

The Vineyard

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

MARCH 2010

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PROISTAMENOS MESSAGE

“DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME” “FOR THE LIFE OF THE WORLD”

Dear Friends,

Certainly, most of us have been present at some memorable suppers. Some of them were simple, and perhaps we have attended or given some elegant and impressive ones.

For us Christians, the most significant supper ever held was the one Jesus gave on the eve of his death on Holy Thursday. It is known as the Last Supper or as we Orthodox call it, the Mystical Supper.

Soon we will be reliving and re-enacting what occurred on that evening which commemorates and memorializes for all time this simple and private dinner which ushered in the world-changing events which led to our salvation from sin and death.

When Christ our Lord sat down confronted him. The first although he wanted to stay. Yes, will of his Father. **“It is to your do not go away, the Holy Spirit**

At the same time he wanted to with a profound intensity Such

conflict. Which would yield? The Father’s will is an impossibility: **“ I always do what is pleasing to Him”**. (John 8:29) Should his love for us have to yield?

*“If love is to give,
to love perfectly is to give
until there is nothing
to give.”*

to his last supper, two problems problem was that he had to go he had to leave us because it was the **advantage that I go away; for if I will not come to you.”** (John 16:7)

stay with us. For he loved his own was his bitter anguish of two loves in

With all the love and tenderness which filled his heart, the Lord cuts through the problem with a solution which at first consideration almost shocks us. Neither love will yield. He will go but also will stay. Yes, he will no longer be seen, and his presence will be taken from his beloved disciples and those who delighted to see him, to hear him, to be near him and be healed as he travelled the dusty roads of Palestine. No more will they experience the fascination of his smile or be touched by his compassion and tears. Yet, to the end of time, he would remain with us. Not simply in our memory or imagination. We would see him henceforth not with the eyes of the body but with the eyes of our faith. How? In the two elements, bread and wine. Consider his own words: **“This is my body...” this is my blood.”** To which he added those eternally most significant words: **“Do this in remembrance of me”**. (Luke 22:19) Of course it looks like bread, it feels like bread, it tastes like bread, but it is not bread. It **IS** his body!

THE VINEYARD

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

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Schedule of Sunday Worship Services

Orthros & Divine Liturgy.....9:00 A.M.

Memorials at Conclusion of Divine Liturgy
Fellowship in Church Hall Following Divine Liturgy

WEEKDAY/HOLY DAY SERVICES.....9:00 A.M.

Parish Programs

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.

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“DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME” “FOR THE LIFE OF THE WORLD”

His real presence, until his return, is a certainty which has been given to the Church by the God who so loved us that he assumed our human existence in order to experience a death like ours. Truly, God suffers not only **for** us but **with** us!

Every Liturgy offered by the priest down the ages, has been given to us by Christ the Archpriest, who is offered to those who truly see him with the eyes of faith. The “invisible” presence of the same Lord who sojourned with us for thirty-three years, becomes a reality when the priest utters those sacred words, “**send down your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts. And make this bread to be the precious body of your Christ and that which is in this cup the precious blood of your Christ, changing them by the power of your Holy Spirit**”. (Epiklesis of St. John’s Liturgy)

Through our “worthy” reception, Christ unites himself with us in a most intimate manner. We are infused not simply by his grace but by the very Lord who said “**I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly**”. (John 10:10) Thus, when we approach the Chalice we commune with the same Christ and his own heart next to our own beating hearts gives life even as we hear the priest utter our own personal name and the prayer “**unto forgiveness of sins and life everlasting**”. (St. John’s Liturgy)

Holy Week is almost upon us. What will you do different this year? And does it really matter? Absolutely! These seven days which changed the world, invite us to work feverishly towards achieving something else. Its not a time to simply deny ourselves of something or to assume a pious look; it is not time to rediscover those lenten foods our mothers used to force on us; it is not a time to wonder why you may eat olives but not olive oil; it is also much more than foregoing the movies or usual entertainment; passing on Bud lite or Cabernet. And to the young and the restless I would add that these most holy days should NOT be a time for the excesses of “spring break”.

Christ’s love is all encompassing. It is offered unconditionally. It is eternally given, freely, liberally and without ever considering our many faults. “**As far as the east is from the west so far does he remove our transgressions from us.**”(Psalm 103:12)

“**If love is to give, to love perfectly is to give until there is nothing to give**”. We would do well to reflect prayerfully on this and act accordingly. Our response to that perfect love must be demonstrated by our own love of Christ. For the Son of God took our bones and blood, our skin and sinews not because he needed them. He took what is ours not only to give us what is his, but in order to let us share in God’s life. God’s love is truly unfathomable!

Dear friend. Allow yourself to share in God’s life. For since Christ died for you, the least you can do is to **LOVE** him and **LIVE** for him.

I fervently pray for all of you. Let us live our lives united with the Risen Christ. And may this Pascha be our own rebirth to a new life in Christ.

In Christ’s love,



ON THE EVE OF OUR 50th ANNIVERSARY

Some Personal Thoughts

“Gather up the best of the past, infuse it with insights of the present, with a view to an even greater Christian and human future”.

Thanks to divine providence, we have arrived at a historic moment in the life of our parish. In a few months we will enter a rather significant passage of fifty years since our founding in 1961 as the first Greek Orthodox Church in Orange County.

Over these five decades, many have labored with great love, determination and faith. Thanks to them we have had a justifiable proud presence in this heart of Southern California.

In preparing to honor the memory of those who truly dared to act decisively, my respect of their efforts compels me to share with you a few words on this truly auspicious upcoming event.

Certainly, we need to celebrate this event in the best possible manner which befits its significance, because it only comes but once in our lifetime. So its truly right and proper to allow a time for remembering the past with a critical and expectant look at our present and especially future possibilities.

In a world ruled by constant change and never-ending flux, we are continuously bombarded by the shrill ads advocating change. We are told to buy “this” or try “that” because it is “new” and “improved” and will make our lives easier. However, as a household of an Orthodox Christian faith, we are challenged at the same time by another dimension which is not to be found in the world but only in the Church. And just like the mythological Greek hero, Hercules, we are faced with a dilemma of the “two” ways. As the story goes, two ladies who symbolized opposite values appeared to him and tried to convince him to accept their lifestyles; one promised him that he could achieve everything and anything but by questionable and wrong choices; while the other promised nothing but ongoing struggle to achieve life’s goals in a decent and honorable manner. We learned also their true identity; the former was the personification of everything evil (kakia) while the latter’s identity was virtue.(areti) To his credit Hercules chose the road of virtue.

As members of Christ’s church, we have chosen His way over the world’s ways. Sometimes we buckle under the weight of wrong choices. But as we reach out to be faithful to our baptismal promises of “accepting Christ” we receive God’s invincible power and unfailing grace, his infinite love and providential goodness, his unmerited strength and warm embrace which give us hope to persevere.

I do believe that our Orthodox Christian values are to be found in our forebearers. Their guiding principle was, “yper pisteos kai patriδος”, for God and country. Ostensibly, they were not steeped in the nuances of Orthodox theology, nor were they without faults which often brought them to various conflicts and divisions. Even their priests were misunderstood and maligned. And yet together, clergy and laity, they persevered because they loved with a crucifying passion their Greek Orthodox Church which provided them with a Christian



For our primary task is to become one with Christ. Everything else is secondary!



identity that carried them through countless centuries of immense suffering, gave them a sense of justifiable pride, a sense of tremendous accomplishment, and a sense of an acceptant belonging. It was this faith which brought them or their parents to these shores and imbued them with the needed hope that in this new and in many ways different world they could actualize their dreams and aspirations and come to be an important part of a pilgrim people, woven into the multi-cultural American fabric. Even in the face of strong discrimination they struggled to be good and productive citizens (and yes as an immigrant youngster, I too just like many of them, remember facing the taunts of my peers over my inability to speak the English language or my noticeable “foreign accent” and their perception that I was somehow different because of my Hellenic ethnicity).

