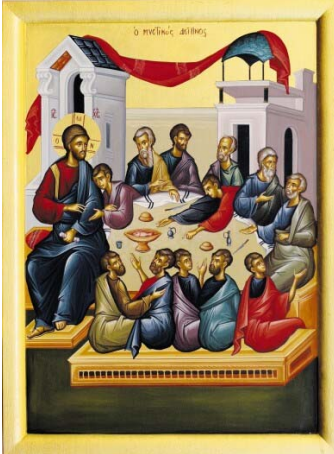




MISSION NEWSLETTER

Holy Week and Pascha



Holy Week forms a prelude of joy and glory to the harrowing humiliations which are to follow. The Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week are a preparation for the Passion. They already have a strongly accented character of mourning and repentance. The Thursday, Friday and Saturday of Holy Week belong to the paschal solemnities—each one of these days reveals to us a special aspect of the mystery of Easter. One could even say that this mystery has three aspects, each of which corresponds to a day: Holy Thursday, Holy Friday and Holy Saturday. One could also say that each of these three aspects corresponds to a place: the Upper Room, Golgotha, the Holy Sepulchre. Holy Thursday commemorates the mystery of the upper room, Holy Friday the mystery of Golgotha, Holy Saturday the mystery of the tomb of Christ. On the Thursday, in the upper room, Jesus, through a sacramental action, both announces and represents, consecrates and offers what is to take place during the following days. On the Friday, at Golgotha, Jesus, by his death on the Cross, accomplishes our redemption. On the Saturday, Jesus rests in the tomb; but the Church, already looking ahead to the feast of Easter Sunday, speaks to us of the victory over death that our Saviour has won. This anticipation of the Resurrection on Holy Saturday allows us to say that the mystery of Christ's Resurrection, triumphantly celebrated on Easter Sunday, already belongs, although incompletely, to Holy Week. And so this week constitutes a summary of the whole economy of salvation.

It would be a great mistake to want to concentrate on one of the aspects of the paschal mystery by separating it from the others. The word "Passover," in the traditional language of the Church, does not only designate the Sunday of the Resurrection, it also covers the mystery of the eucharist, the mystery of the Cross, and the mystery of the empty tomb. Holy Thursday, Holy Friday, Holy Saturday, and, finally, the Sunday of Easter altogether make up one and the same unique paschal mystery. This whole unity is the Christian transposition of what the Jews call "the Passover," that is to say, the passage. The elements of the Jewish mystery of the passover correspond to those of our paschal mystery. For them, there is the feast in which the lamb is eaten. There is the blood of the lamb—the sign of salvation for those houses whose doors were painted with it and whom the angel of death would spare. There is the crossing of the Red Sea—the departure from the land of Egypt and from slavery—the miraculously divided waters and the passage across on dry ground and, at last, the arrival on the other side, the side of freedom and hope. Holy Week will only have its true meaning for us when we see it as a "passover," a passage from death to life.



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Treasurer

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Member

Mission Statement

"To establish a Greek Orthodox Church in South Orange County which follows, preserves and continues our timeless religious beliefs and traditions and emphasizes our Hellenic heritage, customs and values."

Please join the Greek Orthodox Mission of South Orange County Families
for a



Palm Sunday Lenten Luncheon



Sunday, April 24th
immediately after church

Hosted by Penny Marutsos and Jimmy Marutsos of The Aegean Café
Our Goyans will serve

Cost: \$15/adult, \$5/ children

Please come and support our church and GOYA programs!

GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY DINNER A SUCCESS!

Our 2nd Annual Greek Independence Day Dinner was a great success with approximately 250 people attending. Our Greek School students, along with their teacher Kyria Loula Katalanos, made us proud by reciting their beautiful Greek poems and singing songs. Our Greek Dance Groups, directed by John Basdakis and Soula Petinos, performed beautifully.

We would like to thank all those who attended and worked on the event. The following individuals generously donated a raffle item: Dr. Erini Papandreas Redmond, Dr. Chrys Cutrone, Jimmy Marutsos and Penny Marutsos of the Aegean Café, George and Katherine Zaharopoulos, Bob and Alicia Stavrou, Dr. and Mrs. James Kallins, Dr. and Mrs. George Kallins, Mr. and Mrs. David Matty, Josep and Mia Domingot, Kelly Parissis of Greek Baby, Michael and Catherine Antzoulatos, and Michael and Michelle Selberis. Our raffle coordinator Mia Domingot did an excellent job selling \$1700 worth of raffle tickets. Thank you to Katherine Zaharopoulos for underwriting the cost of printing the raffle tickets.

Bob Stavrou handled the bar and donated the cost to have a bartender at the event. Thanks to the parents who donated drinks: Jim and Doris Kollias, Nick and Leslie Stanitsas, John and Lynnea Leon, Jimmy and Dora Winn, Euripides and Mary Loizides, Michael and Michelle Selberis, David and Barbara Matty, and Laki and Vaso Christodoulou. Christos Parissis donated all the paper products for the bar and coffee.

