



# MISSION NEWSLETTER

## From the Heart of Fr. Costas

My Dearest Ones,

**CHRISTOS ANESTI!**

The time period after Pascha is one of the happiest and loveliest times for the Greek Orthodox Church. The long fast is over and there is much rejoicing. In the old times people celebrated after Pascha with all kinds of festivities, as if it were a long wedding celebration.

Everything began with Bright Week, during which the converts to Christianity wore white and held candles. The services continued will into and including the Apodosis (last day) of the feast of feasts and the forty days of the "Christ is risen!"

April and May were usually the months for this beautiful period and they brought springtime and everything else associated with it, mainly rebirth, regeneration and new power.

There is nothing more powerful than the words "Christ is risen." When we say these words, our souls are filled with utter joy and excitement, for Christ has risen from the dead and Hades was turned upside down and many dead people rose. The Resurrection is the keystone of our Christian faith. For if Christ has not risen from the dead, then our faith and our preaching is in vain (Romans 15:14).

The Apostles at first had a very difficult time believing in the Resurrection. In fact while Christ hung on the cross He was practically abandoned by everyone. Though He explained plainly beforehand what would happen to Him, they all gave up, falling into despair.

The truth is that the Resurrection has never been something easy to comprehend, and for this reason, our Lord told Thomas, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not see and yet believe" (John 25:29).

We have to realize that the Resurrection is not something that one believes intellectually; it is something that is believed in one's heart. We do not need to see the Resurrected Lord to believe in Him.

May the light of the Resurrection sink deep into all of our souls that we may not only say that "Christ is risen," but really live in this reality. The light of the Resurrection turns darkness into light. Let us live no more in the darkness, but instead in the light of the Resurrection, which is the victory of light over darkness, a victory of life over death. LET IT BE SO.

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](mailto:r.henning1@juno.com) with any monthly newsletter in-put suggestions by the last week of the month preceding publication.

## 2007 Pledged Members

Chris G. Alexander  
Joseph Anawati  
Elaine Arapostathis  
John & Irene Basdakis  
Kenneth & Christina Bertok  
Merci Biddle  
Elie & Claudine Chamie  
Tykye & Elaine Camaras  
Nick & Theodora Caplanis  
E. J. & Irene Constantine  
Fr. Costas and Presvytera Jeannie Constantinou  
Sophia Constantinou  
Alvin & Helen Colclasure  
Paul & Elaine Columbus  
Manuel & Rose Copes  
Argie Cupples  
Michael & Arica Dadjou  
Steve & Pam Dafnis  
John Dalis  
Lee & Yianna Dereschuk  
Denise Dolley  
Josep & Mia Domingot  
Marie Doulaverakis & William Engelbrecht  
M. Chris, Dickson Foundation  
Bert & Louise Dumais  
David & Georgia Ann Ellis  
Clio & Emory Farr  
Bessy & Robert Ferrell  
Niki Fidopiatis  
Christina & Craig Galione  
John & Linda Gantes  
John & Elizabeth Gaitanis  
Demetrios & Effie Georgantopoulos  
Theodore & Anita Georgious  
Eleni & George Giziotis  
Christina Kambergiannis & Michael Griffith  
Freeda & Gary Harrington  
Robert & Ana Henning  
Michael & Lorraine Huber  
Ted & Pat Karnesis  
Ann Karavantes  
Peter & Maria Katsiametis  
Irene Kennedy  
Andrew & Maria Keratzides  
Heidi & Jean Koclanakis  
Nicholas & Elizabeth Koravos  
Harry & Linda Kollias  
Sam & Eugenia Kollias



### *The Gifts of the Holy Spirit*

1. *Wisdom*
2. *Understanding*
3. *Counsel*
4. *Fortitude*
5. *Knowledge*
6. *Piety*
7. *Fear of God*

### *The Fruits of the Holy Spirit*

1. *Love*
2. *Joy*
3. *Peace*
4. *Patience*
5. *Kindness*
6. *Goodness*
7. *Long-Suffering*
8. *Mildness*
9. *Fidelity*
10. *Modesty*
11. *Continence*
12. *Chastity*

*We apologize for any omissions! Please let us know if your name was not on list and should have been. Let us know if we have miss-spelled any name. Thank You for your Stewardship!*

Sophia H. Kollias  
Joseph & Sophia Konstantarakis  
Sam & Sophia Konugres  
Ermoine Koutsoudis-Warren  
David Kramer  
John & Annmarie Kyriazis  
Anna Nicole Kyritsis  
Greg & Vassie Kyritsis  
James & Demetra Lewis  
Penny Marutsos  
Gary & Sally Meyerhofer  
Nick E. & Helen Nickolin  
George & Irene Pantelides  
Dean Papas  
Catherine & Dino Pappas  
Margo Pearce  
John & Charlena Pearson  
Speros & Marina Pergakes  
Mike & Caroline Peros  
Emmanuel & Rita Petinos  
William & Helen Polis  
George, Helen, & Georgieann Psaros  
Bessie Roussakis  
Nicholas & Frieda Saines  
Steven Scarvelis  
Micheal & Michelle Selberis  
John & Georgia Selberis  
Sophia Sellas  
Ariana & Emmanuel Sfakianakis  
Reggie Sellas  
Litsa & George Sfakianakis  
Andrea Spaeth  
Nick & Leslie Stanitsas  
Bob Stavrou  
Ruaridh & Sylvia Stewart  
Kyriaki & George Tait  
Angelo & Chrisa Takos  
Konstantinos (Dino) Takos  
Angelos & Fotini Theodossis  
Danny & Mary Tonge  
Tony & Irma Trikas

