



MISSION NEWSLETTER

November 24th

Thanksgiving



The modern holiday of Thanksgiving was established in law when President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed a bill making the fourth Thursday of November a holiday to be known as Thanksgiving Day. It commemorates the a feast held in 1621 by the Pilgrims and Native Americans following the harvest.

Orthodox Christians have been celebrating Thanksgiving for two millennia however it is not the

familiar holiday of Thanksgiving Day about which we are interested. It is, in fact, something quite different than the holiday excesses that now characterize Thanksgiving Day, with its non-stop shopping and gluttony.

The Divine Liturgy is our ultimate expression of Thanksgiving, the central purpose of which is to reenact the life of Christ with a special emphasis on His institution of the Holy Eucharist (Last Supper). It is instructive to note that the word Eucharist itself is derived from the Greek word for thanks, Eucharistoumen! Thus is the direct link established firmly expressing with great accuracy the purpose of our worship. Our purpose is to *"give thanks to God, for He is good, His love is everlasting!"* (Psalm 118:1-2). Several times during the Divine Liturgy we give thanks to God; this thanks is uttered by the congregation at times and at other moments by the priest in the inaudible prayers.

While Thanksgiving Day is primarily an American invention

Steering Committee:

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Pastor

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STEVE DAFNIS
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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."

From the Pastor's Desk

November 21

The Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple



The spiritual meaning of the feast of the Entry of the Mother of God is developed in the various texts for the services and the liturgy. The two principle themes that we find there are the following: first, the holiness of the Theotokos. The small child who is separated from the world and brought to live in the

It is clear that here the Church makes a special allusion to virginity, but all human life, in its different measure, can be a life that is 'presented to the Temple', a life that is holy and pure with God. The second theme is the comparison of the Temple made of stone and the living Temple: 'The most pure Temple of the Savior...today is led into the house of the Lord, bringing with her the grace of the divine Spirit'. The Theotokos, who will bear the God-Man in her womb, is a holier temple than the sanctuary at Jerusalem; it is fitting that these two temples should meet, but here it is the living temple which sanctifies the temple which is built. The superiority of the living temple over the temple of stone is true in a special way of the Theotokos, because she was the instrument of the Incarnation. But, in a more general manner, this is true of every man who is united to God: 'Know ye not that ye are the temple of God...? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost...?'

Still other thoughts, which the liturgical texts do not voice explicitly, are suggested to us by this feast. If our soul is a temple where God wishes to live, it is fitting that the Theotokos should be 'presented' to it: our soul must be open to the Theotokos so that she may dwell in the temple—our own personal temple. Then again, because the whole assembly of the faithful is the body of Christ and the Temple of God, let us think of today's feast as the Entry of the Theotokos into this temple the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church. The Temple, which the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church,





November 16th

Matthew the Apostle & Evangelist

The Apostle, who was also called Levi, was the son of Alphaeus and had Galilee as his homeland. A publican (tax collector) before being called by Christ, he became one of the Twelve Apostles and an Evangelist. While still in Palestine, he wrote his Gospel, first in Hebrew, being also the first of all to write the Gospel. When he is depicted in icons, there is portrayed next to him the likeness of a man,

High Priest of the Order of Melchizedek

Thus does St. Paul refer to Jesus in his Letter to the Hebrews (5:10) when he says that Jesus was acclaimed by God with the title of high priest *of the order of Melchizedek*. What is this order of which he speaks? And is there any significance in it for our time? Paul was speaking to Jewish Christians of his time, about 67AD, and hoped to provide an explanation of how Christ replaces the Jewish priesthood with himself.

In Psalms 110:4, David the King describes the longed-for Messiah this way: "The Lord hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou art a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek."

In Genesis 14:17-24, Melchizedek (the name is Canaanite) makes a brief appearance in the Bible. He is described as King of Salem; it is commonly believed that he was a priest-king of Jerusalem who worshipped the Most High God, the true God of Abraham. He was a contemporary of Abraham, was apparently an important religious and public figure, and a person to whom Abraham himself gave tithe. His reign therefore considerably predates Moses and his brother Aaron and the Aaronic Priesthood ordained by God in Exodus Chapter 29. Abraham's stay in Canaan was in about 1850 BC while the Exodus event and Moses' appearance in history is set at about 1250 BC; Melchizedek therefore preceded Moses by about 600 years.

We are primarily interested in his priestly-kingship of which little is known. Since in the Psalms David identifies the Messiah as a priest who is also compared to Melchizedek who was a king as well, this reference secures our belief that the Messiah is both King and Priest. It is St Paul, in his letter to the Hebrews cited above, that links firmly Jesus Christ to this priestly-kingship as a proof of His Divine Purpose which was foreseen from beginning of time. Christ's Divine Purpose as a High Priest was to become the atone-

TEACH ME TO DANCE!!!

Beginner's Adult Greek Dance Classes

Starting November 6, 2005

(Everyone with 2 left feet and 2 right feet are welcome.
We will help you find your matching feet.)

Dates & Times: November 6, 13, 27 and December 4, 2005
12:00 – 2:00 pm after church in the classroom
next to the fellowship room at JSerra High School. Bring
your comfortable shoes.

What: A fun four week course for beginners teaching 8
of the most popular dances. When it is all over you will
know more dances than the average Greek.

You Will Learn: Syrto, Tsamiko, Hassapo Serviko, Hassapiko, Pentozali,
Fast Hassapiko, Karsilamas and Kritiko Syrto.

