



# MISSION NEWSLETTER

## Pastor's Message

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ

First, I would like to express my happiness in returning to my spiritual family in south Orange County. I enjoyed my relaxing vacation in Crete with my family very much, and I feel rejuvenated and enthusiastic to resume my service to our Lord through His flock in our beloved Mission.

In his second epistle to the Corinthians St. Paul advises: "he who sows sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he who sows bountifully shall reap also bountifully"(II Corinthians 9:6). These Spirit filled words of St. Paul present the challenge, which lies ahead very clearly. We are a new Orthodox Christian Community in south Orange County. It requires strong faith and serious commitment to undertake such an endeavor. You have manifested both and because of this it was not difficult for me to accept the challenge of leading you through this most important formative phase as your first assigned Pastor.

As we shared recently on Stewardship Sunday, Christian Stewardship is a very simple concept and reality. Next to our Lord's Grace and love for us it is one of the most important elements of our ministry. We cannot operate unless our faith and commitment are translated into giving. We believe in Christ and in your love for Him and His work. We trust that you will not simply respond but that you will take the initiative when it comes to expressing your love for our spiritual and cultural family through giving.

Someone asked me recently: "Father, are you folks (meaning the new Church) going to make it?" I will not tell you what my answer was but I assure you: We are not talking about survival here. We are talking about "sowing bountifully and harvesting bountifully". Because we are a family and everyone desires the best for his family.

In the Love of Christ  
Fr. John

## Join our Thanksgiving Food Drive

Our Mission once again will help collect food items for needy families this Thanksgiving. On Sundays, November 14 and 21, parishioners, along with our Sunday School children, are asked to bring canned goods and other non-perishable food items to church with them. These items will then be packaged in baskets for delivery to needy families just before Thanksgiving.

Additionally, money can be donated and will be used to purchase turkeys. If you would like to donate cash for a turkey or have any questions, please contact Michelle Selberis at (949)364-5866 (e-mail michelle.selberis@cox.net) or Demetra Lewis at (949)661-1938.



## Steering Committee:

FATHER JOHN KARIOTAKIS  
Pastor

MICHAEL SELBERIS  
Chairman

STEVE DAFNIS  
Vice Chairman

JOE NOLLAR  
Finance Chairman

IRENE BASDAKIS  
Stewardship Chair

CHRYSOULA CUTRONE  
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E.J. CONSTANTINE  
Capital Formation and  
Genesis Program Chair

DEMETRA LEWIS  
Communications Chair

GEORGIANN ELLIS  
Member

RON MADURA  
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."

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you for all of your support on Stewardship Sunday. We thank Irene Basdakis for all the hardwork and preparation she did on the brochure/mailler and the presentation at church. Our stewardship truly exemplifies why this Mission is so special.

On Wednesdays, November 10 and 17, between 7:15 p.m. and 9:15 p.m., Father John will be available for private conferences with parishioners who would like to meet with him. The sessions will be held at the church's office space located at 28570 Marguerite Parkway, suite 217, just north of Avery Parkway in Mission Viejo. Please call the GOMSOC telephone line at (866)350-1933 and leave a message.

On November 21, 2004, our Mission will hold Youth Sunday. Our youth will perform various functions and responsibilities during Liturgy. All Sunday school classes are cancelled because the children will remain in church. Father John will have a special sermon for the children.

We are planning a Mission Church Family Christmas Party! It will be a special evening for all to enjoy. Details to follow.

Thank you to Michael and Michelle Selberis for donating a copier to the Greek School. The copier was much needed and very appreciated.

Please contact Chrys Cutrone at (949)348-8010 or [chryscutrone@yahoo.com](mailto:chryscutrone@yahoo.com) if you would like to host/contribute items to the fel-

lowship hour.

On November 7, 2004 The International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) will meet at the Citrus Cafe, 1481 Edinger Avenue in Tustin at 5:00 pm for dinner, live entertainment and a silent auction. For further information contact Lisa at 949-489-0442.

Due to scheduling conflicts, the November 14th talk by Dr. Mark Yphantides about his book "My Big Fat Greek Diet." will be postponed until further notice.

