



From Father Anthony

Holy Communion

Dear St. Philotheans,

Holy Communion is the central hub from which all spiritual life flows in the Orthodox Church. For that reason, I think it important that we examine this topic in greater depth to more fully comprehend its significance and importance in our lives. I am including in three parts, an article from Fr. Alkiviadis Calivis, Liturgix Professor Emeritus at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology. If you have any questions raised by this topic please submit them in writing and we will try to address them in forthcoming issues. Also this month we would like to introduce an active prayer and thanksgiving list in the monthly bulletin. There are many people who need our prayers and if we are aware of their needs as a community we can join our voices together for intercession on their behalf. The same with answered prayers; we can actively thank God for His providence and love and care and develop a written history of His active presence in our lives. All entries must be submitted on a monthly basis. No requests will be carried over each month.

Holy Communion the Gift of Eternal Life

By Fr. Alkiviadis Calivas

The Eucharist cannot be abandoned

Literary documents on the lives of saints often contain important information on Christian life, liturgy, and doctrine. One such document, which dates AD 304 at the height of the fierce persecutions initiated by the Emperors Diocletian and Maximian, is an eyewitness account that describes the trial of a group of Christians in a town in North Africa. Of particular interest is the testimony of two of those martyrs, Saturninus and his son Felix, about the Eucharist. Their words provide us with a concise statement that sums up the Church's understanding of the Eucharist as it relates to communal and personal life. The group of martyrs was brought before the Roman proconsul. He addressed the following question to Saturninus, who was the leader of the group of Christians and a priest. "Did you, contrary to the orders of the emperors, arrange for these persons to hold an assembly?" Saturninus replied, "*Certainly. We celebrated the Eucharist.*" "Why?" Asked the proconsul. "*Because the Eucharist cannot be abandoned.*" As soon as he said this, the proconsul ordered him to be put immediately on the rack to be tortured... Then Felix, a son of Saturninus and a reader in the Church, came forward to the contest. Whereupon the proconsul inquired of him, "I am not asking you if you are a Christian. You can hold your peace about that! But were you one of the assembly; and do you possess any copies of the Scriptures?" "*As if a Christian could exist without the Eucharist, or the Eucharist be celebrated*

without a Christian!” answered Felix. *“Don’t you know that a Christian is constituted by the Eucharist and the Eucharist by a Christian? Neither avails without the other. We celebrated our assembly right gloriously. We always convene at the Eucharist for the reading of the Lord’s Scriptures.”* Enraged by the confession, Anulinus the proconsul ordered Felix to be beaten with clubs.

The key points of the testimony of the two ancient martyrs bear repeating because they highlight the meaning and the relation of the Eucharist to the faith community and to each of its members. *“The Eucharist cannot be abandoned,”* said the martyrs, because *“a Christian cannot exist without the Eucharist, or the Eucharist be celebrated without a Christian.”* *“A Christian,”* they affirmed, *“is constituted by the Eucharist and the Eucharist by the Christian.”* In the paragraphs that follow I shall attempt to explain the meaning of these words by drawing your attention to several aspects of the Church’s teaching on the Eucharist, which is celebrated through the sacred rite of the Divine Liturgy and which many of us call Holy Communion. First, let me explain why the Eucharist cannot be abandoned; why it is the central activity of the Church.

The Eucharist: the central activity of the Church

The weekly celebration of the Eucharist on the Lord’s Day is an indispensable activity of the Church because the Eucharist constitutes the Church as the Body of Christ. It is the source and summit of her life, the supreme act of her thanksgiving and of her sacrifice of praise. At the Divine Liturgy, the Church is continuously changed from a human community into the Body of Christ, the temple of the Holy Spirit, and the holy People of God. The life of every parish and of every faithful Christian is centered on the weekly celebration of the Divine Liturgy, for it is there that we experience the mystery of the new reality that is in the world; the reality that God wrought through the incarnation of His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. In the Eucharist we encounter Christ – crucified, raised from the dead, and glorified – in His personal presence. Through the Divine Liturgy Jesus acts to fulfill his promises to His people: “Where two or three are gathered in my Name, there I am in the midst of the... And lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age”
(Matt. 18: 20 and 28: 20)

(This article will be continued in next month’s bulletin.)



