



From Father Anthony

November is Stewardship month. It is a time we look back over the year to recount how God has formed us and shaped us in the past year and use this month as a bench mark to see how we have grown in our faith. A sign of spiritual maturity is our understanding of stewardship, how we handle the gifts of time, talent and treasures that God has entrusted to us. Five years ago, as a community we stepped out in faith to set as a goal of 10 in 3. That is, to start giving 10 percent of our resources to the Church for the up building of God's Kingdom on earth and the spread of the Gospel. We did it in small increments over a period of three years so that we could grow into the practice of tithing, giving 10 percent of our resources to God. Many of you responded and found through experience that God "is" faithful to supply all our needs. That by giving of ourselves in a substantial way we did not have less but had more, more joy, more fulfillments, more love, and more resources to be stewards of. I am including a sermon by Fr. James Moulketis, former president of the Archdiocesan Presbyters Council, to help us gain some insight and inspiration for this important aspect of our faith. We will be preaching on Stewardship during the month of November and each of you will receive a packet of information that will help us as we prepare to make a commitment to God for the coming year of our time, talent and treasures. It is important that we all submit a stewardship pledge card so that our Parish Council can make plans for the coming year for ministries and operational expenses that must be met. Every family has a budget and so does the Church. Our stewardship commitment helps the Parish Council plan responsibly for the coming year.
~In Christ, Fr. Anthony

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### **CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP IS FAITH IN ACTION**

Visiting the Holy Lands makes the scriptures and Christ's saving message a living reality that forever remains in the heart of the pilgrim. Each and every historical sight there makes God's presence a joyous hope and an unforgettable experience. One such place for me was the "Sarantaron Oros," the Mount of Temptation, which is practically in between the village of His birth and the city of His death. It is an imposing sight, which can be clearly seen from the highway, marked with many holy shrines in this lonely and desolate area of Christ's forty day fast.

Gazing up you can visualize where Jesus was tempted three times by the Devil. It is there on the top of that mountain where the evil one showed Jesus all the kingdoms of the world, and made Him this tempting offer. "All these I will bestow upon You if You prostrate Yourself in homage before me." To which Jesus replied, "Away with you, Satan, for Scripture has it that you shall do homage to the Lord your God; Him alone shall you adore" (Matthew 4:9-10). Clearly, Jesus perceived that the devil's offer is fraudulent. The kingdoms of the world are not the Devil's to give. They are God's, and God's alone. We are merely the caretakers of what we possess. God loves us so much that He has appointed us Stewards of His earthly kingdom, and has granted us the privilege of using that which we possess, to His honor and glory.

God has charged us with the responsibility not only of Stewardship over material resources but also of human resources. We are Stewards not only of things but of life itself. We are Stewards of all creation, which is God's lovingly gift to us. Our call is clear, it comes from the first book of the Old Testament where the Lord tells Adam his charge is to till and cultivate the earth, to care for and protect all that God has blessed him with.

It is time for us to now recognize that everything has been given to us to manage, to cultivate and protect for Him. God gives all to us to use and we in turn return it to Him as our recognition of His love and His sovereignty over our lives. This expression of faith is reflected through our actions; our faith determines the choices by which we live. And Stewardship is the key ingredient for that faith. It is easy for all of us to say our prayers, to attend our Churches and go through the motions of what a Greek Orthodox Christian is all about. But the real test comes in how we manage what God has given us.

Stewardship is the working out of our faith through giving in order to carry on God's work. Our actions, our lives, and our giving are the most accurate measure of our faith. The material things in our lives, our time, our talent and treasures speak so clearly about what's most important for us, they mold and shape who we are and how we live – we need to ask ourselves do we allow God to enter these areas of our lives? Does He impact our thinking in these choices? Christian Stewardship is faith in action.

St. Paul describes it clearly noting that the Corinthian Greeks who were in extreme poverty gave even in their dire hardship to help the Church in Jerusalem. They gave because God was the most important part of their lives and influenced all their choices. They choose to give because they trusted God. They were moved to action because love guided their choice. Stewardship is our commitment to Christ, our conscientious choice to support His work and commit ourselves and each other and our whole life to Christ our God. Stewardship affords all of us this joyous opportunity to reexamine our priorities and values. It's an opportunity to express our thankfulness, to give of ourselves and our means, to grow in grace, to break free from the past and move into a new adventure of faith. Stewardship enables us to participate more fully in the work God has given each person to do in the Church and in the world.