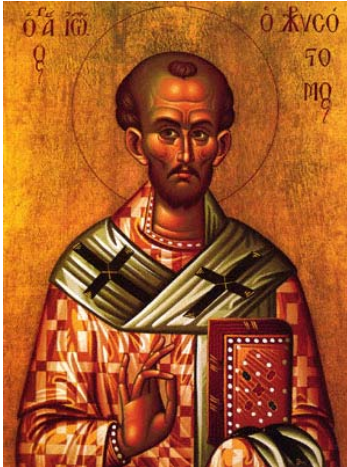
His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios will celebrate the Divine Liturgy at Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church on November 7, 2004, at 9:30 a.m. , Cardiff by the Sea, California.

A New Year's Celebration will be hosted by The Greek Orthodox Churches of St. Prophet Elias (San Bernardino), St. Spyridon (Upland), St. Nectarios (Covina) at the DoubleTree Hotel, 222 North Vineyard Avenue, Ontario. Cost is \$80/adult and \$25 children 12 and under. Greek Band and DJ for a night of non-stop Greek and American dance music. All seats must be reserved in advance. Deadline for reservations is Dec. 21, 2004 For reservations call Greg Kyritsis at 909-864-3318.

His Eminence Metropolitan Anthony's NAMEDAY & Retirement Celebration is January 13-18, 2005 in Hawaii. For more information, contact the Metropolis office at 808-521-7220.

*November 13*

## Feast Day of St. John Chrysostom



This greatest and most beloved of all Christian orators was born in Antioch the Great in the year 344 or 347. After his mother was widowed at the age of twenty, she devoted herself to bringing up John and his elder sister in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. John received his literary training under Anthragathius the philosopher, and Libanius the sophist, who was the greatest Greek scholar and rhetorician of his day. With such a training, and with such gifts as he had by nature, John had before him a brilliant career as a rhetorician. From the years 374 to 381 he lived the monastic life in the hermitages that were near Antioch. In 386, John was elevated to the priesthood and his career as a public preacher began. His exceptional oratorical gifts were made manifest through his many sermons and commentaries. They are distinguished by their eloquence and the

remarkable ease with which rich imagery and scriptural allusions are multiplied; by their depth of insight into the meaning of Scripture and the workings of God's providence; and, not least of all, by their earnestness and moral force, which issue from the heart of a blameless and guileless man who lived first what he preached to others. Because of his fame, he was chosen to succeed Saint Nectarius as Patriarch of Constantinople in 398.

Saint John was surnamed Chrysostom ("Golden-mouth") because of his eloquence. He compiled the liturgy we celebrate each Sunday. He made exhaustive commentaries on the divine Scriptures and was the author of more works than any other Church Father, leaving us complete commentaries on the Book of Genesis, the Gospels of Saints Matthew and John, the Acts, and all the Epistles of Saint Paul. His extant works are 1,447 sermons and 240 epistles. Twenty-two teachers of the Church have written homilies of praise in his honour. Besides his feasts today and on January 27, he is celebrated as one of the Three Hierarchs on January 30, together with Saint Basil the Great and Saint Gregory the Theologian.

### NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

If you are interested in having information or an event included in the Mission's monthly newsletter, the deadline is the 15th of each month. Please telephone in your information to Demetra Lewis at 949-661-1938. You can also e-mail her at [demelewis@cox.net](mailto:demelewis@cox.net) or by fax 949-661-1952. We hope that you find this newsletter helpful in obtaining all the church information you need.

## WELCOME HOME

An excerpt of the speech given by Irene Basdakis on Stewardship Sunday  
October 24, 2004

Whether you believe you came from a single cell like the amoeba or a single couple...like Adam and Eve.... you all came from the same beginning. You are all connected... You are ALL family. Somewhere along the way we forgot this. But something strange happened along on the way while building our GREEK ORTHODOX MISSION OF SOUTH ORANGE COUNTY—We started to remember this ancient truth—*WE ARE ALL FAMILY AND ALWAYS HAVE BEEN.*

I looked up the word “family” in the dictionary. It comes from the Latin word “*familia*” which means: “all those claiming descent from a common ancestor.” In the beginning, we came together with the common goal of starting a new church—most of us were total strangers and in a very short time we quickly became “FAMILY.” We would like to expand on this universal truth.

