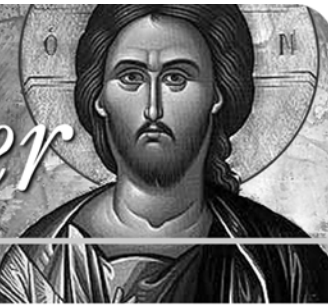


Mission Newsletter

The monthly communication of the Greek Orthodox Mission of South Orange County

June 2009 www.gomsoc.org email: info@gomsoc.org



Parish Council

Rev. Fr. Andrew Lesko
Pastor

Irene Basdakos
President

Demetra Lewis
Vice President

Tina Bertok
Secretary

Steve Dafnis
Treasurer

E.J. Constantine

Sam Konugres

John Leon

Sally Meyerhofer

Michael Selberis

Reggie Sellas

Bob Stavrou



Our 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 David Derks at dderks1707@aol.com with any monthly newsletter items

Seven Month Update

by FR. ANDREW LESKO

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ:



It has been seven months since I celebrated my first Divine Liturgy at the Greek Orthodox Mission of Southern Orange County and I thought I would reflect on what I have experienced over that period of time. When I first arrived that Sunday I was a bit apprehensive since I honestly had no idea what I would find at the Mission. In fact, until I met with the Metropolitan the week before I didn't even know there was a church in Southern Orange County.

What I found that day was a group of Orthodox people who loved God and His Church. They were determined to worship in the traditions of the Greek Orthodox. I had heard bits and pieces of problems that had recently occurred but what I saw was a commitment to go beyond these problems. Somehow a high school cafeteria was transformed into a Greek Orthodox Church. People moved furniture, set up the altar, hung icons in their proper location and all I had to do was get my materials in order and

celebrate the Liturgy. It was obvious that God had sent me to a special place.

As the weeks went on I listened to as many people as possible to get information about the background of the community and to set a direction for the future. People visited me in the office, after church, and I went to their homes. I listened, I cried, I laughed and I learned that the members of this community were truly blessed. Regardless of the opinions held by individual people the collective voice was that everyone wanted a Greek Orthodox Church and they were willing to work to meet this goal.

The weeks became months and this priest from New Jersey even learned a few Greek litanies. I also sensed that we were starting to heal as a community. Our numbers started to grow in all areas, including Sunday school, Greek School, attendance at Liturgy, and even donations. We had our General Assembly and a large number of parishioners came forward to run for office. Elections were held and Parish Council was established to provide direction for future growth.

Most recently, Metropolitan Gerasimos visited us during Holy Week and witnessed first hand the strength and vitality of our community. Every organization and group outdid themselves to present the true nature of our mission to His Eminence. There is no doubt that he was impressed with what he saw in our community. The remainder of Holy Week and Pascha was a joy for me. Attendance and participation were high for all services and the entire community once again demonstrated the will and desire to establish His Church.

Now that seven months have gone by I can honestly say that we have a new mission with a new and renewed vision for the future. I would love to take credit for the change but I cannot. What has changed is that once again our people of our mission have faith. There has always been faith in God but now we have faith in ourselves and faith in the future.

It is an honor and a privilege to serve as your priest and I assure you that the best is yet to come.

In Christ,

Fr. Andrew Lesko

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At-A-Glance: Upcoming Events

June 2

Parish Council Meeting

June 3

Last day of Greek School

June 4

Prime Timers Luncheon at Arroyo Trabuco Golf Club

June 7

Pentecost Sunday

Ladies Auxiliary General Meeting and Elections

June 14

General Assembly

For more information on upcoming events, visit our official website at www.gomsoc.org and go to the Calendar page.



Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die."

John 11:25-26

General Assembly

Our Mission's General Assembly will be held on Sunday, June 14 immediately after Divine Liturgy.

Parish Council

Parish Council Meeting Dates for the remainder of 2009 will be held on the first Tuesday of every month.