Sunday Epistle & Gospel Readings

February

February 6
February 13
February 20
February 27

Epistle

1st Timothy 4:9-15
2nd Corinthians 6:16-18; 7:1
2nd Timothy 3:10-15
1st Corinthians 6:12-20

Gospel

Mathew 25:14-30
Matthew 5:21-28
Luke 18:9-14
Luke 15:11-32

Parish Family News

Prayer List

Please keep these St. Philothean family members in your prayers:

Thodora (cancer)
Christina (Pancreatitis)
Anastasia (kidney disease)

February Cleaning Schedule

Cleaning Schedule for February (see letter later in bulletin for more details):

February 7 th	Perry & Tammy Andros
February 14 th	Ms. Ana Anest
February 21 st	Gregory & Victoria Baramidze
February 28 th	Douglas & Mirjana Brockett

Parish Happenings

Icon Exhibit

Fr. Anthony is having an icon/art exhibit at Athens Academy from February 14th to March 11th. There will be an opening reception on February 27th from 2-4 p.m. with a Blessing of the Waters at 2:00 followed by live music from Duke and Dawn and good food.

Building Maintenance

Last person to leave the building please check the bathrooms to make sure toilets are not running, as well as turn the heat down to 62, and make sure all the lights are off.

Nursery Duty

February 6	Catherine, Diane
February 13	P. Christine, Boyana
February 20	Tess, Liz
February 27	Jennifer

If you are interested in helping out in the nursery, contact Presbyteria Christine.

Philoptochos Membership Drive

The annual membership drive for Philoptochos will take place Tuesday, February 8 at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Karen Kimbaris. For more information contact Karen at 310-0022.

Pangari Duty

(Candle area in the Narthex)

When it is your turn to monitor the "Pangari," please be attentive to the following items: Before the Divine Liturgy begins, make sure the area is clean and organized and the candle supply is full (let Bill Mahoney know if it is running low), clean the icons with rose water, and sift the sand to take out debris and old candles. Greet people as they come in, let people into the service at appropriate times, put all burnt candles in the tin boxes, transfer old candles from tin box to cardboard boxes for recycling, do not throw candles in the trash can, monitor the candle box during the liturgy so candles do not burn too low or start melting each other, extinguish them in water, collect the money when the basket fills up and put it in an envelope, to be given to Bill Mahoney, at the end of church clean up the area and sift the sand.

Name Day Celebration

Please see Karen Kimbaris if interested in helping provide refreshments for the St. Philothea Name Day Celebration in Feb. 2005. Vespers will be Friday Feb. 18th, and Divine Liturgy will be Sat. Feb 19th with a Buffet Luncheon following.

Meat Fare Sunday

The 3rd Annual Meat-Fare Sunday Bid & Buy is coming to St. Philothea on March 6!! Luncheon tickets will be on sale in the coming weeks. Please set aside any new or gently used "white elephant" items to donate to this fun parish event. You may bring in items labeled 'Bid & Buy' at any time between now and March 6 and place them in the church office.

Call Tara Mahoney at (706) 342-7025 for more information."

Parish Council News

Congratulations to the newly elected Parish Council Officers:

President- Dean Kimbaris
Vice-President- Kurt Knisely
Secretary- Stacey Cramer
Treasurer- Bill Mahoney

The next Parish Council Meeting will be on February 16 at 7:00 p.m. at the Church.

Covered Dish Luncheon

Our monthly covered dish luncheon will be on Sunday, February 6, following the Divine Liturgy. Please join us to enjoy great food and fellowship.

Souper Bowl Sunday

This annual collection for IOCC and the local food bank is coming up on Sunday, February 6. Please remember to bring a can of soup and \$1 to church. This is being sponsored by the Sunday School.

Ionian Village

Information on the annual Ionian Village is in. This is a wonderful adventure program in Greece that includes three weeks of fun, fellowship, and connection with our spiritual roots. The dates are: Grades 7-9, July 1-July 19, and Grades 10-12, July 25-August 13. They are also in need of counselors for these events. See Father Anthony for more information.

The Bookstore

The Bookstore is open every Sunday after Divine Liturgy and has a wonderful collection of resources to enrich our spiritual lives. Currently there are still a few daily planners as well as table top family prayer guides.

Coffee Hour

Monica and Lucian Horescu are hosting the month of February in honor of Monica's father Paraskiv who passed away last year.