Yes, our people chose to sacrifice for the common good and succeeded in many areas of endeavor through a laudable work ethic, honesty and a desire to not simply survive but to progress. I need not go to details to illustrate their accomplishments for they are well known even by our fellow citizens who recognize what we have accomplished in so many areas of endeavor. As part of that marvellous mosaic which is America, we have contributed significantly to our adopted homeland while at the same time never forgetting our ancestral and most glorious “roots”.

So much for the past. Now a few words about where we go from here.

Even as we note past achievements, I am very optimistic about the future of our beloved parish. However, if we are to achieve any substantive growth in our own-going spiritual struggle, in our journey to achieve communion with God and to acquire our true potential as the “body of Christ”, we must be ready and willing to give blood, sweat, and profuse tears. For our primary task is to become one with Christ. Everything else is secondary! While our past is prologue, our future is not as yet secured. In order for that to occur we must concentrate on those areas which truly speak of whom we really are and what our goals are as the Church of Christ.

The question remains: how focused and determined are we to attain our unfinished tasks? How much time, talent and treasure are we willing to invest in our parish for our dormant vision to be rekindled? Are we ready to assume the mantle of those who came before us by striving heroically to do whatever it takes to not only insure the future existence of our parish and its viability but its growth into a truly progressive entity which beckons to all? Where will St. John’s parish be fifty years from today? Something to consider as we celebrate the first fifty.

In all this memory serves as a most useful tool. To remember is to proclaim, to love and to reignite the gift of memory in order to understand and hopefully appreciate our present condition. However, while we dare not *forget* the past, we should not *live* in the past. For to do so is to stagnate, to stop growing.

Our parish is truly honored to carry the name of that most holy Forerunner, Prophet and Baptist John. His example of staunch fidelity to his God-ordained mission to become a **“voice crying in the wilderness”** and to **“prepare the way of the Lord”**, should be etched in our hearts and minds. For St. John the Baptist parish is not only a “living reminder” of what has transpired these last fifty years but also points to the present as well as to the future as a beacon of hope.

I hope and pray that we will continue without fail to recapture the vision of our dear brothers and sisters, mothers and fathers, grandmothers and grandfathers, who “fought the good fight” with excruciating love and fidelity to our precious ideals, constantly laboring in the Vineyard of our Lord, and always looking towards the future while not ever forgetting the past.

May the Lord continue to bless all of you and our beloved community of faith.



Spiritual Awakening

“Open up to me, O Giver of Life, the gates of repentance, my spirit seeks Your holy temple...” (First of the three hymns chanted in the Matin Service during the Triodion period)

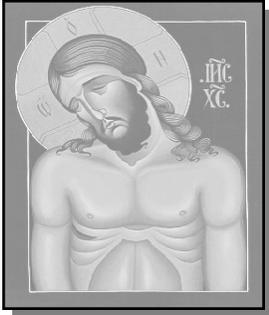
Since his creation, mankind has always sought to know God. This is only natural, since our very core is spiritual in nature. And although the limitations of our human mind cannot even begin to comprehend the magnitude as well as the awesomeness of God. Nevertheless, we consciously or unconsciously want to get closer to God, and understand what role He plays in our life. We do this, because in reality, if we really do not believe in God, or God is just an abstract concept for us, life would really not have any meaning for us, and we would not have any hope. We would simply go through the mundane motions of everyday life. It is in this spirit that the Jews lived before the birth of Christ. The evangelist Matthew, narrates the environment, as well as the morale of the people following the birth of Christ, in a very descriptive manner. “The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtan, by the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles **the people who sat in darkness** have seen a great light, and upon those who sat in the **region and shadow of death**, Light has dawned. (Matthew 4:14-16) Mathew, of course, is speaking in terms of spiritual darkness as well as spiritual light. It is for this exact reason that we chant the hymn “We have seen the true Light, we have received the Heavenly Spirit” following the administration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion by the priest at the Divine Liturgy.

How then do we proceed to know God and get closer to Him? First of all, we must have a true spiritual awakening. We must come to the realization that **God is ultimately in control of our lives as well as the entire universe**. We can work hard, gain degrees, work experience, make millions of dollars, have many material possessions, and, as St John of Damascus tells us in the Orthodox funeral service “In one stroke everything is supplanted by death”. Indeed a harsh reality.

Following our spiritual awakening, we must take action. Like the Prodigal son, who realized that his life was in a real mess, decided to return back to his father’s home, humble himself, and ask for forgiveness, we must also take action. We must repent. The Greek work for repentance is “Metanoia” which literally translates into, “A change of mind or mindset”. By changing our mindset, we also change, or should change, our actions and behaviors. We must humble ourselves and return back to God through prayer, as well as increased participation in the Holy Sacraments, most especially through the sacraments of Holy Confession as well as Holy Communion. It is for this exact reason that the Church offers increased opportunities for participation in the sacrament of Holy Communion through the Presanctified Liturgies. Let us take advantage of these opportunities for spiritual growth. Also let us consider going to the sacrament of Holy Confession which, is basically “Spiritual Therapy”, allowing us to ask forgiveness of our sins through the priest as well as receive spiritual advise that will help us to stay on the “right spiritual track”. Third, we must take the time and effort to look beyond ourselves and our own self indulgences to the needs of others. Christ tells us in no uncertain terms in the Gospel reading that is read on Meatfare Sunday, just how important this is to our salvation “Inasmuch as you did it to one of these of these My brethren you did it to me.” Then he will also say to those on the left hand, “Depart from me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels...In as much as you did not to the least of one of these, you did not do it unto me”(Matthew 25:41-45). Finally, the final thing we must do, especially during the Great Lent, which is designed to be a period of spiritual reflection and renewal, as well as preparation for the Resurrection of our Savior, is to try to isolate ourselves, as much as possible from idle social gatherings, and spend more time and effort further edifying our soul by spending time reading spiritually based materials. First and foremost, the Holy Bible. Additionally, we can read the lives of the various saints and martyrs of our Church in order that we can appreciate what they went through to propagate our faith, and hopefully, derive strength and inspiration from their faith and sufferings so that we also have the strength to continue our own spiritual battle of defocusing on this, the material world, and focusing more on the spiritual realm which will last forever.

In His service, Fr. Nicholas

An Explanation of the Services of Holy Week & Easter



The most important holy day of our Church is the commemoration of the Resurrection of our Lord and Saviour. The Resurrection is known as the “feast of feasts.” Its dogmatic significance is the foundation of the Christian religion. In one of his epistles, St. Paul emphasizes that our faith is meaningless without the Resurrection of Christ.

