



From Father Anthony

The Non-Negotiables

“What is the Church?”, asked Fr. Steven Dalber at our Parish planning retreat Jan. 17th. The answer may seem obvious but we get different emphasis and different answers depending on who you ask. He offered a definition that Christ Himself put forth in His Great Commission in the Gospel of Matthew 28:19-20. “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always even to the end of the age.” The Church is the body of Christ, the divine/human institution with

Christ as its head, we his hands and feet on earth continuing the work that He began. To be specific Christ healed, preached, prayed, fed, comforted, prophesized, and this is what He asks His body to continue doing until He comes again. This then is the mission of the Church. Four areas of activity in the Church are Worship, Witness, Service and Fellowship. Any activity that we undertake should satisfy as many of these areas as possible. The next question is “How do we carry that out in our place?” The answer is that we come together as a community and each take responsibility as members of Christ’s body of different ministries within the Church. Some feel called to be in choir and make beautiful music. Others want to keep the Church supplied and clean to make worship a beautiful experience. Some want to help raise money so that we can have a place to worship. Some want to teach, mentor and make disciples. Some want to reach out to the community around us to help them better understand the Orthodox faith. Some want to go on mission trips with the support of the community. Some want to start ministries that address the myriad of needs of the people around us. We listen to each other, and we support each other. We look at what we are doing and see if it fulfills the Great Commission of Christ. If it does not then we try and fix it so it does, or we abandon it. And if someone has a better way of doing something, we consider it and find the best way to do it, because it is not about me, it is about Christ and His Church. Our job is to “Get out of the way of the Holy Spirit” so that people who are not Orthodox Christians can clearly see the body of Christ and enter it through baptism and chrismation. This is what it means to be a member of the body of Christ, a “Christ”ian. If you have another idea, then you have to change your idea, because this is what Christ Himself tells us we are. At our retreat we formed ministries and began to set goals for the coming year. Dimitri Lambros is the head of the Council of Ministries and will be meeting with each area head to find out what each ministry in their category will be undertaking. This will be taking place over the coming weeks so that at the General Assembly on March 8th, 2009 we will hear about the ministries as well as vote on the budget for the coming year.

We face many opportunities in the coming year, may God inspire us to meet them with faith, wisdom and courage.

Fr. Anthony

Parish Happenings

Church Finances:

- Please inform the Treasurer and the Parish Council of all expenses that require reimbursements or direct payment by the Church before the commitment is made. This will ensure that the Church has adequate funds to cover the expense.
- The Church finances are now being processed in Quick Books. Therefore all expenses requiring payment should include the full name of the person/business, the payment address, and if possible, a contact phone number. This will help build a more complete database of vendors/suppliers and speed up the payment issuance process.

St. Philothea Oratorical Festival: On February 22, St. Philothea will host our parish St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival. All 7 - 12th graders are encouraged to participate. Information about the festival, junior/senior division topics and can be obtained from **Jason Carter**, Rose Lieffring, or online at:

www.goarch.org/archdiocese/departments/religious/sjcof.

This program offers a great opportunity for our youth to explore the Orthodox faith and to learn to share their knowledge about our faith with others. Additionally, scholarship monies are offered to those who place at the Metropolis level.

Children's Bulletin: Each week you can print out an educational and fun booklet for your children to enrich their Orthodox faith and knowledge. This is a wonderful activity for parents to use at home with their children. The link can be found on our website under "Parish Life" or at <http://www.stphilothea.ga.goarch.org/ParishLife.htm>

A big thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of Oconee County's Secret Santa Program. We collected over 50 gifts and 20 gift cards that went to needy children in the area!

St. Philothea Nameday Celebration Our Nameday is Feb. 19th. We will celebrate Sunday Feb. 15th with an Artoclasia, Vespers Feb. 18th at 6 p.m. p.m. Divine Liturgy Feb. 19th at 7 a.m.

General Assembly Sunday March 8th to pass the 2009 budget and to learn more about our new "Council of Ministries".

Souper Bowl Sunday is Feb. 1st Please bring can goods and \$5 for IOCC to celebrate the Souper Bowl.

Evening in Greece Will be on Sat. Feb. 21st. Tickets and posters are available for distribution. Please collect donations for the silent auction, see Stacey Cramer. Set up will begin Wed. Feb. 18th and continue each evening thru Friday. See Barb Knisely to sign up to help.

