



From Father Anthony

Stewardship, the long view

I can hear it now, our seniors saying “I wish I would have thought that way when I was young because old age gets here so fast. Where did the time go?”

In practical terms stewardship is not something we think about everyday. In fact without an annual stewardship campaign to bring it to our attention we might not think about it at all. But this would be a great disservice to ourselves and to our eternity. Why? Because Stewardship is nothing less than understanding who we are and who God is. If we do not understand that then we will not understand Stewardship. If however we look ahead to the end of our life and are thinking

seriously about eternity we will begin to reflect on how we have “spent” our life, i.e. managed our life, i.e. been a steward of our time here on earth. Was I a generous kind person? Did I make earth a better place for others? centered and looked after my own? Did I obey God and everything I did? These are important questions as we but unfortunately they are questions we can not change answer in the negative. At the end of our lives we will opportunities that we had. Our time will be short, we enormous amount of money in our life time, and our able to perform as well as they could when we were we had not been consciously thinking about the very beginning of our lives, then to think about it at the end of our lives could be a devastating realization that we should have been focused on it from an early age.

Our time will be short, we will have spent an enormous amount of money in our life time, and our bodies will not be able to perform as well as they could when we were younger.

person? Was I a Or was I self seek to serve Him in prepare for eternity, the answer to if we have spent all the will have spent an bodies will not be younger. In short, if “Stewardship” from

So how can we think about Stewardship now with the long view in mind? By first understanding who God is and who we are. Not understand in a deep philosophical and theological way that would explain the creator of the universe stretching across time and space to eternity; that would be neither possible nor helpful, since we could not do it in any objective or comprehensive way. Better to stick with our Sunday school understanding since it is both easily comprehended and relatively accurate. Question: “Why were we created?” Answer to “Praise and glorify God and live with Him for eternity.” When does it start? Immediately! What does it look like? (Now here is where we make it complicated but we shouldn’t.) Christ tells us in [Matthew 6:24](#)

"No one can serve **two masters**. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.

At the very core of our being the question is black and white, “which master do we serve?” If God is our master then it follows that He is our “Lord”, that is we serve Him, not ourselves, not the government, not our business, not our passions. That is, we get our directions on what to do with ourselves from the one we serve. Simple enough. Stewardship is nothing less than managing the resources that God has given us, time, talent and treasure, to fulfill His will, since He is the one we are serving. What is His will concerning our resources? In general he commands us to

" **Love the Lord your God** with all **your** heart and with all **your** soul and with all **your** strength and with all **your** mind'; and, '**Love your** neighbor as yourself.' " [Luke 10:27 NIV](#) More specifically he tells us: “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and

of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

If eternity is important then it is imperative to use our resources to fulfill the directions from the Master, as creatively, insightfully and consistently as we can. Then when we look back over our lives we can answer these questions in the affirmative, and we will have spent our lives well. As we prepare to celebrate the Nativity of our Lord, let us commit ourselves to take the *long view of stewardship*. Fr. Anthony



Parish Happenings

OCAF Holiday Market is December 1st and 2nd. Anyone interested in helping work the booth can contact Tara Mahoney.

Teaching Liturgy Dec. 9th.

Our next teaching liturgy will be Dec. 9th. It is a chance to bring friends and acquaintances to witness the ancient worship of the Early Church, and gain a deeper understanding of the centrality of the Divine Liturgy in our lives.

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

***Nativity Pageant** Dec. 16 following the Divine Liturgy it is also **Stewardship Sunday**, we will collect pledge cards.

***Christmas Services and Champaign reception** Dec. 24 7-10 p.m. **Royal Hours** 9:00 a.m. Friday Dec. 21st.

***Parish Council Elections** Dec. 9th.

***Divine Liturgies** will be celebrate the week leading up to Christmas M-TH alternating 7 and 8 a.m. See the calendar for exact times and come prepare your hearts to receive the King.

