



from Father Anthony

The Resurrection is the Key to Life

Turn on the news today and you will hear the demolition and destruction of everything traditional and sacred. Everything is being questioned, every value is being challenged. Marriage is being redefined, abortion is still a scourge on our nation's conscience, we are surrounded by domestic abuse, child abuse, and sexual abuse. It is a pretty bleak picture. Every spiritual law is being hard pressed on every side. People are refusing to obey its dictates or accept the consequences. The very existence of a spiritual world is in question, let alone a belief in a personal loving God.

There remains however, one limit we can not reject. It is not a respecter of persons and is referred to as the great equalizer. That is death. It stares us in the face and forces us to make sense of the life we live. It is ever present starring us down, pressing us to make decisions, to draw conclusions. It is the ultimate enemy, the ultimate defeat. If love, life, happiness and virtue end with the grave and we are launched into utter darkness and nothingness, then being virtuous loses its immortal appeal and ability to motivate in the here and now. That is, if there is no resurrection; if there is no life beyond the grave. St. Paul says it best when he writes:

If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all men most to be pitied (I Cor. 15:17-19).

Fr. Anthony Coniaris writes, "At Easter we celebrate the solution of the greatest problem man faces: death. If there is no resurrection, says St. Paul, our faith is empty. If there is no resurrection, love stops with death. God's love cannot reach beyond the grave. If there is no resurrection, there is no justice. The books will never be balanced. Truth, virtue, goodness will remain crucified, forever."

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead. Therefore our faith is not futile. Love, goodness, kindness, gentleness, they all live beyond the grave. What we do in this life matters. With that understanding and hope then we are able to make sense of life. We are able to persevere in doing good, in serving our neighbor. We do not succumb to fear that would focus all our energies on our own survival, but through faith are able to reach out to those in need around us, and to be Christ's hands and feet in this world.

Death in its finality forces us to be clear about life. Because Christ has risen from the dead as He foretold, we are given hope, purpose, fortitude, and conviction. Let us proclaim it to the whole world, "Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!"

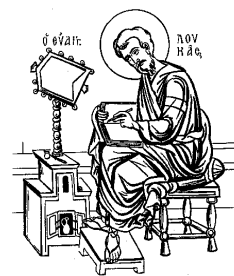
Kalo Pascha,

Good Pascha,

Fr. Anthony

Sunday Epistle and Gospel Readings:

	<u>Epistle</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
April 4	Philippians 4:4-9	John 12:1-18
April 11	Acts 1:1-8	John 1:1-17
April 18	Acts 5:12-20	John 20:19-31
April 25	1st Peter 5:6-14	Mark 15:43-47; 16:1-8



Church Etiquette

Due to several requests for this information, we will be repeating sections of our previous Church Etiquette feature over the next several months.



Andithoron (the blessed bread):

When receiving Andithoron from the Priest, we should kiss his hand as we receive it. We should then keep it cupped in our hands until we have eaten it. We put both our hands together in the form of a cross and cup them so that we can catch the crumbs.

If you see a crumb or piece that has fallen to the floor, you should pick it up, kiss it, and either eat it or place it somewhere people do not step.

We never throw Andithoron into a trash can; after all, it's not trash, it's blessed bread. If there is leftover Andithoron, it is to be given to the faithful and the crumbs are placed where they may be eaten by the birds.

Please watch children as they eat their Andithoron so they don't leave it on the pew or other inappropriate places.

Parish Family News

Break a Leg!

Elizabeth Mahoney will be performing in the OYP production of Oliver! on Saturday evening, April 3, and Sunday afternoon, April 4. She will be appearing in Act 1 as an orphan in the workhouse. Let's give our support to our newest rising star!

If you have any parish family news (birth, churcing, graduation, award, engagement, marriage, retirement, etc.) that you would like included in a monthly bulletin, please e-mail Jennifer Gess: jklewis@mindspring.com

Parish Happenings

Door Opening

As most of you know the Door Opening for our new home will be Saturday June 5th. The Door Opening is scheduled for 4:30 followed by Vespers from 5:00 to 6:00, and a banquet with dinner, entertainment, speeches and a Greek band at 6:30. This promises to be a beautiful and memorable event! There will be no set cost for the celebration, rather, it will be a free will offering. As we prepare to send invitations to people from other parishes we need to know how many people from our parish will be able to attend the Door Opening. Please contact Nina Herrington as soon as possible and let her know how many adults and children will be able to attend. Nina can be reached at 546-7341.

Confession

Confession is available with Fr. Peter Smith at St. Mary of Egypt in Lilburn. Call the church for an appointment 770-923-7790.

