



# MISSION NEWSLETTER

*January 6th*

## The Theophany of Our Lord

About the beginning of our Lord's thirtieth year, John the Forerunner, who was some six months older than Our Savior according to the flesh, and had lived in the wilderness since his childhood, received a command from God and came into the parts of the Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance unto the remission of sins. Than Our Savior also came from Galilee to the Jordan, and sought and



received baptism though He was the Master and John was but a servant. Whereupon there came to pass those marvelous deeds, great and beyond nature: the Heavens were opened, the Spirit descended in the form of a dove upon Him that was being baptized and a voice was heard from the Heavens bearing witness that this was the beloved Son of God, now baptized as a man. (Matt 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:1-22) From these events the Divinity of the Lord Jesus Christ and the

### Steering & Operations Committees:

FATHER JOHN KARIOTAKIS  
Pastor

STEVE DAFNIS\*  
Chairman

EJ CONSTANTINE\*  
Capital Formation and  
Genesis Program Chair

DEMETRA LEWIS\*  
Stewardship Chair

JOE NOLLAR  
Finance Chairman

CHRYSOULA CUTRONE  
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

**Comments from the Former Steering Committee Chairman**

Dear Parishioners,

As the calendar year ends, I want to thank everyone for your commitment and generosity to our Mission Parish and for allowing me to serve as the Steering Committee Chair and to share with you what a rewarding experience it has been. I have cherished every moment, from the time we set up our first Saturday service, to being locked out of the chapel this last Christmas! Each moment has been special and each has brought us closer.

Our commitment to growth requires attention to strategic planning as well as operations. To that end, I will be assuming new duties and responsibilities within the newly formed Executive Committee, charged with strategic planning and implementation and composed of myself, Demetra Lewis, E.J. Constantine and Steve Dafnis.

During the interim period, while the Steering Committee selects an Operations Chair, our Vice Chair, Steve Dafnis, has graciously agreed to take on the additional responsibilities of Chair of the Steering and Operations Committees.

Again, I wish to thank you for your support during our formative years and to thank Steve for accepting additional responsibilities.

In Christ's Love,

Mike Selberis

**Comments from the Incoming Steering & Operations Committees Chairman**

Dear Parishioners,

While I share Mike's sentiments about our Mission Parish, I want to also share with you how grateful I am to Mike for initially accepting the role of Steering Committee Chair and for leading us to our current position. His passion and relentless conviction of the need for a Greek Orthodox Church in South Orange County have been absolutely crucial to our growth. I look forward to Mike's continued leadership in the Executive Committee and to his commitment in achieving our goal. Thank you Mike!

As the new year begins, I wish to address a few frequently asked questions and request your assistance in helping with our mission's operating requirements.

First, with the limitations being placed on our current facility, how are we progressing in finding a new facility?

Let me assure you that the real estate price appreciation that all Orange County homeowners are experiencing has made its way to the commercial sector as well. As a result, it has been very difficult to find space, in close proximity, at an affordable price. On the positive side, we continue to actively pursue available properties and have recently been made aware of a new opportunity. As we learn more about the site, and any others, we will keep you informed.

Second, how does a Steering Committee differ from a church's Board of Directors?

The function of each is similar. Where they differ is that a Board is voted in by the parish – usually on a bi-annual basis. Since there was no parish existing at the Mission's inception, the Steering Committee members individually volunteered to lead the mission until such time as a parish board could assume its responsibilities. Once the Metropolis authorizes formal parish status, formal elections will take place and a board will be created. Our goal is to reach formal parish status by year-end.

As Mike stated in his letter, we have formed an Executive Committee which is charged with strategic planning and implementation. Specifically, the responsibilities of stewardship growth, facilities, i.e., building fund and capital formation will be lead by the Executive Committee.

The balance of the Steering Committee will focus on parish operations, i.e., Choir, Philoptochos, Sunday School, Greek Dance,

## **Announcements**

### **Stewardship Drive**

The Parish Stewardship Drive for 2005 to raise money to acquire a full-time facility is completed. Our goal: was to raise \$100,000 by the end of the year. While we fell short of that goal, we appreciate the support of several families that have helped us and thank them for their generosity and love of our Parish. We look forward to contributions from many more of you in 2006. Please contact the Parish Stewardship Chairperson, Demetra Lewis if you have questions. She may be reached by phone at (949) 661-1938 or by email at demelewis@cox.net.

### **Parish Christmas Card**

We wish to thank all those families who participated in the Parish Christmas Card project. It served the dual purpose of families' being able to send their wishes for a wonderful holiday season to all the members of the parish and also raised funds for the parish. If you paid for your Christmas greeting and it did not get into the Christmas Card, we offer you our sincere apology. It was completely inadvertent.

### **Sunday School**

Sunday, February 5th has been designated as "Godparent" Sunday. All Godparents are encouraged to attend the Divine Liturgy with their Godchild especially on the Sunday to renew their commitment to this important responsibility and share in the spiritual blessings of this day with their Godchild.

### **Adult Greek Language Class**

An Adult Greek Language Class begins this month. It is conducted on Tuesday evenings from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm. For more information call Kelly Parissis at 249-3448 or Michelle Selberis at 364-5866.

### **Fellowship Hour**

First, Happy New Year! Similar to the holiday season, Fellowship Hour is not without its challenges. As of the beginning of this year JSerra has requested that we do not have any food or drink in the classrooms. To honor their request we are holding it now in the "teacher's lounge/kitchen" area. Based on my observations, the location won't hinder us from enjoying our extended families.

I would like to invite more of our parishioners to participate in the preparation and set-up of Fellowship Hour. We realized that the fear of the unknown keeps many from volunteering...therefore, I would like to relieve any fear that you may have and reassure you that setting up is a snap. For your convenience we have outlined the "how to's" of setting up. This information will be readily available in the cabinet where we store our supplies.

We also realize that people have very busy schedules and many not have time to bake...again, not to worry! In a

Fellowship activities, Communication, Administration, Altar Boys, Narthex and ushers and treasury.

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**Comments from the New Steering Committee Chairman (continued)**

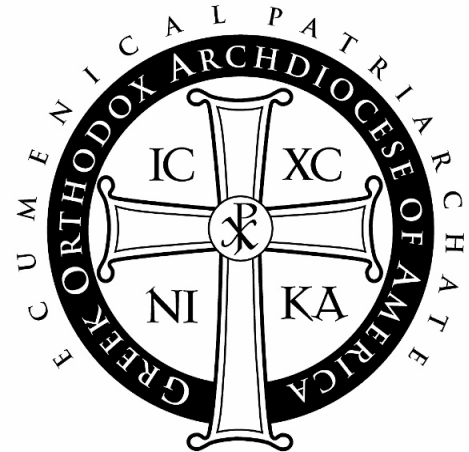
Prior to the next newsletter, we will provide a formal list of all of the necessary Operating Committees and provide a description of each. At that time, we will ask everyone to take the responsibility of chairing a committee and/or to participate under the chairperson.

**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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