St. Philothea Prayer Request:

** Please keep the following people in your thoughts and prayers.

- Freida
- Julienne Pottier for her recent NAMEDAY on November 25th of Saint Katherine
- Tess Pottier for her birthday
- Monica Horescu and Dana Johns. We ask prayers for God's unfading mercy and grace as we face every opportunity to experience His love.
- Leo Frangis for his recent proposal.

Gospel & Epistle Readings- December

12/2/2007 Gospel: Luke 18:35-43 **Epistle:** St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians 6:10-17

12/9/2007 Gospel: Luke 13:10-17 **Epistle:** St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 4:22-27

12/16/2007 Gospel: Luke 14:16-24; Matthew 22:14 **Epistle:** St. Paul's Letter to the Colossians 3:4-11

12/23/2007 Gospel: Matthew 1:1-25 **Epistle:** St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 11:9-10; 32-40

12/30/2007 Gospel: Matthew 2:13-23 **Epistle:** St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 1:11-19



Discover Greece, Discover Thyself

Gainesville State College-Oconee Campus

is offering a Study Abroad Program to Greece

May 15 - 27, 2008

(includes 4 pre-trip Sunday afternoon seminars planned for late March, two in April, and one in early May)

This is open to both **students** and **community members**. Community members would register as a Continuing Education student.

This is a custom tour designed in conjunction with **EF Tours** and will be lead by: **Dr. Nina Lamson, Dr. Pamela Sezgin, Mr. Alex Johns, and Father Anthony Salzman**. It is hoped that parishioners from St. Philothea and other churches in the area will be interested in participating.

For more information please visit this website:

<https://www.gsc.edu/Admin/studyabroad/GreeceSum08/> or talk to anyone of the group leaders listed above. Space is limited, so register early!

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

Please check the chart below for when you are scheduled to host coffee hour .

Stewardship Description: Provide simple refreshments, including drinks and snacks; set up and clean up— includes making coffee, checking supplies, wiping, tables and vacuuming as necessary. Please call Georgia Parthemos to confirm and for special requests. You may be asked to provide Prosforon, coffee or creamer when necessary. Lenten dates are marked in grey.

Georgia Parthemos: 706-548-3876

THANK YOU FOR HELPING WITH THIS BLESSED MINISTRY

DATE	HOST
2-Dec	Covered Dish Knisely
9-Dec	Kefalas & Grissom
16-Dec	Sun Sch Nativity Program Kimbaris
23-Dec	Lambros
30-Dec	Lamson
6-Jan	Epiphany/C. Dish/Vasilopeta Mahoney
13-Jan	Lavelle
20-Jan	Rose
27-Jan	Lyubimov
3-Feb	Covered Dish Manzione
10-Feb	Miletkov & Seiss
17-Feb	Nameday Weekend O'Malley

24-Feb	Pagonis
2-Mar	Covered Dish Papadopoulos
9-Mar	E. Pappas
16-Mar	Great Lent Begins Pottier
23-Mar	Raev
30-Mar	Ragan
6-Apr	Covered Dish Salzman
13-Apr	Shih
20-Apr	Tesfai/Tseggai
27-Apr	****GREAT & HOLY PASCHA ****
4-May	Vlahos
11-May	Wright
18-May	Sunday School Awards
25-May	
1-Jun	Covered Dish

NURSERY SIGN UP

Nursery Duties: Be available from 10:30 until the end of Sunday School to monitor Nursery Room and to assist in preschool class if necessary. Bring children in for Holy Communion and back for class. Keep room neat and tidy and check room again after coffee hour. You will be reminded of your sign up dates. *THANKS FOR VOLUNTEERING!*

DATE	VOLUNTEER NAME
2-DEC	Inna
9-DEC	
16- DEC	***SUNDAY SCHOOL NATIVITY SHOW***
23- DEC	Tara Mahoney
30- DEC	

FOOD FROM THE FATHERS AND MOTHERS:

And let no one of you say that this very flesh shall not be judged, nor rise again. Consider ye in what state ye were saved, in what ye received sight, if not while ye were in this flesh. We must therefore preserve the flesh as the temple of God. For as ye were called in the flesh, ye shall also come to be judged in the flesh. As Christ the Lord Who saved us, though He was first the Word became flesh, and thus called us, so shall we also receive the reward in this flesh.

