



MISSION NEWSLETTER

From the Heart of Fr. Costas

January 1st is the first official day of the year in the Gregorian calendar which is followed in most countries. This is commonly referred to as the "New Calendar."

In some Orthodox Churches, the civil New Year falls on January 14th, which corresponds to January 1st in the Julian Calendar, otherwise known as the "Old Calendar." Some Orthodox Christians celebrate both the Gregorian and Julian New Year holidays, with the Gregorian day celebrated as a civic holiday, and the Julian date as the "Old New Year," a religious holiday. The Churches own liturgical calendar begins on September 1st, the Ecclesiastical New Year. For the Church, the celebration of Christ's birth comes first (Christmas). Then His death and resurrection in the spring (Pascha), then His Ascension in the summer followed by Pentecost and the Dormition of the Theotokos in the summer.

Most of the Orthodox Churches have adopted the Gregorian (New) calendar administratively and the civic and religious holidays match. The Orthodox populations of Bulgaria, Cyprus, Egypt, Greece, Poland, Romania, Syria, and Turkey celebrate the New Year on January 1st. The Orthodox Churches of Georgia, Jerusalem, Russia, and Serbia still use the Julian Calendar.

Time is something we naturally think about during the New Year. Time should be different for us Christians. We like to say that we live in the KAIROS rather than in time, because *kairos* means a well-defined time period which is lived in for the purpose of eternity. In a few

words, our goal in this life becomes eternity as we live in the eschatological time, or the time of the end. A Christian lives in the world, yet he is ordered by our Lord to be away from the world, that is, not to be secular and worldly, but spiritual.

Time as *kairos* becomes a great opportunity for good deeds. We can pray more, study the Holy Scriptures and attend more services of the Orthodox Church with enthusiasm and zeal. St. Paul tells us that we should buy time and use it wisely for our spiritual benefit.

None of us knows how much time we have left. Our Faith tells us the *kairos* is short, important and will make the difference for our future life.

It is wrong to count time in hours and seconds. We should count first our blessings from God and others and at the same time add more Godlike acts to our spiritual report card. Do you produce enough spiritual fruit each year? Do you often cleanse yourself from sin by coming to Holy Confession? Do you live your life according to the Commandments of God?

At this New Year, let us think about the importance and value of TIME, dear brothers and sisters. May this understanding bring about our salvation. I wish you a blessed, spiritual and prosperous New Year full of eternal achievements and pleasant surprises.

The happiest priest,

Fr. Costas

Steering & Operations

Committees:

REV. DR. COSTAS
CONSTANTINOU
Pastor

STEVE DAFNIS*
Chairman

IRENE BASDAKIS
Vice Chairperson
Operations

EJ CONSTANTINE*
Capital Formation and
Genesis Program Chair

GEORGIANN ELLIS
Treasurer

ANDREW KERATZIDES

MICHAEL SELBERIS*

REGGIE SELLAS

EMMANUEL SFAKIANAKIS

*Executive Committee 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."

Please email r.henning1@juno.com with any monthly newsletter in-put suggestions by the last week of the month preceding publication.

A Day at the Taverna!

January 27th
After the Divine Liturgy

Frappe

**Baked
Goods**

**Greek
Coffee**

**Benefits the Dance
Groups: All proceeds
will go toward the
buying of new
costumes for our
Dance Groups!**



Have a cup of
Greek Coffee

**Featuring: Performances by our
Dance Groups of Greek Dancing**

EPIPHANY BLESSINGS

Fr. Costas would still like to bless everyone's home this coming year. He will be blessing homes in early through mid-January and then start again in February. There will be more information on this in the February Newsletter.

Fr. Costas to Undergo Surgery
Please note that Fr. Costas will go through bariatric laparoscopic surgery on January 16th. He will probably need at least two weeks to recuperate. Please keep him in your prayers.

Dearest Fr. Costas, Presvytera Jeannie and Fellow Parishioners:

It is with great pride and joy that I announce to you the results of the Building Benefit Dinner Dance Fundraiser. The total amount raised toward the building or a church of our own is \$71,604 (net). This would not have been possible without the dedication and support that was given by **Mr. Angelo and Mrs. Fotini Theodossis**, who graciously sponsored the beautiful evening.

I would also like to thank my co-chairwomen, **Mrs. Tina Bertok and Mrs. Pam Dafnis**, who contributed their time and talents in preparation of the evening's events. Also, a huge "Thank You" to **Mr. Dean Pappas**, Program Book Chairman and his outstanding team of sales-persons, **Mr. Harry and Mrs. Linda Kollias**. The Program book contributed considerably to the overall success of the fundraiser. Their hard work and perseverance is very much appreciated.

