



## From Father Anthony

“In addition to voluntary suffering, you must also accept that which comes against your will—I mean slander, material losses and sickness. For if you do not accept these but rebel against them, you are like someone who wants to eat his bread only with honey, never with salt. Such a man does not always have pleasure as his companion, but always has nausea as his neighbor.” Philokalia vol. III p.39 v. 49

**Cultivating a vital faith.** The best way to cultivate a vital faith in God is to surrender yourself to God and accept as from His hand everything that happens to you in life. Whether we receive blessings and riches or illness and suffering, if we accept it as God’s will for our lives then we can make the most of every situation. The problem is control. We want to be in control and when we don’t feel in control or if things happen to us that make us uncomfortable we want to crawl off the altar that we have placed ourselves on as a living sacrifice. (Rom. 12:1) We grumble at our trials rather than rejoice as James exhorts us. (James 1:2) We know we don’t have to put up with abuse because we have resources, we have means, we have brains and we can avoid or escape this suffering. But sometimes God wants to stretch us and expand our horizons and this can be painful. Exercise is never easy, spiritual exercise is always difficult. And it is not just trials we have a hard time accepting. Sometimes we can find it difficult to accept blessings and be thankful, without losing our perspective or balance. The human creature is so easily ‘affected’ that we behave in strange ways when blessed. Just look at some movie stars who can’t seem to handle the glory and adulation piled on them, even though that is what they live for. It distorts their very being and they act out in inappropriate ways. By surrendering to God’s will and desiring to do what is pleasing to Him with our whole life, we surrender our control and make ourselves open to God’s will. That is when our lives become spiritually vital. *Then we always have pleasure as our companion, and never have nausea as our neighbor.*



### **FOOD FROM THE FATHERS AND MOTHERS**

“...let us daily wait on God’s providence towards us. And whatever form it takes, let us accept it gratefully, gladly and eagerly, so that we may learn to look only to God, who governs all things in accordance with the divine principles of His wisdom. If we do all these things, we are not far from God; for godliness is ‘perfecting that is never complete’, as one who was divinely inspired and spiritually perfect has said.”

St. Philotheos of Sinai.

# Parish Happenings



**Teaching Liturgy & Covered Dish Luncheon** is May 6<sup>th</sup>. We will discuss the role of the Saints in the Divine Liturgy. Invite your friends and family members for spiritual and physical food!

**Pentecost:** The Divine Liturgy will be early for Pentecost because we have a rental that day. We will begin Orthros at 8:00 am followed by Divine Liturgy at 9:00 am and the Kneeling Prayers.

**Pentecost Picnic** will be at St. Mary of Egypt in Lilburn on May 27<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. St. Philothea has been asked to read the Gospel in Bulgarian and to supply fruit for the meal following the vespers.

**Mother's Day** is Sunday May 13<sup>th</sup>. Come to Church and honor your mother.

**Marietta Festival** is May 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>. Please make plans to attend and support our sister parish.

**Ascension Divine Liturgy** is May 16<sup>th</sup>. Orthros will be at 5:00 p.m. followed by the Divine Liturgy at 6:00 p.m.

**Summer bulletin:** There will be one more issue of the bulletin for the academic year and that will be our summer issue. It will cover the months of June, July, August.

**Sunday School Presentations** will take place on May 20<sup>th</sup> following the Divine Liturgy. This is also the last day of Sunday school. If your children will not be present please let Presbytera know in advance.

**Building Maintenance:** Last person to leave the building please turn off all lights, including the walk-in refrigerator and freezer, close all barrier doors, as well as turn the heat down to 62, or the air conditioner up to 80. Thank you.

## **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.

\*Announcements for the bulletin can be emailed to [Greekgirl1087@aol.com](mailto:Greekgirl1087@aol.com)

## **Gospel & Epistle Readings**

5/6/2007 Gospel: [John 4:5-42](#)

Epistle: [Acts of the Apostles 11:19-30](#)

5/13/2007 Gospel: [John 9:1-38](#)

Epistle: [Acts of the Apostles 16:16-34](#)

5/20/2007 Gospel: [John 17:1-13](#)

Epistle: [Acts of the Apostles 20:16-18,28-36](#)

5/27/2007 Gospel: [John 7:37-52; 8:12](#)

Epistle: [Acts of the Apostles 2:1-11](#)

### **\*Easter Quiz\***

1) It was all part of God's mysterious plan of salvation that Jesus would be killed, then rise from the dead as a sign that we too can overcome death and live with God forever. That's what Easter is all about.

The Easter story begins with an event of Jesus' life that we celebrate on Palm Sunday. What event is it?

- A Jesus preached a famous sermon in Palm City.
- B Jesus rode a donkey into Jerusalem, and the people spread palm branches on the road ahead of Him.
- C Jesus put a curse on a palm tree that would bear no fruit.

2) As part of God's plan, one of Jesus disciples betrayed Him to his enemies. What was his name?

- A Judas
- B Matthew
- C Peter

3) What is Good Friday about?

- A The day Jesus died on the cross
- B The day Jesus escaped from His enemies
- C The day Jesus preached His final sermon before His death

4) What do we celebrate on Easter?

- A The day Jesus escaped from His enemies
- B The day Jesus preached His last sermon on Earth
- C The day Jesus rose from the dead

5) What happened 40 days after Jesus rose from the dead?

- A Jesus' enemies tried again to kill Him.
- B Jesus ascended to Heaven.
- C Jesus visited Jerusalem for the last time.

**Answers:**

**1) B 2) A 3) A 4) C 5) B**

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

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President: Richard Volk

Vice President: Stacey Cramer

Treasurer: Andrew Shih

Secretary: Ann Volk

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

Pres. Christine Salzman

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

President: Ann Volk

Vice President: Karen Kimbaris

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

## **6th Thursday after Pascha/Ascension (May 17)**



### **Apolytikion in the Fourth Tone**

O Christ our God, You ascended in Glory and gladdened Your disciples by the promise of the Holy Spirit. Your blessing assured them that You are the Son of God, the Redeemer of the world.

### **Kontakion in the Plagal of the Second Tone**

O Christ our God, upon fulfilling Your dispensation for our sake, You ascended in Glory, uniting the earthly with the heavenly. You were never separate but remained inseparable, and cried out to those who love You, "I am with you and no one is against you."





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