



MISSION NEWSLETTER

From the Heart of Fr. Costas

My Dearest Ones,

I would like to begin by thanking everyone who helped with the first building fund fundraiser—all the people on the committees who helped with the decorating and planning, all those who bought tickets and sold raffle tickets and dinner tickets, ads for the adbook, etc. Special thanks especially to Mia Domingot and Dean Papas for their hard work and outstanding job well done, and to Angelo an Fotini Theodossis for their incredible generosity in donating virtually everything so that all the proceeds raised would go to the Church. We are off to a smashing start, and I thank all of you from the bottom of my heart. I know that everyone in the community is equally grateful for your efforts.

I am very pleased that so many people are going to attend the Christmas Retreat to St. Anthony's Monastery on Dec. 21 and 22. It is a wonderful way to prepare for the Nativity of the Lord. I promise that those of you who are coming will not be disappointed.

Did you know that Orthodox Christians have a statement they make when they greet each other not only after Pascha but also during the Christmas season? The first person exclaims, "Christ is Born!" The other person responds, "Glorify Him!" The use of this greeting is a beautiful custom we need to revive. It is important because in this busy and secular world in which we live Christmas often becomes little more than another obligation—more commitments, more time, energy and money spent on decorating, cooking, and buying gifts. I love the Christmas season very much and we should rejoice in it. But let us not forget that even the gifts we give, even though they are expressions of our love, are not what is ultimately important because all these things in the end will fade away.

What will remain forever are our souls and our relationship to Christ. It is a strong relationship or a weak one? Are we going to nourish our relationship with Him during this special time, or are we going to push Him aside while we pursue the fantasy of creating the perfect Norman Rockwell image of Christmas? You will find that the deepest and most lasting Christmas joy is not wrapped in any paper or found in any box. It is not heard on the radio, tasted in a cookie or seen in a movie. It is the feeling of Christ within you and when you deeply and sincerely invite Him to be born again in your heart.

I know that you will be very busy during this Christmas season, As your pastor, I ask you to remember at least these two things: (1) the weeks before Christmas are a fasting period. At least abstain from meat. There will be plenty of time for feasting during the "12 days of Christmas," the period between Christmas and Epiphany. (2) I ask you to remember the poor. We are so blessed and we spend so much money on frivolities and transitory pleasures, it is truly a sin not to consider the needs of those who are less fortunate. We will account to God for how we have used the gifts he has given us, and that includes our money. It is especially important to redirect our children to focus on what they can do for others during this season instead of encouraging them to make lists of what they want to receive. Involve your children in such discussions and keep Christ as the focus of the season.

May God bless you all during this happy and holy season,

Fr. Costas

Steering & Operations

Committees:

REV. DR. COSTAS
CONSTANTINOU
Pastor

STEVE DAFNIS*
Chairman

IRENE BASDAKIS
Vice Chairperson
Operations

EJ CONSTANTINE*
Capital Formation and
Genesis Program Chair

GEORGIANN ELLIS
Treasurer

ANDREW KERATZIDES

MICHAEL SELBERIS*

REGGIE SELLAS

EMMANUEL SFAKIANAKIS

*Executive Committee 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 email r.henning1@juno.com with any monthly newsletter in-put suggestions by the last week of the month preceding publication.

**Fun for
Everyone**

DOOR PRIZES

FOOD

BEVERAGES

**FOURTH ANNUAL PARISH
CHRISTMAS PARTY**

DECEMBER 9TH

**AT CLUBHOUSE #2 IN
LAGUNA WOODS,**

RAFFLE

Services for December

Every Sunday Morning

9:00 AM: Matins

10:00 AM: Divine Liturgy

Weekday Services

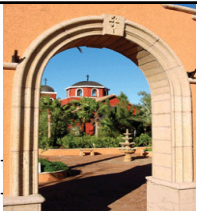
FEAST DAY OF ST. NICHOLAS, Wednesday Evening,
December 5th, 6 pm, Divine Liturgy at JSerra Chapel

*FEAST DAY OF ST. SPYRIDON, Wednesday Evening,
December 12th, Orthros 9 am, Divine Liturgy 10 am.

