



From Father Anthony

Be Possessed by God

At our recent Continuing Education Clergy Retreat at the Diakonia Center I woke up every morning and looked in the mirror. It was a beautiful mirror. Not for the reflection that was looking back at me, but for the mirror itself. It was made of wrought iron, with little 5" wrought iron squares framing the mirror. In each square was a figure made out of hammered out horseshoe nails, the kind of long triangular nails with a square top for holding the horseshoe to the horse foot. These figures were very elegantly designed, primitive, simple but beautiful conveying the essence of each figure, moose, goat, horse or human, whatever it was depicting. These primitive little figurines sparked a question in me. "What is the essence of what it means to be a human being?" We might think that it is to be free? But what is true freedom? Is it to do whatever I want whenever I want, as long as I want? That sounds like summer vacation for a 10-year-old, and we all know what happens after about two weeks of that. The "B" word. "I'm bored" This kind of self centered approach to freedom, may be what is commonly envisioned as "freedom" today, but in practice it is not feasible in this world. Our purpose in life as Orthodox Christians is to acquire the Holy Spirit, according to St. Seraphim and Sarov, and St. Simeon the New Theologian. The more we are filled with the Holy Spirit the more we are truly free in this world to be who God created us to be. Free to forgive, free to love, free from hatred and resentment, free from being controlled by our passions, freedom from the many things demanding our attentions.

When Teen-challenge came to church October 16th, to sing and to testify about the destruction that drug addiction brought upon their lives, I expressed a sentiment that they all agreed with, "We can not take freedom for granted. We must struggle to be free at every moment." There are many things that would enslave us if we would let them. Each of these young people had lost their freedom through drug addiction and knew first hand the misery and pain of slavery. But must something be so dramatic to be considered enslavement. Doesn't TV or video games become an addiction when we feel compelled to watch or to play unhealthy amounts? Can't bitterness or resentment so dominate our lives that we are no longer free persons living healthy lives? Fear and insecurity are great destroyers of freedom. Anger, gluttony, greed, and lust are not so subtle passions that enslave us, and keep us from true freedom. God has created us for one purpose, to love. To love Him with all our heart, our mind, our soul, our body, and to love our neighbor as our self. When we are doing this, we have fulfilled the purpose for which we were created and not surprisingly, find ourselves fulfilled. Therefore true freedom is to worship and serve God, and comes about through the power of the Holy Spirit. So how do we get there? The answer must be passive before it can be active. In a word, SURRENDER! Whatever we are enslaved to, whatever is encroaching on our freedom to love God and our neighbor with all our hearts, is an idol. Only God is worthy of such commitment and devotion. If it is not God's will, if what we do, or what we have is not blessed by God, then we will not be free to fully enjoy it. By surrendering ourselves to the will of God, we put ourselves in the position to be empowered by the Holy Spirit. When empowered by the Holy Spirit we can actively resist temptations that would otherwise enslave us. This is what true freedom in this world means.

This month is stewardship month. The way we approach stewardship is a measure of our freedom in Christ. If it is something that we look forward to each year, the opportunity to sit down and review with our family members how we have drawn closer to God and how He has blessed us in the past year, and how we will support the ministries of the Church in the coming year, then it means we are free indeed. If it is something that makes us uncomfortable and nervous, then perhaps we are less free than we think. A child has no difficulty taking a dime out of a dollar to give back to God. A young man may even find giving \$10 out of \$100 back to God an easy proposition. Why then does \$1,000 out of \$10,000 seem so difficult or \$10,000 out of \$100,000. The percentage hasn't changed, only the attitude. If we truly see ourselves as free in Christ, and co-workers in His body the Church, then a discussion on Stewardship becomes a time of joy of returning to God the first fruits of the many gifts He has given us. We truly become co-workers in the building up of His kingdom. Then, rather than feeling constrained by a discussion on stewardship, we feel great freedom and responsibility to be wise stewards of the many gifts that He has given us. I am curious to know how many people actually read our monthly bulletin. If you do, could you please send me an email or call me, or tell me when you see me that you read this message.

