



# MISSION NEWS-

*February 12th—Triodion Begins*

## The Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee



The Lord said this parable, “Two men went up into the Temple to pray, one a Pharisee the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, ‘God, I thank you that I am not other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week, I give tithes of all that I get.’ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me a sinner!’ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other;

### Steering & Operations Committees:

FATHER JOHN KARIOTAKIS  
Pastor

STEVE DAFNIS\*  
Chairman

EJ CONSTANTINE\*  
Capital Formation and  
Genesis Program Chair

DEMETRA LEWIS\*  
Stewardship Chair

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Finance Chairman

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Events Chair

GEORGIANN ELLIS  
Treasurer

MICHAEL SELBERIS\*  
Member

IRENE BASDAKIS  
Member

RON MADURA  
Member

\*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 val-

## The Lenten Triodion

Since this month (February) marks the beginning of the period known in Orthodoxy as the Triodion, it is a good time for us to review the origins of this period of time and what it represents.

This year the Lenten Triodion begins on Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup> – the Sunday of Publican and the Pharisee. This part of the ecclesiastical calendar is set aside to prepare the Orthodox for the Great Pascha of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. It is comprised of a series of services and other variable portions of the Liturgy that is compiled into a book. As already stated, the Lenten Triodion starts with the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee and finishes with the Great Saturday of Holy Week. During this spiritually fruitful time, Great Lent, which begins this year on March 6<sup>th</sup>, provides many opportunities for the Orthodox to enrich themselves with additional services. It does not include the Pascha of the Lord, as its purpose is to provide a series of illuminating events and readings that will culminate just before the celebration of the Glorious Pascha, which this year falls on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April.

The Lenten Triodion is named such because the Canons of the season use only three odes or hymns instead the usual nine odes. The usual canon of nine odes is that which we most commonly use at the Orthros Service (or Matins) which directly precedes the Divine Liturgy. It is believed that St. Andrew of Crete introduced the use of the canons. Other authors of Canons are Melodos, St. John of Damascus, and St. Theodore of Studion.

In modern times, it has become difficult for many to experience all of the beautiful and moving services or hear the readings that occur during this special time, there is so much else that competes for our attention. More is the pity, since the totality of the experience adds so much to our understanding and appreciation of the final triumph of the resurrection. However much, if not all, of the Lenten Triodion period can be experienced by many if we organize our priorities in a manner that includes these exercises. We should therefore, right now, at the beginning of the Lenten Triodion, re-dedicate ourselves to pursuing the spiritual benefits that will certainly derive from our setting aside the time to participate in as many of the opportunities that the Triodion season provides.

God has been good to all of us! It is a good thing and even necessary that we give back to Him in any way that we can out of gratefulness for His loving kindness and tender mercy toward us. There are dozens of tasks that need to be done to accomplish the goals of our Mission Parish. More hands are needed to perform these deeds large and small. Please do what you can!

## Announcements

### RENT DRIVE A SUCCESS!

As many of you know, our Mission held a rent drive at the end of 2005 with a goal to raise \$100,000 which would be allocated to leasing our own facility. Through the generous donations of 34 families we raised approximately \$36,000. This money will allow us to actively pursue our lease opportunities. We would like to recognize and thank the following parishioners who gave during the rent drive:

Kenneth and Tina Bertok  
 Nick and Theodora Caplanis  
 Norman Cobb  
 EJ and Irene Constantine  
 Argie Cupples  
 Peter Dames  
 Maria Doulevrakis  
 David and Georgia Ann Ellis  
 Clio and Emory Farr  
 Vicky Foster  
 Curt and Stacy Gentry  
 Ted and Anita Georgious  
 Brad and Alysia Jennings  
 Betty Johnson  
 Jim and Melissa Kaffen  
 Andrew and Mervat Klados  
 Sam and Evgenia Kollias

Penny Marutsos  
 Jimmy and Sheila Marutsos  
 Gary and Sally Meyerhofer  
 Nick and Helen Nickolin  
 George and Irene Pantelides  
 Dean Pappas  
 John Pearson  
 Angela Pogoulatos-Miranda and Henry Miranda  
 William and Helen Polis  
 John and Georgia Selberis  
 Michael and Michelle Selberis  
 Doris Stan  
 Ruairidh and Sylvia Stewart  
 Tony and Irma Trikas  
 Evangelos Vardakostas  
 Yanni Vlachos and Vasiliki Kontotasiou  
 Rebeka Yiatrou

#### **Greek Festival**

St. George Greek Orthodox Church in Palm Desert will be hosting their Greek Festival this month. The dates are: February 25th and 26th. Festivities will begin each day at 11 am and conclude at 8 pm. Please attend and bring a friend!

#### **Philoptochos News**

Our meetings in January culminated in the election and appointment of the Philoptochos Board and Officers. These outstanding ladies are volunteering their skills, time, and hearts to grow our mission church. Under the supervision of Fr. John, they will be guided in our church's needs and in the needs of our community. They are taking the responsibility of fundraising through the weekly Fellowship Hour, bake sales, and by holding special events. Please support their efforts and participate when you can.

Our new Philoptochos President, Irene Constantine summed it up by saying "what a dynamic mix of ladies that will set forth an outstanding tone for our church". She is excited to lead us and to be a part of a group that is so welcoming and inclusive of all the ladies of the church. She welcomes anyone who would like to help our cause.

**Board Members:** Irene Constantine, Linda Kollias, Georgiann Ellis, Argie Cupples, Mia Domingot, Tina Bertok, Michelle Selberis, Sally Meyerhofer, and Irene Pantelidis.

**Officers:** President, Irene Constantine; Vice-President, Linda Kollias; Treasurer, Georgiann Ellis; Financial Secretary, Argie Cupples; Recording Secretary, Mia Domingot; and Corresponding Secretary, Tina Bertok.

**Committee Chairpersons:** Altar, Michelle Selberis; Events/Fellowship, Sally Meyerhofer; Membership, Chrys Cutrone; and Philanthropy, Irene Pantelidis.

The Altar Committee will meet after the Divine Liturgy on February 26th to discuss Pascha preparations.

#### **Sunday School—Upcoming Events**

The month of February will be a busy one for our Sunday School. February 5th is Godparent & Godchild Sunday. It is such a blessing for us to be able to see these dedicated people at the Divine Liturgy and thank them for their dedication to their Godchildren. Godparents are the "original" Sunday School teachers before there was such a thing. They richly deserve recognition. On February 19th, Fr. John will be giving a Youth Sermon in lieu of Sunday School. What a special opportunity for our youth

**Greek Orthodox Mission  
of South Orange County**

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**METROPOLIS OF  
SAN FRANCISCO**

**Sunday Liturgies:**

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 (the sign says Sycamore Commons). Proceed to the north end of the property (signs are posted).

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