



# MISSION NEWS-

## FROM THE HEART OF FATHER COSTAS

My dearest ones:

Rejoice in the Lord Jesus.

The month of November is a special month in our church calendar. November 15<sup>th</sup> is the beginning of the Christmas Lent, what we call in English Advent. It's an excellent preparation time for the Lord's birth. It is also the month which includes the great feasts of the Angels, St. Nektarios, St. Chrysostom and of the Virgin's Entrance into the Temple, St. Catherine and of course Thanksgiving.

Advent is such a challenge for each and every one of us. Preparation is extremely important. What we sow and what we put into it, we will reap a hundredfold. Fasting is a fundamental part and parcel of this preparation. Remember that our forefathers Adam and Eve lost paradise, because they failed to fast from one fruit and disobeyed the first commandment, which was that of fasting.

Prayer is equally important; it has to be enhanced, expanded and made more often and with deeper attention. Church attendance should increase to at least twice a week. Once a week is unacceptable during Lent. Holy Communion should also be more frequent. We are likened to a beautiful car that is to start a long trip. We need enough spiritual gas, which is Holy Communion, in order to

successfully complete it. Please look for the weekday services and attend them.

Cleanliness is also essential. We know that it is next to Godliness. Spiritual cleanliness is simply Holy Confession, which is the easiest of Sacraments. The evil one makes it difficult, however, because he loses his enormous and lengthy power in just a few minutes. So let us dare enough to do it and not procrastinate any further.

His Eminence, Metropolitan Gerasimos gave us very good directives: to go ahead and buy either land for our permanent site or a building for our immediate needs and then make the next and final step. He also told us to fight the various demons inside us who are trying to take over our existence from anger

The Season of Advent has a double meaning: "as a season to prepare for Christmas when Christ's first coming to us is remembered; as a season when that remembrance directs the mind and heart to await Christ's Second Coming at the end of time." (The Roman Calendar) The Christian word "advent" is of pagan origin. Pagans observed a manifestation of a god who came to dwell in his temple at a certain time each year. The feast honoring this god was called "adventus." On this day the temple, normally closed, would be opened. At times a statue of a god would be moved to a place much larger than the small sanctuary where it usually resided. The adventus then was the god's return, an anniversary. In another context, the adventus referred to the celebration of the anniversary of the coming of the emperor. So this word was very convenient to use in another context—the coming of the Son of God in the temple of a human nature for His visit. The word gradually became limited to describe what was considered the only real coming—the coming of the Lord.

The actual season of Advent came into being toward the middle of the sixth century. Its orientation was entirely different from Lent, which was already established. There was no trace of ascetic preparation for Christmas. Before the seventh century, Christmas was a secondary feast, especially in Rome. But it came to take on more and more importance. Advent evolved in the same way. It became more solemn.

For the first centuries in the East, Christmas was celebrated together with Epiphany on January 6, Epiphany being one of the major feast days of the year. Around the end of the fourth century and the beginning of the 5<sup>th</sup>, Eastern Christendom began to celebrate Christmas on the 25<sup>th</sup> of December, and the feast began to grow, never to surpass Pascha (Easter) in importance. Yet the church expects each and every one of us to prepare spiritually for Jesus' birth. Never forget that for Jesus to be born in our hearts, they must be spiritually clean.

### Steering & Operations Committees:

REV. DR. COSTAS CONSTANTINOU  
Pastor

STEVE DAFNIS\*  
Chairman

IRENE BASDAKIS  
Vice Chairperson  
Operations

EJ CONSTANTINE\*  
Capital Formation and  
Genesis Program Chair

DEMETRA LEWIS\*  
Stewardship Chair

JOE NOLLAR  
Finance Chairman

CHRYSOULA CUTRONE  
Events Chair

GEORGIANN ELLIS  
Treasurer

MICHAEL SELBERIS\*  
Member

RON MADURA  
Member

\*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



*November 23rd*

## 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 a feast held in 1621 by the Pilgrims and Native Americans following the harvest that year.

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 ( the Last Supper). It is instructive to note that the word Eucharist itself is derived from the Greek word for thanks, Eucharistia! Thus is the direct link firmly established 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 thanksgiving 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 (the Canadians have a similar holiday, which falls in the month of October), the Orthodox American community gladly participates in the celebration. Nevertheless, we understand, with special conviction, that Thanksgiving is not an annual occurrence; rather it is and should always be from moment to moment, never-ending, a pouring forth from our hearts of endless gratitude for the gift of His Divine Son.