Lenten Services and Catechumen

Remember that during Lent we have services every Wednesday and Friday. Wednesdays are the Pre-Sanctified Liturgies, followed by a Lenten Meal and the Catechumen Class which will meet from approximately 7:30 to 8:15 p.m. All are welcome to come learn and share more about Orthodoxy, its faith, teachings, history and dogmas.

Fridays are the Salutations to the Virgin Mary from 7-8 p.m.

Kali Sarakosti!

Philoptochos News

Philoptochos will be holding the annual yard sale fundraiser in the fall. Remember during your spring cleaning to set aside any items that could be donated to the yard sale.

The next general Philoptochos meeting will be on Sunday, April 18 following the Divine Liturgy.

St. Stephens Summer Camp

Application for St. Stephens summer camp are in. The camp will be held this year at the Diakonia Center July 11-17 and July 18-24. Each session can hold 100 campers. Camp is for students who will be entering 7th-12th grades in the fall. Sign up now to reserve a spot.

Ionian Village

Applications are now being accepted for Ionian Village. It is an exceptional program of spiritual and cultural adventure, not to mention all the people you meet and the places you see. Contact Fr. Anthony if you are interested.

4th Annual IOCC 5K Run/Walk

This year's IOCC Run/Walk will take place on Saturday, April 24th at the Center Office Plaza. For registration forms and donations please contact Costa Panos at 404-325-5900.

Covered Dish Luncheon

Again, we will have our monthly covered dish luncheon Sunday, March 7, following the Divine Liturgy. Please bring lenten food to share.

Come Receive the Light

This weekly national Orthodox radio program can be heard in Athens on Saturday mornings at 9:30a.m. on 970 AM and the North Atlanta area on WLTA 1400 AM. To keep this ministry airing in the Atlanta area, please make donations to: Come Receive the Light- P.O. Box 4960, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida 33338.

Pictures and Video Needed

To help with our Door Opening we are trying to put together a video to be played during our celebration. If you have any photographs or video of our parish family, please contact Spyridon.



Treasurer's Report

Through February and the first week in March, income excluding ad sales was \$7129, with expenses of \$4792.

Ad sales for the Commemorative album came in at \$12,500. Congratulations to all who worked so hard to make it a success. Since expenses associated with the printing of the album have not been incurred yet, the balance in the treasury is artificially (temporarily) high (\$21,984).

If you choose to mail your pledges or contributions, address them to:

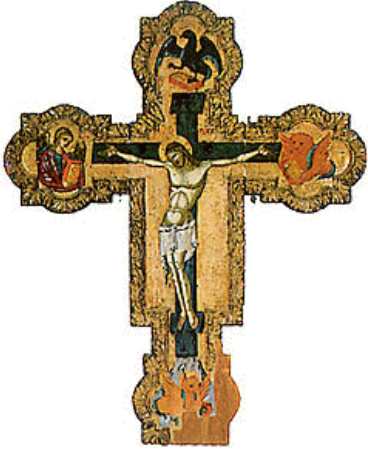
St. Philothea Greek Orthodox Church
c/o Bill Mahoney
482 E. Central Avenue
Madison, GA 30650

Secretary's Report

Highlights from the February 8 Parish Council meeting, submitted by Stacey Cramer:

- *The budget for 2004 was presented and approved at the General Assembly meeting on March 7th. The budget will be reviewed again in September.
- *There was approximately \$12,500 brought in by the ads from our com. album. We will net about \$8,000.
- *Project Safe will benefit by three collections per year from our church. They are always in need of children's toys.
- *A letter has been sent by the Stewardship Committee to all people that have not yet pledged.
- *Pascha will be celebrated at the Knisely's again this year.

Inspiration



The Nicene Creed says that Jesus was crucified for us. That means for you and me personally. So great and so personal is His love! He has borne my griefs, and carried my sorrows... He was wounded for my transgressions. He was bruised for my iniquities, the chastisement of my peace was upon Him, and with His stripes I am healed. For my sake He hangs on the cross. For my sins, For my forgiveness.

“For this purpose I have come to this hour” - for your forgiveness.

Dr. Blaise Pascal has been called the greatest mind that ever lived. In his book “A Short History of the Life of Jesus Christ” he wrote, “At midnight 23 November 1654, Jesus spoke to me and said, ‘Blaise, I was thinking of you in my agony.’” This experience caused Pascal to be converted. It made the crucifixion personal. “Blaise,” said the voice of Christ, “It was for you I did all this.” Jesus suffered, died, was buried, and rose again not for the humanity in general but for each one of us personally- for you.

