



# MISSION NEWSLETTER

## From the Heart of Fr. Costas

The Triodion, the Preparation time for Great Lent already started last month. This year our Pascha will be on Sunday April 27, approximately one month later than the Western Easter. The month of March is a special month in our church calendar because usually the beginning of Great Lent takes place. It is also the month which includes the great feast of the Annunciation of the Virgin Mary and the celebration of Greek Independence on March 25, 1821.

Even though the first part of Triodion is almost over, another preparation time is beginning with Clean Monday (Καθαρά Δευτέρα) on March 10. Great Lent is always the best challenge for each and every one of us. Whatever we decide to sow during Lent - what we put into it - we will reap a hundredfold.

Fasting is a fundamental part of Great Lent. Remember that our forefathers Adam and Eve lost paradise, because they failed to fast from one fruit and disobeyed the first commandment, which was to abstain from that one fruit.

Hand in hand with fasting goes prayer, which has to be enhanced, expanded and done

more often.

Church attendance should increase to at least two and three times a week. Once a week is unacceptable during Lent.

Holy Communion should also be more frequent, at least twice or three times a week. Otherwise we are like a beautiful car that is to start a long trip (Great Lent) and consequently we need more spiritual fuel.

It is absolutely necessary to come to Holy Confession at this preparation time and not to procrastinate any more. Enough is enough. Our heavenly Father has waited long enough to squeeze us in His loving arms. We have all been prodigal sons and daughters - some more, some less - but sinners nevertheless. We need to reconcile with God and each other.

With many prayers and hopes, looking forward to your active participation, and always thinking of your souls first, I remain,

The happiest and soon to be the slimmest priest,

Fr. Costas



## Steering & Operations

### Committees:

REV. DR. COSTAS  
CONSTANTINOU  
Pastor

SAM KONUGRES\*  
Chairman

IRENE BASDAKIS  
Vice Chairperson  
Operations

EJ CONSTANTINE\*  
Capital Formation and  
Genesis Program Chair  
Acting Treasurer

ANDREW KERATZIDES

MICHAEL SELBERIS\*

REGGIE SELLAS

EMMANUEL SFAKIANAKIS

STEVE DAFNIS\*

\*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](mailto:r.henning1@juno.com) with any monthly newsletter in-put suggestions by the last week of the month preceding publication.

## Readers Needed for Easter Day Agape Service

At this service we read the Gospel in as many languages as possible (John 20:19-25), in three parts about two verses each time. If you would like to read the gospel in one of the languages below, or in another language, please see Fr. Costas. It is a beautiful service. Everyone should attend. Please volunteer to read if you know a language.

Homeric Greek † German † Latin †  
Classical Greek † Italian † Arabic †  
Spanish † English † American Sign  
Language † French † Russian †  
Chinese † etc.



Please volunteer your help so that our Mission can thrive! Much can be accomplished by many people as contrasted with the efforts of a few. An Analogy: One person cannot lift a car, but the combined strength of a dozen can! The "sky is the limit" when we pool our efforts and resources!

## Concerning Receiving Holy Communion at Evening Divine Liturgies

You *can* eat breakfast and lunch, but nothing *after* lunch. (Have lunch at noon time, not a very late lunch). If you are observing the Lenten Fast, it should be very easy to be prepared to receive communion.

Everyone should make an effort to attend the Pre-Sanctified Divine Liturgies during Lent in addition to the Sundays in Lent.

You should all be at least abstaining from meat. If you have genuine medical reasons why you cannot fast, you should still receive. If you are in doubt, talk to Father about it.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT UPCOMING LENTEN SERVICES, look in the Sunday Bulletins and the upcoming April Newsletter.

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### Services for March

#### Every Sunday Morning

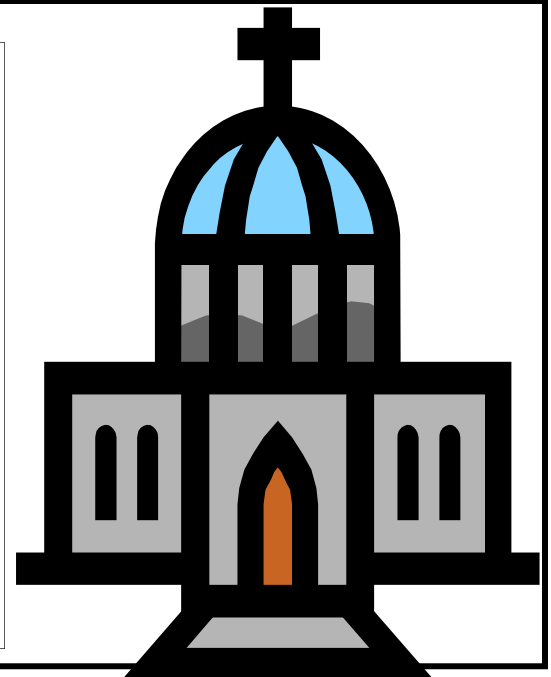
9:00 AM: Matins  
10:00 AM: Divine Liturgy  
JSerra Chapel

