

The Vineyard

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

JANUARY 2010

VOL. XXXI, NO. 01

PROISTAMENOS MESSAGE

THE VOICE OF ONE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS

In a world where so-called leaders and potentates of all types govern us from time immemorial, people have difficulty in accepting the fact that ultimately and above all, God rules. We, their subjects, (and yes we are considered such by many “public servants”) see only the quest for power by the few who are captivated by the desire to subjugate others, to acquire riches which satisfy their greed and lust and who seldom truly serve the citizens whom they govern.

Yet, in truth, whether we want to believe it or not, God’s hand is on the world’s steering wheel. The Creator does not abandon us to our “fates”. In His infinite wisdom God is leading those who do accept Him to become the “leaven” that transforms this world which is under the oppressive “tyranny of the devil”, into a new world order where God’s kingdom is to be manifested in glory. Throughout history God has revealed Himself to those who trusted and believed in Him. He has spoken through them and they have manifested their love and devotion as faithful ambassadors of his word and will. Above all they did not fail Him; even when it meant that they must give their most prized possession, their very life.

St. John the Forerunner and Baptist, was such an illustrious figure. His mission was carried out with great dedication and with a singular purpose; to “prepare the way of the Lord”. John’s task was to smooth out the road, to put on fire the hearts of those who trusted him and turned to him for guidance and lead them to the one who will “baptize (them) with the Holy Spirit.” His steadfast adherence to truth attested by his own fidelity

to his God -ordained assignment, brought about the conversion of many. Although his life was cut short, the Forerunner succeeded in his mission.

John was sent from God, and called to the task of a prophet. The desolate desert was his pulpit. In its stillness and utterly stark and inhospitable environment, his thundering voice of repentance echoed constantly until it reached a people yearning to be set free from all that held them bondage. His message resonated with many who turned around their lives and received their just reward.

The greatness of the Baptist was enshrined in his humility and his desire to fulfill his appointed mission. He always pointed to the Christ, and his entire life was a radical, constant turning from self to Christ. In the presence of this theophany he would proclaim “He (Christ) must increase, I must decrease”.

As members of this community of faith, which is especially honored by bearing the name of the Baptist of our Lord, we are called to emulate the example of the Forerunner. How do we that? By sharing his unshakeable faith, his devotion, his love, and by our daily struggles to be found worthy of our divine calling.

Celebrating with hymns of praise his sacred memory, let us rededicate ourselves to living our life with a deep and abiding faith in the Lord, whom the Forerunner faithfully



THE VINEYARD

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

EDITOR: FATHER JAMES S. DIAVATIS

REV. FR. JAMES S. DIAVATIS, PROTOPRESBYTER

REV. FR. NICHOLAS ANDREWS, OIKONOMOS

Parish Council President..... *Harry Benetatos*
Philoptochos President *Mary Ohanian*
Religious Education..... *Patricia Bangos & Kaliopé Attard*
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

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 Sundays - 1:00 P.M.

J.O.Y - 3rd Sunday of the Month

Little Angels & H.O.P.E - 2nd Sunday 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>

ARE WE DENYING CHRIST?

...and Thomas answered Him "My Lord and my God" (John 20:28)

By Father Nicholas

In the history of those who have followed Christ, there were a number of people who, at one point, because of their weakness, denied Christ. Just prior to the events leading to the Passion and crucifixion of our Savior, there were two disciples who, because of their fear/ disillusionment/disappointment, denied Christ. We are speaking, of course, of Peter and Judas.

Peter's denial was a result not only of his fear of being associated with Christ's entourage, therefore being subjected to punishment or death, but also his disillusionment with Christ when Christ announced that he will be delivered to lawless men and be crucified. Judas' denial was also a result of disillusionment, and well as avarice. Judas's perception of the Savior was that of a mighty ruler, who would use his power to destroy the Roman nation, and therefore was disillusioned when Christ, as was Peter, when Jesus announced that He will be delivered up to lawless men to be crucified.

