



# MISSION NEWSLETTER

## From the Heart of Fr. Costas

My dearest ones,  
Rejoice in the Lord.

I would like to thank you for your many prayers, cards, calls, flowers, and get well wishes. Your love and care overwhelmed me before, during, and after my operation. I am very lucky to have so many wonderful people in our little Mission Church.

Now I am back healthier and more enthusiastic than ever. I still want very much to visit and bless all your homes and spend some quality time with your families if it is possible.

Hopefully by next month we will complete the study of St. Paul, who is for the Christians what Moses was for the Jews.

One of the major feast days is that of St. Haralambos on Sunday the 10th. He was a saint of the 2nd century, but contemporary when you talk to people from Peloponnesos—to be specific, the city of Filiatra, Greece. He did a great miracle during the German occupation of Greece, when he saved the lives of at least 1,000 people of this village.

The second highlight of the month is Sunday the 17th. It is the beginning of the Triodion. It is called this because instead of using the regular nine odes we use only three. In general,

Triodion is the service book of the Church of this period and it is divided into three parts:

*1. The Sundays before Great Lent (Feb 17—Mar 9); 2. 40 days of Great Lent, special services and fasting (Mar 10—Apr 19); and 3. Holy Week (Apr 20—27). Holy Week because of its lengthy services becomes a book of its own.*

Think of it as a spiritual spaceship taking you to the innermost destination of our faith, for it is indeed the most exciting time we could have with Christ. Try to walk with Him and you will feel His presence in your life as you have never felt it before. How do you do that? By attending more services. Coming to Church once a week is no longer enough. You must also intensify your daily prayers and avoid meat and if possible dairy products. After Clean Monday, March 10th, try to slow down a little bit and simplify your daily life.. People with serious medical problems are exempted from fasting if their doctor says they must eat meat.

This is the time of preparation—to gear up for Great Lent. Let each one of us give it his or her best try.

Yours in Christ  
The happiest priest  
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](mailto:r.henning1@juno.com) with any monthly newsletter in-put suggestions by the last week of the month preceding publication.

## EPIPHANY BLESSINGS

Fr. Costas will try to visit and bless all your homes with the Epiphany Holy Water. This is an old custom of the Orthodox Church. Please have an icon ready, two candles, and half a bowl of water on the main table of your house. Write down the names of your living relatives. If you are not going to be home on the day Father will be in your area, call his cell (949) 365-6339 and if you wish, Father will come at a different time more convenient to you. A recent family picture with names will be appreciated by Father, who wants to know everybody by name. The planned schedule is as follows:

Feb 4	Mon	Those who have already called Fr. Costas
Feb 5	Tues	Those who have already called Fr. Costas
Feb 6	Wed	Aliso Viejo
Feb 7	Thurs	San Clemente North
Feb 8	Fri	San Clemente South
Feb 11	Mon	Dana Point
Feb 12	Tues	Dana Point
Feb 13	Wed	Irvine
Feb 14	Thurs	San Juan Capistrano North
Feb 15	Fri	San Juan Capistrano South
Feb 18	Mon	Ladera Ranch
Feb 19	Tues	Laguna Beach
Feb 20	Wed	Laguna Hills
Feb 21	Thurs	Laguna Niguel
Feb 22	Fri	Laguna Niguel
Feb 25	Mon	Clergy Laity Conference
Feb 26	Tues	Clergy Laity Conference
Feb 27	Wed	Clergy Laity Conference
Mar 3	Mon	Lake Forest
Mar 4	Tues	Mission Viejo
Mar 5	Wed	Mission Viejo
Mar 6	Thurs	Newport Beach
Mar 7	Fri	Rancho Santa Margarita

Father will spend the rest of the month blessing those homes he missed.

*Mark your calendars...*

**SUNDAY, MARCH 16, 2008**

**SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY**

*A Pan-Orthodox Hierarchical Service in English celebrated by four Bishops*

*We invite all Orthodox Christians to come together at*

***St. Sophia Cathedral, Los Angeles***

*A wonderful day planned for adults and youth*

*You won't want to miss it*

### **Services for February**

**Every Sunday Morning**

9:00 AM: Matins

10:00 AM: Divine Liturgy



January 10, 2007

Dear Ladies Fellowship Member and Prospective Member,

As we enter into the new year it is time to renew our membership for 2008 and to welcome new members. As you know we are an integral part of the church and we try to step in and offer our assistance wherever needed. Sometimes our assistance is of a monetary nature and other times it becomes very hands on. Hopefully this serves your own goals and we continue to welcome members who are able to give in whatever manner they can.

The membership dues are as last year, \$25.00, of course we welcome more if one wishes. This coming year we are attempting to meet the needs of our parishioners who may have a financial hardship and need a helping hand to meet their basic needs.

