

To
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The
Light

November/December – 2003
Νοεμβριος/Δεκεμβριος – 2003

St. Anthony's Greek Orthodox Church Bulletin
Περιοδικόν Της Ενορίας Του Αγίου Αντωνίου
Volume 6, #5

Message from your Priest

St. Anthony's Greek Orthodox Church
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(Return Service Requested)

Dated Material
Please Expedite

Ants are one of the most fascinating of several groups of social insects. Yet, I have never ceased to admire them. From time immemorial they have survived through all wars, floods, and physical upheavals, still building their wonderful ant cities all over the world from the tropics to the arctic. An anthill is organized almost as well as any human city. One striking thing about a community of ants is that everyone has a job to do, and does it. There are worker ants, soldier ants, nursemaid ants, and even ants that keep other insects and “milk” them for honeydew to feed the colony. Each has been assigned for a particular task and goes about it industriously.

God has also provided a task for each believer. He will guide us to it as we trust Him. Saint Paul the great Apostle to the nations wrote to Corinthians: “There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives ability to everyone for their service” – I Cor. 12:6.

Ants do their tasks automatically – they have been doing the same thing for thousands of years. God wants us to do ours voluntarily, because we love Him and He in return bestows upon us abundantly His blessings. There is an array of different kinds of work for us to do, and God will place each one of us for the work to which He calls

us. In our beloved parish of Saint Anthony God calls us to take actively and resolutely part in the mission of the Church, in the diakonia of our parish.

The Church of Jesus Christ suffers from good things that her members ought to do, yet do not do them. The Church is the family of God. The Church is not only a gathering of people who are seeking to satisfy their needs of belonging somewhere. It is much more than that! The Church is a place that moves people to commit time, talent, finances in order to help fulfill her diakonia. Diakonia is serving God's people in a Godly way! The Church is a place of prayer, a holy place that helps people to be transformed in the image and likeness of God.

The devil once was holding a conference with his imps. They were trying to decide how to stop people from being involved in God's enterprise. There were the usual answers: tell them that God isn't real, that the whole notion is a myth. "Don't do that," said Satan, "they will never believe it. Tell them it's all true and that his work needs to be done. But tell them also that there is no hurry." Satan had a point.

It is very scary, when we all say there is no hurry. When Saint Paul was preaching to the Thessalonians, he was accused of "turning the world upside down." There was an urgency and zeal as the early Church moved out into a hostile pagan world. And, today? Urgency? Zeal? True commitment? Appreciation of the gifts we receive from God? Appreciation of the opportunities that the Church gives to us as individuals and to our families? Procrastination is the most destructive force the Church has ever experienced. Indifference and apathy towards the meaning of the Holy Sacraments and Holy Services, particularly the Divine Liturgy are those dark forces that will affect the effectiveness of the Church.

As Orthodox Christians and as children of God, we must reach out to let people know about us. "Contemporary America needs to hear a true message from our Church. We, the clergy and laity, are compelled to consider what we will offer to contemporary America, particularly in the wake of our tragic experience of September 11, 2001.

Wait no longer! Come to attend the beautiful Divine Liturgies. Prepare yourself and your children to receive often the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. Share the gifts of God's love now! Share your constructive ideas for strengthening Saint Anthony's parish. Tomorrow may be too late for you and your children!

A final word on our shared responsibilities: together we can accomplish any dream that we have dreamed, any plan that we have planned, and fulfill any hope that we have hoped and cherished. If an anthill is so well organized, how much more and better can our parish be organized and how much more effective will the Church of Christ be in touching our hearts, capturing our minds, strengthening our hopes and our will in a world that is in great danger to be dominated by the forces of evil, which can literally destroy us. If we have no vision to hear clearly and irrevocably inside us the voice of God and feel His presence in our lives, then we face the risk of being destroyed.

When every Sunday morning or throughout the week, I see parents and children coming to Saint Anthony's Church with hearts aflame, with great enthusiasm or going out in the community to serve those who need help or they are giving generously out of love for the Church to support and to strengthen her diakonia to the world, I feel deeply grateful to Almighty God for keeping us together in doing His work and I fervently pray to Him for each one of you, I thank Him and glorify His Holy Name, because He made you good stewards and His effective coworkers.

May I express my deep appreciation to each one of you for your faithfulness. May I wish you a blessed Thanksgiving. I pray that God the Merciful will bless you in a very special way.

With the love of Christ our Lord,

Father Efstathios V. Mylonas
Protopresbyter

Holy Sacraments and Services

Baptisms

Joseph Scott, son of Jay M. and Nicolette Fuerst was baptized on Saturday, October 11, 2003.
Godparent: James Tripodes.

