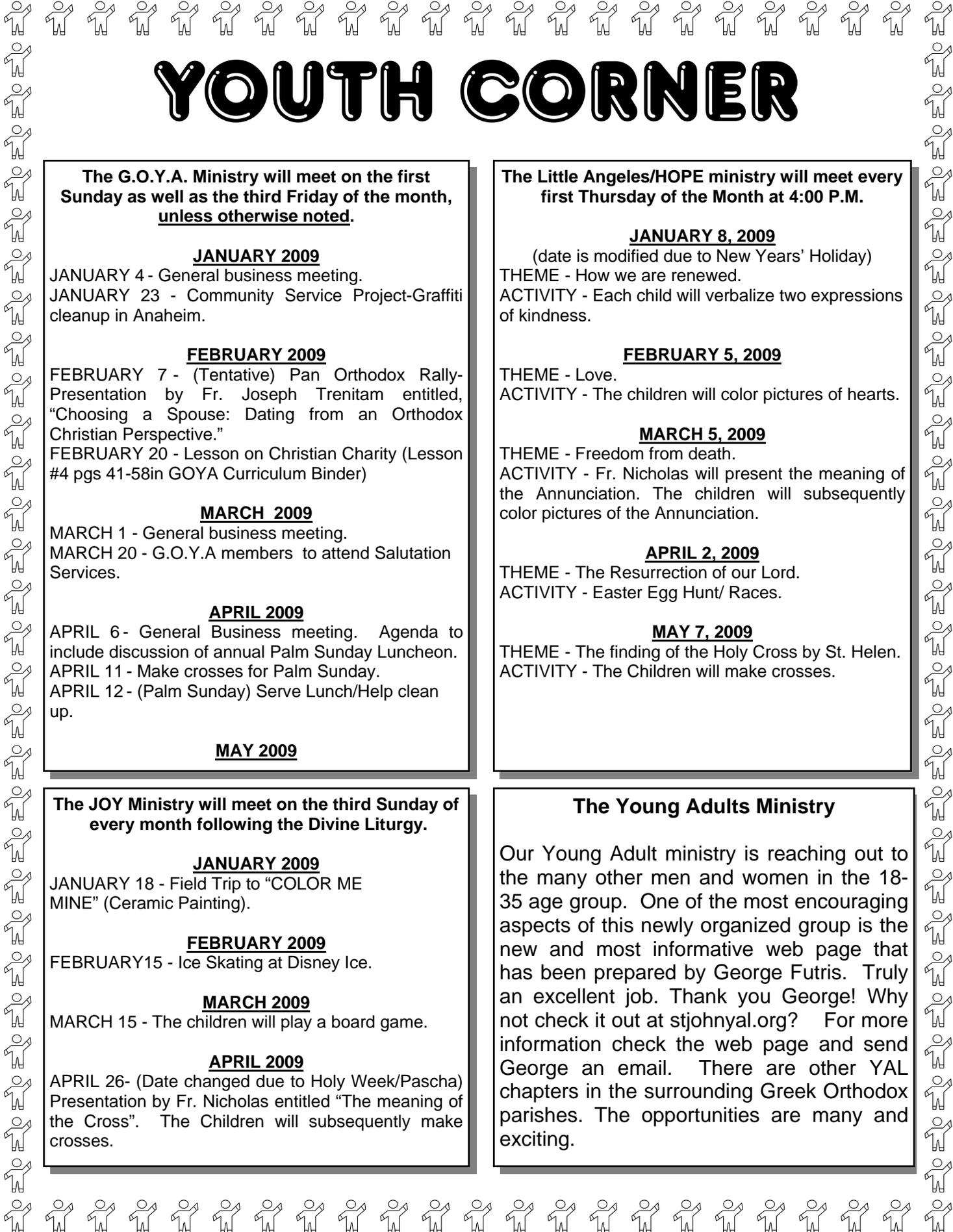
**Budgeted Goal:**

**\$330,000.00**

**Amount left to reach**

**Goal:**

**\$225,659.00**



# YOUTH CORNER

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

## **JANUARY 2009**

JANUARY 4 - General business meeting.  
JANUARY 23 - Community Service Project-Graffiti cleanup in Anaheim.