Kelly Parissis prepared our printed program for the evening. The tablecloths were donated by Penny Marutsos of the Aegean Café. The beautiful centerpieces were donated by Dr. Erini Papandreas Redmond. Thank you to Christina Selberis for donating her DJ Services and providing music for all of us during the event. Michael Antzoulatos and sons helped with decorating and clean up. Sam Konugres did a great job as our master of ceremonies.

As you can see, this event took a lot of teamwork!! The Greek School appreciates the support from the entire parish demonstrated on this special evening. Kai tou chronou!!

Announcements

Confessions

Knowing a special need to hear confessions during Holy Week, Father John has set aside Wednesday, April 20th to hear confessions at the church's office space located at 28570 Marguerite Parkway, Suite 217 in Mission Viejo (just north of the Avery/Marguerite intersection.) Please call the church line at (866)350-1933 to make an appointment.. Additionally, Father John will hear confessions after the evening Nymphios services of Palm Sunday, Holy Monday and Holy Tuesday.

Salutations to the Virgin Mary (Heretismi)

The last Salutation will be held on Friday, April 15th at 7 p.m.

Flower Donations Needed

Thank you to those who have already contributed to our flower need for Holy Week. We still welcome monetary donations or donation of flowers to cover the flowers necessary to decorate the epitafio and Lilies for the Resurrection Service. This is a nice way to commemorate a deceased loved one or honor a special relative/person. Please contact Michelle Selberis at (949)364-5866 or Georgiann Ellis at (949)388-5850, if you would like to help out.

Philoptochos

We are excited to announce that our first Philoptochos organizational meeting was held on March 23rd with 20 women in attendance. We met with Father John who spoke and described the needs a Philoptochos meets in a parish. Our current priority is to assist Father John with preparations for Holy Week. All the women in the parish are invited to help decorate the epitafio on Great Friday, April 29th beginning first thing in the morning. If you are interested in helping, please call Michelle Selberis at (949)364-5866 or Georgiann Ellis at (949)388-5850. Philoptochos is a unique way to uphold our Greek traditions and assist the parish as women. We need everyone's help so please plan on attending our next meeting on May 11th. Please call Chrys Cutrone at (949)292-1256 if you have any questions about Philoptochos.

Philoptochos will be selling packaged koulurakia and tsourekia on Palm Sunday after church. Please come by our booth. All proceeds to benefit our Mission.

GOYA- Tina and Anna Nicole Kyritsis, Advisors

Kalo Pascha GOYANS! The following schedule addresses events coming up for the GOMSOC GOYA.

Palm Sunday Luncheon-GOYA members will help host the luncheon, with Penny and Jim Marutsos, following Sunday's Liturgy. We will setup, serve, and cleanup for the event, as well as provide refreshments and other goodies. Please watch for an email concerning the duties and responsibilities that are expected of GOYA members, as the GOYA Palm Sunday Luncheon committee will need each member's help!

Holy Wednesday, April 27th -GOYA members will read and usher for services. Please contact Yeoryia Selberis at michelle.selberis@cox.net to sign up.

Holy Friday, April 29th - Holy Friday GOYA Retreat hosted during the day by Anna Nicole and Tina Kyritsis. Time and details will be announced soon. Contact ucdgriega2@aol.com or tinaikee@aol.com for more information. Also, GOYA members will serve the church by assisting in the candle sales and serving as ushers. Please contact Yeoryia Selberis at michelle.selberis@cox.net to sign up.

If you missed the first few meetings, don't worry! Join us for our April activities. For more information please contact us at ucdgriega2@aol.com, or tinaikee@aol.com.

Directory

Thank you to those who have turned in their church directory forms. Please take a few minutes and fill out the enclosed form for publication of a church directory.

**Greek Orthodox Mission
of South Orange County**

P.O. Box 1214

San Juan Capistrano, CA 92693

Sunday Liturgies:

10:00 a.m.

J Serra High School Chapel
26351 Junipero Serra Rd.
San Juan Capistrano

Directions: From I-5 take the Junipero Serra Road exit. Go west on Junipero Serra Road. Just past the Shell gas station on your right, make a right into the next driveway (the sign says Sycamore Commons). Proceed to the north end of the property (signs are posted).

Telephone: (866)350-1933

Website: www.gomsoc.org

Email: info@gomsoc.org

**GREEK ORTHODOX MISSION OF
SOUTH ORANGE COUNTY
DIRECTORY**

The Mission is planning on publishing a parish directory to be distributed the beginning of May. Please sign and return this form to church by Sunday, April 2nd, indicating your preference on publishing your name, address, phone number and email. You may also mail it to:

Greek Orthodox Mission of South Orange County
P.O. Box 1214
San Juan Capistrano, CA 92693

- I wish to have my name, address, phone number and email listed in the Greek Orthodox Mission of South Orange County's directory.

- I do NOT wish to have my name, address, phone number and email listed in the Greek Orthodox Mission of South Orange County's directory.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Home Phone Number: _____

Cell Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Note: Directory is only for church member use and not to be used for marketing or selling purposes.