



MISSION NEWSLETTER

October 26th

Feast of the Great Martyr Demetrios



St. Demetrios was a Thessalonian, a most pious son of most pious parents, and a teacher of the faith of Christ. When Maximian first came to Thessalonica in 290, he raised him to the rank of Duke of Thessaly. When it was discovered that he was a Christian, he was arrested and kept bound in a bath-house. While the games were under way in the city, Maximian was a spectator there. A certain friend of his, a barbarian who was a notable wrestler, Lyaeus by name, proud because of the weight and height of his body, boasted in the stadium and challenged the citizens to a contest with him. All that fought him were

defeated. Seeing this, a certain youth named Nestor, an acquaintance of Demetrios, came to the Saint in the bath-house and asked his blessing to fight Lyaeus single-handed. Receiving this blessing and sealing himself with the sign of the precious Cross, he presented himself in the stadium, and said, "O God of Demetrios, help me!" and he straightway engaged Lyaeus in combat and smote him with a mortal blow to the heart, leaving the former boaster lifeless upon the earth. Maximian was sorely grieved over this, and when he learned who was the cause of this defeat, he commanded straightaway and Demetrios was pierced with lances while he was yet in the bath-house. As for Nestor, Maximian commanded that he be slain with his own sword.

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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."

Commentaries by Father John

Following is a rendition of Father John's Homily of September 25th by Robert Henning

(A recent sermon based, on the Gospel of Luke 5:10-11 which relates the famous incident in which Jesus directed Simon Peter's fishing and promised him "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be fishers of men" follows paraphrased. Father John artfully chose to frame the sermon in the form of an allegory {a story in which people, things, and happenings have another meaning}, while Christ uttered perhaps the most famous metaphor in the Gospels, "fishers of men,").

The Lord said to Simon Peter, "Put out into deep water and pay out your nets for a catch". When Jesus first directs him to make for deep water and cast his nets, Simon Peter is reluctant and reminds Christ (as if He needed to be reminded) that they had fished all night to no avail. In effect, Simon Peter was saying "Lord, you are a great preacher, but you know nothing about fishing". How wrong Simon Peter was as he still did not grasp the truth about who Christ is.

Any fisherman who is timid, maybe fearful of deep water, or lacking confidence in his own ability uses a fishing pole and casts it into shallow water, much as we did when we were children. What is the result? What can you catch in such shallow water? Quite possibly a Sardine-sized fish or a very small Blue Gill. Nothing big in all probability. Similarly, Simon Peter did not have high expectations for himself when it came to following the Lord's command to fish in deep water. He was sure that he had already tried this and it had failed.

Reluctant though he was, Simon Peter and those with whom he fished, made for deep water and put out their nets. Upon pulling the nets back up, they soon found themselves awash in fish and signaled others in another boat to come to their aid. When they did "they filled the two boats to sinking point". It took this demonstration of God's power to bring Simon Peter to his knees in front of Christ saying, "Leave me, Lord; I am a sinful man." Then the Lord declared that Simon Peter would from then on become a "fisher of men!"

We are to reflect on this for ourselves. To decide what kind of "fishermen" we are to be. More often than not today, Christians do not venture forth out of what is comfortable for them. We stay in the "shallow water". Out of fear perhaps? Possibly unwilling to put forth the effort to move beyond what is comfortable for us? And it follows from that approach that our "catch" therefore, will be small. What Jesus wants for us is boldness; a willingness to take risks for Him; a willingness to move from our own comfort zone into one in which we are less familiar; a willingness to fish in the deep water, as it were, where the rewards are the greatest. Christ would have us become "fishers of men".





October 1st

Romanos the Melodist

St. Romanos flourished during the reign of Anastasius (491-518). He was from Emesa in Syria, and was apparently born of Jewish parents, for a hymn written in his honor in Greek says he was “of Hebrew stock”. It has been furthermore noted that he uses many Semitic idioms in his writings. He was baptized an Orthodox Christian, and at some time became a deacon in the church at Beirut. He was the first composer of *kontakia*, the foremost of which is that of the feast of Christ’s nativity; *On this day a Virgin....* In composing many of his *kontakia*, St.

Romanos was inspired by the hymns of St. Ephraim of Syria. In venerating this Saint, we especially commend to his

What do you use?

A priest and a man who owned a soap factory were walking together one day. The soap-maker said, “What good is religion? We’ve had it for thousands of years and we still are plagued by murder, theft, adultery, and many other evils!” The priest said nothing and they continued on their way. Soon they encountered a very filthy young boy, covered from head to toe with dirt. Seeing him, the priest said, “What good is soap? We’ve had it for thousands of years and still we see before us this very dirty boy!” The soap-maker protested, saying “But you must use the soap in order to become clean and see its good effect!” The priest then exclaimed, “Exactly my point! You must also use religion if you are to realize any good from it!”

What do you use? What is religion to you? Religion does not just exist in a vacuum; it must be practiced.

Support your Mission Parish!

There is so much that needs to be done and willing, helping hands are needed. Please look into your heart and see if there isn’t something that you can do to help carry this burden. We know that you love your Mission Parish—now

When Jesus spoke to the people again, he said: “I am the light of the world; anyone who follows me will not be walking in the dark; he will have the light of life”

John 8:12

Growing Our Church Family
Stewardship Sunday
October 23rd

Sunday, October 23rd has been dedicated to focusing our members on the Stewardship needs of our Mission Parish. This is a good time for each parishioner to take the time to reassess what he or she can offer to the church. Is there a specific talent you have that could benefit the church? Even with schedules so hectic, could you volunteer for a specific position? Have you fulfilled your pledge for 2005 and/or able to give a little extra before the end of the year?