Parishioners in good standing are welcome to attend the opening prayer, reading and approval of the prior month's Parish Council minutes and Treasurer's Report. Parishioners can then present their comments and questions during the new agenda point, Parishioner Forum. At the conclusion of this agenda item, guests will be dismissed and the Parish Council will continue in a closed format.

Those parishioners interested in attending a Parish Council meeting must contact Irene Basdakos at (949) 300-5144 or lawyerirene@hotmail.com.

New Publicity Chair

Joanna Wilson is our new publicity chair for our community! If you would like to contact her, she can be reached at joannakwilson@cox.net.

Ladies Auxiliary

Ladies Auxiliary is currently hard at work putting together a church directory which should be available to members in June. If you have any questions please contact Maria Madura 949.443.3665 or mmadura3@cox.net.

The next general meeting and elections is June 7. Please be sure to attend this very important meeting!

Prime Timers Luncheon at the Arroyo Trabuco Golf Club



Join us June 4 for our monthly luncheon at the Arroyo Trabuco Golf Club - 26772 Avery Pkwy, Mission Viejo CA. For more information, contact Bert Dumais at (949) 412-9169.

Parents Needed for Children's Ministries

- ✝ Mommy and Me: infants-pre-k children.
- ✝ JOY: K-5th grade children

If you are interested in heading a group, please contact Maria Kraft at (949) 573-3390 or via email at m.kraft@cox.net.

Young Adult League YAL News

YAL ages (18-40) meet often for fellowship and activities. Meeting dates alternate between the 3rd Sunday and the 3rd Monday of each month. Join them at their monthly meeting and gathering. For more information contact Joanna Xipa at jxipa@yahoo.com.

GOYA News

If you have a teenager at home (12-17 years old) we would like to welcome them into our GOYA. Contact Sophia Konugres (949) 678-3606 or sophia.konugres@dawsondawsoninc.com

GOYA Volleyball

Join our NEW GOYA volleyball team! For more information, contact Mike Selberis at mike.selberis@cox.net or Sam Konugres at sam.konugres@sbcglobal.net.

Notes from the Choir

Come, help us sing the Glory of God. "I will sing to the Lord as long as I live." Ps. 104:33. Contact Sophia at sophia.konstantarakis@citi.com or (949) 637-0567.

Coffee Hour Hosts & Hostesses



If you would like to sponsor a coffee hour or have any questions, please contact Joanna Giangardella at (949) 492-2465 or via email at joannasonya@aol.com.

Parish Council Committees

Committees have been formed for real estate, finance, fundraising, planning, stewardship, narthex and altar. Contact parish council members if you like to participate on a committee:

- ✝ Stewardship Committee: contact Mike Selberis at mike.selberis@Cox.net
- ✝ Real Estate & Finance Committee: contact E.J. Constantine at EJCon@Cox.net
- ✝ Fundraising & Planning Committee: contact Sally Meyerhofer at meyerhofer@cox.net
- ✝ Narthex/Alter Committee: contact Reggie Sellas at RSellas@aol.com

Greek Dance Groups

For more information, contact Chyrs Cutrone at (949) 295-1256 or chryscutrone@yahoo.com.

Clergy-Laita Conference

by IRENE BASDAKIS



The Clergy-Laita Conference was very good and informative event. It happened to be four years since the passing of His Eminence Anthony so during the conference there was a special blessing held at his grave site and a dedication of the newly refurbished lake. I had the pleasure of meeting some of the 160 delegates from neighboring churches, as well as

Father Leo from Anchorage, Alaska. Nikiforos and Georgia Valaskantjis were there, as was Father John Kariotakis who sends his best to everyone.

What I found interesting was hearing some of the challenges other churches have but somehow overcame. The shared experience we have as a part of a global Orthodox community gave me a better understanding of the Metropolis and clarity that we are all truly one body doing God's work. Although we are a mission, almost everyone was aware of us and wishing the best for us. His Eminence and staff were pleased that we were represented and understood why we were only able to send one delegate this year. Although some of the established churches didn't attend, it came to my attention there was another mission present with four delegates who have not yet been assigned a part-time priest. I was reminded how blessed our community is to have Fr. Lesko assigned to our community during a time of growth.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to participate at this year's event and to represent our Mission to the best of my ability.

