

The Ascension of our Lord into Heaven

“When you fulfilled the plan of salvation for us and united all things on earth to those in heaven, O Christ our God, You ascended in glory, never leaving us but remaining ever-present. For You proclaimed to those who love You: ‘I am with you and no one else has power over you’.”

To
ΦΩΣ



The
Light

June/July - 2003

Ιούνιος/Ιούλιος – 2003

St. Anthony's Greek Orthodox Church Bulletin

Περιοδικόν Της Ενορίας Του Αγίου Αντωνίου

Volume 6, #3

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRIEST

It is from the late Lucan Acts of the Apostles that we learn of the Christian feast of Pentecost. *Pentecoste* (fiftieth day) had been a harvest festival for the Jews. Luke incorporates this feast from the Jewish calendar into the context of promise, fulfillment and salvation. It is the feast of the promised gifts of the Spirit. It is one of the greatest days of Christianity. We observe an event that took place thousands of years ago. Undoubtedly, Christian faith is a response to events. Faith grows out of events, not only ideas.

The Church remembers some events more vividly than others, just as we remember some events in our early life, some only dimly and others not at all. One of the purposes of the Church is to remind the faithful of these important events and to help them understand why they are important. On the Feast of Pentecost, the Church reminds us of a great event, its birth.

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Dated Material
Please Expedite

We have no pictures of what happened and the one written record that we do have may not be altogether accurate. It was written by St. Luke. He was interested in giving people of another generation a general impression of what had happened rather than narrating in accurate detail every single step in the chronicle of events.

Something occurred that changed a small group of individuals who admired Jesus Christ. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, "When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability." (Acts 2:2-4)

It is not the last time that such an event occurred, though never exactly the same way. Even in an indifferent, selfish and dangerous world, the same Holy Spirit inspires, leads and transforms those who allow Him to touch their hearts. It is the same Holy Spirit that leads doctors without borders to risk their lives in order to help the wounded and the suffering. It is the same Holy Spirit that leads women like Mother Teresa to take care of the poorest of the poor in our world. It is the same Holy Spirit that inspired St. Nectarios and St. Kosmas the Aitolos to become instruments of Divine Grace in helping and guiding those who were in need. It is the same Holy Spirit that inspires the peacemakers. It is the Holy Spirit that guides those who feed the homeless and those who act in concrete ways that demand personal commitment and sacrifice for the improvement of human relations. It is this same Holy Spirit that keeps our hearts united. The Holy Spirit is not only a symbol nor an icon merely depicting Him as a dove. Everything we do and plan as Christians or as humans, who are concerned about God's creation and His children, is the result of the influence and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Therefore, while we are thinking and planning to celebrate the fifty year anniversary of existence of our parish, it is imperative that we realize the role and the presence of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church. All of our decisions should be motivated and inspired by the living source of grace and spiritual gifts that He bestows upon each one of us from the day of our Baptism.

Certainly it is a time when the Church may gather itself together and begin again as it did almost two thousand years ago. We should be guided by what Moses said to his people when they were discouraged and threatened to turn back. These are the words that Abraham Lincoln kept before him in the darkest hours of the civil war: "Fear not, stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will show to you today." (Exodus 14:13)

With my warmest wishes for a restful summer filled with the presence of the Holy Spirit,

Father Efstathios V. Mylonas
Protopresbyter

Holy Sacraments and Services

Baptisms

Sophia Joella, daughter of Nick Vagenas and Joella Weller on May 4, 2003.
Godparents: Tracy and Tammy Jacovides.

Gianna Dorothea, daughter of Donald C. and Caterina Peterson on May 25, 2003.
Godparents: Michael and Joanna Scott Dienstbier.

Gabriella Ingrid, daughter of Donald C. and Caterina Peterson on May 25, 2003.
Godparents: Michael and Joanna Scott Dienstbier.

Theodore Gregory, son of Peter D. and Athena Bravos on May 31, 2003.
Godparents: Steve and Angela McLaren.

We express our sincere condolences to Thomais Tsangouri on the untimely death of her beloved husband, Petros of Aghios Andreas, Arcadia, Greece who died on May 26, 2003 while visiting his daughter, Eleni and her husband Anastasios Petropoulos. Eleni is one of our Greek School teachers. Father Stathis conducted a memorial service for the repose of the soul of Petros. May his memory be eternal.

