



MISSION NEWSLETTER

Pentecost- June 19



‘And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind...’ The Holy Spirit is a breath, a wind. What matters for us is not to stand amazed at the power of this breath, but to submit ourselves to it completely and allow ourselves to be ‘guided’ by the Spirit, like Jesus during his earthly life. May this breath direct us where it wills. And let us remember that this breath itself is ‘guided’: it is not an independent and incoherent force. Jesus breathed the Holy Spirit on his disciples, but this breath proceeded first from the mouth of the Father. It is an obedience to God. In obeying the impulse of the Spirit (the sound of the wind is but an external, and a rare, symbol-the inner impulse is the reality), we become part of the Spirit’s own obedience, proceeding from the Father, sent by the Son.

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‘And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.’ The Holy Spirit appears under the form of tongues. Pentecost heals the dispersion and confusion of languages brought about by the proud effort of the tower of Babel. It re-establishes the unity of human language. The disciples will be understood by all the strangers then in Jerusalem, Parthians, Medes and Cappadocians, who are astonished to hear the speech of these Galileans, as if in their own languages. The language of the Spirit-at least in its inner meaning- is still accessible today to all men, to all races, to all nations; the same Spirit transmits a universal message that each soul nevertheless recognizes as its own. And also, even in our day, someone in whom the Holy Spirit is active becomes capable, even if he cannot express himself in languages that are foreign to him, at least of finding the psychological ‘language’ which will echo in, and open the heart of, each person. Thus ‘dialogue’ becomes possible. The tongues which alighted on the disciples are tongues of fire, and imply a burning charity. The words seem conditioned by the flame. Lastly, these tongues are evenly distributed. They are not the privilege of Peter, or of Mary, or the eleven. They alight on all those present in the upper room-yet those tongues of flame are one and the same fire. Thus the problem of unity and of the person finds itself resolved in the Church. Neither the one nor the other is sacrificed.

‘And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost...’ this sudden and complete invasion of the whole soul by the Holy Ghost, accompanied by a new and extraordinary power, constitutes the ‘baptism of the Holy Spirit.’

Sunday School Graduation

Sunday, June 12th
in church after liturgy

Our Sunday School program concludes for the year. Each Sunday School student will receive a certificate in church from Father John. Thank you to Irene Travis, Director, for her hard work and dedication.

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

EJ. CONSTANTINE
Capital Formation and
Genesis Program Chair

DEMETRA LEWIS
Communications Chair

GEORGIANN ELLIS
Treasurer

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.”

Greek Orthodox Mission of South Orange County Parish Meeting

Sunday, June 12th
Immediately after liturgy

Share in the plan for growing our church family
at the mission together!

The Steering Committee, along with Father John, will make a presentation of our Mission's financial and membership status as well as discuss future goals to build our mission. Volunteer opportunities and crucial areas of need will be identified.

Please come! We need everyone's ideas and support to help our Mission grow.

Chairman's Message

Christos Anesti! Christ is Risen! I was again moved this year as our Mission came together to celebrate Holy Week and Pascha. Thank you to all that worked so hard to prepare for our services. May the light of our Lord's Resurrection be with you always.

I attended the Metropolis' Kids 'n' Cancer event last month and was proud to see our Mission so well represented. We are definitely establishing our identity within the Metropolis. I was especially proud of the fact that our Mission presented a \$1,100 check to the Metropolitan to be used towards youth programs at St. Nicholas Ranch. We appreciated your generosity in donating to this worthwhile cause.

I personally extend an invitation for all to attend our Parish Meeting on Sunday, June 12th after church. Parishioners will be informed as to the church's finances and obligations as well as our immediate and long term goals as a mission. The entire Steering Committee and I need everyone's input and ideas on how to grow our Mission. We have always said that we are growing a church family- something special together. I hope you can join us and find out how to become part of it.

In Christ,
Michael Selberis

Announcements

Private Consultations

Father John will be holding private ministry sessions by appointment on Wednesdays, June 22 and 29 at 7:10 p.m. Conferences are held at the church's office space located at 28570 Marguerite Parkway, Suite 217 in Mission Viejo (just north of the Avery/Marguerite intersection.) Please call the church line at (866)350-1933 to make an appointment.

Choir Practice

A Choir practice with Father John will be held on Wednesday, June 15th at 7:10 p.m. at the church's office space.

Pascha Thank Yous

As we all saw, the flowers and decorations during Pascha were beautiful. Thank you to all those who donated:

Epitafio Flowers: Lela and George Giziotis, Penny Marutsos, Jimmy and Sheila Marutsos, John and Dena Nicholas, Demetrios and Effie Georgantopoulos, John and Linda Gantes, Reggie Sellas, Michael and Michelle Selberis, Christina Selberis, Emmanuel and Ariana Sfakianakis, Katy Kontos, Anastasios and Dena Giannikas, Theodore and Anita Georgious, Deno Papas, Clio and Emory Farr, Leo Vleisides, Harry and Linda Kollias, John and Georgia Selberis, The Matty Family, John Dalis, Gary and Sally Meyerhofer, Mary Domingos, Caliope Kiliveros, Robert Henning, George and Litsa Sfakianakis and Mr. And Mrs. Tonge. David and Georgia Ann Ellis donated flowers in memory of Irene Koclanakis-Feldhus. Bill and Helen Polis donated flowers in memory of James and Julie Polis, John and Chrisa Gedeon, Constance Hester and Henry Ventura.

The Resurrection Banner flowers were donated by Lela and George Giziotis. The Resurrection Icon flowers were donated by the Lewis Family. The Holy Thursday wreath was donated by Sam and Eugenia Kollias. The Veneration of the Cross flowers were donated by Merci Biddle in memory of Gerasimos Biddles. The Antzoulatos and Domingot families donated icon flowers. Ron and Maria Madura donated the myrrh-bearer girl head pieces. Merci Biddles donated the Resurrection candles.

Thank you to Penny and Jimmy Marutsos for preparing and donating the food for our Palm Sunday Luncheon. Your generosity is very much appreciated.

Sunday School

Sunday School Graduation is Sunday, June 12 in church after the liturgy. Each child will receive a certificate. Also, the children get to keep their lessons book. Please make sure to pick up your child's book before summer vacation. Our Sunday School Director Irene Travis did a wonderful job this year. We also extend our appreciation to the dedicated teachers who worked so hard to instruct our children in the Orthodox Faith: Irene & Kurt Travis, Stacy Gentry, Artemis Nicholas, Mary Constantine, Nick Karnazes, Michelle Selberis and Anna Nicole Kyritsis.

Directory

Thank you to those who have turned in their church directory forms. The directory is being printed and will be distributed at the parish meeting on June 12th.

Pledge Cards

Thank you to the 73 families that have pledged to the Mission. If you haven't had a chance to fill out a pledge card, please pick one up at church, fill it out and give it to an usher or mail it in. You can also download a pledge card from the Stewardship section of our website at www.gomsoc.org. A pledge card allows the mission to keep accurate membership records and anticipate its financial income and obligations.

Greek School

The 54 students of our Greek School are concluding their school year this week. They have all learned so much thanks to our dedicated teacher Loula Katalanos and dedicated parents and children. Our Promotion and end-of-the-year party will be held at the home of Bill and Erini Redmond on Monday, June 13th at 5 p.m. Registration for the 2005-06 school year is underway. A registration fee of \$25 will secure your child's place in Greek School this fall. Please contact Kelly Parissis at (949)249-3448 with any questions.

Fellowship Hour

We are in continuous need of donated items and volunteers to prepare coffee and setup the food. If you can help,

**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