



MISSION NEWSLETTER

From the Heart of Fr. Costas

My dearest ones,

Summer is upon us in which the primary feast is for the Theotokos. August has traditionally been the month of Panagia, the Virgin Mary. I want you to know something about this important period during the liturgical year.

In Constantinople the priests and bishops would take the Holy Cross of Christ and proceed through the streets, reaching the people in the squares and then the churches for the Services of Consolation (Paraklesis). These services were the most popular services and were attended by crowds of people. Sometimes the Paraklesis services were held outside, in the large squares next to the churches. People would give to the priests or deacons the names of their living relatives and ask them to pray for them. These services took place every single evening during the first 15 days of August while people were fasting. So, please try to fast, pray and be on your alert day and night.

All this led up to the Dormition of the Virgin Mary on the 15th of August, the so called "Summer Pascha". There is another beautiful service called the Epitaphios of the Panagia, which is done the Evening before or three days before her Assumption, because we speak of Metastasis of the Theotokos.

In a few words, the Virgin Mary had died and her entire body

left this planet on the third day.. Hopefully we will talk in great detail next year when I will be with you. There are many interesting aspects of the Virgin's life that we could discuss in depth. In Orthodox monasteries the entire month is dedicated to the Virgin Mary. The monks and nuns have services until the end of the month.

Early in the month of August, on the 6th, we commemorate the Transfiguration of Christ, during which Jesus changed into His divine form and conversed with the two great personalities of the Old Testament: Moses and Elias in front of the dazzled eyes of His three closest disciples. This feast of the Lord teaches us that we need to transform ourselves spiritually and reach higher spiritual grounds. I encourage you to attend church wherever you are during the summer, even on vacation. You may also visit a Russian Orthodox church, or an Antiochean or Serbian parish. The church might be extraordinarily beautiful or a simple, humble place of worship. Either way, it is a nice opportunity to visit other communities, enjoy the fellowship of our shared Holy Faith and experience something a little different.

Have wonderful and restful summer. The happiest priest of the universe, Fr. Costas

Steering & Operations

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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.

Paraklesis services will be held in the JSerra Chapel on the following dates: Thursday, August 2nd, Tuesday, August 7th, and Thursday, August 9th from 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm. Father Deacon Kyriakos Constantine will lead the Paraklesis services. Submit the names of your living relatives, especially those who are sick on the form below. Please put them in an envelope and give them to Dn. Kyriakos.

**FOR THE HEALTH
August 2007 Paraklesis**

Thurs. Aug. 2nd, Tues. Aug. 7th & Thurs. August 9th at 7-8:00 pm

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Dinner Dance Fundraiser

You are Personally Invited to Attend on

November 10, 2007

Watch for Further Details on this Not-to-be Missed Event!

Bring your Friends and Family!

Have a Great Evening!

Summertime (and the livin' is easy)

The summer months traditionally have been the driest months of the year here as well as the "dry" months of the Church. Expenses, regardless, are the same in any given month of the year. Please, before you go on vacation take a moment or two to remember your Church and write a very generous check to offset our many expenses.

Thank you!

Summer Services

There will be no changes to the Sunday Schedule for the month of July: Matins Service at 9 am and Divine Liturgy at 10 am.

During August there will be no Matins Service. There will not be a Divine Liturgy for the Panagia on August 15th. There will be no Divine Liturgy for the Transfiguration on August 6th.

If you would like to attend the Divine Liturgy for the Dormition of the Theotokos, you are invited to attend the liturgy at St. John the Evangelist Antiochean Church in SJC. The Feast will actually be celebrated on the evening before, August 14th. Matins Service at 6 pm; Divine Liturgy at 7 pm.

