



MISSION NEWSLETTER

Chairman's Update

Glory be to God!

What a joy it truly is to look out at our congregation every Sunday morning and realize that we are becoming one great family. In just a little over one year, we have accomplished so much together from the formation of our parish to our first Liturgy last November 15. The assignment of Fr. John and celebration of our first Sunday Liturgy on February 29 and the unforgettable Holy Week in which we had our first procession of the Epitaphion and celebrated our Lord's Resurrection in all His Glory was amazing to be a part of. The move to our new home at the JSerra High School Chapel has taken our worship to the next level.

Yes, what a busy year we have had. It's often easy to forget that we are still a mission, a parish in its infancy that is prone to growing pains. As we strive to continue on this fast paced growth, one thing is for sure....we will always give it our all. We may not always get it right and appreciate your understanding along the way. We will learn from any mistakes we make and be that much better from them.

As the fall season unfolds, we will resume our adult religious study program led by Fr. John. This program is a great way for all of us to learn more about our Orthodox faith in a setting that encourages questions and debate. In the coming weeks we will be starting our Altar Boy program. St. Katherine's Greek Orthodox Church in Redondo Beach is donating over a dozen Altar Boy robes to our parish and, upon Father John's return, we will begin training our young boys to serve in the Altar. Also in the planning phases is the formation of our Ladies' Philoptochos Society and other programs which you will be hearing about in the coming months.

Our steering committee welcomes two new members, Georgiann Ellis and Ron Madura. Both are committed members of the mission and we look forward to taking on many new challenges with them. In the goals we went over with the parish early last summer, the steering committee aimed to have 100 families pledged to the mission by the year's end. On October 24th, we will present a program that will demonstrate our unity of church family and ask that our members help us achieve this goal. We look forward to sharing this special event with you.

I pray that God keeps you and your families in the best of health.

In Christ,
Michael Selberis

Steering Committee:

FATHER JOHN KARIOTAKIS
Pastor

MICHAEL SELBERIS
Chairman

STEVE DAFNIS
Vice Chairman

JOE NOLLAR
Finance Chairman

IRENE BASDAKIS
Stewardship Chair

CHRYSOULA CUTRONE
Events Chair

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.”

GROWING OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Sunday, October 24, 2004

Won't you join our family?

Come, be part of our greater family where we can pray together, grow our families together, support one another and laugh together; all while uniting to build a church family for generations to come.

How do I get involved?

Being a newer church, there are many opportunities for you to support our mission and join our family. Prayer is something we all can do. A contribution of your time and talent is also welcomed and encouraged. Whether you wish to work with children or the elderly, take on a leadership role in the mission, worship as an acolyte, reader, usher, sing in the choir, assist at fellowship hour or even help maintain the facilities, there is something for everyone to get involved. You might even think of something that we're not doing today, and start a new program. Lastly, your financial support is welcomed. Your contribution, large or small, keeps the mission going by supporting our ministries and funds 100 percent of our facility expenses and priest. Whether you give weekly, monthly, yearly, anonymously and/or contribute in the basket on Sundays, your voluntary support of our mission family will allow us to continue to grow and achieve parish status.

What our members have to say about our mission:

"We very much want our children to be a part of an Orthodox community and to learn through living about their heritage. We feel having the Mission Church's support right here in our backyard will make our children realize they have a Christian community they can grow with and depend on."

JoAnna Wilson

"The Greek Orthodox Mission has been a calling for me. Being at the beginning stages and needing help, I feel that I can offer something and be part of something new and exquisite. That leads to an overall feeling of belonging. Every new milestone brings a sense of pride and accomplishment, knowing that our mere presence there on Sunday leads to the next step up. The people are very warm and welcoming and I have already made many friends and acquaintances, a fact that was missing elsewhere."

Katerina Terry

"Our family benefits from attending GOMSOC. We enjoy being part of a church that wants to keep the Greek culture alive! My husband is not Greek, but he likes being Greek Orthodox. The Divine Liturgy is enjoyable since it is done in both languages. Sunday school is an excellent way to learn about our faith, and the teachers are fantastic. Everything we join is smooth running and our children know who they are through our Mission. Greek language and dance are a big plus and a lot of fun. We look forward to attending church every Sunday."

The Travis Family

"The Greek Orthodox Mission of South Orange County is made up of people with a strong belief in God, strong character and a defined identity. It is a community committed to maintaining tradition. This community has a mission: a mission of praying together, a mission of creating friendships, a mission of giving and caring for people in need, a mission of teaching and educating adults and children, a mission of welcoming and attracting people of our Orthodox Christian faith and a mission to grow as an integral and indispensable part of our South Orange County community. Our members' support and dedication towards common goals are evident in our progress and growth within the last year. My family and I are proud and thankful to be part of GOMSOC. Our experiences within this community and our church have been wonderful. It is a good feeling when the members of the community know your name and your priest knows how many Sunday services you have missed!"

Michael Antzoulatos

Join us on Sunday, October 24th for a presentation immediately following liturgy at which we can demonstrate our unity of church family and the commitment to help our mission grow!

October 26

Feast Day of St. Demetrios



Saint Demetrius was a Thessalonian, a most pious son of pious and noble parents, and a teacher of the Faith of Christ. When Maximian first came to Thessalonica in 290, he raised the Saint to the rank of Duke of Thessaly. But when it was discovered that the Saint 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, waxing haughty because of the height and strength of his body, boasted in the stadium and challenged the citizens to a contest with him. All that fought with him were defeated.

Seeing this, a certain youth named Nestor, acquaintance of Demetrius', 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 Demetrius, help me!" and straightway he 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 straightway and Demetrius 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.

We wish all those named after St. Demetrios a blessed nameday and Xponia Polla.