We express condolences to Presvytera Maria and to her family on the death of her beloved mother, Irene Vomvolakis who died in Chania, Crete, Greece on Wednesday, June 4, 2003. Presvytera Maria with her three sisters and two brothers were at the side of their beloved mother when she died.

May her memory be eternal

**“Local author produces soul-searching
poetry in aftermath of 9-11 attacks”**

By Kevin Felt – Staff Writer

Arcadia – Yvette Samaan prods the soul with poetry and prose.

With her second book of poetry, “Running Away From or To The Truth,” the 47-year-old Arcadia resident, who teaches psychology at Rio Hondo College and English as a Second Language at Pasadena City College, uses Character analysis and poetry to examine characters whose “selective blindness and deafness keeps them from finding the truth.”

The first half of the book, which she wrote as a sequel to “Running Away or To God,” in the months after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, is about running away and

trying to justify bad behavior, she said. The second is about finding the truth and running toward it.

“I wanted to show the contrast.” She said. “The dim picture and the bright picture.”

The poetry is simple and straightforward, but she includes short devotional essays to prepare the reader for each poem.

“I hope my poems are very clear.” She said. “I love poetry because it helps me to communicate an idea without using too many words, so I can relay the message more clearly, like an idiom or famous saying”

Samaan said her favorite poem, the first poem in the book, “Beat, Beat the Drums,” is about the things people do to distract themselves. It concludes: “*Beat them loud, beat the drums, To hush up my overbearing fear, Beat them hard, Beat the drums, So I will not be able to hear.*”

She called the poem. “an example of what a shameful person does – he creates noise in his life so he won’t have to see his mistakes.”

In two poems, “The Mind of a Terrorist” and “Do I Know You?” Samaan grapples directly with Sept. 11, stepping inside the motivations of a hijacker.

But for the most part, the subjects are every-day struggles, she said.

“These are everyday characters who deny the truth in one way or another.” She said. “There’s the selfish person trying to save himself saying, ‘I’m not selfish.’ There’s a jealous person, driven by ambition. For another, the inability to forgive becomes a need to prove that one is right.”

Blending the psychological with the theological, Samaan, a member of St. Anthony's Greek Orthodox Church in Pasadena, said she hopes the book will help people realize that "the truth resides in God."

The Rev. Efstathios V. Mylonas, priest at St. Anthony's, said he recommends the book, "not just because she's my parishioner, but because she is a person of great faith who has been able to express it in a beautiful way. It's very encouraging."

The book is available at Vroman's Bookstore in Pasadena and Amazon.com.

Samaan will also discuss the book at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, May 10, at the Arcadia Public Library, 20 W. Duarte Road, in Arcadia.

For more information, call (626) 821 – 0505.

Kevin Felt can be reached at (626) 578 – 6300 St. 4454, or by e-mail at

Kevin.felt@ssgun.com.

**Troparion of the Feast day of
St. Anthony – January 17**

O Father Anthony, you imitated the zealous Elijah. You followed the straight paths of the Baptist and became a desert dweller. By prayer you confirmed the universe. Wherefore, intercede with Christ our God to save our souls.

Vacation Bible School

July 28 – August 1st. This year's theme will be: **Zoom Zone, Discover Jesus is Forever**. Please get your paperwork in by June 20th. You must have the registration form completed to attend. Yiayias, Pappous, aunts, cousins, etc. are welcome as volunteers. For more info, call (626) 449 – 6943.

Sunday School

June 8: One day trip to St. Sophia Camp. We will have a Divine Liturgy at the camp and a day of activities and fun. Families and friends are invited.

June 15: Promotion Sunday. Kids will receive their certificates.

Philoptochos

PHILOPTOCHOS BOARD

MEETINGS are scheduled on the second Wednesday of each month, and **GENERAL MEETINGS** are scheduled on the fourth Wednesday of the month, except during lent when meetings are rescheduled on Tuesdays. Please join us and learn how our chapter helps our Church and community. All Orthodox women are welcome to become members.

Coffee Hour – If you are interested in hosting the coffee hour after Church. Please contact Katherine Skandale at (818) 790 – 5028. Remember, your donations for the coffee hour help our Church. Many beautiful items for the altar have been purchased with your coffee hour donations.

Philoptochos Past Presidents'

Dinner: June, 25, 2003 at The Athenaeum at 7:00 p.m. For more information call Alexis Fine at (626) 446 – 7102.

