



MISSION NEWS-

From the heart of Fr. Costas

Dearly Beloved in the Lord,

Have a BLESSED, HAPPY, HEALTHY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!

I pray that you all had a beautiful Christmas and New Year Holidays. The new year 2007 stretches out before us as an unknown; full of unlimited potential and promise. We definitely need to find a new site for our community, hopefully a permanent one, so we can build our own church. If everything goes well, we will choose our Patron Saint and get our new name. Right now we are a Mission without a distinct identity, but the face of our community shines clearly through your faces and through your faith and commitment. Soon we will make our own luminous mark on South Orange County and serve as a beacon of Orthodoxy like the star of Bethlehem.

Let us never lose sight of what is most important in this life: our salvation. The purpose of life is not good times, or the acquisition of things or achievements. The only thing we are to acquire here on earth is the Kingdom of Heaven.

I hope that we all take a moment to think about our spiritual lives this New Year, the direction we are taking and what we have done with our lives to this point. Time is a peculiar phenomenon. Unlike our money, our precious possessions, our relatives, most of our accomplishments, it cannot be counted; we never know how much of it we have. It is also the only thing we have absolutely no control over; the only thing we cannot claim or recapture or revisit. Time is, indeed, a precious gift from God and it is incumbent upon us to use it wisely. We must never take time for granted.

As you ponder the New Year remember the big difference in the New Testament Greek between *καιρος* and *χρονος*, between a specific period of time and time in general. The specific time is the span of our lives and becomes very important. The Americans say "time is money", but it's even more important than that. It's a testing period, upon which our very salvation depends. So, do not waste it any longer, but use it wisely and prudently trying to make the most out of the short time we have.

Last year at a College Student meeting I asked the young adults to write on an index card what they would do if the end of the world was to come in three days. You too should think of this scenario and try to live more spiritual lives from now on.

The new year will bring many challenges, changes and great opportunities for growth and improvement, not only for our Mission but for ourselves as individu-

VASILOPITA SUNDAY

JANUARY 14, 2007

Join us as we cut our Vasilopita in the name of all our organizations at our Mission! All children will be remain in church for a youth sermon and to be a part of the tradition.

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."

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

EPIPHANY BLESSINGS

Starting on Epiphany Day, January 6th, Fr. Costas will attempt to visit and bless all of your homes. The schedule below is according to area. **IF YOU ARE NOT GOING TO BE HOME** that particular day, or for any reason you do not want Fr. Costas to come to your home, **PLEASE CALL FATHER** and let him know at (949) 365-6339. Your visit can be rescheduled or cancelled altogether, as you wish.

Please make sure you have on a table at your house, an icon propped up, two candles on candlesticks, half a bowl of water and a small white towel. If you have fresh basil or mint from your garden, have some sprigs cut and washed on the table. Father would also appreciate if you have a picture of your family that he could keep, or at least photos of the children. Please write the names on the back. Also have a list of the first names of your family members (and any other living relatives) that you would like him to pray for at the blessing. The planned schedule is as follows:

Those who already have called Father will be scheduled for January 6, 7 and 8.

<u>City</u>	<u>Date(s)</u>
Aliso Viejo	January 9
Santa Ana	January 10
Carlsbad	January 11 and 13
San Clemente	January 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18
Costa Mesa	January 21
Dana Point	January 22, 23, 24
Irvine (our members)	January 25
Highland	January 25
Huntington Beach	January 26
San Juan Capistrano	January 26 and January 28
Ladera Ranch	January 29
Laguna Beach	January 27
Laguna Hills	January 28
Laguna Niguel	January 29, 30, 31 and February 3
Laguna Woods	February 3
Lake Forest	February 8
Mission Viejo	February 10, 11, and 12
Newport Beach	February 13
Rancho Santa Margarita	February 15
Riverside	February 19
Tustin	February 20

GODPARENT/GODCHILD SUNDAY

Sunday, February 4, 2007

10 a.m.

Godparents and Godchildren will attend liturgy and take communion together. Please let your Godparent/ Godchild know about this opportunity to reaffirm this special relationship!

Bible Class

We will be studying the most important and most spiritual book of the Bible:

“THE HOLY GOSPEL OF ST. JOHN”

According to St. John Chrysostom

with introduction to the various related
topics, issues and customs.

YOU WILL ENJOY IT TREMENDOUSLY,
AND LEARN MUCH ABOUT YOUR ORTHODOX FAITH
AND THE BIBLE

Join us Sunday mornings 9:00 am. at the J. Serra High School Chapel (2nd floor), where the Sunday School class takes place. Everybody including teachers and parents are welcome. The class will be taught by Presvytera Eugenia, a New Testament Professor at the University of San Diego and a Holy Cross Seminary and Harvard University graduate, who has taught Bible Class for 30 years.