Following His resurrection, when Christ appeared to His Disciples for the second time, (The Gospel tells us that Thomas was not present at Christ's first appearance.) proved to Thomas (who is often called "The doubting Thomas") that He had truly risen in order that Thomas may be reinstated back to his original state of belief, as he had withdrawn into isolation following the crucifixion of Christ; due again, to disillusionment. However, in his isolation, Thomas could not come up with an answer in order to resolve his disappointment with Christ. The answer was revealed to him when he returned back into the community of fellowship with the other disciples i.e. the Church. It is there that he meets up with Christ. Christ personally speaks to him on a one to one basis and asks him to look at His hands where the nails had been placed, as well as to place his finger in His side where the soldiers had thrust the lance into His side, "so that you won't become an unbeliever, but a believer. It is important to note that in Thomas' profession of faith; he not only validates Christ's bodily Resurrection from the dead, but also acknowledges the two natures of Christ; that of the human, as well as that of the Divine.

Many times, due to our human nature, like Peter, Judas, as well as Thomas, consciously or unconsciously, both isolate ourselves from Christ, as well as deny Him. How do we do this? We come up with excuses for not attending the various sacred services that are offered by our church throughout the year, and in doing so; miss the opportunity to participate in the sacraments of our church, such as Holy Confession, as well as Holy Communion. We allow other activities, such as sports or parties, to take priority over our spiritual development. And consciously or unconsciously, we pass this distortion of priorities on to our children, through our own example. Many times we don't take even a few minutes during the course of our day to pray for God's guidance and protection. Many people are embarrassed to make the sign of the Cross in public, such as in a restaurant, or at a home of a non-Orthodox. We avoid using the phrase "Merry Christmas" and instead say "Happy Holidays" so that we are "politically correct". Many times, we break the Ten Commandments either actively or passively, by not confronting the people who are break them, such as not reporting a crime that we witness, as for example, people who are stealing money or other material objects from business organizations; because these people are our "friends" and we don't want to "squeal" on them. As a result, we become part of that crime. Many times we become angry and/or disappointment at God because the outcome of our prayers was not what we wanted or expected. As human beings, we cannot even begin to comprehend God's wisdom, and realize that God grants only those petitions of our prayers that are unto our salvation, and not unto our harm or destruction. We cannot even begin to understand God's will and providence. It is precisely for this reason that we must wholeheartedly, and without any reservation, totally put our faith in God. We must not allow our human weaknesses, whatever they may be, doubt, fear, anxiety, etc., to get the best of us and compromise our faith. In those times that our faith begins to waver, as did Peter's as he was walking on the water, in an effort to meet Christ, and the storm broke out, Peter began to sink because of his fear. Let our faith be reinforced by the name "Emmanuel" that we hear during the celebration of Christ's birth; "God is with us" Amen!

Philoptochos News

“Help carry one another’s burden; in that way you will fulfill the law of Christ.” Gal. 6:2

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Philoptochos hopes that you had a blessed Christmas with family and friends. Happy New Year to all! My warmest wishes to each of you and your families for the New Year, enjoying good health, happiness and peace.

Our December General Philoptochos meeting had a great turn out. The evening was filled with good friends and Christmas spirit. The ladies outdid themselves bringing a great array of delicious food and pastries. Everyone was very generous in bringing toys, clothing, gift cards for the children at the Halcyon Anaheim Interfaith Shelter. Halcyon was very grateful for the wonderful outcome of these gifts. Their homeless families with children will be the recipients of Philoptochos’ generosity. Our thanks to all of you for your generous contributions of money and gifts to help us with our program of taking care of many families that have great needs. Thank you to our Sunday School children, teachers and directors for helping us this year with your monetary donations. It was great being your partner in this wonderful endeavor.

To those who attended the Golden Stars Christmas luncheon, were treated to a delicious lunch provided by Philoptochos and catered by Spiros restaurant. Nick and his staff did an outstanding job. Thank you to Freda Chrest, chairman, her committee for making sure everything was perfect, for the beautiful tree decorated by Liz Hadjis, to the table settings and to the wonderful entertainment provided by Gabriela Koliass, John Mestakidis and Elsa Libowitz on the piano. We heard wonderful Greek Christmas songs, enjoyed singing along and the beautiful voices of Gabriella and John.

Philoptochos is very blessed with so many kind and generous friends. Our Philoptochos member, Marcia Melanitis, who works for Kindred Hospital, provided Philoptochos with 39 turkeys to give to our needy families. These families have great needs, some of the children eat only one meal a day, some live in cars, some in motels. The families receive a turkey and a food gift card, other families, due to their living situation, receive the market food gift cards so they can purchase the items they need to feed their families. Thank you Marcia for being instrumental for us to receive the wonderful gift of so many turkeys.