We don’t want to build monuments that are cold and without love. We would like to extend and grow our family so that love... joy... community...prayer... and compassion..... become our solid foundation. Only on *this* foundation can we then build our house, a house for our *greater* family and for our *greater* community.

The bible talks about tithing. It is the “**gifting**”....or “**paying forward**” in gratitude-- for what you have been blessed to receive. The best example of this TRUTH can be seen in nature. A plant will produce a **seed** that it will freely **GIVE AWAY** without expecting anything in return. In fact, the seed, by itself--has no directly useful purpose to the plant, and yet...it takes energy from itself to make it, and then just gives it away...or... “**PAYS IT FORWARD**”. It actually takes a *percentage*, or a *part* of itself away... gives, or throws it away, and actually **EXPECTS NOTHING** in return.

The absolute truth is...that through this simple act of giving...or tithing... the plant has multiplied itself many times over in what the bible calls the power of ten. It has also *payed forward* the benefit it received from its ancestors to the next generation.

Like the seed...tithing is an obligation not an option. Our future, our childrens’ future, and the Family of Man’s future depend on it.

Kalos Hlthate! Welcome Home!

## Sunday School News

The GOMSOC Sunday school is growing rapidly! We have 53 terrific children attending Sunday school regularly. The children are learning about our belief in God, what we see and do in church, and how to apply our beliefs in every day life as a Greek Orthodox.

Registration Information: There is no registration fee for Preschool and Pre-K children. For children attending Kindergarten through 12th Grade, a \$20.00 registration fee for the first child and then \$10.00 for each child thereafter, not to exceed \$40 per family will be appreciated. We had a wonderful turn out of new students in October and we continue to welcome all new students for the 2004/2005 school year. Our teachers are committed in teaching your children about our Greek Orthodox faith.

Grade	Room	Teacher
Preschool – Kindergarten	228	Irene and Kurt Travis
Kindergarten (after Holy Communion)	228	Catherine Antzoulatos
First	231	Stacy Gentry
Second	231	Artemis Nicholas
Third	231	Mary Constantine
Fourth	231	JoAnna Wilson
Fifth & Sixth	225	Nick Karnazes
Seventh & Up	225	Michelle Selberis & Anna Nicole Kyritsis

The Preschool and Kindergarten classes begin after the Holy Gospel. It is important for the very young children to enter the Narthex, light a candle, say a prayer, kiss the icon, and listen (if possible) to the Holy Gospel. The 1st through 12th grade classes begin after Holy Communion. It is important for the older children to participate in the Divine Liturgy and learn more extensively in their Sunday school class what it means. GOMSOC would like to invite you to become a part of our open and friendly Sunday school where learning about our Greek Orthodox faith is truly rewarding.

Please pick up your children from their classroom before heading to the fellowship room. The teachers feel responsible for your children and find comfort in knowing they are with their parents.

*Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God. (Luke 18:16)*

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to e-mail me at [travisclan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:travisclan@sbcglobal.net) or call me at (949)448-8946.

God Bless,  
Irene Travis

## Greek Dance

Our Greek Dance program is under way with approximately 30 children. We currently have two groups instructed by John Basdakis and Teresa Vorgias. Both have extensive backgrounds in Greek Dance both as performers and instructors. We practice after church from 12 noon until 1:30 p.m. Dancers should bring an extra change of clothes and comfortable dancing shoes. The cost is currently \$35 per month. We are also trying to find a location for an adult dance program and hope to start that soon. If you are interested in bringing your children or need further information contact John Basdakis at 714-813-2158 or e-mail [john@msn4loans.com](mailto:john@msn4loans.com).

**Greek Orthodox Mission  
of South Orange County**

P.O. Box 1214

San Juan Capistrano, CA 92693

**Sunday Liturgies:**

10:00 a.m.

J Serra 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).

**Telephone:** (866)350-1933

**Website:** [www.gomsoc.org](http://www.gomsoc.org)

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