## **FEBRUARY 2009**

FEBRUARY 7 - (Tentative) Pan Orthodox Rally-Presentation by Fr. Joseph Trenitam entitled, "Choosing a Spouse: Dating from an Orthodox Christian Perspective."  
FEBRUARY 20 - Lesson on Christian Charity (Lesson #4 pgs 41-58in GOYA Curriculum Binder)

## **MARCH 2009**

MARCH 1 - General business meeting.  
MARCH 20 - G.O.Y.A members to attend Salutation Services.

## **APRIL 2009**

APRIL 6 - General Business meeting. Agenda to include discussion of annual Palm Sunday Luncheon.  
APRIL 11 - Make crosses for Palm Sunday.  
APRIL 12 - (Palm Sunday) Serve Lunch/Help clean up.

## **MAY 2009**

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

## **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.

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

## **JANUARY 2009**

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

## **FEBRUARY 2009**

FEBRUARY 15 - Ice Skating at Disney Ice.

## **MARCH 2009**

MARCH 15 - The children will play a board game.

## **APRIL 2009**

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

## **The Young Adults 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](http://stjohnyal.org)? 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.

# NEWS FROM OUR COMMUNITY

## A Thank You Letter from Alex Soles

My Dear Friends,

Words cannot express my deepest gratitude for the love, kindness and genuine compassion you have all shown to me during this very difficult time. I've always considered St. John's Parish a part of my family and always will. Again, I want to thank each and everyone of you from the bottom of my heart. Have a happy and healthy new year.

Yours in Christ,  
Alex Soles

### **NEW FEATURE ON OUR WEBSITE!!**

Our weekly Sunday Bulletins are now available **ONLINE!** Please visit us at [www.stjohnanaheim.org](http://www.stjohnanaheim.org) to see this new and improved feature.

### **BOOKMOBILE**

Our Bookmobile has bibles for sale. Regular bibles are \$40 and leather bonded bibles are \$60. Red leather bibles can be ordered for \$99 with a possible discount. Please see Foula.

## **ST. JOHN'S GREEK FESTIVAL**

**SAVE THE DATE  
MAY 15, 16, 17**

Please visit our festival website,  
[www.ocgreekfest.com](http://www.ocgreekfest.com)

*Join us for a  
Pancake Breakfast  
following Liturgy on  
January 11<sup>th</sup>*



*Proceeds Benefit  
the Levendia Greek  
Dance Group.  
Please Help  
support our  
Dancers!*



# FATHER GEORGE HADJIS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Attention  
Graduated or Graduating  
High School Seniors

Seize the opportunity!!!  
Deadline for applying is April 10, 2009

Those who applied and did not receive a scholarship in the past are urged to resubmit their applications.

For more information or applications, please contact Electra Christ at (714) 838-9229.

Applications are also available  
in the Church office.

# 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

*Tuesday, January 6, 2009  
The festal Great Vespers  
7:00 p.m.*

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

*Wednesday, January 7, 2009  
The festal Orthros 9:00 a.m.  
Liturgy 10:00 a.m.*

## **St. John The Baptist Greek Orthodox Church**

### **Important Albertsons Community Partners Action Item You Must Relink Your Card To Keep Our Program Successful !**

Dear Friends,

As many of you know, we have been earning much needed funding through the Albertsons Community Partners Program. We need your help to continue earning funds.

**Even if you have linked your Preferred Savings Card to our organization in the past, you need to re-link your card number in order for us to continue earning funds. Link (or re-link) your Albertsons Preferred Savings card to our organization now at:**

**[WWW.ALBERTSONSCP.COM](http://WWW.ALBERTSONSCP.COM)**

All you need is your Preferred Savings Card Number and our Organization ID. It will only take a minute and will help us greatly.

If you do not know your Preferred Savings Card Number, please call:  
(877) 932-7948.

Our Organization ID# is: 49001017198

You must relink your card at the website above by February 28, 2009 in order to keep earning funds for our organization.

**Please pass this notice around to your friends, relatives, co-workers and neighbors so they can link their cards for us as well.**

If you do not have a Preferred Savings card, you can get one at any Albertsons or online at Albertsons.com.

*Every time you shop at Albertsons and scan your linked Preferred Savings Card, we will earn back up to 4% of your shopping dollars!*

Thank you for your support!

