



From Father Anthony

Lent is upon us

This is a special time of year. Something I look forward to. It rescues us from the mundane rat race of everyday life and creates a sacred space. A time to reflect and pray and spend time with God. It is a bit of a forced vacation. The great equalizer. “Sorry, no I can’t, I have to go to church tonight.” It is a relief and comfort to distance ourselves from the demands of our body and focus our attention on our souls. And it feels so right. We feel empowered by the rigor and discipline of controlling what we eat, of prioritizing our time, of finding refuge and solace in spending time in prayer and reflection. It is a new opportunity each year to reinvent ourselves through the power of the Holy Spirit. And the good thing is, is that it is not a journey we take alone. We have the support and encouragement of our church family making the journey together. A built in support group providing fellowship, and community along the way. We have our ups and downs but help is never too far away. The help of a liturgical calendar that calls us back every other day to our purpose and our goal. It does not mean that Satan will not try and distract us, or that we will not encounter various trials. During this period of the liturgical cycle, we can count on it. We can understand such moments as ordained by God for our personal growth and salvation and accept them, embrace them and be thankful for them. That way we take away Satan’s sting, we express trust in God’s providence, and peace replaces anxiety and gives us strength to persevere. The purpose of fasting is two fold. On the one hand it is a spiritual discipline to help us overcome our passions, help us cultivate an awareness and sensitivity to God’s presence, and strengthen our will. On the other hand it gives us extra money that we can share with the poor, so fasting and alms giving are intimately linked. The letter of the law for fasting says no meat, dairy, alcohol, or oil Monday thru Friday. The fast is relaxed Saturday and Sunday and oil and wine are allowed. This runs from Clean Monday, which is March 6th, until Saturday of Lazarus, April 15, when Lent ends and we enter into Holy Week. This is also a week of fasting that ends with the Resurrection service on Easter. To sustain us during the week when Divine Liturgy is not allowed, due to the penitential nature of Lent, the Church in her wisdom has given us the service of the Pre-Sanctified gifts, gifts that have been consecrated on Sunday and then received during the week. This is typically done Wednesday evening and Friday morning. We also celebrate the service of “Salutations to the Virgin Mary” the first 4 Fridays of Lent ending with the Akathist Hymn on the 5th Friday. This is a hymn to honor the Virgin Mary and her role in salvation history as the Mother of God. It consists of 24 stanzas, each starting with a letter of the Greek alphabet that poetically details her life and her role as the Mother of God. A good book to read during this Lenten period is “Great Lent” by Fr. Alexander Schmemman, or St. John Climacus’ Ladder of Divine Ascent.

Also the book called “The Arena” by Bishop. Ignatios is a classic. I look forward to this journey with you.

God bless,

Fr. Anthony Salzman

Parish Happenings

Lent is coming which means Pre-Sanctified Liturgies will be on Wednesday's and Salutations to the Virgin Mary on Friday's, so mark them in your schedules. If you would like to provide a simple Lenten meal of soup, bread and salad following a Pre-Sanctified Liturgy, please see Fr. Anthony.

Clergy Laity Congress is this summer. For more information please visit www.clergylaity.org.

Orthodox Christian Fellowship

Some students will be going on mission trips during spring break to El Salvador and New Orleans. They will be gone during March 11 through March 18. Because of the financial cost of the trip, they are greatly in need of financial and spiritual support. Each students trip cost is between \$800 and \$900 dollars. Therefore to make this experience possible, the students are asking for donations toward their trip cost. Upon their return, they will be sharing their experiences with the parish.

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.

The Bookstore

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

Interactive Cleaning Schedule

In order to be more efficient in the way we clean and prepare Marswood Hall and the church for various events, St. Philothea has developed an interactive, on-line volunteer schedule. The schedule shows the days each month requiring volunteers, as well as who has already committed his or her time. And once you have volunteered on-line, an e-mail confirmation will be sent to you. To see the schedule and volunteer, follow the link from the St. Philothea “parish life” web page, or use:

<http://www.stphilothea.ga.goarch.org/clean>

If you do not have Internet access, you may call Jill Rithmire and she will add you to the list.

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

St. Philothea Directory:

Father Anthony Salzman, Presbyter

Phone: 770-725-5033

Father Anthony E-mail:

frantonios@imageandlikeness.com

Presbytera E-mail:

prchristine@imageandlikeness.com

Parish Council:

President: Stacey Cramer

Vice-President: Karen Kimbaris

Secretary: Ann Volk

Treasurer: Bill Mahoney

Kurt Knisely, Frieda Dekazos,
Alexander Raev, Nina Herrington,
Andrew Shih

Sunday school:

Dana Johns

Music Director:

Angie Iakovou

Philoptochos Board:

President: Karen Kimbaris

Vice President: Ann Volk

Treasurer: Tara Mahoney

Secretary: Nina Lamson

Corresponding Secretary: Frieda Dekazos

Outreach: Dana Johns

Metropolitan Liaison: Presbytera Christine

Marketing and Maintenance Chair:

Rick Volk

Hospitality Chair:

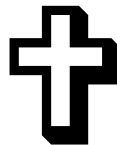
Georgia Parthemos

Communications Chair:

Tammy Andros

Liaisons to the Caterer:

Dean and Karen Kimbaris



Sunday Epistle & Gospel Readings

March 5th	Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21	Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Romans 13:11-14; 14:1-4
March 12th	Gospel: John 1:43-51	Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-40
March 19th	Gospel: Mark 2:1-12	Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 1:10-14; 2:1-3
March 26th	Gospel: Mark 8:34-38; 9:1	Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:1-6

Treasurer's Report

A couple of items:

1. Our street name has been changed so I want to tell those who send checks to me at home that the address is now 482 PECAN STREET, Madison GA 30650.

