



From Father Anthony

Healthy Relationships, a Sign of Spiritual Maturity

As we enter a new year it is a perfect opportunity to take an inventory of our relationships. Are we at peace with our family members our co-workers, our fellow students, our employers and employees? During Christ's time on earth we see that he related to everyone differently. To some He was strict and stern, to others He was a healer, an encourager, a leader, or a teacher. He was appropriate to all people in His dealings with them giving them what they needed for their salvation. To the Pharisees He was firm calling them to obey the spirit of the law not just the letter of the law. The money changers in the temple He drove out with a fury. To the women with a flow of blood He offered healing. To the man with the epileptic son He called to faith. The question for us is "do our relationships reflect a Christ like attitude, and concern for others?" Are they whole and healthy, vital and life giving, or are they dysfunctional and soul distorting? Are we constantly frustrated and angry with those around us, or are we able to deal with conflict and challenges in a way that leads to peace and mutual edification? That is the challenge of the Christian life and directions on how to maintain and strengthen our relationships are given throughout the Bible. Paul states the goal in Romans 12:18, "If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men." In Psalm 34:14 we read "Depart from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it." Romans 14:19 tells us "Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another." 1 Thessalonians 5:13 exhorts us to "Be at peace among yourselves." We read in Hebrews 12:14 "Pursue peace with all people and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord." Mark 9:50 reads "have salt in yourselves and be at peace with all people." The verbs are important 'pursue', 'seek', 'be'. In other words it takes effort and is a process. But where do we begin? How do we start out on this noble path after years of bad relationship habits? What are the tools that will help us develop whole and healthy relationships being 'appropriate' with all people as Christ was? We all know that there are difficult people out there that we just don't get along with, they push our buttons, they frustrate us, they intimidate us, and we don't know how to relate to them. These are the people we want to thank God for. Why? These are the people that are going to help us grow spiritually. There is something in us that is lacking and under developed if there are people in our life like that, and we all have them, maybe only one or two but we still have them. Next month we will examine the tools and principles that scripture offers us. If we put these things into practice we shall see a marked difference in our relationships and in our spiritual health.

May God continue to bless us and multiply our ministry in the coming year at St. Philothea,

Fr. Anthony



Parish Happenings

NEW FEATURES IN THE BULLETIN

In an attempt to make the monthly bulletin a richer and more edifying publication we would like to include some new features. There is a weekly youth bulletin published by Fr. Joseph Samaan in St. Petersburg, Florida that is available on line. You can sign up for it and have it delivered weekly to your email address by contacting m Planes at WPlanes@SouthCapital.org We will include excerpts from it in our monthly bulletin so that our children will look forward to reading the monthly bulletin. We also want to start publishing your favorite recipes, Lenten and non-Lenten so please send them to Kacina and she will include them. We also are starting a section called "Just wanted to share this". We all come across spiritually edifying things on a daily basis and some of them are worth sharing with others, so please forward them to Kacina so that we can include them in the monthly bulletin. If there are any closet cartoonists out there that are looking to launch a new career, please submit your work for consideration. This is a community paper for the people, of the people and by the people, so let's take full advantage of this opportunity and build a stronger publication. That's a good New Years resolution.

The **Parish Council** will be sworn in on Jan. 7th 2007 and we will also celebrate the cutting of the Vasilopita.

Christmas Trees will be taken down on the 14th of January.

Epiphany will take place on Sat. Jan.6th. Orthros at 8 a.m. Divine Liturgy at 9, followed by the blessing of the waters.

Catechumen Class and Adult Ed.

Catechumen classes are available for those who would like to learn more about Orthodoxy. Classes are held every Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. We are also doing an Adult Ed. Bible Study of the book James.

OCF meets every other Tuesday night at 6:30 at the church. The date for the first meeting of the next semester will be January 9th. If you would like to host an evening meal please see Georgia or Fr. Anthony.

Building Maintenance: Last person to leave the building please check the bathrooms to make sure the toilets are not running, as well as 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

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



Gospel & Epistle Readings

1/7/2007 **Gospel:** John 1:29-34

Epistle: Acts of the Apostles 19:1-8

1/14/2007 **Gospel:** Matthew 4:12-17

Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians 4:7-13

1/21/2007 **Gospel:** Luke 19:1-10

Epistle: St. Paul's First Letter to Timothy 4:9-15

1/28/2007 **Gospel:** Luke 18:9-14

Epistle: St. Paul's Second Letter to Timothy
3:10-15

Just Wanted To Share This...

Publish articles and insights that you come across that you would like to share with the rest of the faithful of St. Philothea.



KIDS CORNER:

Congratulations and thank you to all the Sunday school classes who participated in beautiful telling of the Nativity story!!!
Great Job!

Yummy Fats

Share your favorite Lenten or non-Lenten recipes here.

St. Philothea Directory:

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Vice President: Karen Kimbaris

Treasurer: Andrew Shih

Secretary: Ann Volk

Sunday school:

Pres. Christine Salzman

Philoptochos Board:

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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

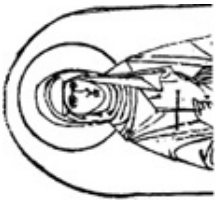
Hospitality Chair:

Georgia Parthemos

Bulletin:

Writer: Kacina Lamson

Editor: Father Anthony



St. Philothea Greek Orthodox Church Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Atlanta

January 2007						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
31	1 9:00a Feast of St. Basil and Circumcision of our Lord Orthros and Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m.	2	3	4	5	6 8:00a Epiphany. Blessing of the Waters
7	8 9:00a Orthros and Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m.	9 6:30p OCF Dinner and Discussion 6:30	10 6:00p Catechumen and Adult Ed 7:00p Parish Council 7:00p Vespers (readers)	11	12	13 House Blessings
14	15 9:00a Orthros and Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m.	16	17 5:00p Orthros and Divine Liturgy, Feast of St. Anthony 7:30p Retreat with Fr. Nicholas Triantafilou	18 12:00p St. Athanasios the Great	19	20 House Blessings
21	22 9:00a Orthros and Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m.	23 6:30p OCF Dinner and Discussion 6:30	24 6:00p Catechumen and Adult Ed 7:00p Vespers	25 St. Gregory the Theologian	26	27
28	29 9:00a Orthros and Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m.	30 12:00p Feast of the Three Heirarchs	31 6:00p Catechumen and Adult Ed 7:00p Vespers	1 5:00p evening in greece prep	2 3:00p evening in greece prep	3 7:00p evening in greece

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