Julianna Maria, daughter of James C. and Joann Christopoulos on Saturday, November 1, 2003. Godparents were: Peter and Theodora Stavropoulos.

Chrismations

Suzanne B Albaum was chrismated on the Feastday of The Nativity of The Theotokos, Monday, September, 8, 2003. godparent: Roula Kontos.

Hamlet Riganian was chrismated on Sunday, October 5, 2003. Godparent: Peter Tsianos.

Wedding

David C. Mays and Katherine J. Kechris were married on September 6, 2003. Vasilios Chryssafis was the koumbaro.

Funerals

Tony Messerotes of Pasadena, CA on September 16, 2006. May the Lord our God grant rest to his soul. We all remember this kind and most dedicated member of the Church. We will greatly miss him. May his memory be eternal.

Anastasios Christopoulos, 96, beloved father of Christine Kundanis and Gus Christopoulos died on the Feastday of St. Demetrios, Sunday, Oct 26, 2003 in Vlaherna, Tripolis, Greece. To his children and their families we express our deep sympathy and our condolences. May the memory of this good and dedicated member of the Church whom we all loved be eternal.

Acknowledgements

We are deeply grateful to Dr. and Mrs. Michael J. Patzakis for their most generous gift to St. Anthony's Moms and Tots program. Their continuing support of this unique program is greatly appreciated.

Sunday School – 2003 / 04

Turkey Raffle: We will have our annual Sunday School fund raiser on Sunday, November 23rd. Please join us for this very important event.

There will be no classes on **Thanksgiving weekend**, November 30th.

Our **Christmas Program** for Sunday School will be on Sunday, December 14 after the Divine Liturgy. All are invited to share the beauty of Christmas with our children.

Christmas break will be on December 28th. We will not have classes on that day.

SAINT ANTHONY'S 50 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Saint Anthony's Fifty Years Anniversary will be celebrated during the year of the Lord 2004 with some very beautiful and meaningful events. Please save the date of the Grand Banquet on Sunday, May 16, 2004 at the Pasadena Ritz Carlton Hotel. For more information call the Church Office at (626) 449-6943.

IOCC

All are invited to hear Dan Christopoulos, the I.O.C.C. Development Officer on Wednesday, November 5, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. at home of Judie Christopoulos at 1115 Linda Glen Drive, Pasadena.

Dan will speak on the ministry and projects on International Orthodox Christian Charities. There also will be a short video and time for questions and answers.

For more info, call (626) 792 - 2394

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 to complete the iconography of our Church and to purchase other items that we need for the Holy Sanctuary.

Altar Boys

If you are interested in being an Altar boy and serving in the Altar, please contact Bill Tragus at Church. Phone (626) 449 - 6943. Active Altar Boys should arrive at Sunday Liturgy at 9:45 a.m. Please help them arrive on time.

Hope

Faith, Food, Fellowship, Fun. Our 1st. meeting will be on Sunday, Nov. 2nd. Hope is for children K-3. For more info call Stephanie at (562) 695 – 0310.

YAL Fellowship

We will be having a fellowship meeting on Sunday, **December 7th** from 6:00 p.m. We will be meeting at The Life Giving Spring Bookstore in Glendale. 800 N. Glendale Ave.,
For directions call: (818) 551 - 0544

GOYA & Jr. GOYA

Nov. 7th: Friday Night Activity and discussion. "Preparing for the holidays"

Nov. 19: Bible Bowl preparation 7:00 p.m. at Church. We will serve dinner and refreshments.

Nov. 23: Ice Skating after Sunday Divine Liturgy.

Dec. 3: Union Station. We will feed those in need at Union Station in Pasadena. We will meet at Church at 6:00 p.m. and leave together.

Dec. 13: Christmas Tree Decorating Party. 5:30 p.m. at Church in the hall.

Dec. 20: Knott's Merry Farm. Knott's will be converted to a Christmas theme. We will leave form Church and return in the evening.

Goya is 7th grade to 12th grade &
Jr. Goya is 4th grade to 6th grade.

For more info, call Bill Tragus at Church.

Orthodox Christian Fellowship A College Fellowship group

OCF are college and university students who come together on campuses for fellowship, to learn more about Orthodox Christian Faith and maintain their bonds to the church during this critical time of life.

The National programs are: **College Conference** at St. Nicholas Ranch in December, **Real Break** – Short-term service projects, **The Basilleaf** – A student newsletter, **Vocation Grants**, **College Student Sunday** – on the 3rd Sunday of September, **OCF.net** – A focus point on-line where many OCF resources are available. For more info, www.ocf.net or call: (800) 919 - 7623

Philoptochos

Philoptochos Board Meetings are schedule on the second Wednesday of each month, and **General Meetings** are schedule on the fourth Wednesday of the month, except during lent when meetings are reschedule on Tuesdays. Please join us and learn how our chapter helps our Church and community. All Orthodox women are welcome to become members.