## “Healing in Eastern and Western Christianity”

On Saturday November 18th, from 10 am to noon Orthodox and Catholic speakers will discuss Eastern and Western Christian approaches to healing in a public panel discussion at Prince of Peace Abbey, 650 Benet Hill Rd., Oceanside, CA. sponsored by the Society of St. John Chrysostom-Western Region.

The Very Rev. George Morelli, PhD, Assistant Pastor of St. George’s Antiochean Orthodox Church in San Diego, a licensed Clinical Psychologist and Marriage Family Therapist, and Coordinator of Chaplain and Pastoral Counseling Ministry, Antiochean Orthodox Archdiocese will speak on the Eastern or Orthodox perspective, and Rev. Charles Wright, Abbot of Prince of Peace Abbey will speak on the Roman Catholic or Western perspective. There will be a question period after the speakers’ presentations. A free will offering will be taken. The program will be preceded by a short prayer service by the Very Rev. James Babcock, of Holy Cross Melkite Greek-Catholic Church, Placentia.

All are welcome to attend the open business meeting of the Society of St. John Chrysostom that follows at 12:30 pm. Those staying for the meeting are asked to bring a brown bag lunch. For further details contact Msgr. Dennis Mikulanis (858) 487-4314, Robert J. Greenwell (619) 644-3600, or Prince of Peace Abbey (760) 967-4200, ext. 236 (Br. Daniel). Travel directions are available at: [www.princeofpeaceabbey.org](http://www.princeofpeaceabbey.org).

The Society of St. John Chrysostom ([www.ssjc.org](http://www.ssjc.org)) is an ecumenical organization of Roman Catholic and Eastern Christian laity and clergy, which seeks to make known the history, worship, spirituality, discipline, and theology of Eastern Christendom, as well as to work and pray that the Orthodox and Catholic Churches may find full communion with one another in the fullness of unity desired by Jesus Christ. The Western Region chapter pursues these goals specifically in the Western parts of North America, including a three day Orientale Lumen Conference at the University of San Diego. Iconography will be the topic of the June 26-29, 2007

### Services for November 2006

#### EVERY SUNDAY MORNING

9:00 AM: Matins

10:00 AM: Divine Liturgy

#### WEEKDAY SERVICES

6-8:00 PM Wednesday, November 8th

At the Antiochian Church of St. John the Theologian (I-5 to Ortega West exit, make an immediate left, pass Camino Capistrano and the rail tracks and take a left on 32244 Paseo Adelanto only half a mile from the freeway). We will celebrate all the Angels and especially the Archangels Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, as well as St. Nektarios. We will also have a potluck to honor Michael Selberis, who is one of major pillars and founders of this Mission.

COME ONE, COME ALL

### Services for November 2006

#### WEEKDAY SERVICES (cont)

6-8:00 PM Monday, November 20th

At the Antiochian Church of St. John the Theologian. A potluck. The two parishes will have a celebration together. The priests, Fr. Costas and Fr. Andrew will co-Celebrate. All non-married “Marias” celebrate their Nameday.

The feast days of St. John Chrysostom and St. Catherine will be celebrated on the Sundays closer to their dates.

For the feast day of St. Andrew, Fr. Costas will return to his old Mission Church of St. Andrew the Apostle. You are encouraged to attend a nearby Church of St. Andrew.

Support your Mission Parish!

There is so much that needs to be done and willing, helping hands are needed. Please look into your heart and see if there isn't something that you can do to help.

# Adult Beginner's Greek Dance Classes

Taught by John Basdakis, Dance Master

## Classes To Begin With Enrollment Of 10+ Participants

**Why:** These classes are fun, entertaining, a real learning experience, great exercise and a unique social event.

**Who:** Everyone is invited to attend and share the experience.

**What:** Two-hour classes teaching the most popular Greek dances including Syrtaki (Zorba's dance), Syrto, Tsamiko, Karsilamas, Cretan Syrto and Pentozali.

**When:** Sundays after church from noon to 2:00 pm. Four Sundays: Dates to be announced. Bring comfortable shoes.

**Where:** JSierra High School (26351 Junipero Serra Road, west of the 5 freeway in the city of San Juan Capistrano) in the classroom across the hall from the fellowship room.

**How:** \$60 Tuition. A minimum of 10 registered participants required for classes to be held. 15+ registered participants and all classes will be FREE!!!