**Thanks to our Volunteers we are able to accomplish so much! Especially during Pascha. Until you read this list you probably do not appreciate the work of the many hands that it took to make it all happen. We recognize:**

Those who planned the events for Pascha and Holy week; the Chauffeurs for Holy Week services; those who prepared flowers for the icons; those who cooked Lenten food on Friday nights; those who worked at the Palm Sunday Luncheon; the Altar set-up and take-down crew; the Myrrh-Bearer girls; the ushers; the readers; the Chanters; the Choir; Steve Dafnis and the entire Steering Committee; Fr. Costas and Presvytera Jeannie; the Kouvouklion decorators; the Sunday School Retreat Teachers; the Holy Friday food preparers; the red egg dyers; the palm cross donators and makers; the candle providers and minders; all set-up and clean-up crews; and the wonderful parishioners who attended so faithfully the many services that we had.

### **New Adult Greek Dance Group Now Forming**

A young adult (17+) to adult Greek Dance performing group is now being formed for Exhibition and Folk Dance Festival competition. John Basdakis will be directing what is hoped to become the premier Greek dance exhibition group in Orange County. Classes will be fun, dynamic, at times challenging, very rewarding, and a great social opportunity. Practice times and days are to be determined.

An interest meeting will be held immediately after the Divine Liturgy (approx. 12:15 am) on May 24th. Even though we would like to have the group comprised of people from our community, it will also be open to members of other Greek parishes.

For more information, contact John Basdakis at 714-813-2158 or email him at john@msn4loans.com.

**OPA!**

## Announcements

### Sunday School News

There will be Sunday School Retreat on Great and Holy Friday, April 6th, from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. All children are encouraged to attend and parents are encouraged to come and help out with Pascha preparations and attend services. A Lenten luncheon will be served. Please contact Ariana Sfakianakis for questions or to sign up. Food donations are appreciated as is also parent volunteers. Please see Ariana after the Divine Liturgy or call her at (714) 879-7758. Thank you so much!

### Ladies Philanthropic Society News

**Questions, comments or concerns?** The Society has a box upstairs 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. **Dues.** The Society kindly requests that all members send in their dues for this year as soon as possible. **Ladies Friendship Tea.** The Ladies Friendship Tea, previously scheduled for this Spring, has been rescheduled for the 6th of October. Please save the date. **Next Regular Meeting.** The next regular meeting of the Society will be on June 7th at 7:00 pm. The meeting will be at Irene Constantine's house. **Kids 'N Cancer.** A Kids 'N Cancer Reception is planned for May 20th at the Ranglas residence in Rancho Santa Fe. The Society will be gathering donations to be presented to this worthy cause. If you are solicited for a donation, please be as generous as you possibly can be. In addition, the Society will be assembling a gift basket with the theme "A Sampling of Orange County" to be raffled off at the reception. If you are able to donate any gift certificates or items for this basket, please contact Irene Constantine at (949) 218-0882. The deadline for gift basket donations is May 12th.

### GOYA Is Starting Soon

Please let us know if you have a teenager at home (13-17 years old). We would like to be able to contact them and welcome them into the GOYA group which is now forming. Two advisors are also needed. Let us know if you can help in that capacity. Miss Yeoryia Selberis has been appointed as the first president until we have elections. First Meeting: Monday, May 14th, from 7:15—8:30 pm. The meeting will be at the Church Office in Avery Plaza on Marguerite Parkway at Avery and Marguerite.

### First Meeting for YAL

YAL (Young Adults ages 18—40) will have their first meeting Monday, May 21st from 7:15—8:30 pm. Miss Sophia Kollias has been appointed as the first president until we have elections. The meeting will be at the Church Office in Avery Plaza on Marguerite Parkway at Avery and Marguerite.

### 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.** Monday is now Fr. Costas' day off. Please refrain from calling him on that day, unless it is an emergency.

### Doheny Beach Fellowship Picnic

The Doheny Beach Fellowship Picnic, (previously referred to as Post-Pascha Picnic) has been rescheduled to May 12th. Please consult the advertisement located elsewhere in this Newsletter for further details. The picnic was rescheduled from previous dates in April and on 5 May. We apologize to all for this inconvenience.

### Committee to Name our Mission Parish

A committee is now being formed to create the selection process for the naming of our Mission Parish. Those persons interested in serving on the committee can email GOMSOC at [info@gomsoc.org](mailto:info@gomsoc.org) or speak directly with Fr. Costas.

### Choir

All are welcomed to sing with our Choir every Sunday. Our choir practices for the month of May will be on Tuesday, May 8th and Thursday, May 24th. All practices start at 6:30 pm and are held at the church office. For further information, please contact Robert Henning at 949-459-6375.

### Prime Timers

The Prime Timers, our Senior Group, have scheduled a luncheon meeting on May 14th. It will be held at Mimi's on La Paz in Laguna Niguel at 11:30 am in the side room. Anyone 50 and over is welcomed.

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

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
MISSION VIEJO, CA  
PERMIT NO. 1324



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](http://www.gomsoc.org)

**Email:** [info@gomsoc.org](mailto:info@gomsoc.org)