CHURCH READING PROGRAM

On June 27th Presvytera Jeannie met with His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos about the Reader Program. The Metropolitan was very enthusiastic about her proposal for the training of tonsured Readers and gave her permission to begin the pilot program for the Metropolis at our parish. To read the Holy Scriptures in Church is an honor and a privilege since the Reader proclaims the Word of God. If the reading is not done effectively, God is dishonored and the faithful do not benefit from the Scripture's instruction. Therefore, those who read the Epistle in Church will only be those who have committed themselves to this training by enrolling in the Reader Program. The actual instruction for this program will begin in the Fall for adults, who will be expected to attend the Sunday morning Bible Study, and also for youth (ages 10 and up), who will attend a special Sunday School class. The instruction program will focus primarily on the basics about the Bible, but also will cover the various feasts of the Church, the liturgical year, the services of the Church, etc. A functional component will consist of training in the actual technique of reading, where to find the readings, procedures for reading in Church, etc. She also plans to produce instruction CDs which would allow you to learn at home or in your car. If you are interested but cannot attend the classes, let her know of your interest. If you have any questions or wish to enroll and begin reading in Church this Fall, see Presvytera Jeannie.

New Adult Greek Dance Group Now Forming

A young adult (17+) to adult Greek Dance performing group is now being formed for Exhibition and Folk Dance Festival competition. John Basdakakis will be directing what is hoped to become the premier Greek dance exhibition group in Orange County. Classes will be fun, dynamic, at times challenging, very rewarding, and a great social opportunity. Practice times and days are to be determined.

For more information, contact John Basdakakis at 714-813-2158 or email him at john@msn4loans.com.

OPA!

Announcements

Sunday School News

Educating our youth in the tenets of our faith is probably the most important task that we have as a community of Orthodox believers. We often underestimate the value of Sunday School. This next Sunday School year is one in which we have a unique opportunity—more Sunday School teachers will be needed this next year—and you can make a big difference in the lives of the community's children by being a teacher. Please pray about this ministry and make a decision to participate. If you think that you can help, please see Ariana Sfakianakis after the Divine Liturgy or call her at (714) 879-7758. Thank you so much!

Dinner Dance Fundraiser Planned

A Dinner Dance Fundraiser is being planned. Proceeds will benefit our Building Fund. Circle this date on your calendar now - **November 10, 2007.**

Summer Camp

Summer camp is once again available for our young people

St. Sophia Camp Dates

Session 1 July 19—August 4
Session 2 August 4-August 11

St. Nicholas Ranch Camp Dates

Session 1 July 9-July 15
Session 2 July 16-July 22
Session 3 July 23-July 29

Ladies Philanthropic Society News

Dues. The Society kindly requests that all members send in their dues for this year as soon as possible. **Ladies Friendship Tea.** The Ladies Friendship Tea, previously scheduled for this Spring, has been rescheduled for the 6th of October. Please save the date. **Next Regular Meeting.** The next regular meeting of the Society will be on October 6th, immediately following the Divine Liturgy. Please save the date. **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.

Greek School

Thanks to our teachers, parents and wonderful students who attended Greek School in 2006-2007. We are looking forward to seeing all of you again in September and welcoming any new students for the Fall. Greek School will start Monday, September 17th. If you are interested, please contact Mia Domingot at mdomingot@cox.net or Kelly Parissis at kelly@greekbaby.com. You may also call Kelly at (949) 249-3448.

GOYA Has Started

Please let us know if you have a teenager at home (13-17 years old). We would like to be able to contact them and welcome them into the GOYA group which has now formed. Advisors are also needed. Let us know if you can help in that capacity. Miss Yeoryia Selberis has been appointed as the first president until we have elections.

YAL is Organized.

YAL (Young Adults ages 18—40) will have had a very good start. Join them every second Monday of the month at 7:15 pm at the Church Office (Avery and Marguerite) For more information call or email Sophia Kollias. Her contact information is phone, 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. **Fr. Costas' Vacation.** Fr. Costas' vacation has been scheduled from August 1st to August 24th.

Committee to Name our Mission Parish

A committee is now being formed to create the selection process for the naming of our Mission Parish. Those persons interested in serving on the committee can email GOMSOC at info@gomsoc.org or speak directly with Fr. Costas.

Prime Timers

The planning of this year's Parish Christmas Party is actively being pursued. The date has been chosen: December 9th—Mark your calendars now! It will start at 4 pm and is being held in the same location as last year's Christmas Party. This event was a great success last year and is not to be missed! The organizing committee is seeking door prize items. Please see if you can contribute something to this worthy effort. If you can help, contact Danny Tonge at (949) 457-9524. Thank you so much!

Greek Orthodox Mission
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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