



From Father Anthony

You Must Read This

A few weeks ago I went to a continuing education Clergy Retreat, and as it happens we talked about how things are going at our parishes. I am awfully proud of what we have built, the fellowship that we share, and the stewardship we offer. But as I was listening to the accomplishments of others I began to think of the Churches mentioned in the book of Revelations in chapters 2 and 3. Of the 7 Churches evaluated by God, only two get clean bills of health, the other 5 have things that need work to greater or lesser degrees. So I began to look more critically to see from God's eyes what we can improve on and to ask questions: Are we a praying community, do we enjoy doing the services? Do we "study God's law day and night", searching to know Him better? We have a wonderful Philoptochos, but does it take away the responsibility from individuals for charitable work? Confession is one of the necessary sacraments for our salvation and do we understand it and make regular use of it? Do we share our faith in a winsome fashion in an educated and articulate manner? Are we concerned and supportive of missions? All these questions came to me as I began to think more deeply about the ministry of St. Philothea. We have always been in survival mode, but we must now change from survival mode to management mode as we become more financially stable.

Who are we? What is our mission? The answers to these two critical questions should guide our every decision, and attitude. We are the body of Christ, His hands and feet in the world, with Christ as our head. Our mission is to continue His work in the world which is to baptize and make disciples of all nations; to feed the hungry, to clothe the naked, to visit those in prison. Any decision we make as a Church should lead us to fulfilling our mission more completely, and in our discussions and dialogues our agenda should be "how can we do it better."

Rather than have budget based ministry we should have ministry based budget. That is, we should outline the ministries we need for our community and beyond and then develop the budget to make sure those ministries happen. Right now we survive with our festival, but one day it would be nice if 100% of the festival funds go to charity, as is the case in some communities. We can start with 10% next year and grow into it.

Can we survive financially without festival money? A ministry based Church will attract more stewards which will eventually make up for Festival revenues that we can then give to charity.

The mechanics for making this happen are for each of us to take personal responsibility for the gifts of the Holy Spirit that have been given to us. There are no anonymous Christians. We can not come to church and remain spectators. Each of us has been given a gift by God for the up building of the body of Christ, and the body suffers if we do not use it. We have to be "new wine skins" that are flexible and responsive to the leading of the Holy Spirit. Then we will become more spiritually healthy, and we will work smarter, not harder. We will also experience a deep and abiding love, fulfillment and intimacy with God.

As the economy grows worse, St. Philothea can be poised to look ahead and be in a position to minister to our faithful and our community through good stewardship of the gifts God has given us.

May it be blessed.
Fr. Anthony

Spaghetti Dinners are every Thursday night from 6:00 to 8:00 pm and are open to the public. *Please plan to come and bring your friends.* \$6 for adults include a generous and delicious entrée of spaghetti with meat or marinara sauce, salad, garlic bread, beverage and gourmet desserts by Ken. Also remember to distribute the promotional cards to your local doctors' offices and retail shops. They can be picked up during coffee hour every Sunday. Please plan to come support our spaghetti dinner crew by setting up or cleaning up once a month...or once a quarter. Many hands make light the work—and it is fun too!
****Set Up is from 4:00 to 6:00 pm
****Clean Up is from 7:30 to 8:45 pm

Greek Festival Raffle was a tremendous success this year and we want to thank everyone who sold tickets and especially thank the many Associate Members who supported us by mailing in their donations. We are very happy to announce the following winners:

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|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 st Prize: | G. Skoufis of Atlanta |
| 2 nd Prize | E. Scurtis of Miami |
| 3 rd Prize | R. Holt of Athens |
| 4 th Prize | P. Lavelle of Oconee County |
| 5 th Prize | B. Smith of Bethlehem, GA |

Archangel Michael Feast and Honors Nov. 8th. Vespers 5:00 p.m. We will honor Presbytera Christine and Stacey Sprouse for their service. Sta Anoteria, to higher things.

Parish Council Retreat at Nina Herrington's house Sat. Nov. 8th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Day Light Savings Time ends Nov. 2 at 2:00 a.m. Fall Back 1 hour.

Nativity Fast begins Nov. 15th. This spiritual discipline will help us as we prepare to celebrate the Birth of our Lord.

