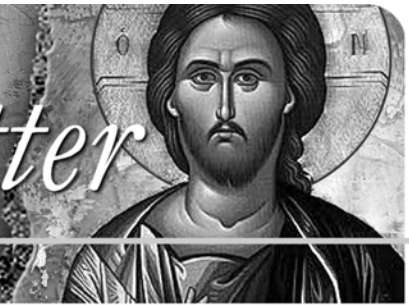


Mission Newsletter

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

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



Parish Council

Rev. Fr. Andrew Lesko
Pastor

Irene Basdakis
President

Demetra Lewis
Vice President

Tina Bertok
Secretary

Steve Dafnis
Treasurer

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

Xpistos Anesti!

I know I speak for many when I say I am still on "cloud nine" after celebrating Great Lent and Holy Week. I am so proud of our mission. We had such a beautiful week together and it was such a joy to see so many new faces as well as many returning faces we have not seen in quite a while.

Some of the Holy Week highlights included having His Eminence join us on Holy Tuesday. He had dinner with our Parish Council, conducted a beautiful service with Father Andrew, tonsured Bert Dumias as a reader and talked with our parishioners at the reception held after the service. We witnessed a Chrismation on Holy Saturday! Our attendance on Palm Sunday, Holy Monday, Holy Tuesday and Good Friday was the highest ever since we began services five years ago. In fact, after proceeding outside on Good Friday night, almost everyone came back inside the church to finish celebrating the service together. A delicious Palm Sunday luncheon was served offsite at Bravo Burgers. Parishioners were lined up on the Saturday of Lazarus and during Holy Week to have confessions with Father Andrew and finally, it was wonderful to have so many of our children participate in the Good Friday retreat.

We were able to do all that we did during Great Lent and Holy Week because of you, our devoted parishioners. We all worked together as a team giving the appearance that our services and activities were effortless. Like the many credits that appear on the screen at the end of a movie, it takes a lot of work, dedication, manpower and love to be able to provide our community the first class Lent and Holy Week experience that we were able to give.

On behalf of the Parish Council, I would like to acknowledge those people who truly deserve recognition and appreciation for their contributions toward our united effort in celebrating Pascha. Thank you to:

- ✠ Our **parishioners** who attended and participated in the services. We exist as a mission because of everyone's support.
- ✠ **His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos** for being with us on Holy Tuesday. We are also appreciative to his assistants **Sotiri** and **Michael** who chanted and assisted His Eminence during his visit.
- ✠ **Ladies Auxiliary** and their President **Maria Madura**. These ladies took on the task of making sure all the liturgical needs were met, that flowers were ordered, icons were decorated with flowers and brought to church on time, prepared the Kovouklian on Good Friday and disassembled it on Saturday, dyed and wrapped the Easter eggs in white netting and also made preparation for hosting the Palm Sunday luncheon. Knowing Maria was at the helm, it's a given that every task would be completed 100%.
- ✠ Sunday School Directors **Irene Travis** and **Arianna Sfakianakis** and all their Sunday School teachers **Chris Chiotis** and **George Giziotis** for planning, hosting and teaching at the Good Friday Retreat. Attendance for this event was the highest ever.
- ✠ **Bravo Burgers** for a wonderful Palm Sunday Luncheon! Everyone enjoyed the delicious meal along with the warm and welcoming hospitality of the restaurant and staff. In their continuing generosity their donation of the luncheon is truly appreciated. Thank you **Theodossis family!**
- ✠ **Irene Constantine, Bert Dumias** (who participated even after having surgery the beginning of the week), **Niki Pasvantis, Sophia Konstantarakis, Sophia Konugres, Connie Salamy, Litsa Sfakianakis** and **Katerina Terry**. Thank you also to **Greg Bouras** who graciously chanted at many of our services. How amazing and talented our choir and chanters were! Their presence at every service made all the difference.
- ✠ **Valaskantjis Family** for hosting the dinner for His Eminence and the Parish Council and their generous flower donation. Thank you also to the **Psaros Family** for their continued guidance and support.

(continued on page 3)

Mission Newsletter

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

At-A-Glance: Upcoming Events

May 1

Kaffen Home Potluck
Social

May 3

Ladies Auxiliary
General Meeting

May 7

Prime Timers Meeting
at The Olive Garden

May 9

Easley Family Baptism

May 17

Kids n' Cancer –
Talega Golf Course

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

Kids 'n' Cancer



the front table from Maria Madura.

The Annual reception to benefit the Kids 'n' Cancer Ministry is Sunday, May 17 from 1 to 5 pm at the Talega Golf Club in San Clemente. Pick up a brochure and invitation at

For more information, visit the official website at www.kidsncancer.org

Ladies Auxiliary

Mark your calendars for Sunday, May 3rd for our next general meeting after Liturgy. We will start working on a directory for our Mission. Please bring your samples and ideas! Any questions contact Maria Madura at (949) 443-3665 or via email at mmadura3@cox.net.

