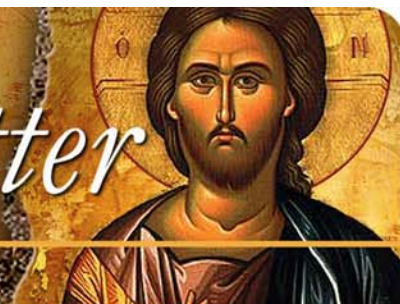


# Mission Newsletter

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

February 2009    [www.gomsoc.org](http://www.gomsoc.org)    email: [info@gomsoc.org](mailto:info@gomsoc.org)



## Steering Committee

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Operations

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ANDREW KERATZIDES

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NIKIFOROS & GEORGIA  
VALASKANTJIS



## 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."*

## The Spirit of Giving

by GEORGE PSAROS

Our annual Christmas party held on December 21 was a huge success. The fact that it sold out almost instantly shows the high spirit and cohesiveness of our Parish. It was truly a family affair with quite a few of our children: the pride and joy of our community present, on and off the dance floor. We were also delighted to have with us a number of guests from neighboring parishes, such as St. Paul's Irvine, St. John's Anaheim and Assumption Long Beach.

We want to thank Irene Basdakis, Tina Bertok and Mia Domingot for their hard work putting the Christmas party together. Their efforts to organize the event in a short amount of time are a testament to their commitment to our community. We also want to give a special thank you to Penny Maroutsos for her hospitality and accommodating our event at the Aegean Café during the busy holiday season.

As we start the New Year, we must turn our focus on completing stewardship for 2008. In addition we ask you complete a pledge card for 2009 so we can have a financial snapshot for the support of the various programs for the Mission's future. We are entering into a very exciting yet challenging time for our Mission. Now, more than ever, it is vitally important that we complete our 2008 and 2009 pledge cards. Doing so enables us to plan our budget and know what expenditures can or cannot be made. Our fixed expenses are comprised of salary, rent and operating expenses. During these challenging times, we understand making a decision to tithe may be difficult, so any amount will help us plan for the future.

We will be having our first general election of a Parish Council in February. For those who completed their stewardship in 2008, this is a great opportunity to participate in choosing our church leaders. We have many talented people in our community who want to serve on our Parish, which has made us highly optimistic about our future: Irene Basdakis, Tina Bertok, Argie Cupples, Chrys Cutrone, EJ Constantine, Steve Dafnis, Niki Fidopiastis, John Harris, Melissa Kaffin, Andrew Keratzides, Sam Konugres, John Leon, Demetra Lewis, Sally Meyerhoffer, Irene Redmond, Danny Rigas, Reggie Selas, Mike Selberis, and Bob Stavrou. From this group, we will choose eleven individuals who will guide our community through the coming year.

We thank everyone for the love and support that has been extended to our Parish.



Please email David Derks at [dderks1707@aol.com](mailto:dderks1707@aol.com) with any monthly newsletter items

# Mission Newsletter

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## At-A-Glance: Upcoming Events

### Thursday, February 5

Prime Time Players  
Luncheon

12:30pm – 1:30pm

Athena Gyro Greek  
Food & Grill (in the  
Gateway Center)

24000 Alicia Pkwy,  
Unit 20, Mission Viejo  
CA 92691

(949) 830-3030

### Thursday, February 12 through Sunday, February 15

Greek Folk Dance  
Festival (FDF)

Ontario Convention  
Center

2000 E. Convention  
Center Way, Ontario,  
CA

### Saturday, March 7

Altar Boy Retreat

St. Nicholas Greek OC  
Northridge

9501 Balboa Boulevard  
Northridge, CA 91325

### Sunday, March 8

Ladies Auxiliary Meet  
and Greet

12pm – 1pm

JSerra High School

### Sunday, March 15

God Parent

Sunday/Youth Sermon  
10am – 12pm

JSerra High School

For more information  
on upcoming events,  
visit our official website  
at [www.gomsoc.org](http://www.gomsoc.org)  
and go to the Calendar  
page.

## Focus on the future: Ladies Auxiliary

GOMSOC's Ladies Auxiliary was created to promote participation among the women of our parish in the life and activities of our Mission. We are the right hand of the church offering aid to anyone who may need the assistance from the Mission and supporting our community in any way possible. The organization is a great way to work with old friends and make new friends while providing service to the community.

To give everyone an opportunity to become a member, a letter for the annual Ladies Auxiliary membership renewal/new members was sent out in the mail on January 20. On February 8, all women are invited for a light lunch and a cup of coffee at a special 2009 kick-off meeting after Divine Liturgy.

Officers of the current executive board include acting president Maria Madura, recording secretary Connie Salamy, corresponding secretary Cathy Antzoulatos, altar chair Michelle Selberis and treasurer Argie Cupples.

For more information, visit [www.gomsoc.org](http://www.gomsoc.org) and go to the Organizations page. You may also contact Maria Madura at (949) 443-3665 or via email at [mmadura3@cox.net](mailto:mmadura3@cox.net)

## Greek dance groups hope to dazzle, entertain judges at FDF



Our two Dance Groups Methorios, comprised of our older dancers, and Helidonia, a group made up of our younger dancers, are currently practicing for the upcoming Greek Folk Dance Festival (FDF) Sundays after Divine Liturgy from 12pm to 1:30pm. FDF is currently scheduled for February 12 through 15 at the Ontario Convention Center in Ontario, CA.