HOLY MONDAY **(CELEBRATED ON PALM SUNDAY)** **(EVENING)**

A close comparison can be drawn between the life of Joseph and that of Jesus, for as Joseph was rejected by his brothers, so Christ was scorned by his own people. As Joseph was sold for thirty pieces of silver by his brothers to Potiphar, in like manner Judas, a disciple of Christ, betrayed our Lord for an equal sum. As Joseph was left to die in an open pit, so Jesus was buried and as Joseph rose from slavery to become a powerful ruler in Egypt, so Christ became victorious over death by His Resurrection. Also, we commemorate the fig tree, which was cursed by the Lord and withered. After His triumphal entry into the city of Jerusalem, Jesus journeyed into the surrounding towns of Bethany and tired and hungry, saw from a distance a large fig tree with bright green leaves. When he approached the tree, he found that it bore no fruit although it was time for the harvest. The fig tree represents the synagogue of the Jews, which had only in part acquired the divine truth, refusing to accept the complete revelation of God through Jesus Christ. Christ compares the fig with sin – as the fig is sweet and tasty, so is sin appealing and greatly desired. The following hymn is chanted as the priest in solemn procession carries the icon of the Nymphios:

“Behold the Bridegroom comes in the midst of the

night, and blessed is the servant whom He shall find watching; and again unworthy is he whom He shall find heedless. Beware, therefore, O my soul, lest you be borne down with sleep, lest you be given up to death, and lest you be shut out from the kingdom. Wherefore rouse yourself and cry; Holy, Holy, Holy, Holy are You, O God; through the protection of the Heavenly Hosts, save us.”

The hymn chanted at this time admonishes all to prepare for His coming and is followed by several Troparia illustrating the passion of Christ. Then the Gospel of the day is read which is taken from Matthew 21:18-43. This selection tells us of the events that took place after His entrance into the city of Jerusalem, including the episode of the fig tree and the instructive parables pertaining to the workers of the vineyard. The 51st Psalm of David is read, followed by the three groups of odes which call the sinners to penitence and the stanza of the particular feast day is read. The supplications and responses as well as the following hymn are chanted:

“I see Your bridal hall adorned, O my Saviour and I have no wedding garment that I may enter therein; O giver of Light, make radiant the vesture of my soul and save me.”

HOLY TUESDAY **(CELEBRATED ON HOLY MONDAY)** **(EVENING)**

On this day we commemorate the parable of the five wise and the five foolish virgins, which contains the instructive teachings of our Lord before the Crucifixion, regarding the Second Coming and the Last Judgement. It teaches that we should always be prepared to receive Him. We are urged to this readiness by the parable of the wise virgins who had their lanterns filled with oil and waited with anticipation for the bridegroom (that is, Christ who is depicted as a bridegroom on Judgement Day), while

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An Explanation of the Services of Holy Week & Easter

the foolish virgins were not prepared and left their lanterns empty. We are asked to emulate the example of the wise virgins in this parable, to examine ourselves and to see where we stand before the mirror of judgment. Are we prepared to receive the bridegroom? Christ, in this parable, praised those who awaited Him coming and prepared for His advent with the lighted lamps of faith and good works. In the Troparia of Holy Tuesday we are to use our talents for the performance of good deeds and works, fully preparing ourselves for the advents of our Saviour and the inheritance of eternal blessedness.

HOLY WEDNESDAY **(CELEBRATED ON HOLY TUESDAY)** **(EVENING)**

In this service the Church remembers the act of the sinful woman who anointed the body of Jesus with precious oil. The principal Troparion of the evening, the doxastikon, known as the Troparion of Cassiane, which is a solemn discourse on the sinful woman mentioned above, was written by the nun Cassiane in the year 859. Many misleading beliefs have been accepted by Christians regarding the life and works of this nun, especially concerning her personal relationship with the Emperor Theophilus about which we have no authentic information. It is said that the Troparion was a penitent hymn written by Cassiane because she considered herself as the sinful woman mentioned in the Scriptures. This is not true. Cassiane wrote the hymn after she had read the account of the sinful woman. This Troparion is dedicated to the woman whose example of repentance we are asked to follow. We are incited by the service of Holy Wednesday to seek forgiveness of our sins and to reconcile ourselves with God from whose grace ad favor we have fallen because of our disobedience and sinful life. On the morning of Holy Wednesday, the Liturgy of the Presanctified is celebrated for the last time during Lent. On the evening of Holy Wednesday, the Sacrament of Holy Unction, which has its origin in the pre-Christian era,

is performed and administered. The sacrament is based on the following biblical passage:

“Is any sick among you? Let him call the presbyters of the Church; and let them pray over him, anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.”

(St. James 5: 14-15)

This sacred tradition is practiced by our Church today, not only for the sick but for all Christians who need to be strengthened bodily, morally and spiritually. In the passage from the epistle of St. James, we see clearly that the purpose of the Sacrament of Holy Unction is primarily to remedy our ills and at the same time to absolve our sins.

HOLY THURSDAY **(MORNING)**

The services commemorate the washing of the disciples' feet, the Last Supper, Christ praying in the garden of Gethseman and His betrayal by Judas. The readings and chants dwell on Judas' betrayal-on the “dark night that settled in his soul.” We pray that we may keep ourselves from greed and deceit and be made pure by partaking of the Holy Mysteries of Christ's precious body and blood. The Troparion, after the mournful alleluia, speaks of this.

“When Your glorious disciples were enlightened at the washing of their feet before the Supper, the Supper, then the impious Judas was darkened with the disease of avarice, and to lawless judges he Delivered You, the Just Judge. Behold O lover of money, this man through avarice was brought to the gibbet. Flee from the insatiable desire, which dared such things against the Master. O Lord, Who deals righteously with all, glory to You.”

The solemn vespers and liturgy of St. Basil are

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An Explanation of the Services of Holy Week & Easter

celebrated in the morning of Holy Thursday. This particular service has as its main theme the institution of the Holy Eucharist at the Last Supper. Before the great entrance, instead of the Cherubic hymn, a special Troparion is chanted:

“Receive me today, O Son of God, as a partaker of Your Mystic Feast; for I will not speak of the Mystery to Your enemies; I will not kiss You as did Judas, but as the thief I will confess You. Lord, remember me when You come in Your Kingdom...”

It is a custom with all Greek Orthodox to receive Easter Holy Communion at the Liturgy of St. Basil on Holy Thursday morning. One of the most impressive rituals of this liturgy is the consecration of the perpetual Host – that is, the body of Christ, which is preserved throughout the year for the Holy Communion of the ill.

HOLY THURSDAY **(EVENING)**

During this service, which is the matins of Good Friday, the entire story of our Lord’s Passion is told in the reading of the twelve selected Gospel lessons. This is one of the most solemn services of Holy Week. The first Gospel deals with Jesus’ farewell talk and prayer at the Last Supper. The other eleven Gospels depict the entire story of our Lord’s last moments on earth until His burial by Joseph of Arimathea. The most stirring part of this service is the re-enactment of the Crucifixion. After the fifth Gospel lesson, the priest takes the large Crucifix, which is adorned with a floral wreath and lighted candles and in solemn litany proceeds from the sanctuary to circle the church while chanting the hymn of the Crucifixion:

“Today is hung upon the tree, He who did hang the land in the midst of the waters. A crown of thorns crowns Him, who is the King of Angels. He is wrapped about with the purple of mockery, Who wrapped the Heavens with clouds. He received

buffetings, Who freed Adam in the Jordan. He was transfixed with nails, who is the Bridegroom of the Church. He was pierced with a spear, Who is the Son of the Virgin. We worship Your Passion, O Christ(3) Show also unto us Thy Glorious Resurrection.”

After the litany, the Crucifix is placed in the center of the Church to be venerated by the worshippers.

GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY

There is no liturgy on Good Friday for we commemorate the supreme sacrifice offered on this day by Christ. Good Friday is a day of mourning and strict fast. In place of the liturgy, the service of the Solemn Hours is read. This service comprises the Messianic psalms of David, prophecies from the Old Testament, Epistle and Gospel lessons having as their main theme the Passion and Crucifixion of our Lord. On the afternoon of Holy Friday, we have the Vesper service of the unnailling of Christ from the Cross and His burial. At this Service, the body of Christ is removed from the large Crucifix, which has been standing in the center of the church since Thursday evening and is wrapped in a clean, white shroud and placed upon the altar, while the priest reads the account of Joseph of Arimathea who was given permission to bury Christ. In the evening the service of Lamentations is celebrated. Primarily, this represents the burial of our Lord but it also commemorates His descent into hades where He preached His Gospel to all those who had died before His coming. This is known as the service of the Lamentations. The worshippers hold lighted candles as the choir and people chant the series of lamentations which express the sorrow of the Christians that the Lord has died, the belief that He has descended to Hades to abolish the power of Satan and to trample upon death and the expectation of His speedy and life-given Resurrection. After the Lamentations, a procession takes place around the outside of the church, pausing at intervals to pray for the living and dead.

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An Explanation of the Services of Holy Week & Easter

HOLY SATURDAY

On the morning of Holy Saturday, the Vespers and Liturgy of St. Basil are celebrated. After the small entrance, the readings from the Old Testament takes place. They tell of the most striking symbolic events and prophecies, and prototypes of the salvation of mankind by the death of the Son of God. These selections are from the Books of Genesis, Isaiah, Exodus, Job, Joshua, the Prophet Jeremiah and the Prophet Daniel. The story of Israel's crossing the Red Sea and Moses' song of victory over Pharaoh are chanted with the refrain "for He hath triumphed gloriously." The readings culminate with the account of the three youths in the fiery furnace of Babylon and their song of praise is chanted with the refrain, "Sing to the Lord and exalt Him to ages of ages." The lesson from the Epistle tells us that through Baptism we are entombed with Christ, that we may rise with Him. Before the Gospel lesson, the chanter instead of the customary Alleluia, sings the prokeimenon, "Arise, O God, and judge the earth, for yours is the inheritance of all nations." While the priest wearing brightly colored vestments, disperses bay leaves in a procession through the entire church. This act is the first heralding of the joyful advent of the Resurrection. The Gospel lesson tells Christ's Resurrection. Instead of the customary Cherubic Hymn, the 9th Ode of the Matins Canon is sung: "Let all mortal flesh keep silence nor think in itself of anything earthly." Then follows the Liturgy of St. Basil.

EASTER SERVICE

In the service prior to the proclamation of the Resurrection, the Church laments the Crucifixion of Christ and His descent into Hades by repeating the canon of Holy Saturday. At midnight, all the lights in the church are extinguished and the hymn,

"Behold the dawn and rise of day," is chanted in total darkness. This matins Troparion speaks of the myrrh-

bearing woman who first discovered the empty tomb early that first Easter morn. After this hymn, the Royal Gates of the Iconostasion are opened and the priest comes forth with the lighted candle in hand, chanting:

"Come, take light from the light that never wanes and glorify Christ, risen from the dead."

At this point, the light is distributed to the congregation's candles. After this takes place, the priest carrying the Gospel goes forth in solemn litany while the choir chants, "Your Resurrection, O Saviour, angels sing in the heavens; make us also on earth worthy to glorify Your with pure hearts."

The priest chants the Gospel, relating the story of the myrrh-bearing women, and the Christos Anesti is chanted many times, accompanied by the appropriate verses from the Old Testament. After the triumphant hymn of the Christos Anesti, the beautiful and stirring hymns of the Resurrection written by St. John of Damascus are chanted. The Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom follows, at the close of which the eloquent Easter sermon of St. John Chrysostom is read.

EASTER SUNDAY **(AFTERNOON)**

At this time the Vesper Service of Agape (Love) is celebrated. The vespers consist only of paschal hymns. The entrance takes place with the Gospel and the chanting of the ancient apostolic hymn "Gladsome Light." The Gospel lesson is from St. John and tells of the Resurrection, Jesus' appearance before His disciples, the greeting of peace, the institution of the sacrament of Penance and Confession and of Thomas' disbelief. As a manifestation that Christ's teaching has spread to the ends of the earth, the Gospel is read in several languages.

Holy Week & Easter Concerns

PREPARATION OF PALMS: Following Holy Communion and Breakfast on Saturday of Lazarus on March 27, all the GOYANS, JOY and HOPE youth of our Church should remain to fashion the palm buds into crosses.

NEED ITEMS: LAUREL, ORCHIDS AND ROSE PETALS - Anyone who may have any laurel bay branches to donate please bring to Church on Saturday morning. Also, anyone who will have any white calla lilies in good condition for Good Friday and Easter please let Father James know so that he does not order them. If anyone grows lavender orchids, please bring them on Good Friday.

DYEING OF EGGS: The Easter eggs will be dyed on Holy Tuesday, March 30, beginning at 10:30 A.M. in our Fellowship Hall kitchen. All ladies are welcome to come and help.

HOLY UNCTION: There will be two services of Holy Unction on Holy Wednesday. The afternoon service (3:30 P.M.) is primarily for children too young to be present at the evening service which is scheduled for 7:00 P.M.

HOLY COMMUNION: Opportunities for reception of Holy Communion during Holy Week are many. One may receive on Holy Wednesday, Holy Thursday and Holy Saturday morning (See Holy Week Program) as well as at the conclusion of the Easter Sunday Liturgy. No communion will be given outside of the Liturgy. Holy Thursday's Liturgy, begins at 6:30 A.M. and ends approximately one hour later.

HOLY CONFESSION: Holy Confession may be heard by Father Nicholas by appointment. No Confessions will be heard during Holy Week.

OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR GOOD FRIDAY AND EASTER: With this year's Easter message of the pastor, you will receive the Holy Week and Easter Program, plus a Good Friday and Easter offering envelope. We hope you will be as generous as possible. You can bring the envelopes with you or otherwise you may mail them.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER FLOWERS: Please offer your donations for the Epitafio and Easter flowers by using the envelopes we have mailed. We thank you very much for your gifts.

DECORATION OF THE EPITAFIO: All ladies of the parish are welcome to come and decorate the Epitafio (the Lord's Tomb). Some of the preparatory work must be done on **Holy Thursday**, beginning at 10:30 A.M. The decoration will be done following the service of the Royal Hours on Great Friday, which ends at 10:00 A.M. The Epitafio must be completed by 2:30 P.M. A Lenten luncheon will be provided.

ALTAR BOYS FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER: A list of Altar Boys for Holy Week will be mailed to each young man. Please plan to be present as assigned. If you cannot be present, notify Father Nicholas or the Church office far enough in advance so that a replacement may be found.

HOLY COMMUNION FOR SICK AND SHUT-INS: Please inform our Church office of any sick and shut-ins so that the priests may make the necessary arrangements to go and give Holy Communion. Let us not forget our sick and infirmed.

EPITAFIO PROCESSION: The Epitafio (Lord's Tomb) which we decorate with beautiful flowers is of great significance to us Orthodox. The outdoor procession on Holy Friday evening is a reenactment of the Lord's burial. It is a funeral procession and we must act accordingly. We must follow behind the procession in an orderly, quiet and dignified manner. Even simple conversation should be avoided.