Tuition: \$60 for 4 weeks.

Instructor: John Basdakis

**For More
Information:** (714) 813-2158

BRING YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS!!!

Chairman's Message

Dear Friends,

I hope and pray that this message finds you and your family in excellent health as we enter into the last few months of the calendar year. With the Thanksgiving Holiday quickly approaching, I thought I would take a minute or two to reflect upon that for which our Parish has to be thankful.

We are deeply thankful to God for His love and for having entrusted in us this very special task of establishing and growing our Mission Parish. We are thankful for the loving families that have come together to worship in our Lord's name and the friendships and unions that are being created through this fellowship. We are thankful for the rare opportunity to establish a Greek Orthodox Parish in the community in which we live, work, and socialize.

We have so much to be thankful for and so much yet to accomplish in our young parish's life. With our goals set high and with your love, dedication, and generosity I truly believe that there is no end to what we can accomplish together. As we work toward obtaining our new facility and growing our stewardship, I pray that our Great Lord continues to enlighten us and keep us focused on that which He has set forth for us to accomplish. It is with everyone's hard work and efforts that we will achieve our goals; we are thankful for having been given this great opportunity.

Parish Announcements

Philoptochos

GOMSOC mission Philoptochos group is holding a membership drive between now and the end of the year for the year 2006. Look for Tina Bertok, Cathy Antzoulatos, Argie Cupples, and Chrys Cutrone (Membership Committee) during Fellowship after the Liturgy. They will be collecting a \$25 suggested membership fee. Philoptochos would like donations of dry or canned foods. They are planning to assemble several gift baskets for those in need. Donations of baskets would also be appreciated. Bring your donations to church on Sunday or to Greek School if you have children attending it. Philoptochos members should please watch for flyers detailing when the baskets are to be assembled.

Sunday School

The GOMSOC Sunday School Christmas Pageant will be held on December 11th immediately after the Divine Liturgy. It will take place in the Chapel. The children have three more Sundays left to learn the songs that they will be singing. On December 11th, Sunday School will begin at 10:00 a.m. For more information, please call Irene Travis at (949) 448-8946 or email her at travisclan@sbcglobal.net.

Greek Dancing

Our Greek Dancing Groups are up and dancing! Right now we have two groups, Small and Intermediate, groups which are being led by Stella and Soula Petinos respectively and which meet after the Divine Liturgy from 12-1:30pm. Also forming is an Adult group to be led by John Basdakias which will meet after the Divine Liturgy from 12-2:00pm. Those interested in the Small and Intermediate dancing groups may contact Georgiann Ellis or Michelle Selberis any Sunday after Church. Adults who wish to participate in that group should contact John Basdakias at (714) 813-2158.

Fellowship Hour

We are in continuous need of donated items and volunteers to prepare coffee and setup the food. If you can help, please contact Chrys Cutrone at (949)348-8010 or Sheila Meyerhofer at (949) 388-7816.

Contacting Your Steering Committee

If you need to get in touch with any Steering Committee member, they would be glad to hear from you. They are always receptive to your thoughts and suggestions. Your Steering Committee members are listed below along with their contact numbers.

Father John Kariotakis —(619) 482-8520

Michael Selberis —(949) 364-5866

Steve Dafnis —(949) 347-9572

Joe Nollar—(949) 488-9694

Chrysoula Cutrone—(949) 295-1256

E.J. Constantine—(949) 218-0882

Demetra Lewis —(949) 661-1938

Georgiann Ellis —(949) 388-5850

Irene Basdakis —(949) 360-4447

Funny Story

A small boy who had seen a expensive toy which he wished to have, decided one day to write God a letter to ask Him for the \$100 it would take to purchase the toy. He carefully wrote his letter, addressed the envelope to God, stamped it, and put it into the mail.

When the Post Office got the letter they did not know to whom to deliver it, since God's address was not on file! The Post Office Supervisor decided instead to send the letter to the President of the United States in Washington, DC since he was the most highly placed person in the country that the supervisor could think of and he thought the President might know God.

When the President got the letter he was impressed with the boy's original attempt to fund his toy project and sent the letter to the Secretary of the Treasury asking him to do what he could to help the boy. The Secretary of the Treasury, not wanting to disappoint the President, sent the letter to his deputy with instructions to help if possible. From the Deputy Secretary, the letter further passed through many hands until it got to a file clerk in the Department. He didn't have much money, and having sympathy for the youngster, he sent the boy \$10 of his own reasoning that \$10 would be a lot of money to the young child.

When the small boy finally got his reply weeks later, he was amazed to see the \$10 in the return envelope and that it had been sent from Washington. He immediately began to write a thank you note to God which went something like this: Dear God, thanks for the \$10. I had asked for \$100 as you know. Next time please do not send

We are blessed in this Mission Parish with so many who are so talented! And there is so much that needs to be done; willing hands are needed. Please look into your heart and see if there isn't something that you can do to help carry this burden. One person can not lift a car; but several lifting it can! So it is with us at the Mission. No one person, or even a few for that matter, can carry the burden alone. It will take all of us to bear it with the help of Our Savior Jesus Christ. Carrying this Mission Parish together, we will lift our hearts as well. Do what you can.

Do not forget: thin sowing means thin reaping; the more you sow , the more you reap. Each one should give what he has decided in his own mind, not grudgingly or because he is made to, for *God loves a cheerful giver.*

2nd Corinthians 9:6-8

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.

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 (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