On January 11, our dance groups did a very special performance for the Silverado Senior Assisted Living Center in San Juan Capistrano as part of a community service project.

### 2008: a successful season

Our dance groups had a very successful weekend at last year's FDF. The troop members and their director Vicky Hioureas worked very hard to bring the rich traditional dances of the village Asvestades to the competitive arena. Two individuals from the village were brought over who provided instrumental and vocal accompaniment. As a result of the dance group's hard work,

Methorios was awarded the *FDF Board of Trustees Special Achievement Award*. This is the second time in two years our groups were awarded with the special honor.

The Dance Group Helidonia did very well for their first year in competition. They performed dances from the region of Thrace. The younger Primary Division was very competitive, but our dancers gave an enthusiastic solid performance.

Vicky Hioureas, the director of the older group, won the instrumental award for her skill in playing of a drum for other dance groups. Parents and children alike had a wonderful time together experiencing the camaraderie and cultural heritage of the festival.

### Donations for to the dance groups via the Web

Our dancers gratefully accept and appreciate any donations. Please note all donations are tax exempt and come with a "Thank You" letter from the dancers along with their non-profit tax ID number for your records. You can also donate by shopping online at Amazon.com through the group's official website at [www.greekdanceoc.org](http://www.greekdanceoc.org). On every purchase, the dance groups receive a commission.

If you would like more information on the dance program, contact Chrys Cutrone at (949) 295-1256 or via email at [chriscutrone@yahoo.com](mailto:chriscutrone@yahoo.com). More information can be found at [gomsoc.org](http://gomsoc.org) on the Culture page.

## Church pews donated to GOMSOC



Church pews were recently donated to our community from San Clemente Presbyterian Church. We

were also offered transportation from a trucking company and free storage!

On Wednesday, January 21, a pew crew was organized to load the pews into a truck. The trucking company that donated their time also unloaded the pews for us. "What a great deal for a couple of hours," stated George Psaros, President of the steering committee. "This was a great opportunity for us to secure some big savings for our future church location."

The intrepid pew crew included EJ Constantine, Steve Dafnis, Pete Hioureas, Jim Kaffen, Sam Konugres, Ron Madura, Dean Papas, George Psaros and Reggie Sellas.

"May the Lord greatly increase your love for each other and for all people, just as we love you."

1 Thessalonians 3:12



### Adult Greek dance classes being offered

Adult Greek dance classes are fun, dynamic, at times challenging, very rewarding, and a great social opportunity. Upcoming classes include February 25, March 4, March 11 and March 18. For more information and location, contact John Basdakos at (714) 813-2158 or via email at john@msn4loans.com.

### Sunday School accepting new students

We welcome all children from Preschool through High School to join us every Sunday. Students will learn the Old and New Testaments, understand the Divine Liturgy, and learn the meanings of Feast Days through the guidance of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. For more information, contact Irene Travis at (949) 448-8946 or via email at travisclan@sbcglobal.net

### 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

### Greek School News

New students are being accepted for our wonderful Greek School program, which includes all age groups from preschool through high school. For more information contact Mia Domingot via email at mdomingot@cox.net or Kelly Parissis at (949) 249-3448.

### Notes from the Choir

If you like to sing or would like to learn how to sing, consider joining the choir. It is an important and meaningful way to worship and participate in the ministry of the Church. For more information contact Sophia Konugres at (949) 678-3606 or via email at sophia.konugres@dawsondawsoninc.com

### GOMSOC Social Club

Join us for lunch and socializing. Contact Danny Tonge at (949) 457-9524 for more information.

### New feature on gomsoc.org

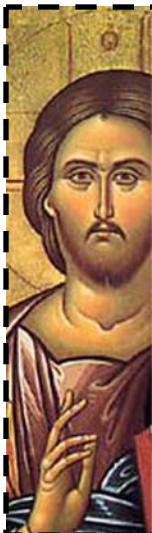
Finding a church event online just got easier. A Calendar page has been added to gomsoc.org and offers new features that make it easy to keep track of all our community events - feast days, group meetings, and special events - all on one page. If you have any suggestions or comments on the new features, please contact David Derks via email at dderks1707@aol.com.

### Become an active member of GOMSOC

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 covers 100% percent of our facility expenses and priest. Whether you give weekly, monthly, yearly, and anonymously and/or contribute in the basket on Sundays, your voluntary support of our mission family will allow us to continue to grow until one day we achieve parish status.

To give, complete the Donation and Commitment Card below and mail it to us at P.O. Box 1214, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92693.



## GREEK ORTHODOX MISSION OF SOUTH ORANGE COUNTY

P.O. BOX 1214 SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO, CA 92693 TELEPHONE 866-350-1933

WEBSITE: WWW.GOMSOC.ORG EMAIL: INFO@GOMSOC.ORG

### 2009 GROWING OUR FAMILY DONATION CARD

In gratitude for God's blessings, I/we pledge to contribute for Christ's work at the Greek Orthodox Mission of South Orange County the total amount of: \$\_\_\_\_\_ . I would like to contribute in the following manner:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ weekly \$ \_\_\_\_\_ monthly \$ \_\_\_\_\_ quarterly \$ \_\_\_\_\_ semi-annually \$ \_\_\_\_\_ annually

I would like to donate my services/time to \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone Number (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Greek Orthodox Mission  
of South Orange County**

P.O. Box 1214  
San Juan Capistrano, CA 92693

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**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](http://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 Pat Karnezis at (949) 933-2645