“For this purpose I have come to this hour”- for you.

St. Tikhon, the great Russian saint, captured his thought when he wrote, “You (Lord) were sold and betrayed that we might be freed, we who were enslaved. You submitted to an unjust trial- You Who are the judge of all the earth- that we might be freed from eternal punishment. You were made naked in order to clothe us in robes of salvation... You were crowned with thorns that we might receive the crown of life... You were laid in a tomb that we might rise from the tomb...This You have done for us, your undeserving servants, O Lord.

“For this purpose I have come to this hour”- for your salvation, for your freedom, for your resurrection.

Both salvation and damnation begin at the cross. What do we do with the unspeakable love of God in Christ? Do we allow it to flood us like a river of light and transform us body, soul, and spirit? That is salvation. Or do we turn away with a shudder of apathy and plunge into darkness? That is hell.

“For this purpose I have come to this hour”- to save you from hell- not only the kind that begins beyond the grave but also the kind that begins here in this life.

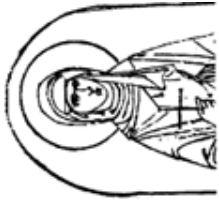
Taken from: The Great I Came's of Jesus by Fr. Anthony M. Coniaris, Light and Life Publishing, 1980.

Schedule of Lenten & Paschal Services

April 2004

<i>Date</i>	<i>Day</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Worship Service</i>
3 rd	Sat	9:00 am	Saturday of Lazarus Divine Liturgy Followed by Sunday School Breakfast, palm folding and church cleaning for Holy Week.
4 th	Sun	9:00 am	Orthros, Palm Sunday Liturgy begins at 10:00 am, Christ's Entry into Jerusalem
4 th	Sun	7:00 pm	Start of Holy Week: 1st Bridegroom Service , theme: The wise Joseph and the Fig Tree
5 th	Mon	7:00 pm	Bridegroom Service , theme: Parable of the Ten Virgins
6 th	Tue	7:00 pm	Bridegroom Service , theme: deeds of Mary Magdalene contrasted with deeds of Judas
7 th	Wed	7:00 pm	Sacrament of Holy Unction
8 th	Thu	9:00 am	Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil
	Thu	7:00 pm	Reading of the Twelve Gospels: The Last Supper, the Betrayal, the Crucifixion
9 th	Fri	9:00 am	Great Hours , being vigilant at the Cross (Adults and children are encouraged to attend and decorate the Bier)
	Fri	3:00 pm	Apokathelosis, The Taking Down of Christ from the Cross
		7:00 pm	Lamentations , being vigilant at the Tomb of Christ
		9:00 p.m.	All Night Vigil , at the tomb of Christ
10 th	Sat	9:00 am	Vespereal Divine Liturgy
		11:00 pm	Holy Pascha Liturgy beginning at 11:00 pm
11 th	Sun	2:00 pm	Agape Vespers and meal at the Knisely's

BLESSED PASCHA!



St. Philothea Greek Orthodox Church Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Atlanta

April 2004

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
28 St. Mary of Egypt 9:00a Orthros & Divine Liturgy	29	30 6:00p Presanctified Liturgy , Lenten Meal , Catachumen class , S	31 7:00p Bridegroom Service , 7:00 p.m. s	1 Divine Liturgy, 9:00 a.m. Reading of the 12 Gospels 7 p.m. s	2 7:00p Akathist Hymn , 9:00a Saturday of Lazarus , Divine Liturgy 9:00 s	3
4 9:00a Orthros & Divine Liturgy 9:00p Palm Sunday , Bridegroom service 7:00 p.m. s	5 7:00p Bridegroom Service , 7:00 p.m. s	6 7:00p Bridegroom Service , 7:00 p.m. s	7 7:00p Holy Unction , 7:00 p.m. s	8 Divine Liturgy, 9:00 a.m. Reading of the 12 Gospels 7 p.m. s	9 Great Hours, 9 a.m., Vespers Liturgy, 9 a.m., Holy Pascha Liturgy , 11 p.m. S	10
11 Agape Vespers and meal at the Knisely's 2 p.m.	12 6:00p OCFD & D , Horesu home	13	14	15 daybreak S	16	17
18 Sunday of Thomas 9:00a Orthros & Divine Liturgy	19	20	21	22	23 St. George the victorious	24
25 The Myrrh Bearers 9:00a Orthros & Divine Liturgy	26	27 6:00p OCFD & D , Gess home	28	29	30	1

Rev. Fr. Anthony Salzman

Services held at: Church on the corner of 2nd Street and Barnett Shoals, Downtown Watkinsville GA 30677
For more information: 706/310-1304



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