We feel it is important that the goals and needs of the parish need to be clearly and effectively communicated to our members. Our most immediate goal is to rent a facility that we will have exclusive use of and can use seven days a week. This would permit us to have an altar table that remains intact Sunday after Sunday and provide opportunities to hold services and programs during the week. Our lack of funds compromises our ability to acquire a rented facility because we are not able to act promptly and thus we lose out on properties. As a result, the Steering Committee has asked our members to donate \$100,000 by year's end. This is anticipated to cover any tenant improvements and a substantial portion of the first year's rent. As a Mission Parish, it should be expected that our members be asked for special contributions to reach a new level. Otherwise, our community stays stagnant and does not progress.

It has been our vision at this Mission to not approach asking for money in ways that either insult or pressure our members into giving money. Whatever you give, let it be from the heart and from a desire to see the beautiful Mission grow. Everyone is a part of this effort regardless of financial contribution. As always, the amount of your contribution remains confidential.

Our additional goal is to get more parishioners involved in the volunteer positions needed in the church. We appreciate all the help and support we have received from so many of you. However, we need to broaden the base of volunteers. Please think about where your strengths lie and where you can help.



May We Pick Your Brain?

Got any bright ideas? Our Mission Church can use ideas from everyone. Don't hesitate to contact one of the members of the Steering Committee with your fund raising ideas, organizational suggestions, or tips on where we might find a more permanent location. Our Steering Committee works diligently to find more and better ways of doing the work of the Mission Parish but they can always use your ideas too. Please come forward with your suggestions. See any Steering Committee member at the Fellowship Hour after the Divine Liturgy and share the wisdom!

Now as he (Jesus) was speaking, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said, 'Happy the womb that bore you and the breasts you sucked!' But he replied, 'Still happier those who hear the word of God and keep it!'

From Around Town

Festival of Hearts Gala

St. Paul's Greek Orthodox Church is holding its Festival of Hearts Gala on December 10th at the Balboa Bay Club & Resort in Newport Beach. Musical entertainment will be provided by Trio Bel Canto and the Bob Gail Orchestra. Metropolitan Gerasimos is expected to attend. A portion of the proceeds will benefit Kids 'n' Cancer. For ticket information call Priscilla Tedesco at (949) 462-9969. To receive an invitation, send an email to hearts@stpaulsirvine.org.

Greek Heritage Society of Southern California

The Greek Heritage Society of Southern California will hold its 20th Anniversary Celebration of Sunday, October 23rd at 4 pm. At the Barnsdall Gallery Theater in Los Angeles. The event features a benefit concert by Pantelis Palamidis performing songs by renowned Greek composers. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$15 for children under 12 years of age. For

Parish Announcements

Sunday of the Elevation of the Holy Cross Luncheon

On Sunday September 18th, the Mission church held a fundraiser and social event after the Divine Liturgy. We want to thank Penny, Jim, and Sheila Marutsos for the wonderful luncheon they donated from their restaurant, The Aegean, in Laguna Beach. Our community was blessed with a wonderful meal and great fellowship. We raised \$654.00 in donations that will go directly to support our Mission Parish.

Philoptochos Meeting

Fr. John has asked the women of the church to come together on October 12th at the church office at 7:15 pm for their first meeting with him for the year. We will be discussing the holiday season and how the women of the church can best support the Mission's goals and Fr. John's ministry.

Sunday School

The first day of Sunday School was September 18th. Fifty-six children were registered. Starting October 1st, registration will take place in the Fellowship Room (Room No. 228) after dismissal from the Divine Liturgy. It was such a pleasure to see familiar faces and meet new families. If anyone has any questions regarding Sunday School, please call Irene Travis at (949) 448-8946 or email her at travisclan@sbcglobal.net.

Greek Dancing

Flyers are available at church for those who are interested in Greek dancing. Greek dancing lessons started on October 2nd. It is a 30 week class. Those who are interested may pick up a flyer or talk to Georgiann Ellis or Michelle Selberis following the Divine Liturgy.

Fellowship Hour

We are in continuous need of donated items and volunteers to prepare coffee and setup the food. If you can help, please contact Chrys Cutrone at (949)348-8010 or Sheila Meyerhofer at (949) 388-7816.

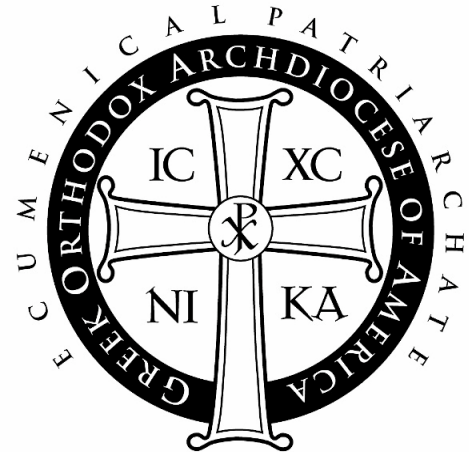
Chant Group/Choir

The Chant Group or Choir chants the Divine Liturgy every Sunday. While they all can't be there every Sunday, they are in attendance as often as possible. The Chant Group welcomes all those who have the desire to serve Christ as chanters. Chant-

Greek Orthodox Mission of South Orange County

P.O. Box 1214

San Juan Capistrano, CA 92693



**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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