



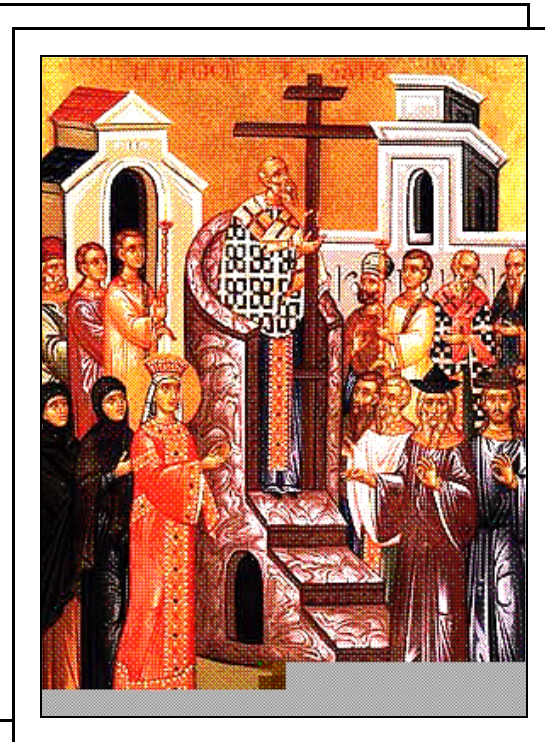
MISSION NEWSLETTER

September 14

Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross

The Feast of the Universal Exaltation of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross is celebrated each year on September 14. The Feast commemorates the finding of the True Cross of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ by Saint Helen, the mother of the Emperor Constantine.

In the twentieth year of his reign (326), the Emperor Constantine sent his mother Saint Helen to Jerusalem to venerate the holy places and to find the site of the Holy Sepulcher and of the Cross. Relying upon oral tradition of the faithful, Saint Helen found the precious Cross together with the crosses of the two thieves crucified with our Lord. However, Helen had no way of determining which was the Cross of Christ.



With the healing of a dying woman who touched one of the crosses, Patriarch Macarius of Jerusalem identified the True Cross of Christ. Saint Helen and her court venerated the Precious and Life-Giving Cross along with many others who came to see this great instrument of Redemption.

The Patriarch mounted the ambo (pulpit) and lifted the Cross with both hands so that all of the people gathered could see it. The crowd responded with "Lord have mercy."

This became the occasion of the institution in all of the Churches of the Exaltation of the Precious Cross, not only in memory of the event of the finding of the Cross, but

Steering Committee:

FATHER JOHN KARIOTAKIS
Pastor

MICHAEL SELBERIS
Chairman

STEVE DAFNIS
Vice Chairman

JOE NOLLAR
Finance Chairman

CHRYSOULA CUTRONE
Events Chair

E.J. CONSTANTINE
Capital Formation and
Genesis Program Chair

DEMETRA LEWIS
Stewardship Chair

GEORGIANN ELLIS
Treasurer

IRENE BASDAKIS
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."

Pastor's Message

My dear parishioners and friends:

With the end of summer a new Ecclesiastical year began on September 1st. Happy New Year to our Church and to our Mission Parish.

I pray that this season of relaxation, traveling and time with our families was most fruitful for all of us. I missed some of you at Church services during summer, especially many of our children. I am confident however that wherever we were we took the time to worship in Church and that we paid attention to our spiritual well being. By God's love I was able to visit my beloved island in Greece where the rest of my family lives. Once again it was a great blessing and special privilege to hold the Holy Sacraments and to pray for us all and our Mission in the Holy Temples and Monasteries where I was first touched by the light of Christ. Lest you believe that I am misleading you I admit that I also had some worldly fun, but that is not of the present.

We are back and we are invigorated and resolute to continue and augment the work of the Lord as entrusted to us is this blessed Mission. The member of our steering committee have been working tirelessly to secure the best possible accommodations for our spiritual, educational and social needs. As we all know we are still in the beginning and the issue of location and facility is one of paramount importance. Remember: A Church is comprised of the flock and the shepherd. By the Grace of God we are a Church.

Buildings and facilities will come in their due time.

I am looking forward to seeing you in Church and to ministering to your needs. I am looking forward to the long line of Sunday School children coming to Holy Communion. Our Sunday School director and staff have prepared a wonderful program for the new school year. The rest of our educational and social programs are also in line. Most importantly, I am looking forward to further growth as a family in Christ. My fervent prayer is that we do not grow only in numbers but that we attain inner personal growth under the wings and guidance of our precious Orthodox Christian faith.