Announcements

Steering Committee News

Please join us in welcoming the following new members to the Steering Committee: Andrew Keratzides, Reggie Sellas, and Emmanuel Sfakianakis. We greatly appreciate their willingness to volunteer and help lead our Mission in reaching our goals.

2007 Pledge Cards

If you have not already done so, please fill out a new Pledge card for 2007 so that the Mission can plan to meet its financial obligations and plan for our future in 2007 and beyond. Pledge cards are available in the narthex or on our website. Thank you for continued support.

Philoptochos News

Please plan on attending our meeting on Sunday, January 14th following liturgy. The Tea previously scheduled for January 28, 2007, will be rescheduled for a date in March. We need several women to bake Vasilopites for the service on January 14th. If you can bake, please call Irene Basdakias at (949)360-4447.

Philoptochos greatly appreciates everyone helping out with our Fellowship Hour after the Divine Liturgy. Our goal is to provide a time when we can visit with one another and have a simple small snack. This year we are asking two families a week to assist with providing a snack, setting up and cleaning up. If our entire community comes together and signs up for one or two Sundays throughout the year, it will spread this responsibility around and allow everyone the opportunity to participate in and enjoy the Divine Liturgy.

Philoptochos will provide the supplies for brewing and serving the coffee (coffee, filters, creamer, sugar, cups, and stirrers), in addition to serving platters and zip lock bags for storage. All of these items can be found in the storage cabinets, including guidelines for brewing the coffee. Please contact Sally Meyerhofer at 949-388-7816 or by email at meyerhofer@cox.net to sign up. If you are unable to contact Sally, please call Lela Giziotis at 949-733-0827 or Irene Constantine at 949-218-0882.

Announcements

Sunday School News

Our Sunday School Christmas Pageant is scheduled for December 17th. Various costumes will be needed for the pageant. We need barnyard animal, angel, and other costumes. Monetary donations will be gratefully accepted to help defray the expense of making costumes where necessary. Also, it is more important than ever to make sure that all Sunday School children attend regularly so that they can practice and be a participant in the Christmas Pageant. Parents, please be as dedicated as you can to make sure that your children attend Sunday School often. The last rehearsal for the Christmas Pageant will be after the Divine Liturgy on December 10th.

First Annual Greek Dance Christmas Bazaar Fundraiser

There will be a Bazaar following the Christmas Pageant. The proceeds will help support our Youth Dancers. Please stop by and see the wonderful Christmas booths and great food that will be offered for sale.

Philoptochos News

The Philoptochos is always glad to welcome new members. If you are interested in joining or would like more information, please contact Chrys Cutrone at (949) 295-1256. **Canned Goods Collection.** We are now collecting canned goods for a food drive for the needy. Please leave the items outside the door at church or you can leave them at the church office. This year we will also be collecting children's clothing. **Cookie Exchange.** Irene Constantine will host a Cookie Exchange on December 15th at her house for interested ladies at 7 pm. Bring about 5 dozen cookies with you; you will leave with the same amount, but so many different kinds. Yummy! Please RSVP with Irene as soon as possible if you are coming. She can be reached at (949) 218-0882. **Bake Sale.** Philoptochos will sponsor a bake sale after the Divine Liturgy on December 17th. This is your chance to stock up on goodies for the holidays. **Membership Tea.** A Membership Tea is being planned for January 28, 2007. Please watch your Newsletter for details as they are available.

Bible Class

Bible Class will be held every Monday night from 6-7:00 pm. We will continue with the Gospel of St. John, explained by St. John Chrysostom. Place: Bravo Burger, Ortega Hwy East.

Choir

The Choir always welcomes new members. If you are interested in singing with them, please mention it to any Choir member who will be happy to provide details on the regular practice schedule and location. This month the Choir will rehearse at 7 pm on December 5th and 19th. They will meet at the church office. Since Christmas is fast approaching, and special music will be practiced, it is especially important for all Choir members to be at rehearsals. The Choir is actively working to get choir robes for the Christmas Holiday.

Fr. Costas' Tentative Office Hours

Until further notice, Fr. Costas' office hours will be Monday and Wednesday from 4:00-7:00 pm and Tuesday and Thursday from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. The office will be housed temporarily where the Greek school meets. Fr. Costas will be available every Sunday from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm. Volunteer secretaries for the above hours will be greatly appreciated. These hours are when you can be certain to find Fr. Costas in the office, except in case of emergency. During other hours, he will be visiting your homes and businesses, and visiting hospitals and convalescent homes, etc. Please give him the names and locations of those of your relatives who are shut-ins, or in the hospital. Also let him know if you would like him to come by and visit your home or business.

Friday Off/Contact Information

**Greek Orthodox Mission
of South Orange County**

P.O. Box 1214

San Juan Capistrano, CA 92693

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MISSION VIEJO, CA
PERMIT NO. 1324



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