Narthex Furniture Report We have \$2,500 set aside for Narthex furniture. The cost is estimated to be \$5,000. If you would like to contribute towards this project please help us complete our goal, we are almost there.

St. Philothea is high tech!

See the on-line parish calendar for all the latest information. You can find it through the St. Philothea homepage: <http://www.stphilothea.ga.goarch.org/>
*Marswood Hall Calendar
<http://calendar.goarch.org/cgi-bin/calweb/calweb.exe?level=marswoodhall>

Parish News: Much parish information is shared through the parish listserv. All you need is an e-mail address!

The Bookstore: The Bookstore is open every Sunday after the Divine Liturgy and has a wonderful collection of resources to enrich our spiritual lives.

*Announcements for the bulletin can be emailed to

Greekgirl1087@aol.com



Gospel & Epistle Readings

| | | |
|------------|--------------------------|--|
| 11/2/2008 | Matins: John 20:19-31 | Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 1:11-19 |
| | Gospel: Luke 16:19-31 | |
| 11/9/2008 | Matins: John 21:1-14 | Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 2:16-20 |
| | Gospel: Luke 8:41-56 | |
| 11/16/2008 | Matins: John 21:14-25 | Epistle: St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 4:9-16 |
| | Gospel: Matthew 9:9-13 | |
| 11/23/2008 | Matins: Matthew 28:16-20 | Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians 2:4-10 |
| | Gospel: Luke 12:16-21 | |
| 11/30/2008 | Matins: Mark 16:1-8 | Epistle: St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 4:9-16 |
| | Gospel: John 1:35-52 | |

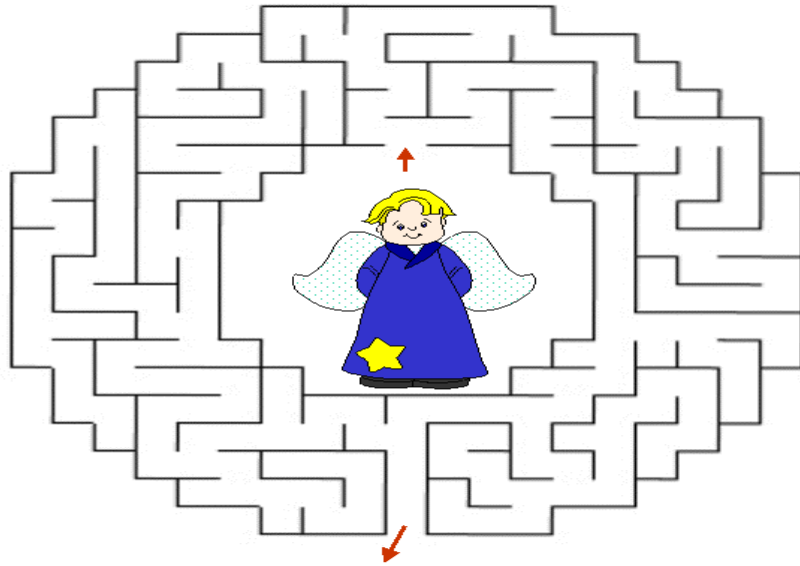
COFFEE HOUR HOST

| | |
|------------|---|
| 2- Nov | Covered Dish Knisely |
| 9- Nov | Lambros |
| 16- Nov | Advent Fast Begins Lamson |
| 23- Nov | Lieffring |
| 30- Nov | Lubimov & O'Malley |
| 7- Dec | Mahoney |
| 14- Dec | Covered Dish Majsztrik & Moore |
| 21- Dec | Pagonis & Papadopoulos |
| 28- Dec | E. Pappas |
| 4- Jan | Covered Dish Parthemos & Manzione |
| 11- Jan | Pottier |
| 18- Jan | Ragan |
| 25- Jan | Salzman |
| 1- Feb | Covered Dish Shih |
| 8- Feb | Shurdha & Seiss |

| | |
|------------|---------------------------------|
| 15- Feb | Spring |
| 22- Feb | Stiles |
| 1- Mar | Covered Dish Svoronos |
| 8- Mar | Great Lent Tseggai |
| 15- Mar | Vlahos |
| 22- Mar | Volk |
| 29- Mar | Wright |
| 5- Apr | Covered Dish |
| 12- Apr | |
| 19- Apr | Holy Pascha |
| 26- Apr | |
| 3- May | Covered Dish |
| 10- May | |
| 17- May | |
| 24- May | |
| 31- May | |

Angels of the Bible Maze

Help the angel get the message to you!