“Christ is in our midst! - He was, is, and shall be always”

In His Love.

Fr. John



Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross (Continued from Page One)

to celebrate the full significance of the victory of the Cross over the powers of the world, and the triumph of the wisdom of God through the Cross over the wisdom of the world. This Feast also gives the Church an opportunity to relish the full glory of the Cross as a source of light, hope, and victory for Christ's people. It is also a time to celebrate the universality of the work of redemption accomplished through the Cross: the entire universe is seen through the light of the Cross, the new Tree of Life which provides nourishment for those who have been redeemed in Christ.

All those who are named Stavros and Stavroula, from the Greek word for cross “Stavro”, celebrate their name days on this special day and we wish them all a happy name day!

Chairman's Message

We look forward to another promising Autumn as our children return to Sunday School and we all begin to settle into our regular routines after what I hope was relaxing and blessed summer for you all. On June 12th, our Steering Committee presented an inspiring report on our Mission's progress to date and our goals for the coming year. One of the key topics of discussion was the need for a full time facility that would seat between 150-200 people and allow us to set up a permanent altar. Additionally, this facility would provide us with an office for Father and the ability to expand our growing programs that require weekday participation. Locating and securing this facility has proved to be a challenge, but we have made our number one goal and hope to have secured a place in the coming months.

Two other key goals for us this year are the launch of our first major fundraising program, and a successful stewardship drive. You will be hearing more about these initiatives in the coming months and how you can play a key role in their success. More than ever, we need your help and commitment in growing our parish. As we have stated before, we are growing a church family together and your dedicated, hands-on support will be the key to our continued success. I hope and pray that the Good Lord finds you well and I look forward to socializing with you at our next fellowship hour.

In Christ,
Michael Selberis

Announcements

Daphne's Fundraiser

On Monday, August 15th, the Mission church held a fundraiser and social event at Daphne's Greek Café in San Clemente between 5 and 9 p.m. Deme Lewis, who organized the event was excited to report that \$397.47 was raised from the evening's activity. Not only was it a fun night for everyone who showed up, it also helped out our Mission. Thank you to all who participated.

Sunday School

Our 2005 Sunday School year begins on September 18th. Irene Travis and the Sunday School staff are refreshed from summer vacation and have planned a wonderful educational year for our children. We hope to increase the enrollment this year. Last year we had 67 graduates from the program. Sunday School education for all classes begins after Holy Communion; nevertheless, we have come up with an idea for fidgety pre-school and pre-K children who participated in the Divine Liturgy before the reading of the Holy Gospel: bring your pre-schoolers to Bible Story Time in Room 225 after you have heard the reading from the Holy Gospel. If your child is under three years old, a parent will have to stay with the child. The children will be brought back into church for Holy Communion and then they will continue with their scheduled lesson for the day. As soon as church is over, parents should pick up their children from their classroom and join the congregation for fellowship in Room 228. Maria Madura will be assisting Irene along new and continuing teaching volunteers. Our goal this year is to have the children participate in the Divine Liturgy and understand their Orthodox beliefs. Look for the handout on the first Sunday for your children's teacher and room assignment. A materials donation of \$20.00 will be appreciated for each child attending kindergarten through 12th grade. This donation covers the cost of the Sunday School purchased from the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. The children will keep the book at the end of the year. Check GOMSOC.org for updates.

Greek Festivals in September and Early October Around the Southland

The following list comprises the known Greek Festivals in the immediate area for you to patronize if you can. We appreciate your support of our Greek Orthodox Communities here!

September 16, 17, 18; St. Anthony, Pasadena; September 24; SS. Constantine and Helen (one day only) Lancaster; and last but not least, October 1, 2; St. Spyridon, Upland.

Greek School

Registration for the 2005-06 school year is underway. Even though the first day of Greek School is September 12th, it is not too late to register. We are also working on offering adult classes. Contact Kelly Parissis for more information or with any questions at (949) 259-3448. This year's Greek School Board will be Michael Antzoulatos, Mia Domingot, Kelly Parissis, Michelle Selberis and Bob Stavrou. Thank you to Erini Redmond and Demetra Lewis for serving on last year's board. A registration fee

**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.

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).

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