For information contact John Basdakis at 714-813-2158 or [john@msn4loans.com](mailto:john@msn4loans.com)

*"John Basdakis is a one-of-a-kind instructor of Greek folk dance. His basic hands-on style and well-known champion history make his class ideal for anyone yearning to join in on the fun at the next Greek festival, preparing for a big fat Greek wedding, even to those...perfect(ing) their moves... You will learn much more... You will learn the history of each dance and how the dance*

## Greek Orthodox Mission of South Orange County

cordially invites you and your family  
for an evening of fellowship and entertainment

# Christmas Family Dinner Party

- Dinner Buffet
- Hors D' oeuvres
- Greek Pastries
- Live Greek Music and DJ
- Dancing

**Saturday, December 9, 2006, 5:30 to 10pm**

· No Host Bar

**Laguna Woods Village Clubhouse #2, Laguna Woods, CA 92637**

**Admission:** Adults \$35; Children ages 2 to 15: \$15; Children under 2 years free

**Directions:** From the south-bound 5 Freeway, exit at El Toro Road and turn right; at Moulton Parkway turn right; turn right at Gate #12 and proceed to Clubhouse #2

Room will accommodate only 200 people · Open Seating · Make your reservations early

For more event information, visit GOMSOC's official homepage on the Web at **[www.gomsoc.org](http://www.gomsoc.org)**

|                          |   |           |
|--------------------------|---|-----------|
| <b>Reservations for:</b> |   |           |
|                          | (Name)  |           |
| <b>Address:</b>          |   |           |
| <b>Phone:</b>            |   |           |
|                          |   |           |
|                          | <b>Number of Adults x \$35 each =</b>                       | <b>\$</b> |
|                          | <b>Number of Children (ages 2 through 15) x \$15 each =</b> | <b>\$</b> |
|                          | <b>Total Amount:</b>  | <b>\$</b> |

Cut here and mail this portion of the flyer and check for the amount due (payable to GOMSOC) before

Philotochos greatly appreciates everyone helping out with our Fellowship Hour after the Divine Liturgy. Our goal is to provide a time when we can visit with one another and have a simple small snack.

This year we are asking two families a week to assist with providing a snack, setting up and cleaning up. If our entire community comes together and signs up for one or two Sundays throughout the year, it will spread this responsibility around and allow everyone the opportunity to participate in and enjoy the Divine Liturgy.

Philotochos will provide the supplies for brewing and serving the coffee (coffee, filters, creamer, sugar, cups, and stirrers), in addition to serving platters and zip lock bags for storage. All of these items can be found in the storage cabinets, including guidelines for brewing the coffee.

The following list is only a suggestion. If you would like to provide something other than what is on the list, it would be greatly appreciated and truly enjoyed!

1. 3 to 4 dozen bagels cut in half (suggest plain, sesame, or poppy).
2. Cream cheese, jam, peanut butter, or other spreadable items.
3. Fresh fruit, i.e. oranges quartered, grapes, or sliced melon.
4. Assorted cookies (Oreo cookies are also Lenten).
5. Cheese and crackers.
6. Veggies.
7. Donuts cut in half.
8. Bottled juices (2 gal. will provide 64, 4 oz. servings).

Signups are required for the following Fellowship Hour dates:

November: Full!

December: 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st

January: 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th

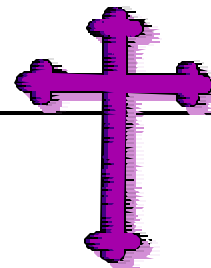
February: 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th

Please contact Sally Meyerhofer at 949-388-7816 or by email at meyerhoffer@cox.net to sign up. If you are unable to contact Sally, please call Lela Giziotis at 949-733-0827 or Irene Constantine at 949-218-0882.

**What would we do without them? Our volunteers make all the difference in the world!**

It is almost a cliché not to thank persons by name anymore in social circumstances for fear that someone's contributions may go unrecognized. Nevertheless, we boldly attempt here to acknowledge the contributions of the many volunteers who have so selflessly given of their time and resources. We therefore thank...

**Sally Meyerhofer** for her seemingly tireless organization of the Fellowship Hour and the recent luncheon \* **Christos Parissis and family** and **Michael Antzoulatos and family** for their generous donation of food for the recent luncheon \* **Kyria Katalanos** for the beautiful banner/presentation that she put together for the recent luncheon \* **Dean Pappas, Bill Polis and their Gang** for constructing the platform on which the bishop's throne sat \* **Irene Pantelides, Helen Colclasure, Eugenia & Sam Kollias, Nick & Mary Nickolin, Krina Hioureas, Irene & EJ Constantine, Melissa Kaffen, Danny & Mary Tonge, Litsa Sfakianakis, Argie Cupples, Sophia & Sam Konugres, Chrys Cutrone, Bessy Ferrell, Nicki Fidopiastis, Michelle & Mike Selberis, Georgia Selberis, and Ron & Marie Madura** for their contributions of time, talents, and goods to the recent luncheon \* **Sophia Konugres** and **Katerina Terry** for their musical contributions over the past couple of years as Choir Director and Organist respectively; they are both enjoying well-deserved breaks \* the entire **Steering Committee** for shouldering the many duties and responsibilities that the Mission requires \* **Ariana Sfakianakis** and **Michelle Selberis** for providing direction to the Sunday School Program \* **Emmanuel Sfakianakis, Reggie Sellas, and John Salamy** who come early each Sunday to set up for the Divine Liturgy \*