VASILOPETA: January 10, 2010: The traditional celebration of the Vasilopeta will be held Sunday, following church service. The proceeds of the sale of these delicious breads are earmarked to assist St. Basil’s Academy. We would appreciate your donation of this special pites. Please bring them to the church hall on Sunday, January 10th so the ladies can prepare them for selling.

MEMBERSHIP TEA: Saturday, January 23, 2010: We cordially invite everyone to attend our Membership Tea held in our Fellowship Hall. The Philoptochos Board and members provide a wonderful lunch and our chairman, Christina Dourbetas, has a terrific event planned for this afternoon. We encourage the ladies to join this worthwhile society. I cannot say it enough times, the joy you will receive in serving and the lovely people you meet and make lifelong friends. If you cannot be active at this time, please be supportive.

JANUARY 2010

St. John's Monthly Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																			
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3 Sunday before Theophany, Orthros & Liturgy, 9AM GOYA Mtg., 12:15PM	4	5 The Royal Hours of Theophany and Lesser Service of the Blessing Waters, Orthros & Liturgy, 9AM	6 HOLY THEOPHANY, 9AM Great Vespers of St. John, 7PM	7 Choir Practice, 7PM Synaxis of John the Baptist, 9AM	8 Greek Dance Preview	9																																																																																			
10 Sunday after Theophany, Orthros & Liturgy, 9AM Vasilopeta Sunday	11	12 Bible Study, 11:30AM Greek School, 4PM	13 Orthodox Faith Class, 7PM	14 Choir Practice, 7PM	15 16 FDF																																																																																				
17 15th Sunday of Luke (Zacchaeus), Orthros & Liturgy, 9AM FDF	18	19 Bible Study, 11:30AM Greek School, 4PM Parish Council Mtg., 7PM	20 Orthodox Faith Class, 7PM	21 Choir Practice, 7PM	22	23 Membership Tea																																																																																			
24 Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee, Orthros & Liturgy, 9AM Philoptochos Sunday & Humanitarian Award	25	26 Bible Study, 11:30AM Greek School, 4PM	27 Orthodox Faith Class, 7PM	28 Choir Practice, 7PM	29	30 Three Hierarchs, 9AM																																																																																			
31 Sunday of the Prodigal Son, Orthros & Liturgy, 9AM	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <table border="1" style="font-size: small;"> <caption>December 09</caption> <thead> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td></tr> <tr><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td></tr> <tr><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" style="font-size: small;"> <caption>February 10</caption> <thead> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <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></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </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						
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Worship Services



JANUARY 2010

Sunday, January 3, 2010
Sunday before Theophany,
Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 9AM

Tuesday, January 5, 2010
The Royal Hours of Theophany
and Lesser Service of the
Blessing of the Waters, 9am

Wednesday, January 6, 2010
Holy Theophany, 9am
Great Vespers of St. John, 7PM

Thursday, January 7, 2010
Synaxis of John the Baptist, 9am

Sunday, January 10, 2010
Sunday after Theophany,
Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 9am

Sunday, January 17, 2010
15th Sunday of Luke (Zacchaeus),
Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 9am

Sunday, January 24, 2010
Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee,
Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 9am

Saturday, January 30, 2010
Three Hierarchs, 9AM

Sunday, January 31, 2010
Sunday of the Prodigal Son,
Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 9am



PROSFORO SCHEDULE

January 03 Mrs. Demetra Klentos
January 05 Mrs. Voula Kitsigianis
January 06 Mrs. Voula Kitsigianis
January 07 Mrs. Joanne Kalogeropoulos
January 10 Mrs. Katherine Glavas
January 17 Mrs. Anastasia Mandas
January 24 Mrs. Eleni Kousoulas
January 30 Mrs. Alexandra Margias
January 31 Mrs. Alexandra Margias

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.