Let us therefore love one another, that we may all attain to the kingdom of God. While we have an opportunity of being healed, let us yield ourselves to God that healeth us, and give to Him a recompense. Of what sort? Repentance out of a sincere heart; for He knows all things beforehand, and is acquainted with what is in our hearts. Let us therefore give Him praise, not with the mouth only, but also with the heart, that He may accept us as sons, For the Lord has said, 'Those are my brethren who do the will of My Father.'

~Epistles of St. Clement of Rome.

St. Philothea Directory:

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frantonios@imageandlikeness.com

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prchristine@imageandlikeness.com

Parish Council:

President: Rick Volk

Vice President: Stacey Cramer

Treasurer: Andrew Shih

Secretary: Ann Volk

Frieda Dekazos, Nina Herrington,

Kurt Knisely, Elton Manzione Dr.

Alexander Raev,

Sunday school:

Director: Presbytera, Christine Salzman

Philoptochos Board:

President: Ann Volk

Vice President: Frieda Dekazos

Secretary: Rose Lieftring

Treasurer: Presbytera, Christine Salzman

Advisor: Karen Kimberis

Marketing and Maintenance Chair:

Rick Volk

Hospitality Chair:

Georgia Parthemos

Bulletin:

Writer: Kacina Lamson

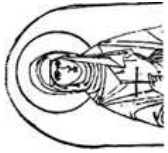
Editor: Father Anthony

KIDS CORNER!



And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

Luke 2:6-7



St. Philothea Greek Orthodox Church Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Atlanta

December 2007						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
25 St. Katherine the Great Martyr 9:00a Orthros and Divine Liturgy	26	27 6:00p OCF Dinner and Baklava cutting	28 7:00p Paraklisis	29 6:00p Catechumen Class	30	1 10:00a Parish Council Nominee training session. Marietta 12:00p Patel-baby shower
2 9:00a Orthros and Divine Liturgy	3 St. Barbara the Great Martyr	4 St. Barbara the Great Martyr	5 St. Savvas 7:00p Vespers	6 12:00p St. Nicholas 12:30p Byzantine Iconography lecture...Oconee City Library 6:00p Catechumen Class	7 12:00p Weaver - Rehearsal 7:00p Ameripride-Christmas party	8 12:00p Weaver-Wedding reception-chapel-c
9 9:00a Orthros and Divine Liturgy 10:00a Teaching Liturgy 12:00p Parish Council Elections 2:00p Oconee Library. Reception Fr. Anthony's exhibit	10 12:00p Zaxbys Christmas party	11 St. Spyridon 7:00p Vespers	12 St. Spyridon 7:00p Vespers	13 12:00p Smith Lee Party 6:00p Catechumen Class	14	15 8:00p Faulkner Wendell - Grad Party
16 9:00a Orthros and Divine Liturgy 12:00p Christmas Pageant. Stewardship Sunday	17 7:00a Divine Liturgy	18 St. Sebastian 8:00a Divine Liturgy	19 7:00a Divine Liturgy 7:00p Parish Council 7:00p Vespers	20 8:00a Divine Liturgy 6:00p Catechumen Class	21 12:00p American Pest Party 12:00p sikes & allissa rehearsal	22 12:00p Sikes-Maddox Reception
23 9:00a Orthros and Divine Liturgy 12:00p allissa Wedding Reception	24 9:00a Royal Hours 7:00p Christmas Orthros and Divine Liturgy. Campaign reception	25 Christmas Day. No Fasting until Jan. 5th	26 Winter Youth Rally	27 College Conference St. Stephen Winter Youth Rally	28 College Conference Winter Youth Rally	29 College Conference Winter Youth Rally
30 College Conference Winter Youth Rally 9:00a Orthros and Divine Liturgy	31 College Conference	1 College Conference	2	3	4	5

Rev. Fr. Anthony Salzman
3761 Mars Hill Road / Watkinsville, GA 30677
For more information: 770/725-5035



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