Big Thank You

We want to extend a big thank you to David Christensen. He was born in Constantinople, which is where he learned how to create fine jewelry. He operates a small shop in Redlands called Ozel Fine Jewelry. Since Pascha he has donated \$2,500 of repairs and restorations to Liturgical items. He refuses to accept any money for items repaired for the church, which includes:

- ✝ Restoration and repair of the Tabernacle
- ✝ Cleaning and repair of the Chalice
- ✝ Repair and gold plating of the Diskos
- ✝ Repair and gold plating of the Lance and two Communion spoons



International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) offers emergency relief and development programs to those in need worldwide. They are looking for two new representatives.

Representative #1 - tenured: past or current parish counsel official in good standing with the Church with strong networking ties. The goal is to promote IOCC agenda/events within the Parish and help secure donations/gifts.

Representative #2 - youth oriented: past or current youth director, Sunday school teacher, or youth leader from within the parish who identifies and has occasion to communicate with the youth in your parish. The goal is to plant seed for future IOCC reps.

If you are interested, please contact Co-chairman Nicolas Nicolaou at nnicolaou@m2mds.com for more information. They are hoping to have representatives selected as soon as possible as a major IOCC event is coming up in October! For more information on the IOCC, visit their website at www.iocc.org.

Become an active member of GOMSOC

Being a newer church, there are many opportunities for you to support our mission and join our family. Prayer is something we all can do. A contribution of your time and talent is also welcomed and encouraged. Whether you wish to work with children or the elderly, take on a leadership role in the mission, worship as an acolyte, reader, usher, sing in the choir, assist at fellowship hour or even help maintain the facilities, there is something for everyone to get involved. You might even think of something that we're not doing today, and start a new program.

Lastly, your financial support is welcomed. Your contribution, large or small, keeps the mission going by supporting our ministries and covers 100% percent of our facility expenses and priest. Whether you give weekly, monthly, yearly, and anonymously and/or contribute in the basket on Sundays, your voluntary support of our mission family will allow us to continue to grow until one day we achieve parish status.

To give, complete the Donation and Commitment Card below and mail it to us at P.O. Box 1214, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92693.

GREEK ORTHODOX MISSION OF SOUTH ORANGE COUNTY

P.O. Box 1214 SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO, CA 92693 TELEPHONE 866-350-1933

WEBSITE: WWW.GOMSOC.ORG EMAIL: INFO@GOMSOC.ORG

2009 GROWING OUR FAMILY DONATION CARD

In gratitude for God's blessings, I/we pledge to contribute for Christ's work at the Greek Orthodox Mission of South Orange County the total amount of: \$_____ I would like to contribute in the following manner:

\$_____ weekly \$_____ monthly \$_____ quarterly \$_____ semi-annually \$_____ annually

I would like to donate my services/time to _____

Name _____ Telephone Number (_____) _____

Address: _____

Email: _____



Greek Orthodox Mission of South Orange County

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METROPOLIS OF
SAN FRANCISCO



Greek Orthodox Mission of South Orange County

JSerra High School Chapel
26351 Junipero Serra Rd.
San Juan Capistrano, CA

Website: www.gomsoc.org

Sunday Liturgies

Orthros (Matins)	8:45 a.m.
Liturgy	10:00 a.m.

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, Mission Viejo (just north of Avery Pkwy)

Memorials

If you are planning a memorial service for a loved one, please call Fr. Andrew at (909) 224-5046 to arrange for your family's memorial. To sponsor a Coffee Hour on your memorial Sunday, please coordinate with Joanna Giangardella at (949) 492-2465 or via email at joannasonya@aol.com to sponsor a Coffee Hour.