Thank you and God bless,

Fr. Anthony

Christmas falls on a Sunday this year, so we will celebrate with vespers, a program, and a Lenten reception on Saturday evening, followed by Orthros and the Christmas Divine Liturgy on Sunday.

Sunday Epistle & Gospel Readings

<u>November</u>	<u>Epistle</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
November 6	St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians 1:8-11	Luke 9:1-6
November 13	St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 7:26-28; 8:1-2	Luke 10:25-37
November 20	St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 6:11-18	Luke 12:16-21
November 27	St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians 2:4-10	Luke 18:18-27

Parish Happenings

Oratorical Festival: The youth of St. Philothea will begin preparations for the Oratorical Festival and we will have a introductory meeting on Sunday November 13. Our parish has been chosen to host the Conference-wide festival next spring and we would like to have as many participants from our parish as possible (ages 12-18) The Oratorical Festival is an Archdiocesan event. Each parish hosts a local festival and the top two finalists in the both junior and senior divisions go on to the Conference festival. From there finalists are chosen for the Metropolis level and then on to the Archdiocesan level. Winners receive various prizes including scholarships. The topics are related to our Orthodox Christian faith and Tradition and it is a wonderful opportunity to learn. A significant part of success is the oratorical presentation and helps prepare young people for public speaking. It is a tremendous program. All participants receive an official letter that goes into their school documents stating their involvement in this national oratorical competition.

OCAF Holiday Market will be December 3 & 4 in Watkinsville, 10 am to 5 pm Philoptochos is hosting a pastry booth and needs volunteers to work 2 hour shifts selling sweets. This is a very nice event featuring high quality artisan work and it is a good opportunity to enjoy the Market and help Philoptochos raise money for their charitable projects. Please call Presbyteria Christine at 310-1304 to sign up for a shift.

Orthodox Christian Fellowship

OCF held is held every other Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. at the church. All college students are invited! If you would like to host a meal for OCF please sign up in the social hall.

Catechumen Class

Catechumen class will be held for those who would like to learn more about Orthodoxy. Classes will be held every Wednesday from 6-7 p.m. beginning September 7th.

The Bookstore:

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

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 and make sure 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-](http://calendar.goarch.org/cgi-bin/calweb/calweb.exe?level=marswoodhall)

[bin/calweb/calweb.exe?level=marswoodhall](http://calendar.goarch.org/cgi-bin/calweb/calweb.exe?level=marswoodhall)

St. Philothea Directory:

Father Anthony Salzman, Presbyter

Phone: 770-725-5033

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, Alexander Raev, Ann Volk

Sunday school:

Dana Johns

Music Director:

Angie Iakovou

Marketing and Maintenance Chair:

Rick Volk

Hospitality Chair:

Georgia Parthemios

Communications Chair:

Tammy Andros

Liaisons to the Caterer:

Dean and Karen Kimbaris

Coffee Hour:

Coffee Hour Hosts General Duties

Hosts are responsible for:

1. Prosforon for all Liturgies the week that they host, (i.e. Monday through Sunday)
***Prosforon should be either dropped off at church or to Father' home at least one day before or brought to liturgy before the start of Orthros (Matins).
2. Refreshments, cold drinks, half-n-half and 1 lb. of coffee for Sunday coffee hour

Set Up Duties:

- Make the coffee
- Set the table with vinyl tablecloths, cream and sugar tray, ice bowl, plastic forks, spoons, paper plates, cups (for both hot and cold drinks) and napkins as needed
- Place refreshments on trays

Clean Up Duties:

- Clean out coffee urn, wash and dry and place under the beverage cart,
**Make sure to leave the top open to dry out and not mildew
- Wash and put away all coffee related items
- Put all unused paper products back in metal storage cabinets
- Clean up all trash, seal bags and take out to the back dumpster
- Wipe tablecloths, round tables and chairs where necessary
- Wipe up counters and sinks in kitchen
- Vacuum banquet hall carpet in areas used

November Hostess Schedule

Nov. 6 Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser
Nov. 13 Ana Anest
Nov. 20 Tess Pottier
Nov. 27 Tess Pottier

Dec. 4 Angie Shih
Dec. 11 Angie Shih
Dec. 18 Georgetta Connor

"Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses."