I would like to thank all who participated in the fundraiser by attending the Dinner Dance, those who purchased ad space and raffle tickets, and those who gave so generously through donations. The success of the event is definitely a collaborative effort by all. It proves that if we all work together, anything is possible. I wish all of you a very Happy and Healthy New Year and I look forward to sharing in many more great times together. Warm Wishes,

Mia Domingot

Raffle Angels

Fr. Costas & Presvytera Jeannie, Irene Basdakis, Tine Bertok, EJ Constantine, Argie Cupples, Steve Dafnis, Josep Domingot, Niki Fidopiastis, John and Elizabeth Gaitanis, Micheal Huber, Alysia Jennings, Andrew Keratzidis, Sam and Eugenia Kollias, Sam and Sophia Konugres, Nikos Papanikolaou, Dean Pappas, Irene Pantelides Michael and Michele Selberis, and Reggie Sellas
Thank You One and All!

Services for January

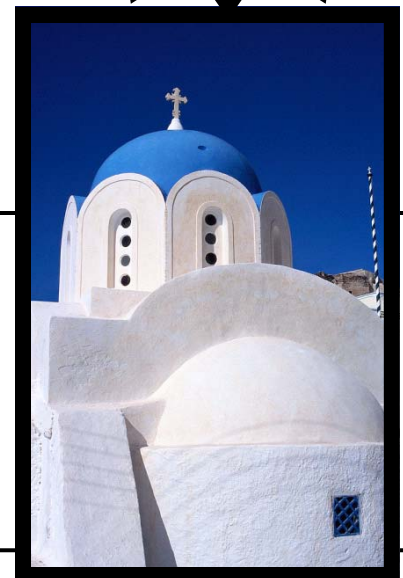
Every Sunday Morning

9:00 AM: Matins

10:00 AM: Divine Liturgy

Liturgical Notes

Fr. George Morelli from the Antiochian Orthodox Church will fill in for Father Costas on Sunday January 20th and 27th. As a result, there will not be any weekday services in January at the Mission. Please attend a nearby Orthodox Church. For instance, go the Pasadena for St. Anthony's feast day.



January 10, 2007

Dear Ladies Fellowship Member and Prospective Member,

As we enter into the new year it is time to renew our membership for 2008 and to welcome new members. As you know we are an integral part of the church and we try to step in and offer our assistance wherever needed. Sometimes our assistance is of a monetary nature and other times it becomes very hands on. Hopefully this serves your own goals and we continue to welcome members who are able to give in whatever manner they can.

The membership dues are as last year, \$25.00, of course we welcome more if one wishes. This coming year we are attempting to meet the needs of our parishioners who may have a financial hardship and need a helping hand to meet their basic needs.

There is an old saying, "**BUT FOR THE GRACE OF GOD GO I**", we hope to be able to step in and help should a need of this nature arise.

Please make out your check to GOMSOC and mail the membership application on page 4 to:

ARGIE CUPPLES
2 CALLE REGIO
SAN CLEMENTE, CA 92673

Thank you for your prompt attention.

Sincerely,

Argie Cupples
Treasurer

Parish "Wish List"

Donors would be appreciated for part or all of the items below which are badly needed. All of these items are important and will be used for years to come. Please let Father know if you will be willing to help with any of the these items:

SERVICE BOOKS - Father would like the have new Divine Liturgy service books for use on Sundays. The book he has in mind has the entire service with all of the prayers in Greek, Greek Phonetics, and English. This is not the "green book" with the music that we are currently using, which is incomplete. To provide the new Divine Liturgy service books will cost \$400.00

ORTHODOX BIBLES - The new, complete Orthodox Study Bible, with the Old and New Testaments, will become available in February. They retail at \$50.00 each (hard copy), but if we preorder them before February and buy them in bulk, we can get them at a 45% discount. We would like to have 50 Bibles at our parish available for use at future Bible studies, retreats, services, etc.

BLACK ACOLYTE ROBES - Some of you remember from last year that on Holy Week the acolytes (altar boys) were dressed in black robes, rather than their usual gold ones. This is more appropriate especially for Holy Week. The robes were borrowed - some were cassocks, some were not, and there were not enough in the right sizes for our boys. Presvytera barely managed to gather up enough black robes to robe all of the boys. We could and should have our own on hand. Cassocks can be ordered and cost approximately \$50.00 each, depending on size. They are easy to maintain - washable and permanent press with a snap down front. We should probably have about 15 of them in a variety of sizes, since the mix of boys serving varies from year to year. The cassocks could also be used for Lenten and other services. You have seen what the cassocks look like. The Liturgical Readers have been wearing them when they read the Epistle. The Liturgical Readers have each acquired their own cassocks, but we need cassocks which will remain at the church for use by the altar boys.