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD, Vespersal Divine Liturgy
of Christmas to be held on Christmas Eve,
December 24th, 6 pm at JSerra Chapel
(No Divine Liturgy on Christmas Day)

*FEAST DAYS OF ST. BASIL AND CIRCUMCISION OF THE LORD,
Monday Evening, December 31, Vespersal Divine Liturgy, 6 pm

*Location to be Announced, Possible New Location



Trip to St. Anthony's Monastery

During the Christmas Lent, the Mission is planning a 2-day visit to St. Anthony's Greek Orthodox Monastery in Florence, AZ on Friday, December 21st and Saturday, December 22nd. Fr. Costas will be attending. We want to thank everyone for their enthusiasm—there are only a few seats left. We will be traveling by bus. The trip to the monastery will take about 7 hours. The cost per person is \$55. Your accommodations and food at the monastery are provided to you at no cost. If you would like to attend, please call Sophia Kollias at 949-388-9123. She will need the money no later than December 5th. We are leaving promptly on Friday, December 21st at 7 am from JSerra. PLEASE BE ON TIME! We are returning Saturday, December 22nd at approximately 10 pm. You will be able to leave your car in the public section of the parking lot. The exact area to park at will be announced. For information about the monastery, please see their website: www.stanthonymonastery.org.

Announcements

Christmas Party

Please see the larger announcement on page 2. For more information contact Danny Tonge at (949) 457-9524. Tickets for the party and raffle are now on sale after the Divine Liturgy. Thank you so much!

Christmas Trip Retreat to St. Anthony Monastery

A Christmas Trip Retreat to St. Anthony Monastery in Florence, Arizona has been planned. Please see details on page 2.

Sunday School News

The Sunday School Christmas Pageant will be held on December 16th following the Divine Liturgy. Final rehearsal for the Pageant will be held on December 9th. Rehearsal will be handled as expeditiously as possible. Please make sure that your children attend the rehearsal. Thanks!

Ladies Philanthropic Society News

Questions, comments or concerns? The Society has a box upstairs in the Fellowship Room that you can use to relay any questions you have. Please be sure to leave your name and phone number so someone can contact you with a response or action.

Parish Christmas Card

Everyone interested in placing their name in this year's Parish Christmas Card can either sign up after the Divine Liturgy or send a \$20 check to Linda Kollias, 27031 Calle Don Carlo, San Juan Capistrano, CA. 92675. Please participate.

Memorials

If you are planning a memorial service for a loved one, please call Fr. Costas to arrange for your family's memorial. To sponsor a Coffee Hour on your memorial Sunday, please coordinate with Linda Kollias to ensure that there are not conflicts with other Coffee Hour sponsors. Linda may be reached at 949-493-5220.

GOYA and YAL News

Please let us know if you have a teenager at home (12-17 years old). We would like to be able to contact them and welcome them into the **GOYA** group which has now formed. Mrs. Sophia Konugres is the GOYA Advisor. The next meeting of GOYA will be on December 10th at 7 pm at the church office. GOYA's Christmas Party has been scheduled to December 15th at the Konugres home, and GOYA Christmas Caroling for the Elderly will be on December 23rd after the Divine Liturgy. GOYA would like to increase their numbers. We kindly request parents not to bring younger siblings to GOYA functions. We hope to start a new group, JOY, for the younger children soon. **YAL** (Young Adults ages (18-40) have had a very good start. Join them at their monthly meeting and gathering. Please call or email Sophia Kollias for specific dates of upcoming events. Her contact information is phone number 388-9123, or email her at sophia99@cox.net.

Church Office Updates

Cell Phone. Fr. Costas' cell phone number is (949) 365-6339. Do not hesitate to call him. Father would prefer that you not leave messages on the office 800 number because it seems that we are still not receiving all of the messages. Please call him directly. **Regular Day Off.** FRIDAY is now Fr. Costas' day off. Please refrain from calling him on that day, unless it is an emergency. **Office hours.** Monday & Wednesday: 4:00-7:00 pm. Tuesday & Thursday: 10:00 am –1:00 pm. When not in the office Fr. Costas will be visiting your homes and businesses, hospitals and convalescent homes, etc.

Choir

The Choir is small but mighty, however we could always benefit from more participation! Practices are often right after the Divine Liturgy or sometimes they may be held on a weekday evening, but in any event we try to be as singer-friendly as possible. Please consider lending your voice to the group. For further information, please contact Robert Henning at 949-459-6375.

Greek Orthodox Mission
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San Juan Capistrano, CA 92693

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METROPOLIS OF
SAN FRANCISCO

Sunday Liturgies:

Orthros and Bible Study	9:00 a.m.
Liturgy	10:00 a.m.

JSerra 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. Proceed to the north end of the property (signs are posted).

Office and Greek School: 28570 Marguerite Parkway #223
(just north of Avery Pkwy)
Mission Viejo

Telephone: (866)350-1933; Father Costas Cell Phone (949)365-6339

Website: www.gomsoc.org

Email: info@gomsoc.org