PHILOPTOCHOS ELECTIONS

2003-2005

May 28, 2003

1. IRENE ALBECK – Family & Society
2. BELLA CARPOU - Outreach
3. ALEXIS FINE - Sunshine
4. MARIA KOKORIS – 1st Vice President, Programs
5. CAROLYN KOLOKOTRONIS – Recording Secretary
6. KATHY LUCAS – 2nd Vice-President, Membership
7. DOROTHEA MALINA – Publicity / Corresponding Secretary
8. FONTAINE MALISOS - Advisor
9. PRESBYTERA MARIA MYLONAS - Welfare
10. ANN ROUMAN - Beautification
11. KATHERINE SKANDALE – Pennies & Prayers
12. CHARLENE VAYOS – Treasurer, Directory
13. LISA XANTHOS - President
14. CLEO WILLIAMS – Family & Society
15. STEPHANIE SOEWERS – Welfare

My Big Fat Greek Hawaiian Luau

Hawaiian Luau at the Church Hall at 6:00 p.m. to benefit our Dance Groups. Please join us for Appetizers, Dinner, Dancing and Limbo. For more information or reservations call Julie Balas at (626) 574 – 9933

GOYA

Summer 2003

**GOYA is 7th grade to
12th grade only!**

St. Sophia Camp Liturgy & Youth

Picnic – June 8: On Sunday, June 8th, at St. Sophia Camp, we will be having a Divine Liturgy at the camp followed by a Youth Picnic. Father Alex Chetsas from St. Sophia will be celebrating the Divine Liturgy at 10:00 a.m. and there will be a BBQ following the Liturgy. We will have games, sports, swimming and lots of fun activities for all who come. We will meet at Church at 8:30 a.m. We will also be renting a van and Bill Tragus will be driving the kids to the camp. We will return in the afternoon.

St. Sophia Summer Camp

Week 1: July 21 – July 26
Week 2: July 26 – August 2
Week 3: August 2 – August 9
Week 4: August 9 – August 16
Camp Reunion: August 17 at
St. Sophia Cathedral.

YAL Fellowship

National YAL Conference:

July 3 – 7, 2003 in Baltimore,
Maryland. The theme of this year’s
conference is “Sign of the Cross:
Vision and Victory.” Register on line
at: www.yal2003.org or e-mail the
committee at: committee@yal2003.org

Orthodox Christian Mission Center

Orthodox Christians seeking the
opportunity to be witnesses of the
Holy Orthodox Faith in action and
who wish to fulfill the mandate of our
Lord Jesus Christ are invited and
needed to participate on Orthodox
Mission Teams. If you are interested
in going to Alaska, Ghana, Guatemala,
India, Romania or Uganda on a
mission team, please contact OCMC at
P.O. Box 4319, ST. Augustine, FL

32085 – 4319. Tel: (909) 829 – 5132,
Fax (904) 829 – 1635, Website:
<http://www.ocmc.org>

Pasadena AHEPA Family

June, 19, Thurs. – 1st Annual AHEPA
District #20 Charitable Foundation
Golf Tournament. Skylinks Golf
Course. Cost: \$125 per Golfer,
includes Golf, cart, putting,
tournament, longest drive, hole-in-one
car prize, box lunch, prizes, give-
aways and dinner. Contact: Dino
Basdakis (714) 647 – 7920.

June 19 – 22: 72nd Annual
Convention, 2003. hosted by Long
Beach Chapter #342 & Minos Chapter
#159. Long Beach Marriott Hotel.
4700 Airport Plaza Drive, Long Beach,
California, 90815.

Choir

Choir Rehearsals: There is a Choir
rehearsal every Wednesday from 7:00
p.m. to 9:30 p.m. in the Church.

**St. Sophia Summer Camp
Counselors**

Plans are underway for this year’s
summer camping season at St. Sophia
Camp, which will run for four weeks
from July 21 through August 16, 2003.
Organizers are putting the finishing
touches on this season’s programs and
special events. If you have time and
are interested in participating as a
camp counselor, please contact us. For
more information and applications,
please call Tina Callas at (818) 986 –
7659.

**St. Nicholas Ranch
St. Nicholas Summer Camp**

St. Nicholas Summer Camp will be
from July 13 – 19 and July 20 – 26.
They are currently looking for
counselors and staff members. If you
are interested in working at the camp
this year, please, call Mike Tervo at
(559) 338 – 2103.