Philoptochos Meeting: Tuesday, February 3rd, 6:30 p.m. at the Church for anyone who would like to attend.

*Announcements for the bulletin can be emailed to Greekgirl1087@aol.com

FOOD FROM THE FATHERS AND MOTHERS

You have thus learned, beloved, that the Kingdom of God is within you; that, if you desire it, all the eternal good things are also in your hands.

Therefore hurry and see, and receive, and hold within yourself the good things which are stored up, and take care lest, by thinking you possess them already, you be deprived of all of them.

Weep and make prostrations. As the blind man once said, so should you say even now: 'Have mercy on me, Son of David, and open the eyes of my soul, so that I may see the light of the world, even You, Who art God, and may become, even I, a son of the day; so that You may not abandon me, O Good, One, as unworthy and without a share in Your divinity.'

St. Symeon the New Theologian, On the Mystical life, Vol. 2.

**GOYA -- Greek Orthodox Youth of America -
-Upcoming Events**

- **GOYA MEETING & WII PIZZA PARTY:** Friday Feb 13th at 6:30 at Father & Presbyteria's house. You may bring either \$3 per person or soft drinks or other snacks. Please call Presbyteria by Feb. 10th (706-310-1304) if you plan to come. Bring your remotes!
- **LENTEN RETREAT:** There are two weekends scheduled for the Lenten GOYA retreat: February 27 – March 1, and March 6 -8 and Father Anthony's Iconography Workshop will be conducted on the first weekend. Please see Presby. Christine for registration forms and if you are interested in attending. For more information visit: http://www.atlmetropolis.org/index.php?pr=Youth_Diakonia
- **LAZARUS SATURDAY:** April 11: Liturgy, Youth Confession, Sunday School Breakfast, Palm Folding and Church Cleaning
- **GOOD FRIDAY VIGIL:** April 17: Keep vigil at the tomb of Christ reading the Psalter from the end of the Lamentations Service until the beginning of the Holy Saturday Liturgy at 9:00 am.
- **CROSSROADS:** 10 day summer program at Holy Cross School of Theology campus to explore your vocations and direction after high school. Applications are available at www.crossroad.hchc.edu Dates are June 20-30 or July 7 -17, 2009.

- **ST STEPHENS CAMP:** Registration forms will be available on January 30th. There are three sessions this summer and they sell out fast. If you want to go, plan on sending in your forms right away. Father and Presbyteria will probably attend the 2nd session. The sessions are as follows:
Session I July 12 – 18,
Session II July 19 – 25,
Session III July 26 – Aug 1
For more information visit:
http://www.atlmetropolis.org/index.php?pr=Youth_Diakonia