## Announcements

### Sunday School News

Our Sunday School Christmas Pageant is scheduled for December 17th. Various costumes will be needed for the pageant. We need barnyard animal, angel, and other costumes. Monetary donations will be gratefully accepted to help defray the expense of making costumes where necessary. Also, it is more important than ever to make sure that all Sunday School children attend regularly so that they can practice and be a participant in the Christmas Pageant. Parents, please be as dedicated as you can to make sure that your children attend Sunday School often.

### Philoptochos News

The Philoptochos is always glad to welcome new members. If you are interested in joining or would like more information, please contact Chrys Cutrone at (949) 295-1256. **Luncheon Report.** Members of our community came together with donations that included: the entire buffet luncheon, beverages, delicious pastries from their kitchens, decorative creative talents and hard working hands to help make the luncheon honoring St. Gerasimos and His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos a memorable event. THANK YOU to... Mike & Cathy Antzoulatos, Christos & Kelly Parisis, Irene Pantelides, Helen Colclasure, Eugenia & Sam Kollias, Nick & Mary Nickolin, Krina Hioureas, Irene & EJ Constantine, Melissa Kaffen, Danny & Mary Tonge, Litsa Sfakianakis, Argie Cupples, Sophia & Sam Konugres, Chrys Cutrone, Bessy Ferrell, Nicki Fidopiastis, Michelle & Mike Selberis, Georgia Selberis, and Ron & Marie Madura. **Next Meeting.** The next regular meeting of the Philoptochos will be on Sunday, December 3rd after the divine Liturgy. **Canned Goods Collection.** We are now collecting canned goods for a food drive for the needy. Please leave the items outside the door at church or you can leave them at the church office. This year we will also be collecting children's clothing. **Cookie Exchange.** Irene Constantine will host a Cookie Exchange on December 15th at her house for interested ladies at 7 pm. Bring about 5 dozen cookies with you; you will leave with the same amount, but so many different kinds. Yummy! **Bake Sale.** Philoptochos will sponsor a bake sale after the Divine Liturgy on December 17th. This is your chance to stock up on goodies for the holidays. **Parish Christmas Card.** A table is now set up in the narthex taking the names of those who want to be added the Parish Christmas Card. The cost is \$20. Please sign up soon to allow for ample time for the printing and distribution of the card. Deadline for sign-up: 12/3/06. **Membership Tea.** A Membership Tea is being planned for January, 2007. Please watch your Newsletter for details as they are available.

### GOMSOC Treasurer News

Our very fine GOMSOC Treasurer, Georgia Ann Ellis is happy to provide the following information:

**Metropolitan Gerasimos Luncheon:** Donations for the October 22nd Luncheon in honor of Metropolitan Gerasimos and St. Gerasimos of Cephalonia totaled \$1,200.

**Pledged Members:** GOMSOC now has 90 families pledging for 2006. We appreciate the generosity of these people and remind all that our growth as a parish will generate a need for more funds. Please consider pledging now!

### Bible Class

Bible Class will be held every Monday night from 6-7:00 pm. We will continue with the Gospel of St. John, explained by St. John Chrysostom. Place: Bravo Burger, Ortega Hwy East.

### Choir

The Choir always welcomes new members. If you are interested in singing with them, please mention it to any Choir member who will be happy to provide details on the regular practice schedule and location. This month the Choir will rehearse at 7 pm on November 14th and 28th. They will meet at the church office. Since Christmas is fast approaching, and special music will be practiced, it is especially important for all Choir members to be at rehearsals.

### Fr. Costas' Tentative Office Hours

Until further notice, Fr. Costas' office hours will be Monday and Wednesday from 4:00-7:00 pm and Tuesday and Thursday from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. The office will be housed temporarily where the Greek school meets. Fr. Costas will be available every Sunday from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm. Volunteer secretaries for the above hours will be greatly appreciated. These hours are when you can be certain to find Fr. Costas in the office, except in case of emergency. During other hours, he will be visiting your homes and businesses, and visiting hospitals and convalescent homes, etc. Please give him the names and locations of those of your relatives who are shut-ins, or in the hospital. Also let him know if you would like him to come by and visit your home or business.

**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:**

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

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