1st Timothy 6:12

"Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech conduct, love, faith and purity, show yourself an example of those who believe" -

1st Timothy 4: 12

Philoptochos:

The most recent Philoptochos meeting was held at church on Wednesday, October 5, 2005. In attendance were Karen Kimbaris, Nina Lamson, Ann Volk, Tara Mahoney, Nina Herrington, Frieda Dekazos, Daine Simmons, Liz Seiss, Dana Johns, Tammy Andros, Ruth Pagonis, and Presbyteria Christine.

Old Business

- Baking for the OCAF Holiday Market was discussed and it was determined that cash donations would be solicited to help offset the cost of making some of the pastries. The dates of 10/19 and 10/26 were chosen for working on the pastries at the church.
- The Priest's luncheon went well. Frieda, Stacey, Ann, Barbara, Georgia, and Karen worked on this. A very nice thank you note was received from Father.
- Because some of the requirements for selling rummage at the Monroe flea market was beyond our means, it was decided that we would have our annual rummage sale, however, instead of at the church it will be held on Nov. 5h at Dana John's house. Parishioners who want to donate rummage/garage sale items are being asked to bring **clean and priced** items to Dana John's house at 1051 Crooked Creek Road in Watkinsville, the evening of Friday, November 4th.
- One of the proposed fundraisers for this year from which some of the proceeds are to directly benefit the church or church functions will be pancake breakfasts on specified days after church. The suggested donation for the breakfast will be \$4.00/person and free for children 10 and under. The first one is scheduled for 11/6 and many thanks to the several husbands have been volunteered to help.
- Other fundraisers, for which the proceeds unless otherwise stated, will go to our designated charities will be the garage sale in November, the OCAF holiday market in December, and the Bid 'n Buy in February. In addition, Philoptochos may possibly sell leftover pastries from the holiday market at the Evening in Greece dinner in January. Proceeds from this event will go to the church building fund and beautification committee.
- A \$200 check was sent to Project Safe and a \$100 was sent to OCAF as our deposit for the Holiday Market. This leaves us with a balance of approximately \$900.

New Business

- Other events in which Philoptochos members will be involved include Christmas tree decorating at church on November 29th. It is hoped that OCF, who will be meeting that night, will be able to assist. Also, a Spiritual Enrichment meeting has been set for December 7th at 7:00 at Ann Volk's house. Philoptochos members will also be involved in the preparations for the Evening in Greece on January 28th, the Oratorical Festival being hosted by St. Philothea on April 1st and the Greek festival scheduled for May 6th.
- Karen also wanted everyone to know that Philoptochos will be having an election of new officers in May. The next meeting is scheduled for November 2nd at 7:00 at church.

Philoptochos Board:

President: Karen Kimbaris

Vice President: Ann Volk

Treasurer: Tara Mahoney

Secretary: Nina Lamson

Corresponding Secretary: Frieda Dekazos

Outreach: Dana Johns

Metropolitan Liaison: Presbyteria Christine

Maintenance Committee Report

The Maintenance Committee has been very active this fall. You many have noticed their handy work in a number of different ways; some jobs may have escaped your observation, but they have all made St. Philothea and Marswood Hall a more beautiful space to worship in and to rent out to others. The curbing and stantion polls around the sewer access will prevent people from driving over the corner and prevent run off water from seeping into the holding tank. This will preserve the life of our pumps and prevent damage to that corner from wayward trucks backing up over the septic system. All the doors in the building have been fixed, and doorstops have been added by Richard Volk and Bill Mahoney. In October we spread over 150 bales of pinestraw around the grounds to spruce things up for an outdoor wedding. Many hands made light work and we accomplished our task quickly. With a building of this size there is always something to do, and we thank the Maintenance Committee for maintaining the property so well. All this and a weekly cleaning schedule that would be daunting for the most professional maintenance engineer among us. **That is why we need your help.** *When a clarion cry goes out for hall cleaning, we need fresh voices to respond with vigor, to relieve those who do it weekly and are getting weary. If you have not gotten into the habit of offering your services once a month to the Maintenance Committee for cleaning purposes, next time you hear the call, respond, "here I am, take me."*

