



MISSION NEWS-

March 12th—Sunday of Orthodoxy

The dominant theme of this Sunday since 843 has been that of the victory of the icons. In that year the iconoclastic controversy, which raged on and off since 726, was finally laid to rest, and icons and their veneration were restored on first Sunday in Lent. Ever since, that Sunday has been commemorated as the “Triumph of Orthodoxy.”

Orthodox teaching about icons was defined at the Seventh Ecumenical Council of 787, which brought to an end the first phase of the attempt to suppress icons. That teaching was finally re-established in 843, and it is embodied in the texts



The name of this Sunday reflects the great significance which icons possess for the Orthodox Church. They are not optional devotional extras, but an integral part of Orthodox faith and devotion. They are held to be the necessary consequence of the Word of God, the Second Person of the Trinity, Jesus Christ.

Icons have a sacramental character, making present to the believer the person or event depicted on them. The interior of Orthodox churches is often covered with icons painted on the walls and dome, and there is most often, and icon screen, or iconostasis, separating the sanctuary from the nave, often with several rows of icons. No home is complete without an icon corner, where the family prays.

Icons are venerated by burning lamps and candles in front of them, by the use of incense and by kissing. But there is a clear doctrinal distinction between the veneration paid to icons and the worship due to God. The former is not only relative, it is in fact paid to the person represented by the icon. This distinction safeguards the veneration of icons from any charge of idolatry.

Although the theme of the victory of the icons is a secondary one on this Sunday, but its emphasis on the incarnation it points us to the basic Christian truth that the one whose death and resurrection we celebrate at Pascha was none other than the Word of God who became human in Jesus Christ.

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Member

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*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 val-

Kolyva

Concerning the tradition of offering Kolyva, especially on the Saturday of the Souls, Fr. Harakas writes:

"Kolyva" is the name given to the mixture of boiled wheat, sugar and other ingredients (such as raisins, almonds and spices) which are presented at Memorial Services. Following the Memorial Services, the Kolyva is bagged and passed out to the congregation. It is traditional for members of the congregation as they eat the Kolyva to say "May god forgive him/her!" (Theos sehores' ton/tin). Wheat early became a symbol of the resurrection which we expect, based on Christ's word, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit," (John 12:24). Thus the wheat becomes a symbol of our faith and prayer for the beloved deceased person. It is especially significant because each person shares in the symbol not only as part of the service, but also through consuming some of the Kolyva, and offering a personal prayer for the deceased.

Epitaphion Donations It's that time of year again. The glorious Pascha season. Donations are needed and greatly welcomed toward the flowers for the Epitaphion and icons including lilies for Great Lent and Pascha. Philoptochos would be ever so grateful. Please contact Michelle Selberis at (949) 364-5866 or Georgiann Ellis at (949) 388-5850 if you can help. Thanks!

Liturgical Schedule for March 2006

SUNDAY	March 5	Cheesefare Sunday	Divine Liturgy	10:00 AM
FRIDAY	March 10	Salutations to the Theotokos (Heretismi)		7:00 PM
SATURDAY	March 11	Saturday of the Souls (3rd Psychosavvato)	Divine Liturgy and Memorial for All Souls	10:00 AM
SUNDAY	March 12	1st Sunday of Lent-SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY	Divine Liturgy and Procession of Holy Icons	10:00 AM
FRIDAY	March 17	Salutations to the Theotokos (2nd Heretismi)		7:00 PM
SUNDAY	March 19	2nd Sunday of Lent	Divine Liturgy	10:00 AM
FRIDAY	March 24	Eve of the Annunciation of the Theotokos-Evangelismos and 3rd Heretismi	Divine Liturgy	7:00 PM
SUNDAY	March 26	3rd Sunday of Lent-VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS	Divine Liturgy	10:00 AM
FRIDAY	March 31	Salutations to the Theotokos (4th Heretismi)		7:00 PM
SUNDAY	April 2	4th Sunday of Lent	Divine Liturgy	10:00 AM
FRIDAY	April 7	The Akathist Hymn (Final Heretismi)		7:00 P
SUNDAY	April 9	5th Sunday of Lent	Divine Liturgy	10:00 AM

The Sacrament of Penance

The essence of Great Lent is *metanoia* (change of mind and heart). Father John will be available to those wishing to come, in a penitent spirit, to the Holy Sacrament of Confession on each Friday after the Salutation Services.

Chairman's Message

In February's Newsletter, I made reference to our Mission's impressive growth requiring new responsibilities and the creation of new groups to address those needs. After much planning, I would like to announce the creation of a number of new positions and the establishment of new groups yet to be formed.

First, Joanne Wilson has agreed to chair the newly created Public Relations Committee. In her role, Joanne will ensure that our Mission is properly represented to the public at large. With Joanne's many years of work experience in the public relations field, we know she will do an excellent job in this new position.

Next, Irene Basdakis will be taking on the position of Vice Chairperson and Liaison to the various Operating Committees. In her roles, Irene will be responsible for maintaining communication and consistency between the committees and the Mission. Irene is the ideal person for these roles. She is a great communicator and with her vast work experience in the legal field we know Irene will be most effective.

Two groups vital to the growth and the life of our Mission are the Youth and Senior Citizens. We would like to create a group to represent each of these communities and will need a chairperson for each group. If you are interested in chairing one of these groups please contact someone from our Steering Committee.

In the Open Positions section of this Newsletter I have listed several other positions vital to our Mission that also require immediate assistance. We welcome those interested to contact myself or a member of our Steering Committee.

If the Mission ever needed your assistance, it is now as we continue to grow as a viable parish in South Orange County.

In Christ,

Steve Dafnis

GOMSOC's Open Positions Requiring Immediate Parishioner Commitments

Senior Citizens Group Chairperson: Responsible for developing and organizing our Mission's senior citizens group.

Youth Group Chairperson: Responsible for developing and organizing our Mission's youth groups.

Mission Administrator: Responsible for managing our Mission's correspondence, Email, telephone calls, and scheduling for and administratively assisting Father John.

Narthex Coordinator: Responsible for organizing activities related to our Mission's Narthex including scheduling candle table volunteers, ushers and maintaining adequate liturgical inventory.

Announcements

Sunday School—Upcoming Events

The month of March brings with it the services and lessons of Great Lent. Our Sunday School staff looks forward to this Holy Season especially to teaching the life-giving story of the Passion of Christ and His Holy Resurrection. On March 12th, we celebrate the Sunday of Orthodoxy during which our Sunday School students will process around the aisles of the Chapel with icons. They are requested to bring icons from home for this purpose.

Philoptochos News

Our Mission Ladies' Philoptochos Society is planning a bake sale to be conducted on Palm Sunday, April 16th. There are sure to be lots of great baked goods there for purchase. Proceeds will benefit the Society's causes and the Mission. 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.

Beginner Adult Greek Dance Class

A new beginner's Adult Greek Dance class will start on April 30th, a week after Pascha. Those who attended the previous class learned a lot in a fun and moderately paced environment.

...George Giziotis says: "John Basdakis is a one-of-a-kind instructor of Greek folk dance. His basic hands-on style and well-known championship history make his class ideal for anyone yearning to join in on the fun at the next Greek festival, preparing for a big fat

**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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