Sunday School News

If you have any questions or would like more information, please do not hesitate to call or email Ariana Sfakianakis or Irene Travis.

- ✚ Ariana: (714) 879-7758
- ✚ Irene: (949) 448-8946 or via email at travisclan@sbcglobal.net

Prime Timers Luncheon at Olive Garden Restaurant



Come, join us for our monthly luncheon to be held Thursday, May 7 at 12:30 pm. We will be meeting at the Olive Garden Italian Restaurant, 24256 El Toro Rd., Laguna Hills, 583-1020. We meet because we enjoy one another's company and are bound together in a common faith. If you have questions, please contact Danny Tonge at (949) 457-9524.

Kaffen Home Potluck Social

The Kaffen Family has invited our community to their home Friday, May 1, for a potluck social! Please see the event flyer in this issue.

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.

Easley Baptism

The Easley Family invites all members to attend the Baptism of their daughter Eliana Maria Easley at 11:30 am, May 9 at the Blackhorse Chapel on Fort Irwin.

For details and to RSVP, please contact them via email at jae.easley@us.army.mil or at (760) 386-1402.

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 via email at mike.selberis@cox.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.

Greek School

For more information, contact Bob Stavrou via email at bstavrou@cox.net.

Christ is Risen! *Truly, He is Risen!*



(continued from page 1)

- ✠ **Ron Madura** for staining and redoing the Styrofoam on the Kouvouklion for us this year. Due of his efforts we were able to streamline the design and see the beauty of the wood. Those who have been to our storage unit know this is not an easy task!
- ✠ Our parishioners who brought food to the Good Friday luncheon and the potluck after Saturday night's service. Everything tasted delicious and it was wonderful to break bread with everyone. Thank you **Sally Meyerhoffer** for planning the luncheon and to **Caroline Peros** for setting up and breaking down the luncheon.
- ✠ **Zachary Ellis, Peter Kaffen, Yianni Konugres, Nicholas Kraft, Christian Salamy** and **Josh Sfakianakis** for being talented and dedicated altar boys.
- ✠ **Arica Dadjou, Sophia Ellis, Jim & Peter Kaffen, Joseph Konstantarakis, Constantina Konugres, Deme, Monica & Jacqueline Lewis, Anastasia Selberis, Maggie Sfakianakis** and **Alyssa Travis** for being our readers throughout Holy Week. It was a pleasure listening to them read with such passion and confidence.
- ✠ **Alexia Antzoulatos, Sophia Ellis, Eleni Guillen, Mary and Zoe Kaffen, Alex Peros, Ariana Selberis** and **Melanie Terry** for serving our community. The Myrrh Girls did a great job on Good Friday.
- ✠ All who contributed to the Pascha flower donation and all other donations made for Holy Week.
- ✠ **Ushers** who carried the Kouvoklian on Good Friday. We were proud and honored to have them participate as they did.
- ✠ **Lela Giziotis** for the beautiful baked items she presented for the Pascha Bake Sale. Her Tsourekis and Koulourakia are absolutely delectable! Her generosity and support of our mission is truly cherished and appreciated!
- ✠ **Litsa Sfakianakis** for remaking all of the altar cloths for Lent.
- ✠ **John Basdakis, Mike Dadjou, David & Georgiann Ellis, John Salamy, Michelle Selberis** and **Emmanuel Sfakianakis** for their help and assistance.
- ✠ **JSerra** and **St. Edwards** for allowing us the use of their facilities during Holy Week without any cost to our Mission.
- ✠ **David Derks** for posting the Holy Week schedule to our website and for his creative efforts in preparing the Holy Week flyer.
- ✠ **Father Andrew** for doing such an amazing job. He gave 100% of his love, support and commitment even though he has been assigned to us as a temporary part-time priest. In addition to all the Holy Week services, he was still able to perform house blessings, countless confessions, visited and gave communion to parishioners who were unable to attend services, and received a catechumen into the Orthodox Church through Holy Chrismation.
- ✠ **The Parish Council** for their talents and commitment in planning and executing the Lent and Holy Week plan. The Parish Council oversaw the entire production, which began with planning Holy Week from the beginning of January and diligently working through April to bring Holy Week to fruition. No task was too large or too small for this group of dedicated people.
- ✠ Parish Council member **Reggie Sellas** for his unconditional love and support he gave us all. Like a good director of a movie, Reggie was our talented director and producer. He gave thought and attention to every detail, quietly setting up the narthex and breaking it down and went out of his way to recognize and include everyone in the process. Reggie is truly a pillar of our Mission.

Everyone contributed (even if it was only with their presence) to a truly memorial celebration of Christ's Passion. For those unintentionally omitted, thank you for what you did. Although I run the risk of missing someone, you can see that the efforts put forward by so many needed to be publicly recognized. So, the next time you come to church, you might take a minute to look around and realize that the efforts of many go behind every church service and activity that our Mission celebrates.

Xpristos Anesti,

Irene Basdakis
President
GOMSOC Parish Council
Email: lawyerirene@hotmail.com
Direct: (949) 300-5144

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



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.