



## From Father Anthony

### A year of blessings!

As the year comes to a close and we prepare to celebrate our Lord's birth we pause here at St. Philothea to give thanks for God's providence this past year. We began the year with only enough financial resources to get through the first three months if nothing changed. Ten months later we are still here reflecting on the many miracles that God has worked in our community. First is the hard work and commitment of our faithful, next is the support of our associate members and donors, and third are the increase rentals in our beautiful Marswood Hall. It has been a time of testing we have to admit. Whenever we face uncertainty, especially financial uncertainty it can become all consuming. But as James says in the opening of his epistle "Count it all joy when you encounter various trials knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. (James 1:2-4)

This is an important principle in living the Christian life. God can use trials as a way of disciplining us and helping us grow. With that understanding we are able to be thankful and full of joy that He is working in our lives. Patience is the result of enduring difficult situations without flinching, (too much). At St. Philothea we have endured patiently and come to the end of the year with a lot to be thankful for.

- We have many new young families that are attending and our Sunday school classes are overflowing.
- We had a "Welcome Home" teaching liturgy that offered friends and loved ones a chance to witness and better understand the worship of the early Church.
- Wednesday evenings have become a busy night with regular choir practice and vespers, an adult education class and a catechumen class.
- Our OCF campus ministry has 15 regular attendees. We went on a work-retreat to the Diakonia Center in the fall and will be sending several students to the College Conference in Ligoneer over Christmas break.
- The Philoptochos hosted a Pan-Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood luncheon in September which was attended by His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios and 10 priests. The ladies of Philoptochos are doing several fall

fundraisers in order to support local, Metropolis and National charities.

- Marswood Hall was rented every weekend this past summer except for two.
- We received 4 new people into the Church at Pascha.

But most important of all we have "let patience have its perfect work" and have seen first hand God's providence. His blessings have come to us by way of testing, but with testing comes maturity. St. Gregory of Nyssa characterizes perfection as "always becoming". As long as we don't stop growing then we are perfect at the stage that we are. When we think we have arrived spiritually speaking then we have become imperfect. At St. Philothea we look forward to the coming year with great anticipation at the work that God will do in our lives and in our community.

Have a blessed Nativity of our Lord.

Fr. Anthony



*Fear not: for, behold,  
I bring you good tidings  
of great joy, which  
shall be to all people.  
For unto you is born  
this day in the city  
of David, a Savior, which  
is Christ the Lord.*

*~Luke 2:10-11*

# Parish Happenings

**Philoptochos** will be selling Greek Pastries at the OCAF Holiday Market this weekend (Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>)!

OCF will have its last meeting of the semester next Tuesday, December 5<sup>th</sup>.

## **Catechumen Class**

Catechumen classes are available for those who would like to learn more about Orthodoxy. Classes are held every Wednesday at 6:00 p.m.

## **Building Maintenance:**

Last person to leave the building turn the heat down to 62, and the air conditioning up to 80. Also make sure all the lights are off.

## **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! If interested, please e-mail Peter Gess: [pgess@mindspring.com](mailto:pgess@mindspring.com)

## **The Bookstore:**

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

## **Sunday Epistle & Gospel Readings**

12/3/2006	Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30	Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians 4:1-7
12/10/2006	Gospel: Luke 13:10-17	Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians 5:8-19
12/17/2006	Gospel: Luke 14:16-24; Matthew 22:14	Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 11:33-40; 12:1-2
12/24/2006	Gospel: Matthew 1:1-25	Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 11:9-10; 32-40
12/31/2006	Gospel: Mark 1:1-8	Epistle: St. Paul's Second Letter to Timothy 4:5-8



## ***St. Philothea Directory:***

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Presbytera E-mail:

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### ***Parish Council:***

President: Stacey Cramer

Vice President: Karen Kimbaris

Treasurer: Andrew Shih

Secretary: Ann Volk

### ***Sunday school:***

Pres. Christine Salzman

### ***Philoptochos Board:***

President: Karen Kimbaris

Vice President: Ann Volk

Treasurer: Presbytera Christine

Secretary: Nina Lamson

Corresponding Secretary: Frieda Dekazos

Outreach: Dana Johns

Advisor: Georgia Parthemos

### ***Marketing and Maintenance Chair:***

Rick Volk

### ***Hospitality Chair:***

Georgia Parthemos

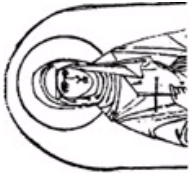
### ***Bulletin:***

Writer: Kacina Lamson

Calendar: Peter Gess

Editor: Father Anthony





# St. Philothea Greek Orthodox Church Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Atlanta

December 2006						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
26 9:00a Orthros and Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m. 12:00p Put up Christmas trees	27 St. Barbara the Great Martyr	28 6:30p OCF Dinner and Discussion 6:30 7:00p Cut Baklava for OCAF. decorate Christmas Cards	29 6:00p Adult Ed/Catachumen Class 6:00p Choir practice 7:00p Vespers	30	1 6:00p Annalee Burke Rehearsal	2 OCAF Holiday Market 12:00p Annalee Burke-Wedding-Rec-C 10:00p - Dec 3, 6: 1:00a Parish Council Nominee training session. Marietta
3 10:00p - Dec 3, 6: 1:00a Parish Council Nominee training session. Marietta coffee hour 9:00a Orthros and Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m.	4 St. Barbara the Great Martyr	5 5:00p St. Nicholas the Wonderworker. 5 Orthros 6 Divine Liturgy 7:15p OCF end of the semester	6 6:00p Adult Ed/Catachumen Class 7:00p Philoptochos Spiritual Enrichment. Ann Volk's house 7:00p Vespers (readers)	7	8 10:00a American Pest Party	9
10 9:00a Orthros and Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m. 11:00a Stewardship Council Elections	11 4:00p Terry Townley-Zaxbys	12 10:00a St. Spyridon. Orthros and Divine Liturgy. Morning Glories Outing	13 12:00p athens tech-lunch 6:00p Adult Ed/Catachumen Class 7:00p Vespers	14	15	16
17 9:00a Orthros and Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m. 11:00a Youth Pageant	18	19	20 6:00p Adult Ed/Catachumen Class 7:00p Parish Council	21	22 9:00a Royal Hours	23 9:00p - Dec 24, 6: 12:00a Orthros and Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m.
24 9:00a Orthros and Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m. 8:00p Vespers. Orthros. Divine Liturgy of St. Basil. Campaign reception to follow	25 Nativity of our Lord	26	27 OCF College Conference Winter Youth Rally	28 OCF College Conference Winter Youth Rally	29 OCF College Conference Winter Youth Rally	30 OCF College Conference Winter Youth Rally
31 OCF College Conference 9:00a Orthros and Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m.	1	2	3	4	5	6



**St. Philothea Greek Orthodox Church  
Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Atlanta**

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Volume 13 — Issue 10  
December 2006