****PLEASE NOTE:** *If you are unable to bring the Prosforo on your designated date, please call Joanne Kalogeropoulos at (714) 991-8126. Thank you.*

Church Registry

JANUARY 2010

MEMORIALS

December 20, 2009

MARY GEORGE - 40 Year

NIKOLAS VOVOS - 40 Day

VASILIOS SKLAVOUNOS - 13 Year

STAVROULA SKLAVOUNOS - 32

Year

DEAN SOLES - 40 Day

FELL ASLEEP IN THE LORD

November 25, 2009

VIRGINIA DILWORTH

December 14, 2009

CONNIE ANDROS

WEDDINGS

November 1, 2009

PETER JORDAN &

SOPHIA LAMBIDES

Sponsor: Evangeline Mitchell

BAPTISMS

December 23, 2009

EVANGELINE LORAINNE HILE

Proud Parents:

Erik & Stamatia Joanne Hile

God Parent:

Peter & Sophia Jordan



Trying something new...watch the mail in January for NEW stewardship envelopes. These will be sent monthly rather than a booklet for the year. This year, for 2010, there will be no envelopes to pick up at church. As always, you can make stewardship donations without your envelope or envelope number simply by designating "Stewardship" in the memo of the check. It's also a good idea to designate for which year the donation is to be credited. If you have questions, call the church office and Sarah will be happy to



All submissions for the Vineyard must be submitted by the 15th of the previous month.

**ST. JOHN'S GREEK
FESTIVAL**

**SAVE THE DATE
MAY 21, 22, 23**

**Please visit our festival website,
www.ocgreekfest.com**

Parish Programs

2010

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Tuesday Mornings
11:30AM-1PM

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SUN. SCHOOL)

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

GREEK FOLK DANCING
Every Sunday, 1PM

**YOUTH ADULT LEAGUE
ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN
FELLOWSHIP**
Contact George Futris at St.JohnYAL.org

Y.A.L. BIBLE STUDY
This class has been cancelled.

**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 October 4

**LITTLE ANGELS YOUTH PROGRAM
& H.O.P.E YOUTH PROGRAM**
2nd Sunday of the Month, 12:15PM

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 - Tuesday 4PM

JR. CHOIR

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

Church School News

January 2010

Happy New Year to all of you! We hope that you were able to be with us during our Christmas pageant. The students had a great time re-enacting the birth of our Lord and singing traditional Christmas carols. We hope you enjoyed the production. After that, the students invited all those attending to refreshments in the hall, complete with hot cocoa and hot apple cider. The students had a great time enjoying the refreshments, making crafts in our Craft Shop and greeting Santa. It was a wonderful way to celebrate Christmas together.

During Thanksgiving, our Church School partnered with St. John's Philoptochos to feed the needy. Our students donated \$114 in the month of November. We combined this money with what the Philoptochos raised and with that, we were able to feed 60 families. We all felt good that we helped these families who may have gone without on Thanksgiving, if it were not for our donations.

Because of that, we decided to help additional families at Christmas. We, again, partnered with the Philoptochos and raised additional money to help needy families. Our students wanted to help these families have a nice Christmas.

Now that we are starting a new year, we are also making plans for the rest of our Church School year. Beginning this month, our schedule has changed. We now begin class after communion. Again, the purpose of this is so that our children will be sitting and listening to the Gospel and participating in the Divine Liturgy with their families. After Holy Communion, the students leave and join their teachers and classmates in their classroom. They will remain there until Church School is dismissed at 12:00.

Because of the shortened class time, we are asking that parents please refrain from pulling their children out of class early. It cuts down on the time they have for religious education and it also disrupts the class. When class is over, the teacher will dismiss their class. Please wait until the class is dismissed before picking up your children. If you know that you will need to pick up your child early, please send a note to the teacher with your child that day. Also, please be on time for Church so that you and your child(ren) can hear the word of God together since this is an important part of the Holy Eucharist.

Coming events include an essay and art exhibit. Students will submit projects that they have worked on. Details will follow.

If you have not joined us for Church School yet, we hope you will soon. The students learn so much valuable information. They also make wonderful friends. We hope to see you soon.

To all our Church School students and families, we wish you all a happy and health New Year.

Kally Attard and Patricia Bangos, Directors



YOUTH CORNER

G.O.Y.A

SUNDAY, JANUARY 3 - Regular Business meeting

LITTLE ANGELS AND H.O.P.E MINISTRY

Due to Vasilopeta Sunday, the next meeting of the Little Angels and HOPE ministry will be rescheduled for Sunday, February 14th.