Also, unless our health demands, we are not to stay inside the Church, nor should we move ahead of the procession. At four stations we will pause to offer petitions for the living and the dead. The last petition will take place at the front entrance of our Church. After the petitions are concluded, the faithful will pass under the Epitafio, re-enter the Church and remain in Church until the conclusion of the service, at which time everyone should respectfully and quietly file by to receive the flower from the priest's hand. Please do keep in mind that these flowers are not to be discarded but should be placed next to your home icons. Upon drying, you may burn them together with the previous year's palms.

RECEIVING THE PASCHAL LIGHT: The rite of the lighting of the Easter candle and passing it on to each other is a most moving experience in the liturgical life of our Church. Since order in Church is paramount, we request that only the members of the Parish Council come up to receive the light from the priest. Then in an orderly fashion, they will pass it

Philoptochos News

“A kind heart is a fountain of gladness, making everything in its vicinity freshen into smiles” -Washington Irving

Congratulations to *Sophia Christian*, the recipient of St. John's Philoptochos 2010 Humanitarian Award. Sophia, we are proud of you and we thank you for all your many years of service and dedication to our Church, Community and to Philoptochos. With your wonderful smile and great attitude you are always ready to help, whatever we ask.

On Saturday, January 23rd, the weather was picture perfect, our Cultural Hall was beautiful and ready for the Philoptochos Mad Hatter Membership Tea. What a Great Event! All the ladies came in great looking hats. Even Father Nicholas wore a hat! Thank you Christina Dourbetas for making this a lovely event. Thank you to the Philoptochos Board and membership for the delicious lunch. After lunch, our speaker, Lyn Frances talked about how she became a master milliner, how she creates her hat styles and the different materials she uses. After the Tea, she invited everyone to try on her beautiful hats...and we were like little girls playing dress up. Ms. Francis was asked to select 3 winners of our hat decorating contest. Congratulations to these winners: Julie Sarres, the most imaginative category, Penny Hatjis won the best crafted hat, Freda Chrest won the overall presentation and a special honor went to Linda Wronski for her “lovely lamp shade hat”.

On the First Five Friday Evenings of Salutations, Philoptochos hosts the coffee hour and Lenten desserts after the Small Compline Service. This will start Friday, February 19th and the last Friday night will be March 19th. Jerry Kallaos, our chairman, would like 2-3 volunteers to bring Lenten snacks (cakes, fruits, nuts, etc.) for about 50 people and to set up in the large hall. Plan to be there by 6:30pm to set up and stay for serving and cleaning up. Thank you Jerry Kallaos for organizing the ladies from the Philoptochos Board, membership and St. John's community for their home made delicious Lenten treats, their time and effort. Thank you ladies for preparing the desserts and serving those who attend the Friday night service. We appreciate your help.

SAVE THE DATE: KIDS 'N' CANCER RECEPTION. This will be Sunday, April 11, 2010. The reception will be held last year's venue, Telega Golf Club in San Clemente, CA. General Manager, Peter Dalkas and his staff made the event very memorable for us and their hospitality was unequalled. We look forward to another successful event this year.

ATTENTION GRADUATED OR GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS. It's not too late to pick up an application for the Father Hadjis Memorial Scholarship from the Church office of Chairman, Penny Hatjis or if you have any questions, please call Penny at home at (714) 289-8935 or e-mail penny.hatzis@sbcglobal.net. **DATELINE FOR APPLYING IS APRIL 17, 2010.** Those who applied in the past and did not receive a scholarship are urged to resubmit their applications. Seize the opportunity!

Mary Ohanian, President

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

Our next Pre-Marital class will be held
Saturday, March 6 at 9:30AM and
Wednesday, March 10 at 7PM.

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

March 2010

St. John's Monthly Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																	
	1	2 Bible Study, 11:30AM Greek School, 4PM Parish Council Mtg., 7PM	3 Presanctified Liturgy, 6PM Philoptochos Mtg., 7PM Orthodox Faith Class, 7:30PM	4	5 Salutations to the Theotokos, 7PM Choir Practice, 7PM	6 Pre-Marital Seminar I, 9:30AM																																																																																																	
7 Sunday of the Holy Cross Orthros & Liturgy, 9AM Holy Cross Luncheon G.O.Y.A Mtg.	8	9 Bible Study, 11:30AM Greek School, 4PM	10 Presanctified Liturgy, 6PM Pre-Marital Seminar II, 7PM *No Orthodox Faith Class	11	12 Salutations to the Theotokos, 7PM Choir Practice, 7PM	13																																																																																																	
14 Sunday of John Climacus, Orthros & Liturgy, 9AM	15	16 Bible Study, 11:30AM Greek School, 4PM Parish Council Mtg., 7PM	17 Presanctified Liturgy, 6PM Orthodox Faith Class, 7:30PM	18	19 Akathist Hymn, 6:30PM Choir Practice, 7PM	20 Greek School Independence Day Celebration, 5PM																																																																																																	
21 Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt, Orthros & Liturgy, 9AM	22	23 Bible Study, 11:30AM Greek School, 4PM	24 Great Vespers of Annunciation, 6PM Orthodox Faith Class, 7:30PM	25 ANNUNCIATION OF THE THEOTOKOS, 9AM Choir Practice, 7PM	26	27 LAZARUS SATURDAY, 9AM Youth of St. John's Palm Crosses Making, 10:30AM																																																																																																	
28 PALM SUNDAY, Orthros & Liturgy, 9AM Annual Palm Sunday Luncheon & Lamb Drawing	29	30	31 Presanctified Liturgy, 9AM Sacrament of Unction (for children) 3:30PM Sacrament of Unction, 7PM	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">February</th> <th colspan="7">April</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th> <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> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td> <td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td> <td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td> </tr> <tr> <td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td> <td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>28</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> <td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			February							April							S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S		1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	28							25	26	27	28	29	30
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<i>Service of the Bridegroom, 7PM</i>																																																																																																							
HOLY WEEK																																																																																																							

Worship Services

MARCH 2010

Wednesday, March 3, 2010

Presanctified Liturgy, 6pm

Friday, March 5, 2010

Salutations to the Theotokos, 7pm

Sunday, March 7, 2010

Sunday of Holy Cross,

Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 9am

Wednesday, March 10, 2010

Presanctified Liturgy, 6pm

Friday, March 12, 2010

Salutations to the Theotokos, 7pm

Sunday, March 14, 2010

Sunday of John Climacus,

Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 9am

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

Presanctified Liturgy, 6pm

Friday, March 19, 2010

Akathist Hymn, 6:30pm

Sunday, March 21, 2010

Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt,

Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 9am

Wednesday, March 24, 2010

Great Vespers of Annunciation, 6pm

Thursday, March 25, 2010

ANNUNCIATION OF THE THEOTOKOS, 9am

Saturday, March 27, 2010

Lazarus Saturday, 9am

Sunday, March 28, 2010

PALM SUNDAY,

Orthros & Divine Liturgy, 9am

Sunday - Monday, March 28-30, 2010

Service of the Bridegroom, 7pm

Wednesday, March 31, 2010

Presanctified Liturgy, 9am

Sacrament of Unction (for children), 3:30pm

Sacrament of Unction, 7pm

PROSFORO SCHEDULE

March 03 Mrs. Joanne Kalogeropoulos
March 07 Mrs. Alexandra Margias
March 10 Mrs. Alexandra Margias
March 14 Mrs. Joanne Kalogeropoulos
March 17 Mrs. Voula Kitsigiannis

March 21 Mrs. Voula Kitsigianis
March 25 Mrs. Maria Mendonis
March 27 Mrs. Maria Mendonis
March 28 Mrs. Eleni Kousoulas
March 31 Mrs. Eleni Kousoulas

****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

MARCH 2010

BAPTISMS

January 31, 2010

ANTONIOS KARANASTASIS

Proud Parents:

Hristos & Pamela Karanastasis

Godparent: George Damascus

February 6, 2010

IOANNIS HATZIDAKIS

Proud Parents:

Johnny & Christina Hatzidakis

Godparents:

Sophocles & Didi Petrohilos

February 8, 2010

MICHAEL BENDER

Proud Parents: Michael & Jill Bender

Godparent: Maria Theofilou

MEMORIALS

February 7, 2010

JAMES LEARAKOS - 1 Year

February 14, 2010

ALEX GIANNETAKIS - 9 Month

DIAMOND SIOKOS - 42 Year

ACHILLES SIOKOS - 63 Year

PRESBYTERA THEODORA

PAPADIMITROPOULOU - 40 Day

+ *May their memory be eternal* +

ST. JOHN'S GREEK FESTIVAL

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

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



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

SATURDAY, MARCH 27

The G.O.Y.A. along with the youth of St. John's will be making Palm's for Palm Sunday following Divine Liturgy.