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 or by fax 949-661-1952. We hope that you find this newsletter helpful in obtaining all the church information you need.

Orthodox Marriage Encounter Open to All Couples

An Orthodox Marriage Encounter will be held at the Doubletree Hotel in Del Mar, October 8 through 10 for any couples who want to enrich their Marriage. The weekend is designed to expand and deepen the joys a couple share together whether they've been married for a short time or for many years. The Weekend begins on Friday evening at 8 p.m. and ends Sunday at 5 p.m. For more information contact Alexandra and Mehran Aram at 760-758-4330 or register online at www.orthodoxmarriageencounter.org.

The Greeks of Southern California Screening on October 3rd

On October 3, 2004, the Greek Heritage Society of Southern California and the Greek Orthodox Mission of South Orange County will together host a benefit screening of the award winning documentary "The Greeks of Southern California – Through the Century: The Pioneers 1900-1942". The film has been met with much acclaim and was recently awarded "Best Documentary" at the Thessaloniki International Film Festival.

The Greek Heritage Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and the documentation of the Greeks' contributions to the American society. They have been blessed to have had many successful screenings through our nation and this is the first time shown in Orange County.

A light luncheon will be served following Sunday Liturgy, just prior to the screening. Babysitting is available for children 4 years and older. Tickets are \$10 for adults and free for children. For more information, contact Irene Basdakis at 949-360-4447 or e-mail her at lawyerirene@hotmail.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Philoptochos

We will be having a visit from the National President of Philoptochos Valerie Roumeliotis of San Francisco in the early part of November to assist us in organizing our Mission Philoptochos, the philanthropic arm of the church. The date will be announced as soon as her travel plans are confirmed.

Hospitality

Thank you to all that have contributed and assisted in the Fellowship Hour after church, especially Marian Siersbeck, Connie Salamy, Katerina Terry, Irene Basdakis, Georgiann Ellis, Irene Constantine and Demetra Lewis.

The Marutsos Family, owners of The Aegean Café, will host the fellowship hour on October 10th in honor of Father John's return from vacation.

Please contact Chrys Cutrone at (949)348-8010 or chriscutrone@yahoo.com if you would like to host/contribute items to the fellowship hour.

Prosporo

A big thank you to Dena Nicholas for her dedication in making our prosporo every Sunday. If you would like to assist in baking prosporo, please call Dena at (949)493-6266.

Website

Our GOMSOC web site has undergone significant improvement and has been updated with all our mission's timely information. We thank David Derks for his efforts and appreciate all that he has done to make our website look great and remain current.

Consecration

St. Nectarios Greek Orthodox Church & Shrine in Covina is holding its Consecration Service and Divine Liturgy on Sunday, November 7th with banquet to follow. For more information, call (626)967-5524 or go to www.saintnectarios.org.

Sunday School News

The GOMSOC Sunday School is successfully "off and running." Currently, we have 40 children registered and attending regularly. We have received the impressive Sunday school books from the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese Religious Education Department. Each grade has a color book tailored to age appropriate information about our faith. Please stop by and take a look at them.

It is not too late to register your children. Maria Madura will be at the front door of our church at JSerra High School with the registration forms. 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 welcome all new students to join us along with our excellent volunteer teachers.

- Preschool thru Kindergarten (Room 228): Irene Travis and parent volunteer, teachers
- Kindergarten (after Holy Communion) (Room 228): Catherine Antzoulatos, teacher
- First Grade (Room 231): Stacy Gentry, teacher
- Second Grade (Room 231): Artemis Nicholas, teacher
- Third Grade (Room 231): Mary Constantine, teacher
- Fourth Grade (Room 231): JoAnna Wilson, teacher
- Fifth Grade (Room 225): Kurt Travis, teacher
- Sixth Grade and up (Room 225): Michelle Selberis and Anna Nicole Kyritsis, teachers

The Preschool and Kindergarten classes begin after the **Holy Gospel**, and the 1st through 12th grade classes begin after **Holy Communion**. We encourage children of all ages to join our friendly and dynamic Sunday school, where learning about our Greek Orthodox faith is truly rewarding.

For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding (Proverbs 2:6).

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to e-mail me at travis-clan@sbcglobal.net or call me at (949)448-8946.

God Bless,
Irene Travis

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

On November 14th after church, Dr. Mark Yphantides will talk about his book "My Big Fat Greek Diet." Dr. Yphantides will share how, at age 35, he was able to go from weighing 467 pounds to 220 pounds. He will also have books for sale and signing.

Greek Dance

The Greek Orthodox Mission of South Orange County's Greek Dance Program is proud to announce its first dance practice on Sunday, October 24th directly after church from 12 noon to 1:30 p.m. (small children may only be an hour). The exact room that will be used for the various dance groups will be determined that day. Dancers should bring an extra change of clothes and comfortable dancing shoes. All ages are welcome. Please keep this date open as it will be important to attend and hear more details as to how the practices will be conducted and organized! Most of all...Come and have fun! OPA! If you need further information, contact John Basdakias at 714-813-2158 or e-mail john@msn4loans.com.

Greek School News

We are pleased to announce that our Greek School has started and has almost 50 students in its four classes. All classes are full except the Level 3 class held on Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. On October 11 and 13 during the last half hour of each class, parents are invited to attend an Open House. Kiria Katalanos will speak with the parents and present her curriculum and answer any parent questions. Greek School is held in an office leased by the church and located at 28570 Marguerite Parkway, suite 218, just north of Avery Parkway in Mission Viejo. Registration is \$25 and tuition is \$340 with \$10 sibling discount. If you are interested in enrolling your child in Greek School, please call Kelly Parissis at (949)249-3448 or e-mail kelly@greekbaby.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

Email: info@gomsoc.org