



## From Father Anthony

### **“The Lord Has Need of It”**

This is Christ’s answer when he tells the disciples to go take the foal of an ass for him to ride on His triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Look at it from the owner’s perspective. You are minding your own business when some fisherman, come up to your house and start to take your transportation. Today’s equivalent might be your motorcycle or your pickup truck.

Your response, “hey what is going on here, that is my donkey, you aren’t going any where with that, Jezebel call the police.” The fishermen reply “The Lord Has Need of It”. That explains everything, so you let it go; which is precisely what happened. “The Lord has need of it” was all the owner had to hear and it put everything in perspective i.e. the Big Picture. When the owner heard “Lord” it could only mean “The Lord” the God of the Universe, the creator, the owner of all things. What else could explain the release of so valuable asset without question?

Would we not respond in the same way if we were told “God wants to use your \_\_\_\_\_ today, He has need of it, please give it to His disciples? If you substitute talent for donkey we have a similar scenario. God wants to use your “talent” today, He has need of it, please give it to His disciples. As the man in our story, wouldn’t we immediately consent to such a request, if we understood the explanation “The Lord has need of it”? Christ Himself, the Master of the universe, the one through whom all things were created, has given you your abilities and talents and He comes to you and requests your talent to minister to His body the Church because “He has need of it”. In the Gospel of Matthew, Christ explains to His disciples what His followers are to expect out of life and how they are to behave. “And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it. He who receives you receives Me, and He who receives Me receives Him who sent Me. And whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward.” (Mat. 10:38-40,42) The smallest gesture done in the name of a disciple even, will not lose its reward.

God has blessed each of us with skills and talents and has asked us to use them in His body the Church for the salvation of the world. Even if it is the smallest thing, ‘a cold cup of water’ it is

distracted by anything or mission to respond to are too busy to come to accepted His invitation, those who offer their

“It wasn’t the quantity that was important it was the act of faith and love”.

important to Him. Don’t be any body from completing your Christ. Christ chastises those who His banquet after having already i.e. become Christians. He rewards talents and multiply them through

use, but condemns and punishes the one who buries it in the ground. He highlights the widow who offered two mites, everything she had, and says she has given more than those who have put in great sums, because they give out of their abundance. It wasn't the quantity that was important it was the act of faith and love. Please come to **St. Philothea's 2009 Planning Workshop** on Saturday Jan. 17<sup>th</sup> from 8-12. We will start at 8:00 a.m. with a Divine Liturgy for the feast of St. Anthony, followed by breakfast and a workshop to evaluate the needs of our community, how we can meet those needs, and how we can improve the ministries we have already undertaken. Fr. Steve Dalber of St. Nektarios will be with us to share the model they have used with great success. Please plan on coming because "**The Lord has Need of It**".

In Christ's service,

Fr. Anthony

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### Gospel & Epistle Readings

**1/4/2009 Matins:** John 20:1-10 **Epistle:** St. Paul's Second Letter to Timothy 4:5-8 **Gospel:** Mark 1:1-8

**1/11/2009 Matins:** John 20:11-18 **Epistle:** St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 13:7-16 **Gospel:** Matthew  
4:12-17

**1/18/2009 Matins:** John 20:19-31 **Epistle:** St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 13:7-16 **Gospel:** Luke  
17:12-19

**1/25/2009 Matins:** John 21:1-14 **Epistle:** St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 7:26-28; 8:1-2 **Gospel:** Luke  
19:1-10

### FOOD FROM THE FATHERS AND MOTHERS

This truly is the vision of God: never to be satisfied in the desire to see Him. But one must always, by looking at what he can see, rekindle his desire to see more. Thus, no limit would interrupt growth in the ascent to God, since no limit to the Good can be found nor is the increasing of desire for the Good brought to an end because it is satisfied.

St. Gregory of Nyssa, The Life of Moses

## Parish Happenings

**Google Calendar** is being launched in this issue. It will take a little getting used to, change always does, but give it a chance and I think you will see it is a more flexible and expansive tool.

**Vasillopita and Swearing in of Parish Council Members** will take place Sunday January 4<sup>th</sup> after the Divine Liturgy.

**Epiphany Schedule** for Monday Jan. 5<sup>th</sup>. Orthros (5:00 pm) and Divine Liturgy (6:00 pm) followed by the Blessing of the Waters. It is a strict fast day as we prepare to receive Agiasmo, Holy Water.

**St. Philothea Planning Day:** Everyone is invited to come and plan for ministries in the coming year from bookstore, to choir, to festival, to charity work, to worship services, everyone's help is needed in serving one another in the coming year. Divine Liturgy at 8:00 a.m. followed by breakfast and planning. Fr. Steve Dalber of St. Nektarios in Charlotte will be our guest speaker.