NEEDS LIST FOR OFFICE

The office is in need of the following items, please consider donating towards the purchase.

- Upgraded computers w/newer operating systems (at least three, possibly four)
- (2) flat screen monitors (we have two)
- Microsoft Office XP or newer for newer operating systems
- Carpet for boardroom and offices

Church School News

March 2010

The students have been very busy in Church School preparing for Lent and Holy Week.

Lenten Service Projects - First, students assembled Emergency Health Kits for the earthquake victims in Haiti. The kits were sent to the IOCC for distribution in Haiti. Now, students are currently collecting for the OCMC Mission Boxes. The money collected will be used towards furthering the growth of ministries that support the reach of Christ's Church around our world. The boxes are due on Palm Sunday.

Sunday Sundaes - Our entire Church School enjoyed ice cream sundaes on Cheesfare/Forgiveness Sunday.

Sunday of Orthodox - Many of our students participated in the service by holding icons in the procession. The service was truly beautiful and enjoyed by the students.

Myrrh Bearers - This year 2nd through 6th grade girls will have the opportunity to participate in the Good Friday service. 4th, 5th and 6th grade girls will hold vigil around the Epitaphio. 2nd and 3rd grade girls will toss rose petals in the Epitaphio during the service. All girls in 2nd through 6th grade are invited to participate. You can pick up an information packet in the Church School hall or in the church office.

JOIN US FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS

March 14 - Lambathes Making - Make your own Lambatha (Resurrection Candle) for Anastasi. We will provide the candles and ribbons. You bring your creativity.

April 11 - Prayer Bracelet - Come and make your own prayer bracelet. We'll get you started and you do the rest. 5th - high school

May 16 - Prosforo Making - Learn about making a Prosforo offering and what it represents.

All events take place during Church School.

**Even if this will be your first time joining us, we would love for you to come.*

Church School News

March 2010

Holy Week Retreat - *"Walk With Christ"*

On

Saturday of Lazarus
March 27, 2010

We invite all school age children to participate in this Holy Week retreat.

After the church service, students will receive information from various presenters regarding Holy Week and how it relates to the life and acts of Jesus. Examples of subjects that will be covered include: the Last Supper and its role in Holy Communion and the significance of Jesus praying in the Garden of Gethsemane and the prayer, "Thy will be done."

The Retreat also includes a light Lenten lunch and palm making. Fr. James and Fr. Nicholas will also be explaining and offering confession to our youth. We hope you can all join us.

***See flyer in back of The Vineyard**

***Note: Due to a change in the date of our church festival, we will be having Church School on May 16, 2010 and we will not have class on May 23, 2010. Please mark your calendars.

We hope you can join us for one or all of these events, as we prepare for the Resurrection of our Lord. We would love for you to be a part of them.

Kally Attard and Patricia Bangos, Directors

YOUTH CORNER

BASKETBALL 2010 GOBL SCHEDULE OF GAMES

					Venue
WK #3	2PM	2 GAMES	St. Nicholas	St. John	SAINT JOHN
3/7/2010	2PM	2 GAMES	St. George	St. Sophia	BISHOP CONATY
Sunday	2PM	4 GAMES	Assumption	St. Anthony	MARSHALL FUND.
			BYE ST. KATHERINE		
WK#4	2PM	4 GAMES	St. Anthony	St. Nicholas	SAINT NICHOLAS
3/14/2010	2PM	2 GAMES	St. Katherine	St. George	DOWNEY HIGH
Sunday	2PM	4 GAMES	St. John	Assumption	WILL ROGERS
			BYE ST. SOPHIA		
WK#5	3PM	4 GAMES	Assumption	St. Nicholas	SAINT NICHOLAS
3/21/2010	3PM	3 GAMES	St. Sophia	St. Katherine	SAINT
KATHERINE					
Sunday	3PM	2 GAMES	St. John	St. George	DOWNEY HIGH
			BYE ST. ANTHONY		
WK#6	11AM	4 GAMES	St. Sophia	St. Nicholas	SAINT NICHOLAS
3/27/2010	11AM	2 GAMES	St. Anthony	St. John	SAINT JOHN
Saturday	11AM	3 GAMES	St. Katherine	Assumption	WILL ROGERS
			BYE ST. GEORGE		
3/28/2010	NO GAMES		PALM SUNDAY		
Sunday					
4/4/2010	NO GAMES		EASTER		
Sunday					
WK#7	2PM	2 GAMES	St. George	St. Anthony	MARSHALL FUND.
4/11/2010	2PM	3 GAMES	St. Nicholas	St. Katherine	SAINT
KATHERINE					
Sunday	2PM	4 GAMES	St. Sophia	St. John	SAINT JOHN
			BYE ASSUMPTION		
WK#8	NO GAMES		OPEN WEEKEND		
4/18/2010			USED FOR POTENTIAL MAKE UP GAMES		
5/1/2010	11AM-7PM		QUARTER FINALS		LA CANADA HIGH
SATURDAY					
5/8/2010	11AM-7PM		SEMI FINALS		MARANATHA HIGH
SATURDAY					
5/16/2010	2PM-6PM		FINALS/BANQUET		BISHOP CONATY/

ACOLYTES OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST 2010



TEAM 1	TEAM 2
<p>Yianni Vestakis Armodios Vestakis George Dalis Nicholas Foutris Sotirios Eliopoulos Kosta Dalis Gregory Roumpos</p>	<p>Dimitri Pappas Bradley Jung Kyriakos Alyousef Michael Bangos Kyriakos Psaras Stephen Stylianides</p>
<p>March 21, 2010 April 18, 2010</p>	<p>March 28, 2010 April 25, 2010</p>
TEAM 3	TEAM 4
<p>John Hourigan Stefan Malmlund Alexander Malmlund Aristos Malmlund Carl Cantonis Aleko Culp Dean Athanasiou</p>	<p>George Alexopoulos Niko Begakis Argirios Alexopoulos Speros Mantas Dimitri Dimopoulos Paul Stephens Kyle Manes</p>
<p>March 7, 2010 April 4, 2010</p>	<p>March 14, 2010 April 11, 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.