Draw a picture of yourself here!

FOOD FROM THE FATHERS AND MOTHERS

Ordinary human life is built up and maintained by an interaction between various life undertakings, crafts and arts - that is, one man does one thing, another does another and offers it for the use of his fellow men; thus people live by giving and taking and so satisfy their bodily needs.

The same can be seen in spiritual life: one practices one virtue, another another; one chooses one path of life, another a different one, but all of them together pursue one aim, mutually helping one another.

~St. Symeon the New Theologian, Writings From the Philokalia on the Prayer of the Heart.

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Treasurer: Andrew Shih

Secretary: Ann Volk

Panos Dekazos, Nina Herrington, Paul Lavelle, Constantine Wright, Steve Demos

Sunday school:

Director: Presbytera, Christine Salzman

Philoptochos Board:

President: Ann Volk

Secretary: Rose Lieftring

Treasurer: Presbytera, Christine Salzman

Advisor: Karen Kimberis

Building Maintenance Chair:

Bill Mahoney

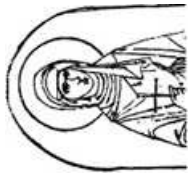
Hospitality Chairs:

Georgia Parthemos and Lynn Manzione

Bulletin:

Writer: Kacina Lamson

Editor: Father Anthony



St. Philothea Greek Orthodox Church Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Atlanta

| November 2008 | | | | | | |
|--|-----|--|--|--|---|--|
| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thur | Fri | Sat |
| 26 St. Demetrios the Myrrhbearer 9:00a Orthros and Divine Liturgy 1:00p Shih Baptism | 27 | 28 | 29 6:15p Paraclesis | 30 6:00p Spaghetti Dinner \$6 Adults, \$3 Children under 12 6:30p Catechumen Class | 31 12:00p Rehearsal? | 1 Kosmas and Damianos 12:00p Howington wedding reception, Lucian |
| 2 8:00a Day Light Savings Ends 9:00a Orthros and Divine Liturgy 11:00a Memorial Bertha Bourney | 3 | 4 12:00p Rotary 7-8am | 5 6:15p Services 7:00p Choir Practice | 6 6:00p Spaghetti Dinner \$6 Adults, \$3 Children under 12 6:30p Catechumen Class | 7 | 8 9:00a Parish Council Retreat 12:00p Adams-reception 5:00p Archangel Michael Vespers and Banquet |
| 9 9:00a Orthros and Divine Liturgy | 10 | 11 | 12 6:15p Services | 13 6:00p Spaghetti Dinner \$6 Adults, \$3 Children under 12 6:30p Catechumen Class | 14 Gregory Palamas 6:00p Rehearsal (Rose) | 15 Nativity Fast Begins 12:00p Johnson, Tasha reception-chapel-c. Constantine |
| 16 Matthew the Apostle 9:00a Orthros and Divine Liturgy 12:00p General Assembly, Nominations, Budget, Marswood Hall | 17 | 18 | 19 6:15p Services 7:00p Parish Council | 20 6:00p Spaghetti Dinner \$6 Adults, \$3 Children under 12 6:30p Catechumen Class | 21 Entrance of the Theotokos | 22 12:00p LaBlanc reception, Ken |
| 23 9:00a Orthros and Divine Liturgy 12:00p MoD meeting | 24 | 25 St. Katherine the Great Martyr | 26 6:15p Services | 27 Thanksgiving | 28 | 29 12:00p Richburg Reception, Constantine |
| 30 Andrew the First Called Apostle 9:00a Orthros and Divine Liturgy | 1 | 2 | 3 6:15p Services | 4 6:00p Spaghetti Dinner \$6 Adults, \$3 Children under 12 6:30p Catechumen Class | 5 12:00p Corly rehearsal | 6 12:00p Corley Lauren-wedding-c-reception |

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