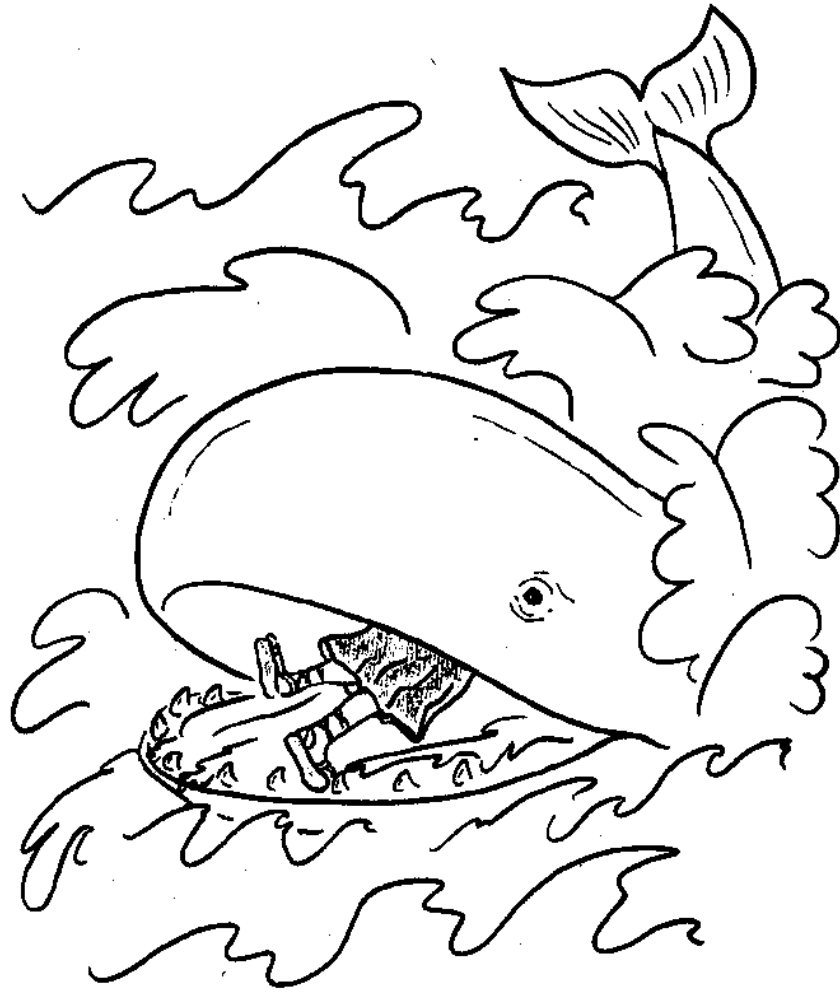
COFFEE HOUR HOST

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

Gospel & Epistle Readings

- 2/1/2009 Matins: John 21:14-25 Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Romans 8:28-39 Gospel: Matthew 15:21-28
- 2/8/2009 Matins: Matthew 28:16-20 Epistle: St. Paul's Second Letter to Timothy 3:10-15 Gospel: Luke 18:10-14
- 2/15/2009 Matins: Mark 16:1-8 Epistle: St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 6:12-20 Gospel: Luke 15:11-32
- 2/22/2009 Matins: Mark 16:9-20 Epistle: St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 8:8-13; 9:1-2 Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

KIDS CORNER



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Vice-President: Paul Lavelle

Treasurer: Andrew Shih

Secretary: Ann Volk

Demetrios Lambros, Kurt Knisely, Constantine Wright, Steve Demos, Panos Dekazos

Council of Ministries Chair:

Demetri Lambros

Sunday school:

Directors: Elaine Lambros and Tara Mahoney

Philoptochos Board:

President: Ann Volk

Secretary: Rose Lieffring

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 **Publisher:** Rose Lieffring

St. Philothea Greek Orthodox Church, Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America Calendar

Feb 2009 (Eastern Time)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p> <p>Sunday of the Canaanite</p> <p>9am - Orthros 10am - Teaching Liturgy 11am - Covered Dish</p>	<p>2</p> <p>The Presentation of Our</p> <p>6:30pm - Philoptochos</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Symeon the God-</p> <p>6:15pm - Service 7pm - Choir Practice</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Wednesday of Publican</p> <p>6pm - Spaghetti Dinner</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Thursday of Publican and</p> <p>6pm - Spaghetti Dinner</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Friday of Publican and</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Saturday of Publican and</p>
<p>8</p> <p>Sunday of the Publican</p> <p>9am - Orthros 10am - Divine Liturgy 11am - Coffee Hour</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Monday of Prodigal Son</p> <p>7pm - Finance</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Haralambos the Holy</p> <p>6pm - Adult 7pm - Choir Practice</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Wednesday of Prodigal</p> <p>6pm - Spaghetti Dinner</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Thursday of Prodigal Son</p> <p>6pm - Spaghetti Dinner</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Friday of Prodigal Son</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Saturday of Prodigal Son</p> <p>12pm - Rodriguez</p>
<p>15</p> <p>Sunday of Prodigal Son</p> <p>9am - Orthros 10am - Divine Liturgy 11am - Coffee Hour</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Meatfare Monday</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Meatfare Tuesday</p> <p>7pm - Parish Council</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Meatfare Wednesday</p> <p>7am - Nameday Liturgy</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Meatfare Thursday</p> <p>St. Philothea</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Meatfare Friday</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Saturday of Souls</p> <p>7pm - Evening in Greece</p>
<p>22</p> <p>Judgment Sunday</p> <p>9am - Orthros 10am - Divine Liturgy 11am - Coffee Hour</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Cheesefare Monday</p>	<p>24</p> <p>First & Second Finding of</p> <p>6pm - Adult 7pm - Choir Practice</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Tarasios, Patriarch of</p> <p>6pm - Spaghetti Dinner</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Cheesefare Thursday</p> <p>6pm - Spaghetti Dinner</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Prokopios the Confessor</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Righteous John Cassian</p> <p>12pm - Ramos Party</p>



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Volume 16 – Issue 2
February 2009