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. Nick Diamant	Mr. & Mrs. Chris Koukladas	Mr. & Mrs. Kostas Pouloupoulos
Mr. & Mrs. George Alavizos	Mr. & Mrs. Argirios Dimopoulos	Mr. & Mrs. Dino Koukladas	Mr. & Mrs. Tim Preston
Mr. & Mrs. Themis Alexopoulos	Mr. & Mrs. John Dimopoulos	Mr. & Mrs. George Kouloumbis	Mr. & Mrs. Spiros Rados
Mr. George Ambatielos	Mr. & Mrs. Alex Dourbetas	Mr. & Mrs. Yanni Kouloumbis	Mr. Mary Riley
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Amerine	Mr. & Mrs. Nick Dourbetas	Mrs. Anne Koutzoukis	Ms. Sophia Rinos
Mr. & Mrs. Nick Anas	Mr. & Mrs. Angelos Dritsopoulos	Mr. & Mrs. C. Koutzoukis	Mr. & Mrs. Cristo Ristas
Mrs. Georgia Anasis	Mr. & Mrs. George Eleopoulos	Mr. & Mrs. John Koutzoukis	Mr. & Mrs. Gregory Roumpos
Mrs. Loula Anderson	Mr. & Mrs. George Founaris	Mr. Basilio Lambropoulos	Mr. & Mrs. John Russell
Mrs. Connie Andros	Mrs. Mina Fourtounis	Mrs. Calliopi Lambros	Mr. & Mrs. Theofilos Russos
Mr. & Mrs. Cheistos Angeletakis	Mr. & Mrs. George Frousiakis	Mr. & Mrs. Robert Lanyi	Mr. Paul Sarandos
Mrs. Alice Antoniou	Mr. & Mrs. William Futris	Mr. & Mrs. Theodore Larabee	Mr. & Mrs. Chris Santos
Ms. Joyce Attard	Mr. & Mrs. Leon Gabrielian	Mr. & Mrs. Richard Lewis	Mr. & Mrs. Peter Sargologos
Mr. & Mrs. Louie Attard	Mr. & Mrs. Chris Gallanes	Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Libowitz	Mr. & Mrs. Tim Sarres
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Attard	Mr. Harry Gallanes	Mrs. Katherine Livieratos	Mr. & Mrs. James Sdrales
Mr. & Mrs. Peter P. Attard	Mr. Michael Gallanes	Mr. Ernie Love	Mr. & Mrs. Chris Sigas
Mrs. Bertha August	Mr. & Mrs. George Gatsinaris	Mr. & Mrs. Bjorn Malmund	Mr. & Mrs. Nickolas Siokos
Mr. & Mrs. Costandi Awadalla	Dr. & Mrs. Vasili Gatsinaris	Mr. & Mrs. Paul Mandas	Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Siouris
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Baglin	Ms. Patricia Gauvain	Mr. & Mrs. Harry Manos	Mr. Alexander Soles
Mrs. Kiki Ballas	Miss Constance George	Mr. & Mrs. Rouso Manos	Mrs. Georgia Soles
Mr. & Mrs. Anastasio Barouxis	Mr. & Mrs. Peter George	Mr. & Mrs. Aristos Mantas	Mr. & Mrs. Petros Sourias
Mr. & Mrs. Pete Begakis	Mr. Anthony Georgopoulos	Mr. & Mrs. Demetrios Mantas	Mrs. Bess Stavakes
Mr. & Mrs. Nick Begakis	Mrs. Demetra Georgouses	Mrs. Nada Margaretis	Mrs. Georgia Stavakes
Mr. & Mrs. E. Benardis	Mr. & Mrs. Gus Gialamas	Mr. & Mrs. Polyvios Margias	Mr. & Mrs. Brian Stratouly
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Benardis	Ms. Athena Gianakakos	Mr. & Mrs. Mark Marincovich	Mr. & Mrs. Demetrios Syrengelas
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Benetatos	Mr. & Mrs. John Giforos	Mr. & Mrs. Dean Marinos	Mr. & Mrs. Chris Contes
Mrs. Patricia Benetatos	Ms. Penny Glava	Mr. & Mrs. John Maris	Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Szary
Mrs. Venetta Birakos	Mr. & Mrs. Dino Glavas	Mr. Milton Maris	Miss Maria Tambouris
Mrs. Maria Bizakis	Dr. & Dr. Constantine Glezakos	Mr. & Mrs. Gus Mavritsakis	Ms. Catherine Thanos
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Blackwell	Ms. Bessie Gonos	Mr. & Mrs. George Massouris	Mr. & Mrs. George Thalass
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Bogris	Mrs. Mary Goode	Mr. & Mrs. Kirk McMullin	Dr. & Mrs. Nicholas Thanos
Mr. & Mrs. Theodore Bogris	Dr. & Mrs. Dimitri Grammas	Mr. & Mrs. Chris Mellas	Mr. & Mrs. Tom Tragos
Mr. & Mrs. Chris Bonorris	Mr. & Mrs. John Hadjis	Mr. & Mrs. Bill Mitchell	Miss Maria Treantefelless
Mr. & Mrs. George Borovilos	Mr. & Mrs. Larry Halfhill	Mrs. Mary Mitchell	Miss Kandia Triantos
Mr. & Mrs. Angelo Boussiacos	Mr. & Mrs. Christos Harbilas	Mr. & Mrs. Peter Mitchell	Mr. & Mrs. George Tavoularis
Mr. & Mrs. Aleksander Bozovic	Mr. & Mrs. Tom Harbilas	Mr. & Mrs. George Mousmoules	Ms. Maria Theofilou
Mr. Mihale Brailas	Mr. George Hassapis	Mrs. Sofia Moysidis	Mr. & Mrs. William Thomas
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Buelna	Mrs. Demetra Harvalos	Mr. & Mrs. Brian Mull	Mr. & Mrs. Spiro Tragos
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Burns	Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Hassapis	Mrs. Mary Naylor	Mrs. Foula Vanikiotis
Mr. & Mrs. James Callas	Mr. & Mrs. John Hatzidakis	Mr. & Mrs. Harry Nichols	Mr. & Mrs. Antonios Vatakis
Mr. & Mrs. Tyke Camaras	Mr. & Mrs. James Hill	Mr. Pete Nichols	Miss Lisa Vatakis
Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Canellos	Mr. & Mrs. Peter Hioureas	Mrs. Maria Nicolaou	Mrs. Helen Vest
Mr. & Mrs. Carl G. Cantonis	Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Hourigan	Ms. Peggy Nicolaou	Mr. & Mrs. Eleftherios Vestakis
Mr. & Mrs. George Cantonis	Mr. & Mrs. Savas Kallaos	Mr. & Mrs. Paul Nikolau	Mrs. Estella Vlachos
Miss Andrea Casteel	Dr. & Mrs. Stephen Kallaos	Mr. & Mrs. John Ohanian	Mrs. Sophia Voulimeneas
Mr. & Mrs. John Chakos	Mr. John Kandara	Mr. & Mrs. Pete Pafilis	Mr. & Mrs. Eandall Wemmer
Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Chapralis	Mr. & Mrs. Bill Kapogianis	Ms. Eugenia Pagalides	Mr. & Mrs. Jim Wilson
Ms. Calliopi Charalambous	Mr. & Mrs. John Kapogianis	Mr. & Mrs. Costa Panagiotou	Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Winders
Mr. & Mrs. Nicolas Charalambous	Mr. & Mrs. Kostas Kapogianis	Mrs. Georgia Pappas	Mr. & Mrs. Peter Xanthos
Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Chatzipetrou	Miss Ann Karagines	Mr. & Mrs. Kostas Pappas	Mr. & Mrs. John Ybarra
Mr. & Mrs. Louis Chelekis	Mr. & Mrs. Peter Karagines	Mr. & Mrs. Pano Pappas	Mr. & Mrs. George Zonos
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Cherpas	Mrs. Thelma Karagines	Dr. & Mrs. D. Paraskevopoulos	Ms. Josephine Zorzy
Mrs. Freda Chrest	Mr. & Mrs. Ioannis Karambelas	Mr. & Mrs. Bill Paxos	Mr. Jim Zounatiotis
Miss Catherine Christ	Mr. & Mrs. Hristos Karanastasis	Mr. & Mrs. Sotiris Pelonis	
Mr. & Mrs. Nick Christ	Mr. & Mrs. Ted Karnezis	Mrs. Connie Perakis	
Mrs. Vivian Christian	Mrs. Alberta Keffalas	Mrs. Vassiliki Pergantis	
Mr. & Mrs. William Christian	Miss Cynthia Kezos	Mr. & Mrs. Alex Persakis	
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Christides	Mrs. Nickey Kezos	Mr. & Mrs. John Petropoulos	
Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Chrissyogelos	Mr. Nick Kitakis	Mr. James Petros	
Mr. Michael Close	Mr. & Mrs. Gus Klentos	Mr. & Mrs. Lee Petros	
Mr. & Mrs. Dukas Contos	Mr. & Mrs. Haralambos Klentos	Mr. & Mrs. George Petsas	
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Cote	Jean & Heidi Koclanakis	Mr. John Petsas	
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Culp	Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Kokkinos	Dr. & Mrs. Denis Pieratos	
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Dallas	Mr. & Mrs. Nick Kokkinos	Dr. & Mrs. James Pilafas	
Mr. George Damascus	Mrs. Gabriela Kolias	Mr. & Mrs. Stavro Pilafas	
Mr. & Mrs. William Deralas	Mr. & Mrs. G. Konstantarakis	Mr. & Mrs. Konstantinos Poulidis	