Our reason for being here today is to celebrate God and to celebrate God's presence and His power and His love and His promise of fulfillment. In celebrating these realities, new life is given to us. The realization of that new life involves a daily recognition that God is the owner and we are the Stewards of His material resources and His human resources as well.

All of this, ultimately, is a matter of trust, which is at the heart of our response to God. Moreover, God's appointing us Stewards is an act of trust on God's part. He trusts us, and when we realize that God is placing His trust in us it puts us in ever-closer contact with Him through our daily experience. God is trusting us to do our part as Stewards of our world, our treasures and our lives.

On one of the most valuable pieces of real estate in the world stands the Royal Exchange, in London's financial district. Carved across the top of the Royal Exchange are the words, "The Earth is the Lord's" -- a constant reminder to those who are caught up in that financial world that they are merely Stewards. How wonderful it would be, if over the "Royal Exchange" of my heart and yours, we could always see those words and remember that God is the owner and we are the Stewards of His material resources and His human resources, both. Christ withstood the temptations of the Evil One, recognizing that the earth is the Lord's, it is His gift to us, through Stewardship we offer back to Him that which is already and always His.

Fr. James C. Moulketis



# Parish Happenings

**Watkinsville Parade & OCAF Holiday Market** is on Saturday December 2 at 11:00 am. After the Parade come up to the OCAF Holiday Market where our Philoptochos will be selling Greek Pastries to benefit charity. We need volunteers to work a 2 or 3 hour shift selling pastries at the booth. Hours are Saturday and Sunday (Dec 2 & 3) from 10:00 – 5:00. Call Ann Volk or Presbyteria to sign up for a shift.

**Sunday School** In addition to our Middle-to-High School class and our Elementary class we are now starting a Preschool class. Children ages 4 to 6 are welcome to join. If you have any questions please contact Presbyteria. As a reminder, please allow the Sunday school children and teachers to line up for Holy Communion first. They then should exit the side door and go directly to their classes. *There will be no Sunday School classes on November 26, December 24 and December 31.*

**Nursery** The nursery is available from 10:00 to the end of the Liturgy for small children on an as needed basis. All children are encouraged to experience some of the Divine Liturgy according to their abilities. Due to the larger number of babies this year and the limited space, parents are asked to stagger their time in the nursery during the Liturgy and to help keep the room tidy. We are looking into different options to correct this very blessed need and appreciate your cooperation.

Nursery Attendants this month are:

|        |               |
|--------|---------------|
| Nov 5  | Angie Shih    |
| Nov 12 | Lynn Manzione |
| Nov 19 | Yuliya        |
| Nov 26 | Ina           |

The attendant is responsible for monitoring the nursery from 10:00 am to the end of Liturgy, noting when it is time to return to the Sanctuary for Holy Communion and for cleaning up the nursery before leaving. Sometimes this may include vacuuming.

**General Assembly** will take place Nov. 12th following the Divine Liturgy. We will review a proposed budget for the coming year, pass local by-laws, form an election committee for the parish council, nominate new members, form and auditing board, and be updated on Marswood Hall.

**Philoptochos** will have a spiritual meeting on Wed. Dec 6 at Ann Volk's house at 7:00. Everyone will be asked to bring an appetizer.

**Garage Sale** Don't forget about the Philoptochos Garage Sale on November 4<sup>th</sup>. Drop off is Friday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> from 5:00-8:00 p.m. at Nina Lamson's home. Please do not bring any items to the church and no clothing is being sold. Address and Directions to the Lamson home:

Address: 1051 Stone Shoals Ln, Watkinsville  
Directions: Off Main Street in downtown Watkinsville, turn left onto Barnett Shoals Rd (the new "Town Center" will be on your left). Turn into Stone Shoals subdivision on the right (first right after the railroad tracks). Upon the first stop sign, turn left. Stone Shoals Lane is the second street on the right. On Stone Shoals Lane, the house is the 4<sup>th</sup> house on the left. 1051 Stone Shoals Lane. \*Contact Nina Lamson if you need more information (706) 769-4664