2. Treasurer's Report for January:

Beginning checking balance was \$12,873 and closing balance was \$8,488. Income was \$9,465 and expenses were \$13,850. We did not draw down reserves in January.

3. Preliminary results from 'Night in Greece' event show income of \$12,664 against expenses of \$3,097, for a profit of \$9,566

Philoptochos

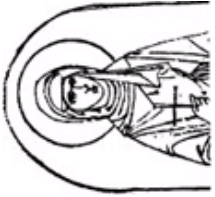
The Philoptochos met at church on Wednesday, February 1st. Present were Karen Kimbaris, Nina Lamson, Ann Volk, Frieda Dekazos, Liz Seiss, Dana Johns, Tammy Andros, and Presbyteria Christine. The following is an outline of the meeting minutes.

Old Business

- In Tara's absence, Karen reported that there was approximately \$3,000 in the account.
 - 2005 obligations have been paid
 - \$200 was made at the pancake breakfast last Fall
- OCAF Bake sale, overall, was successful. In a report Presbyteria wrote, summarizing the efforts and event, she reported a profit of: \$1,115.56. Presbyteria also indicated that the ordering process needs to be streamlined, which would help boost the profits. It was also discussed that the next time we need to get the details of the set up because this time there was not a tent and it was cold and wet. We may consider getting a portable heater.
- For our Name's Day celebration at church - it was determined that Philoptochos will purchase the cake for the luncheon reception.

New Business

- We discussed maybe having another pancake breakfast after Easter or possibly early June
- We discussed a request from Philoptochos National Organization Social Services and we decided at this time to table it for at least 6 months to see where we stand because currently supporting our church is taking priority
- The next spiritual enrichment is scheduled to take place after the Pre-Sanctified Liturgy service on 3/22.
- The next membership drive will occur during a coffee hour. Tara Mahoney will be asked when she might like to do it since she ultimately is the one that accounts for the membership money.
- Allocation of Philoptochos money was discussed taking into account our mission and the church's financial situation. It was decided that \$800 will remain in our budget, that \$500 will go to a local charity and 2 Philoptochos obligations, and the balance of approximately \$1,500 to \$1,700 to support the church at this time.
- Karen brought to our attention an organization called project Linus, which makes blankets of comfort for children in need. The website is: www.projectlinus.org. Tammy will coordinate our efforts on this so that we can make some during Lent and also purchase fabric for others, who have volunteered to make these, as well
- There was some discussion as to who might attend the National Clergy and Laity Conference in Nashville this July. Karen said she might go, but perhaps representing the Parish Council if Stacey Cramer doesn't go. Nina L. said she would go to represent Philoptochos. Presbyteria will be going with Father.
- The meeting ran a bit late, so there was no discussion on the Oratorical Festival, but Philoptochos is handling those arrangements and will most likely have a brief meeting prior to the event.



St. Philothea Greek Orthodox Church Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Atlanta

March 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
26 Meatfare Sunday, Dairy all week. (No meat) 9:00a Orthros and Divine Liturgy	27	28	1 6:00p <u>Catachumen Class</u>	2	3	4 8:00a <u>Saturday of Souls, Orthros and Divine Liturgy</u> 12:00p <u>Barnes Party</u>
5 9:00a Orthros and Divine Liturgy 7:00p <u>Forgiveness Vespers</u>	6 7:00p <u>Great Lent, Canon Part 1</u>	7 6:00p <u>Presanctified Liturgy, Lenten Meal</u> 7:00p <u>OCF D & D</u>	8 9:00a <u>Women's Council of Realtors Cook-off</u>	9	10 7:00p <u>Salutations to the Virgin Mary</u>	11
12 9:00a Orthros and Divine Liturgy 6:00p <u>Sunday of Orthodoxy, Vespers, Marietta</u>	13	14	15 6:00p <u>Presanctified Liturgy, Lenten Meal</u> 7:30p <u>Parish Council</u>	16	17 7:00p <u>Salutations to the Virgin Mary</u>	18
19 9:00a Orthros and Divine Liturgy 11:30a <u>St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival for St. Philothea</u>	20	21 6:30p <u>OCF D & D</u>	22 6:00p <u>Presanctified Liturgy, Lenten Meal</u>	23	24 7:00p <u>Salutations to the Virgin Mary</u>	25 8:00a <u>Annunciation, Orthros 8:00 a.m. D. L. 9:00</u>
26 9:00a Orthros and Divine Liturgy	27	28	29 6:00p <u>Presanctified Liturgy, Lenten Meal</u>	30	31 7:00p <u>Salutations to the Virgin Mary</u>	1 10:00a <u>Oratorical Festival, 10-3</u> 3:00p <u>Pendergrass Wedding and Reception</u>



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

3761 Mars Hill Road

Watkinsville, Georgia 30677

For more information: 770/725-5035



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