#### Every Wednesday of Lent

5:30 PM Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts  
(Except March 19th due to "Glory of Easter" Outing)  
Followed by a Light Lenten Dinner  
JSerra Chapel

#### Every Friday of Lent

7:00 PM Salutations to the Theotokos  
(Heretismoi)  
On March 14th it will be followed by the Third Saturday of the Souls  
(το τρίτο Ψυχосαββατον)  
JSerra Chapel



**SATURDAY OF SOULS  
(PSYCHOSAVVATA)  
ΨΥΧΟΣΑΒΒΑΤΑ**

For the Repose of the souls of.....  
Εις Αναπαυσιν των κεκοιμημενων δουλων

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Please put the names in an envelope and  
hand it to Fr. Costas or mail it to him at:

Attention: Fr. Costas  
G.O.M.S.O.C.  
P. O. Box 1214  
San Juan Capistrano, CA 92693

**ALTAR BOYS**

Starting March 2nd we will have two groups of Altar Boys alternating each Sunday:

Group A: March 2, 16, and 30

Captain: Christopher Constantinou  
Christian Salamy, Kypros Dereschuk, Zachary Ellis, Joshua Sfakianakis, Travis Gentry, and Nick Pantelidou.

Group B: March 9 and 23

Captain: George Sfakianakis  
Alexi Dereschuk,, Spiro Basdakis, Austin Gentry, Christian Salamy, Jake Harris, Peter Kaffin, and John Konugres.

**Letter of Resignation**

It has been slightly over two years since assuming the position of Chairman to our Mission's Steering Committee. This has truly been a wonderful experience to both grow with you and to participate in this very memorable moment in our lives - the establishment of our church. As we continue to grow, I believe that it is in our best interest to pro-actively take on different roles and responsibilities. Therefore, at this time, I will be resigning as Chairman and continuing as a member of the Steering Committee.

I have been very fortunate to have served with a very unselfish Steering Committee that has devoted endless hours of personal time to make sure that our Mission is successful. To a fault, we have made it our responsibility to assure that we have a place of worship every Sunday and nearly every religious holiday. As we continue to grow, I urge all of you to take the initiative to offer your services to the Steering Committee, and sub-committees and any other opportunities available. The weight of the Mission's success is on all of our shoulders.

With the Steering Committee's support, the Chairman's position will be assumed by Sam Konugres. Having known Sam for nearly 30 years, I can personally attest to Sam's qualifications and dedication to our cause. I sincerely thank you all for your support.

In Christ,  
Steve Dafnis

January 10, 2007

Dear Ladies Fellowship Member and Prospective Member,

As we enter into the new year it is time to renew our membership for 2008 and to welcome new members. As you know we are an integral part of the church and we try to step in and offer our assistance wherever needed. Sometimes our assistance is of a monetary nature and other times it becomes very hands on. Hopefully this serves your own goals and we continue to welcome members who are able to give in whatever manner they can.

The membership dues are as last year, \$25.00, of course we welcome more if one wishes. This coming year we are attempting to meet the needs of our parishioners who may have a financial hardship and need a helping hand to meet their basic needs.

There is an old saying, "**BUT FOR THE GRACE OF GOD GO I**", we hope to be able to step in and help should a need of this nature arise.

Please make out your check to GOMSOC and mail the membership application on page 4 to:

ARGIE CUPPLES  
2 CALLE REGIO  
SAN CLEMENTE, CA 92673

Thank you for your prompt attention.

Sincerely,

Argie Cupples  
Treasurer

### **Folk Dance Federation Participation is a Great Success!**

Our two Dance Groups "Methorios" which is comprised of our older dancers, and "Aetopoula" a group made up of our younger dancers had a very successful weekend recently at the FDF Competition in Ontario, CA.

The Troup Members of "Methorios" and their director Vicky Hioureas worked very hard to bring the rich traditional dances of the village Asvestades to the competitive arena. Two individuals from the village were brought over who provided instrumental and vocal accompaniment. It was heartwarming to see them interact with our children wrapping their headpieces and singing and coaching them. We were honored to say the least. As a result of the dance group's effort, "Methorios" was awarded the "*FDF Board of Trustees Special Achievement Award.*" This is the second time in two years that we have been awarded this special honor!

The Dance Group "Aetopoula" did very well for their first year in competition. They performed dances from the region of Thrace. The younger Primary Division was very competitive this year and our dancers hung in there with great enthusiasm and skill.

In addition to this, Vicky Hioureas, the Director of the older group, won the instrumental award for her skill in playing of a drum for other dance groups.

Both groups wore their first set of costumes which were not rented but owned by the Dance Groups. Parents and children alike had a wonderful time together experiencing the camaraderie and cultural heritage of the festival. Fr. Costas arrived very early in the morning traveling a long distance to bless the Groups; his blessing provided a sense of calm for the dancers and was greatly appreciated by all.