There is an old saying, "**BUT FOR THE GRACE OF GOD GO I**", we hope to be able to step in and help should a need of this nature arise.

Please make out your check to GOMSOC and mail the membership application on page 4 to:

ARGIE CUPPLES  
2 CALLE REGIO  
SAN CLEMENTE, CA 92673

Thank you for your prompt attention.

Sincerely,

Argie Cupples  
Treasurer

### **Parish "Wish List"**

Donors would be appreciated for part or all of the items below which are badly needed. All of these items are important and will be used for years to come. Please let Father know if you will be willing to help with any of the these items:

**SERVICE BOOKS** - Father would like the have new Divine Liturgy service books for use on Sundays. The book he has in mind has the entire service with all of the prayers in Greek, Greek Phonetics, and English. This is not the "green book" with the music that we are currently using, which is incomplete. To provide the new Divine Liturgy service books will cost \$400.00

**ORTHODOX BIBLES** - The new, complete Orthodox Study Bible, with the Old and New Testaments, will become available in February. They retail at \$50.00 each (hard copy), but if we preorder them before February and buy them in bulk, we can get them at a 45% discount. We would like to have 50 Bibles at our parish available for use at future Bible studies, retreats, services, etc.

**BLACK ACOLYTE ROBES** - Some of you remember from last year that on Holy Week the acolytes (altar boys) were dressed in black robes, rather than their usual gold ones. This is more appropriate especially for Holy Week. The robes were borrowed - some were cassocks, some were not, and there were not enough in the right sizes for our boys. Presvytera barely managed to gather up enough black robes to robe all of the boys. We could and should have our own on hand. Cassocks can be ordered and cost approximately \$50.00 each, depending on size. They are easy to maintain - washable and permanent press with a snap down front. We should probably have about 15 of them in a variety of sizes, since the mix of boys serving varies from year to year. The cassocks could also be used for Lenten and other services. You have seen what the cassocks look like. The Liturgical Readers have been wearing them when they read the Epistle. The Liturgical Readers have each acquired their own cassocks, but we need cassocks which will remain at the church for use by the altar boys.

# LADIES FELLOWSHIP MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL/NEW MEMBER

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

CELL NO. \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE MAKE CHECK OUT TO GOMSOC  
MAIL TO:  
ARGIE CUPPLES  
2 CALLE REGIO  
SAN CLEMENTE, CA 92673

## Announcements

### Sunday School News

The Sunday School will be participating in the Sunday of Orthodoxy procession during the Divine Liturgy on March 16th. Every Sunday School student is asked to bring an icon for the procession; especially one of the saint for whom they are named or a special event which has particular meaning to the student. Please mark your calendar and be sure to bring your Sunday School student promptly to church on that Sunday. We thank you very much.

### Sunday Morning Bible Study

Fr. Costas will be leading a Bible Study on Monday nights. It is scheduled to start in March after the House Blessings are completed. Please watch for details in the March Newsletter and future Sunday Bulletins.

### Ladies Philanthropic Society News

**Membership Drive.** Please see page 3 for a letter from our Ladies Philanthropic Society on their annual membership drive and page 4 for the membership application. Please do not hesitate to join with these Ladies and add your resources to theirs so that even more can be accomplished! **Questions, comments or concerns?** The Society has a box 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.

### 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.

### Memorials for February

The following memorials are planned for February: Feb 3rd—Archbishop Christodoulos of the Church of Greece. May his memory be eternal!

### 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. **GOYA** would like to increase their numbers. Please do not 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) meet often for fellowship and activities. 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.

### Fr. Costas Back From Surgery

God has been kind to us and to Fr. Costas! He has seen fit to mend our beloved Pastor in good speed so that Fr. Costas was able to return to us and celebrate the Divine Liturgy on February 3rd. Fr. Costas' bariatric surgery has completely eliminated his symptoms of diabetes and any need for medication for it. He is doing quite well and we thank God for his steady recovery.

### 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. Please note that these office hours may be modified by the House Blessings discussed on page 2.

### Our Worst Kept Secret

As our Steering Committee President, Steve Dafnis, likes to say, our plans to move the Mission from its present location at JSerra Chapel to a location in downtown San Juan Capistrano is "Our Worst Kept Secret." Not much was said "officially" since we were still in the wait-and-see stage. The documents needed to secure the space have been signed and we are waiting now for final approval from the Planning Department of SJC on the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) to begin holding services there. Indications now are that the approval will be forth-coming soon. We are tentatively planning to have our first Divine Liturgy there on the 1st Sunday of March. More specific information will be published in the March Newsletter and in Sunday Bulletins. Please watch for it.

**Greek Orthodox Mission**  
of South Orange County  
P.O. Box 1214  
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](http://www.gomsoc.org)

**Email:** [info@gomsoc.org](mailto:info@gomsoc.org)