As of February 22, 2010
Total Pledges: 247
Goal: 600
Total Pledged:
\$187,583.00
Budgeted Goal:
\$285,000.00
Amount left to reach Goal:

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

G.O.Y.A

SPONSORS THE

***ANNUAL PALM SUNDAY
LUNCHEON AND LAMB
DRAWING***

SUNDAY, MARCH 28, 2010

LENTEN LUNCH

**IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE
DIVINE LITURGY**

ADULTS \$10.00

CHILDREN (UNDER 12) \$5.00

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

25 Μαρτίου 1821



**GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY
CELEBRATION
SATURDAY, MARCH 20TH 2010**

**St. John's Social Hall
405 N. Dale Street, Anaheim, Ca 92801
5:00 p.m**

Songs, Poems and Dinner

Performance by St. John's Dancers

Donation Adults- \$25.00, Children and Dancers \$15.00

Please fill out the form below to Reserve your table

**Please specify if Adult =A or Child=C in the box next to
name**

- | | | | |
|----------|--------------------------|-----------|--------------------------|
| 1. _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | 6. _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | 7. _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | 8. _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | 9. _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | 10. _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> |

**Please make checks payable to: St. John's Greek
Church**

**Please note in memo on check for: Greek School
Program**

**For more information please contact: Joanne Vestakis
(714) 408-0826 or Raza Kitsigianis (714) 974-2056**

Save the Date!

St. John Church School

Lazarus Saturday Retreat: Walk with Christ

Saturday, March 27, 2010

Immediately following the Morning Service

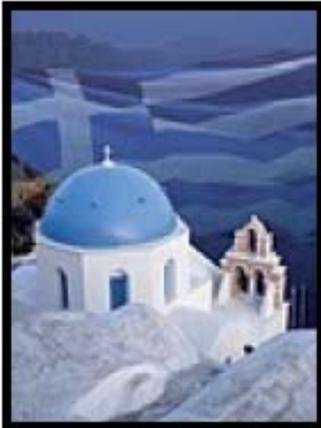
All students invited for a Light Lenten Brunch

Learn what steps Christ took his final days

Interactive activities

Make palms for Palm Sunday service

Hope to see you there!



2010 OC GREEK FEST UPDATE

Come Home to Greece – the theme of our 2010 OC Greek Fest on May 21, 22 and 23. We invite our guests to enjoy the sights, sounds and flavors of Greece when they attend our upcoming OC Greek Fest.

The Festival Committee and Booth Chairpeople have been working for the past several months on plans to give our guests the best Greek festival experience ever! However, we know that it is the wonderful community of volunteers that makes our OC Greek Fest so successful. It is now time to reach out to you—our volunteers. Every Sunday in the Cultural Hall, stop by the Festival Table to learn more about how you can get involved with the 2010 OC Greek Fest. Below are just a few examples:

Festival Club – our new sponsorship club. See the separate page for information on the Festival Club or contact Chris Gallanes at 714-292-2996.

Program Book – Andrew Hatzis and Lee Petros are co-chairing the program book. Stop by to place an ad in the Program Book or to pick-up program book form. Do you know a business that will advertise in the Program Book? Sign them up!

Grand Raffle – Raza Kitsigianis is once again leading the Grand Raffle. Pick up raffle books and sell tickets to your family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, baseball coach, girl scout troop. This is a great way to raise money towards the success of our Festival.

Kid'z Zone / Pre Sale Tickets – In April, we will have the pre-sale tickets for the Kidz Zone.

Baking Schedules – We will have the dates when food is being prepared for the Pastry Booth and Hall. Mark your calendars now for April 12-13-14 for Tiropita and Spanakopita. Our volunteers will be making the dolmathes this year and need your grape leaves. Please save your grape leaves and give them to Lea Kiapos.

Volunteer Opportunities – Stop by to sign up to volunteer at the Festival.

Festival Flyers and Post Cards – Coming soon to the Festival Table!

Again, stop by the Festival Table on Sunday to learn more about this year's upcoming 2010 OC Greek Fest. We will continue to provide you updates and new activities in the upcoming Vineyards and Sunday Bulletins. We know that with your love and commitment, we will have another successful year!

Harry Klentos, Chairperson, and the Festival Committee



Performing this year at
OC Greek Fest
"FOTIA"



2010 OC GREEK FEST

The Festival Club

The Festival Committee introduces our new sponsorship program – the ***Festival Club***. The ***Festival Club*** replaces our Adopt-a-Booth and Adopt-a-Bus programs and it provides a simpler manner for you to support the Festival. Sponsorship levels for the ***Festival Club*** are:

Diamond	\$2,500 and above	Silver	\$500 to \$999
Platinum	\$1,500 to \$2,499	Bronze	Up to \$499
Gold	\$1,000 to \$1,499	Emerald	Product

The ***Festival Club*** is open and accepting sponsorships. Join the ***Festival Club*** by filling out the form below and returning it to the Church Office. If you have any questions or need more information, please contact Chris Gallanes at 714-292-2996 / cpgavg@roadrunner.com or Harry Klentos at 714-496-3782.

Join the Festival Club

To join the Festival Club, complete this form and return it along with your donation to the Church Office.. If you wish to pay by credit card, contact Sarah at the Church Office (714-827-0181).

Sponsorship \$ _____ Diamond (\$2,500 and up)
\$ _____ Platinum (\$1,500 to \$2,499)
\$ _____ Gold (\$1,000 to \$1,499)
\$ _____ Silver (\$500 to \$999)
\$ _____ Bronze (Up to \$499)
_____ Emerald – Contact Harry Klentos— 714-496-3782

Name: _____ Phone # _____
(How you want your name to appear)

We thank you for your support.