# LADIES FELLOWSHIP MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL/NEW MEMBER

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

CELL NO. \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE MAKE CHECK OUT TO GOMSOC  
MAIL TO:  
ARGIE CUPPLES  
2 CALLE REGIO  
SAN CLEMENTE, CA 92673

Wish List as of March 1, 2008

Build an Altar Table		Donated
Two More Icons	600.00	Donated
140 Chairs	2,100.00	
Books for Week Day Matins	500.00	Donated
Books for Week Day Vespers	600.00	Donated
Books Explaining the Divine Liturgy	400.00	Donated
Table for Artokloasies	500.00	
Tables for Memorials	500.00	
Five Walls	500.00	
Three Doors	1,500.00	
One Window	400.00	
Curtains and Rods	500.00	
Two Stands	500.00	Donated
Venetian Blinds for Altar Area	500.00	
Other Service Books	500.00	Donated
Refrigerator		Donated
15 Tables	750.00	
Round Tables for Little Children	200.00	
Carpet (s)	500.00	
A Bookcase (Library)	500.00	
Blackboards/Wipe boards	100.00	

**An Anonymous and  
Generous Lady**

Came forward in answer to our "Wish List" which was published in last month's Newsletter and donated **\$5,000** toward service books, black robes for altar boys for Great Lent, Orthodox Study Bibles, and a number of Divine Liturgy books explaining the service.

A million thanks to her and may the Lord shower her with a thousand blessings, including health, peace, happiness, and joy upon our kind and generous donor.

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'DO NOT LAY UP FOR YOURSELVES TREASURES ON EARTH, WHERE MOTH AND RUST DESTROY AND THIEVES BREAK IN AND STEAL, BUT LAY UP FOR YOURSELVES TREASURES IN HEAVEN, WHERE NEITHER MOTH NOR RUST DESTROYS AND WHERE THIEVES DO NOT BREAK IN AND STEAL.

FOR WHERE YOUR TREASURE IS, THERE YOUR HEART WILL BE ALSO."

MATTHEW 6:19-21

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## Announcements

### Sunday School News

The Sunday School will be participating in the Sunday of Orthodoxy procession during the Divine Liturgy on March 16th. Every Sunday School student is asked to bring an icon for the procession; especially one of the saint for whom they are named or a special event which has particular meaning to the student. Please mark your calendar and be sure to bring your Sunday School student promptly to church on that Sunday. We thank you very much.

### Your EMAIL Address Wanted

Please send us your name (as it appears on the mailing label – or correction thereof) and email address to the Church office at [info@gomsoc.org](mailto:info@gomsoc.org). As Great Lent begins this month (March 10th), we will want to communicate the times and location of religious services.

### Sunday Morning Bible Study

Fr. Costas will be leading a Bible Study on Monday nights. It is scheduled to start in March after the House Blessings are completed. Please watch for details in the April Newsletter and future Sunday Bulletins.

### Ladies Philanthropic Society News

**Membership Drive.** Please see page 4 for a letter from our Ladies Philanthropic Society on their annual membership drive and page 5 for the membership application. Please do not hesitate to join with these Ladies and add your resources to theirs so that even more can be accomplished! **Questions, comments or concerns?** The Society has a box 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.

### Memorials

If you are planning a memorial service for a loved one, please call Fr. Costas to arrange for your family's memorial. To sponsor a Coffee Hour on your memorial Sunday, please coordinate with Linda Kollias to ensure that there are not conflicts with other Coffee Hour sponsors. Linda may be reached at 949-493-5220.

### GOYA News

Please let us know if you have a teenager at home (12-17 years old). We would like to be able to contact them and welcome them into the **GOYA** group which has now formed. Mrs. Sophia Konugres is the **GOYA** Advisor. **GOYA's next meeting** will be held on March 11th at 7:00 PM at Daphne's at the Town Center in Aliso Viejo.

### YAL News

**YAL** (Young Adults 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. Please call or email Sophia Kollias for specific dates of upcoming events and/or to be included on the email list.. Her contact information is phone number 388-9123, or email her at [sophia99@cox.net](mailto: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. **Office hours.** Monday & Wednesday: 4:00-7:00 pm. Tuesday & Thursday: 10:00 am –1:00 pm. When not in the office Fr. Costas will be visiting your homes and businesses, hospitals and convalescent homes, etc. Please note that these office hours may be modified by House Blessings.

### Our Worst Kept Secret

As our former Steering Committee President, Steve Dafnis, liked to say, our plans to move the Mission from its present location at JSerra Chapel to a location in downtown San Juan Capistrano is "Our Worst Kept Secret." Not much was said "officially" since we were still in the wait-and-see stage. The documents needed to secure the space have been signed and we are waiting now for final approval from the Planning Department of SJC on the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) to begin holding services there. Indications now are that the approval will be forth-coming soon. We are tentatively planning to have our first Divine Liturgy there possibly toward the end of March or early in April. More specific information will be published in the April Newsletter and in Sunday Bulletins. Please watch for it.

**Greek Orthodox Mission**  
of South Orange County  
P.O. Box 1214  
San Juan Capistrano, CA 92693

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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](http://www.gomsoc.org)

**Email:** [info@gomsoc.org](mailto:info@gomsoc.org)