**House Blessings:** Sign up to have your house blessed on Jan. 17<sup>th</sup>, afternoon, Jan. 24<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Spaghetti Dinner, Choir, Catechumen Class and Adult Education** What do these events have in common? Choir practices will be on Wednesday's except the third Wednesday of the month because of Parish Council meetings. On those Wednesday's (the third of the month) choir practice will move to Thursday

night. On those Thursday's we need extra help with spaghetti dinner because our spaghetti workers are singing waiters and waitresses and must practice with the choir that night; thus we need extra help in the kitchen those evenings. Adult education and Catechumen class will alternate Wednesdays, see times on calendar.

**Open House:** The Salzman's will have an open house Sat. January 3<sup>rd</sup> beginning at 7:00 p.m. come by for the 4 F's fire, food, fellowship and a whole lot of fun.

**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/CB.pdf>

**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/>  
\*Parish and Marswood Hall Calendar <http://www.stphilothea.ga.goarch.org/Calendar.htm>

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

\*Announcements for the bulletin can be emailed to [Greekgirl1087@aol.com](mailto:Greekgirl1087@aol.com)

## COFFEE HOUR HOST

4-Jan	Covered Dish <b>Parthemos &amp; Manzione</b>
11-Jan	<b>Pottier</b>
18-Jan	<b>Ragan</b>
25-Jan	<b>Salzman</b>
1-Feb	Covered Dish <b>Shih</b>
8-Feb	<b>Shurdha &amp; Seiss</b>
15-Feb	<b>Spring</b>
22-Feb	<b>Stiles</b>
1-Mar	Covered Dish <b>Svoronos</b>

8-Mar	Great Lent <b>Tseggai</b>
15-Mar	<b>Vlahos</b>
22-Mar	<b>Volk</b>
29-Mar	<b>Wright</b>
5-Apr	Covered Dish
12-Apr	
19-Apr	Holy Pascha
26-Apr	
3-May	Covered Dish



# KIDS CORNER

Cut out the puzzle below and see if you can put it back together!



## **St. Philothea Directory:**

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### *Parish Council:*

President: Stacey Cramer

Treasurer: Andrew Shih

Secretary: Ann Volk

Panos Dekazos, Kurt Knisely, Paul Lavelle, Constantine Wright,  
Steve Demos, and Demetrios Lambros

### *Sunday school:*

Director: Tara Mahoney and Elaine Lambros

### *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, Publisher Rose Lieftring

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

Jan 2009 (Eastern Time)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 Sunday after Nativity WYR and CC South 9am - Orthros 10am - Divine Liturgy 11am - Coffee Hour	29 14,000 infants (Holy) WYR and CC South	30 Anysia the Virgin-martyr of WYR and CC South	31 Apodosis of the Nativity of CC South 6:15pm - Wednesday Evening	1 Basil the Great, Archbishop of 9am - Divine Liturgy St. Basil	2 Forefeast of the Theophany of 12pm - Lee Rehearsal	3 Saturday before Epiphany 12pm - Lee Wedding and
4 Sunday before Epiphany 9am - Orthros 10am - Divine Liturgy 11am - Coffee Hour	5 Eye of the Theophany of Our Strict Fast 5pm - Theophany, Orthros 6pm - Divine Liturgy 7pm - Blessing of Waters	6 The Theophany of Our Lord	7 Synaxis of John the Holy 6pm - Adult Ed/Catechumen 7pm - Choir Practice	8 George the Chozebite 6pm - Spaghetti Dinner 7pm - OCF Dinner and	9 Polyseuctos the Martyr of	10 Saturday after Epiphany
11 Sunday after Epiphany 9am - Orthros 10am - Divine Liturgy 11am - Coffee Hour	12 Tatiana the Martyr of Rome	13 Hermyllos & Stratonikos the 11am - OCF Bulldog Cafe 11-	14 Leavetaking of the Theophany 6:15pm - Service 7pm - Choir Practice	15 John the Cave Dweller 6pm - Spaghetti Dinner	16 John the Merciful, Patriarch of	17 Anthony the Great 8am - St. Philothea Planning
18 12th Sunday of Luke 9am - Orthros 10am - Divine Liturgy 11am - Coffee Hour	19 Makaros the Great of Egypt	20 Righteous Euthymios the	21 Maximos the Confessor 6pm - Adult Ed/Catechumen 7pm - Parish Council	22 Timothy the Apostle of the 70 6pm - Spaghetti Dinner 7pm - Choir Practice 7pm - OCF D & D	23 Clement the Hieromartyr & 12pm - Rotary Club - Italian	24 Xenia, Deaconess of Rome
25 15th Sunday of Luke 9am - Orthros 10am - Divine Liturgy 11am - Coffee Hour	26 Xenophon & his Companions	27 Removal of the Relics of John 11am - OCF Bulldog Cafe 11-	28 Ephraim the Syrian 6:15pm - Service 7pm - Choir Practice	29 Removal of the Relics of 6pm - Spaghetti Dinner	30 Synaxis of The Three 7am - Divine Liturgy Three	31 Cyrus & John the



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