J.O.Y

Because of scheduling conflicts with F.D.F., the next date, time and venue of the JOY ministry will be announced at a later date.

ACOLYTES

Each team will continue to serve one Sunday each month. If there are any young men between the ages of 9-18 who wish to serve in the Altar, please see Fr. Nicholas. We could definitely use the help.

Y.A.L

Due to the lack of interest and participation, the Bible Study class that had been scheduled on the first Monday night of the month has been cancelled. The Tuesday morning Bible Study class will continue to meet, as usual, at 11:30 A.M. on Tuesday mornings.

ACOLYTES OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST 2010



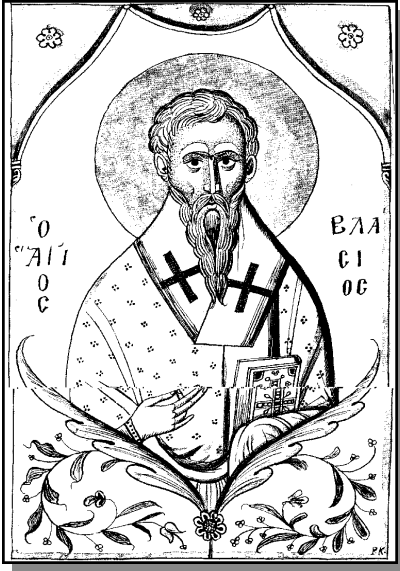
TEAM 1	TEAM 2
<p>Yianni Vestakis Armodios Vestakis Nick Basdakis George Dalis Nicholas Foutris Sotirios Eliopoulos Kosta Dalis</p>	<p>Dimitri Pappas Bradley Jung Kyriakos Alyousef Michael Bangos Kyriakos Psaras Stephen Stylianides</p>
<p>January 24, 2010 February 21, 2010</p>	<p>January 3, 2010 January 31, 2010</p>
TEAM 3	TEAM 4
<p>John Hourigan Stefan Malmlund Alexander Malmlund Christos Malmlund Antonio Georgakopoulos Carl Cantonis Aleko Culp</p>	<p>George Alexopoulos Niko Begakis Argirios Alexopoulos Speros Mantas Dimitri Dimopoulos Paul Stephens Kyle Manes</p>
<p>January 10, 2010 February 7, 2010</p>	<p>January 17, 2010 February 14, 2010</p>

1.) The Divine Liturgy begins promptly at 10:00 AM. Please be vested no later than 10:05 AM.

2.) Clothing preference is white (or light) shirt and tie with dark shoes. NO SNEAKERS PLEASE.

The Stewardship of St. 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 2010

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. Themis Alexopoulos
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Amerine
Mr. & Mrs. Nick Anas
Mrs. Connie Andros
Mr. & Mrs. Cheistos Angeletakis
Mrs. Alice Antoniou
Ms. Joyce Attard
Mr. & Mrs. Louie Attard
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Attard
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Mr. & Mrs. Kirk McMullin
Mr. & Mrs. Chris Mellas
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Mitchell
Mrs. Mary Mitchell
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Mitchell
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Mr. Pete Nichols
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Ms. Peggy Nicolaou
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Mr. & Mrs. Eleftherios Vestakis
Mrs. Estella Vlachos
Mrs. Sophia Voulimeneas
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Winders
Ms. Josephine Zorzy
Mr. Jim Zounatiotis

As of December 16 2009

Total Pledges: 151

Goal: 600

Total Pledged:

\$129,353.00

Budgeted Goal:

\$330,000.00

Amount left to reach Goal:

\$200,647.00

FATHER GEORGE HADJIS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Attention Graduated or Graduating
High School Seniors

Seize the opportunity!!!

Deadline for applying is April 17, 2010

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

For information or applications,
Please contact Penny Hatzis:

714-289-8935 (home)

714-595-6953 (cell)

penny.hatzis@sbcglobal.net

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

Wednesday, January 6, 2010

The festal Great Vespers, 7:00 p.m.

Dinner Reception to follow with Area Clergy in Attendance

Thursday, January 7, 2010

The festal Orthros 9:00 a.m.

Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

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

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Address Correction Requested - January



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)