Here is November's Schedule, Choose a date and mark your calendar and contact Richard Volk (706) 769-6933 to let him know you are coming. WORK BEGINS AT 7 P.M.

Booking:	Cleaning Date:
Nov. 5 th	Friday, Nov. 4 th
Nov. 13 th (Outside event)	Saturday, Nov. 12 th
Nov. 17 th	Wednesday, Nov. 16 th
Nov. 19 th	Friday, Nov. 18 th
Nov. 25 th	Tuesday, Nov. 22 nd
Dec. 3 rd	Friday, Dec. 2 nd

✝ *The Cross in My Pocket* ✝

*I carry a cross in my pocket
A simple reminder to me
Of the fact that I am a Christian
No matter where I may be*

*This little cross is not magic
Nor is it a good luck charm
It isn't meant to protect me
From every physical harm*

*It's not for identification
For all the world to see
It's simply an understanding
Between my Savior and me*

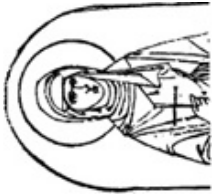
*When I put my hand in my pocket
To bring out a coin or a key
The Cross is there to remind me
Of the price He paid for me*

*It reminds me too, to be thankful
For my blessings day by day
and to strive to serve Him better
In all that I do and say*

*It's also a daily reminder
Of the peace and comfort I share
With all who know my Master
And give themselves to His care*

*So, I carry a cross in my pocket
Reminding no one but me
That Jesus Christ is Lord of my life
If only I'll let him be.*

-Verna Thomas



St. Philothea Greek Orthodox Church Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Atlanta

November 2005						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
30 Goya Retreat at the Diakonia Center 9:00a Orthros and Divine Liturgy	31 6:30p OCF Dinner and Discussion 6:30	1 6:00p Greek School, 6:00 p.m., & Catachumen Class	2 6:00p Greek School, 6:00 p.m., & Catachumen Class	3	4 7:00p Hall Cleaning	5
6 Gallis Memorial 9:00a Orthros and Divine Liturgy	7 Feast of the Synaxis of Archangels, St. Nectarios the Wonderworker, 5 Orthros, 6 Liturgy	8 6:00p OCF Dinner and Discussion 6:30	9 6:00p Greek School, 6:00 p.m., & Catachumen Class	10	11	12 5:00p Arachangel Michael Feast and Honors Banquet, Vespers at 5:00 Banquet at 7:00 p.m., 7:00p Hall Cleaning
13 General Assembly, Elections, Budget, Marswood Hall 9:00a Orthros and Divine Liturgy	14 6:30p OCF Dinner and Discussion 6:30	15 7:00p Hall Cleaning	16 6:00p Greek School, 6:00 p.m., & Catachumen Class 7:00p Hall Cleaning 7:00p Parish Council	17	18 7:00p Hall Cleaning 7:00p OCF Paracleseis	19
20 Cochanes Memorial 9:00a Orthros and Divine Liturgy	21 7:00p Hall Cleaning	22 6:00p Greek School, 6:00 p.m., & Catachumen Class	23	24	25	26
27 9:00a Orthros and Divine Liturgy	28 St. Andrew the Apostle, Orthros 4:30, Orthros, Liturgy 5:30 6:30p OCF Dinner and Discussion 6:30	29 6:00p Greek School, 6:00 p.m., & Catachumen Class	30	1	2 7:00p Hall Cleaning	3 10:00p - Dec 4, 5: 5:00a OCAF Holiday Market



St. Philothea Greek Orthodox Church Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Atlanta

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