Camp Scholarships: St. Nicholas
offers a limited number of
Scholarships for its summer camp

sessions. These are intended for the
children of families in need. The
scholarship covers half of the
registration cost for one week of
summer camp. For more info, call
Mike Tervo at (559) 338 – 2103.

Ionian Village

The Department of Youth and Young
Adult Ministries announces the 2003
Ionian Village Scholarship. The Kero
Mantzouras Foundation located in
New York, has awarded a \$30,000
grant to be used for scholarships for
the 2003 Ionian Village program. As a
result of this generous grant, families
who need financial assistance will be
able to send their children to
participate in Ionian village 2003.
Scholarship application are available at
www.ionianvillage.org

**2003 Church Music
Federation Conference**

Sing Your Way to San Jose!”
Thursday, June 19 to Sunday, June 22.
hosted by the Church of the
Resurrection, Castro Valley and St.
Nicholas Church, San Jose. We are

planning a fun and music-filled weekend and hope everyone will join us! For more information, call Tikey Zes at (408) 723 – 0640 or the web site at: <http://www.gochoir.com>

Education Workshops from 2002 Clergy-Laity

As part of the on-going effort by the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese to provide timely resources for ministry, recordings of the educational workshops of the 2002 Clergy-Laity Congress are now available on the Archdiocese web site: www.goarch.org. You can also hear Father Stathis' presentation on Greek education.

25th Anniversary & Recital for St. Sophia Organist

Christopher P. Yokas will celebrate his 25 year anniversary as an organist at St. Sophia Cathedral by giving an organ recital on Sunday, July 13, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. All are invited to the recital, which will include organ compositions by J.S. Bach, Purcell,

Mendelssohn, and Widor. A reception in the St. Sophia Fellowship Hall will follow the recital.

Philanthropia Ministry

The Philanthropia Ministry is a HIV/AIDS & Hospital Ministry. They have a newsletter that goes out to its supporters which includes letters, sermons and information about their ministry. To receive the Philanthropia Ministry newsletter and support their work, contact Father Peter Lambert: (818) 345 – 4724 " A Consortium of Greek Orthodox Communities " Philanthropia HIV/AIDS & Hospital Ministry, 637 Crebs Avenue, Tarzana, CA. 91335. Ph: 818-345-4724. Fax: 818-345-1874 Father Peter V. Lambert, Director. Web Site: [Http://hometown.aol.com/philanthropiamin](http://hometown.aol.com/philanthropiamin)

St. Anthony's Greek Festival

This year's Greek Festival will be September 19 – 21 at St. Anthony's Church. Please save the date and come and help us with our community event. For more info, call Alma at (626) 449 - 6943

Graduates for 2003

High School Graduates:

Theodore Giannoulis: Temple City High School

Myrto Polychonis: Marlborough High School

Steven Roulakis: Polytechnic High School

Christopher A. Vagenas: Glendora High School

Alexis Demetriades: La Salle High School

Graduates from Universities:

Anastasia Hronas: Masters in Physical Therapy, California State University at Long Beach.

Achilles W. Malisos: Bachelors of Arts in Environmental Studies and Earth Sciences, University of California at Santa Cruz.

Gisele Samaan: Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Social Behavior, University of California at Irvine

Maria Vorgias: Bachelor of Arts in English, Loyola Marymount University.

Christina Zanetos: Bachelor of Arts in Communications, Loyola Marymount University

Theoni Vagenas: Bachelor's in Child Psychology from University of California at Los Angeles.

Byzantine Iconography Retreat

August 10 – 14, 2003, Sunday to Thursday at St. Nicholas Ranch. Fr. Michael Courey will be the instructor. Come and learn the Art of Byzantine Iconography. The lessons will include everything from slide presentation on Byzantine Art to the Icon of the Face of Christ. This is a beginning level course. All materials, paper, canvas panel, paint, brushes, palette, etc, are included. Call (559) 338 – 2103 or check the web site: www.stnicholasranch.org

The Life-giving Spring Monastery "Opening of the Doors" "Θυρανοίξια"

On August 14 – 17, 2003, a series of events both the Θυρανοίξια (Opening of the Doors) and the great Feast of the Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokos will take place with the official Opening of the Doors being observed on Saturday, August 16th. Please save the dates and plan on attending this momentous occasion.