Tournament of Roses Parade

The Order of AHEPA will participate with a beautiful entry in the 2004 Tournament of Roses Parade. We like to remind you that the year 2004 is the year of the Summer Olympic Games which will take place in Athens, Greece. Our support to the effort of the AHEPA is very essential. For your contribution call toll free 866.88.GREEK or (1.866.7335) or www.ahepafloat.org or email@ahepafloat.org

Orthodox Radio Program

Come Receive The Light is the flagship radio program and is dedicated to spreading joy, hope and salvation in Jesus Christ while exploring Orthodox Christianity in contemporary society.

This unique, *half hour radio program* features religious news from around the world, inspirational and encouraging devotionals, exciting radio dramas of the lives of Christian Saints, and a thought provoking interview with a special guest.

Come Receive The Light will air *Saturdays at 6:00 PM. on KBRT 740 AM* starting June 21, 2003. Our Church supports this excellent program financially, along with St. Paul's Church, Irvine, St. Nicholas Church, Northridge, and St. Nicholas Antiochian Cathedral, Los Angeles. You can also support the program by sending your contributions to: Come Receive The Light, 815 N.E. 15th Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33304.

Orthodox Spiritual Retreat St. Nicholas Ranch, Oct. 31 – Nov. 2

Retreat Director: *Father John Chryssavgis*. Retreat theme: Spiritual Direction and Healing. Please come and enjoy this beautiful retreat located at St. Nicholas Ranch in Dunlap, Ca. Cost is \$130 per person or \$220 per couple. For more info call Retreat Coordinator Fofa Olson at (925) 687 – 8337.

Fall Magical Extravaganza – Nov. 29th

Hosted by St. John the Baptist in Anaheim at the Disneyland hotel. Featuring *Trio Bel Canto*. Hor d' oeuvres – 6:30 p.m. & dinner at 7:00 p.m. For Res., (714) 985 – 9934.

Southern California Ecumenical Council Ninety Year Anniversary

A symposium will kick off this ninety-day celebration on November 4, 2003 at Fuller Theological Seminary. Dr. Richard J. Mouw, president of Fuller Seminary, and Dr. Phillip A. Amerson, president of Claremont School of Theology, will discuss trends in ecumenism in these times of upheaval in the world and the future of the conciliar movement and ecumenical relations. Several members of the Council of Religious leaders will serve as respondents. Discussion, workshop and lunch will be included in the 10 am – 2 pm symposium.

The 90th anniversary celebration will conclude on February 1, 2004 with the annual ecumenical service marking the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The service, which will be held at Our Lady of the Angeles Cathedral, will be followed by a reception and a tour. Other activities during the 90 day celebration will be announced as plans fall into place.

**Father Efstathios V. Mylonas
40th Anniversary of Ordination to the
Holy Priesthood**

On January 17, 2004 the Feastday of St. Anthony The Great we will celebrate the Divine Liturgy in the morning. That evening at 6:00 p.m. we will have an Anniversary dinner to celebrate Father's Ordination to the Holy Priesthood at the Annandale Golf Club.

Please save the date. There is a limited amount of space for reservations, so please make them early. For more information, call Maria Grover.
Ph: (626) 844 - 7584

**St. Sophia Camp
Golf Tournament**

Friday Nov. 7 at 11:00 a.m. at Rio Hondo golf Club. Proceeds go to St. Sophia Camp. Awards, dinner and Raffle at the St. Sophia Center. Non golfers welcome. For reservations call Georgia (213) 380 - 4228.

**Spiritual Odyssey 2003
Irvine, Ca**

St. Paul's Greek Orthodox Church is hosting Fr. Thomas Hopko, former Dean of St. Vladimir's Orthodox Seminary and author of "All the Fullness of God", "The Winter Pasha", "The Lenten Spring."

Friday, Nov. 7 and Saturday, Nov. 8. Registration: \$20. A reception will follow the Friday evening presentation. Lunch will be provided on Saturday afternoon. Childcare provided during presentations.

Address: 4949 Alton Parkway, Irvine, CA 92604
For more info, call (949) 733 - 2366

General Assembly

The St. Anthony's Parish General Assembly will be on Sunday, November 16 at 1:00 p.m.

We will meet in the Church hall. A light lunch will be provided. Please come and support our parish.

New Year's Eve Party

Bring in 2004 with your family and friends at St. Anthony's. 7:30 appetizers, 8:30 dinner, 9:00 dancing. \$50 adults, \$25 kids. Catered food and great music. Proceeds to benefit our dance groups. Reservations, call Paula at (626) 462 - 9103