St. Philothea Directory

Father Anthony Salzman,
Presbyter
Phone: 770-725-5035
E-mail: frantonios2@mindspring.com

Parish Council

President: Dean Kimbaris
Vice President: Kurt Knisely
Treasurer: Bill Mahoney
Secretary: Stacey Cramer
Members:

Frieda Dekazos, Alex Johns, Karen Kimbaris,
Angie Shih, Ann Volk

Sunday School

Dana Johns

Music Director

Mari Iakovou

Philoptochos Board

President: Karen Kimbaris
Vice President: Mari Iakovou
Secretary: Nina Lamson
Treasurer: Tara Mahoney

Marketing and Maintenance Chair

Rick Volk

Hospitality Chair

Georgia Parthemos

Communications Chair

Tammy Andros

Liaisons to the Caterer

Dean and Karen Kimbaris

General Fund Financial Report as of 11/30/2004

	December	YTD
<i>Expenses</i>	\$6801.00	\$96,119
<i>Income</i>	\$6656	\$102,023
Beginning Account Balance		\$10,000
Checking Account Balance		\$15,903

Bill Mahoney, Treasurer

St. Philothea needs your help.

Under our current agreement with Lee Epting Catering we must prepare Marswood Hall for guests no later than Wednesday of each week.

In order for us to meet this obligation, the following housekeeping needs to be completed:

1. Vacuum carpeted areas in the hall, Narthex and hallway leading to the public restrooms.
2. Wipe window ledges in the areas vacuumed.
3. Commodes and urinals must be cleaned in both restrooms, countertops and mirrors cleaned, paper products and soap dispensers refilled and the floor mopped as needed.
4. Empty all trash receptacles and replace trashcan liners...restrooms, hallways and hall.
5. Clean drinking fountains.

We have secured a cleaning service that will perform these functions at a cost of \$95.00 per visit. Should you have the wherewithal to do so, you may opt to “sub-contract” these responsibilities to the cleaning service. Should you choose this option, please contact Richard or Ann Volk at (706) 769-6933 no later than 5:00 PM Monday so that arrangements can be made with our contractor.

All cleaning supplies and paper products can be found in the storeroom.

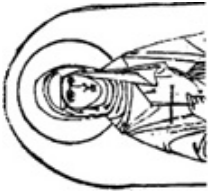
Keys to the building and all paper dispensers will be passed weekly to the next weeks “volunteers” after Liturgy each Sunday.

Schedule for February 2005:

Week of: =====	Family: =====
February 7 th	Perry & Tammy Andros
February 14 th	Ms. Ana Anest
February 21 st	Gregory & Victoria Baramidze
February 28 th	Douglas & Mirjana Brockett

Anyone needing instructions on the use of the commercial vacuum or would like additional clarification of the housekeeping should contact Richard Volk (706) 769 – 6933 or (706) 255 – 7680 Cell.

Should you elect to utilize the outside service at a cost of \$95.00, checks should be made to St. Philothea in advance. The church will pay the cleaners and it will be your responsibility to reimburse the general fund.



St. Philothea Greek Orthodox Church Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Atlanta

February 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
30 Three Heirarchs 9:00a Orthros, Divine Liturgy and Sunday School	31	1 5:00p Presentation of our Lord in the Temple, Orthros and Divine Liturgy, OCF Dinner and Discussion	2 6:00p Greek School, Mens Group, Catachumen Class.	3	4	5
6 9:00a Orthros, Divine Liturgy and Sunday School 12:00p Souper Bowl of Caring	7	8 7:00p Philoptochos Membership Meeting and Pizza at the Kimbaris Home	9 6:00p Greek School, Mens Group, Catachumen Class, Prayers to the Virgin Mary for our community and loved ones	10	11	12
13 9:00a Orthros, Divine Liturgy and Sunday School	14	15 6:30p OCF D & D	16 7:00p 6:00 Greek School, Parish Council 7:00 p.m.	17	18 7:00p St. Philothea Nameday vespers 7:00 p.m.	19 9:00a St. Philothea Nameday Celebration, Orthros 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m. followed by lunch
20 9:00a Orthros, Divine Liturgy and Sunday School	21 No Fasting	22 No Fasting	23 No Fasting 6:00p Greek School, Mens Group, Catachumen Class.	24 No Fasting	25 No Fasting	26 No Fasting
27 9:00a Orthros, Divine Liturgy and Sunday School 2:00p Fr. Anthony's Art Exhibit opening 2-4 p.m.	28	1	2 6:00p Greek School, Mens Group, Catachumen Class.	3	4	5



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

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