LADIES FELLOWSHIP MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL/NEW MEMBER

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE NO. _____

CELL NO. _____

E-MAIL _____

COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS

PLEASE MAKE CHECK OUT TO GOMSOC
MAIL TO:
ARGIE CUPPLES
2 CALLE REGIO
SAN CLEMENTE, CA 92673

Announcements

Sunday School News

The Sunday School Pageant was wonderful and an awesome event! We wish to thank Ariana Sfakianakis and the many helpers she had in preparing the children for this lovely spectacle. They did a truly magnificent job! The Sunday School has now returned to their regular schedule of instruction on Sunday (begins after communion). Please make sure that your youngsters attend Sunday School so that we can reinforce and enhance the religious training they are receiving at home. Thank you very much!

Sunday Morning Bible Study

January 13th will be the last Sunday for the Sunday Morning Bible Study. Bible Study will resume again on Monday nights in February. Details to be announced.

Ladies Philanthropic Society News

Membership Drive. Please see page 3 for a letter from our Ladies Philanthropic Society on their annual membership drive and page 4 for the membership application. Please do not hesitate to join with these Ladies and add your resources to theirs so that even more can be accomplished! **Questions, comments or concerns?** The Society has a box in the Fellowship Room that you can use to relay any questions you have. Please be sure to leave your name and phone number so someone can contact you with a response or action.

Adult Performing Dance Group

The next interest meeting for the Adult Performing Dance Group will be held on Thursday, January 17th, at 6:30 pm at the church office at 28570 Marguerite Parkway #223 in Mission Viejo (just north of Avery Pkwy). Call John Basdakos at 714-813-2158 for more information.

Memorials

If you are planning a memorial service for a loved one, please call Fr. Costas to arrange for your family's memorial. To sponsor a Coffee Hour on your memorial Sunday, please coordinate with Linda Kollias to ensure that there are not conflicts with other Coffee Hour sponsors. Linda may be reached at 949-493-5220.

Memorials for January

The following memorials are planned for January: January 13th, 40 day memorial in loving memory of Daniel—Gerasimos ANTZOULATOS; January 20th, memorial for all the departed members of the ANTZOULATOS family; January 27th, 6 month memorial for Anthony KARNEZIS. May their memory be eternal!

GOYA and YAL News

Please let us know if you have a teenager at home (12-17 years old). We would like to be able to contact them and welcome them into the **GOYA** group which has now formed. Mrs. Sophia Konugres is the **GOYA** Advisor. **GOYA** would like to increase their numbers. Please do not bring younger siblings to GOYA functions. We hope to start a new group, **JOY**, for the younger children soon. **YAL** (Young Adults ages (18-40) meet often for fellowship and activities. Join them at their monthly meeting and gathering. Please call or email Sophia Kollias for specific dates of upcoming events. Her contact information is phone number 388-9123, or email her at sophia99@cox.net.

Fr. Costas to Have Surgery

As noted elsewhere in the Newsletter this month, Fr. Costas is undergoing bariatric surgery this month. As a result we will have a visiting clergyman on January 20th and January 27th. Please pray for our beloved pastor, who is perhaps the world's "happiest priest," that his surgery will be swift and without incident and his recovery will be smooth and complete. May God make it so!

Church Office Updates

Cell Phone. Fr. Costas' cell phone number is (949) 365-6339. Do not hesitate to call him. Father would prefer that you not leave messages on the office 800 number because it seems that we are still not receiving all of the messages. Please call him directly. **Regular Day Off.** FRIDAY is now Fr. Costas' day off. Please refrain from calling him on that day, unless it is an emergency. **Office hours.** Monday & Wednesday: 4:00-7:00 pm. Tuesday & Thursday: 10:00 am –1:00 pm. When not in the office Fr. Costas will be visiting your homes and businesses, hospitals and convalescent homes, etc.

Greek Orthodox Mission
of South Orange County
P.O. Box 1214
San Juan Capistrano, CA 92693

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METROPOLIS OF
SAN FRANCISCO

Sunday Liturgies:

Orthros and Bible Study	9:00 a.m.
Liturgy	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. Proceed to the north end of the property (signs are posted).

Office and Greek School: 28570 Marguerite Parkway #223
(just north of Avery Pkwy)
Mission Viejo

Telephone: (866)350-1933; Father Costas Cell Phone (949)365-6339

Website: www.gomsoc.org

Email: info@gomsoc.org