**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.

**OCF** meets every other Tuesday night at 6:30 at the church.

**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.

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

**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)

**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/>

### Gospel & Epistle Readings

**November 5**      **Gospel:** Luke 16:19-31

**Epistle:** St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 2:16-20

**November 12**      **Gospel:** Luke 10:25-37

**Epistle:** St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians 9:6-11

**November 19**      **Gospel:** Luke 12:16-21

**Epistle:** St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians 2:4-10

**November 26**      **Gospel:** Luke 18:18-27

**Epistle:** St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians 2:14-22

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

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#### ***Parish Council:***

President: Stacey Cramer

Vice President: Karen Kimbaris

Treasurer: Andrew Shih

Secretary: Ann Volk

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

Pres. Christine Salzman

#### ***Hospitality Chair:***

Georgia Parthemos

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

President: Karen Kimbaris

Vice President: Ann Volk

Treasurer: Presbytera Christine

Secretary: Nina Lamson

Corresponding Secretary: Frieda Dekazos

Outreach: Dana Johns

Advisor: Georgia Parthemos

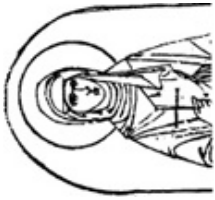
#### ***Marketing and Maintenance Chair:***

Rick Volk

#### ***Bulletin:***

Writer: Kacina Lamson

Editor: Father Anthony



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

| November 2006                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                |                                                  |                                                                                                                          |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sun                                                                                                                                                   | Mon                                                                                                                                   | Tue                                                                                                                                   | Wed                                                                                                                               | Thur                                                                                                           | Fri                                              | Sat                                                                                                                      |
| 29<br>9:00a Orthros and<br><a href="#">Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m.</a>                                                                                   | 30<br>6:30p OCF Dinner and<br><a href="#">Discussion 6:30</a>                                                                         | 31<br>6:30p OCF Dinner and<br><a href="#">Discussion 6:30</a>                                                                         | 1<br>6:00p Adult<br><a href="#">Ed/Catachumen Class</a><br>6:00p <a href="#">Choir practice</a><br>7:00p <a href="#">Vespers</a>  | 2<br>9:30a <a href="#">Mothers' Morning Meeting</a>                                                            | 3<br>6:00p <a href="#">Dempsey rehearsal</a>     | 4<br>7:00a <a href="#">Garage Sale at the Lamson's</a><br>12:00p <a href="#">Brandi Dempsey Wedding &amp; reception</a>  |
| 5<br>9:00a Orthros and<br><a href="#">Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m.</a><br>12:00p <a href="#">Covered Dish</a>                                             | 6<br>6:30p OCF Dinner and<br><a href="#">Discussion 6:30</a>                                                                          | 7<br>6:30p OCF Dinner and<br><a href="#">Discussion 6:30</a>                                                                          | 8<br>5:00p <a href="#">St. Nectarios, Orthros and Divine Liturgy</a>                                                              | 9<br>9:30a <a href="#">Mothers' Morning Meeting</a>                                                            | 10<br>6:00p <a href="#">Dempsey rehearsal</a>    | 11<br>12:00p <a href="#">Rivera Wedding</a>                                                                              |
| 12<br>9:00a Orthros and<br><a href="#">Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m.</a><br>12:00p General<br><a href="#">Assembly, Nominations, Budget, Marswood Hall</a> | 13<br>6:30p OCF Dinner and<br><a href="#">Discussion 6:30</a>                                                                         | 14<br>6:30p OCF Dinner and<br><a href="#">Discussion 6:30</a>                                                                         | 15<br>7:00p <a href="#">Parish Council</a>                                                                                        | 16<br>9:30a <a href="#">Mothers' Morning Meeting</a><br>4:00p <a href="#">association of co. commissioners</a> | 17<br>6:00p <a href="#">Dempsey rehearsal</a>    | 18<br>7:00a <a href="#">Garage Sale at the Lamson's</a><br>12:00p <a href="#">Brandi Dempsey Wedding &amp; reception</a> |
| 19<br>9:00a Orthros and<br><a href="#">Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m.</a><br>1:00p <a href="#">Ann Reynolds</a>                                             | 20<br>6:30p OCF Dinner and<br><a href="#">Discussion 6:30</a>                                                                         | 21<br>6:30p OCF Dinner and<br><a href="#">Discussion 6:30</a>                                                                         | 22<br>7:00p <a href="#">Parish Council</a>                                                                                        | 23<br><a href="#">Thanksgiving Day</a>                                                                         | 24<br>6:00p <a href="#">Dempsey rehearsal</a>    | 25<br>7:00a <a href="#">Garage Sale at the Lamson's</a><br>12:00p <a href="#">Brandi Dempsey Wedding &amp; reception</a> |
| 26<br>9:00a Orthros and<br><a href="#">Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m.</a><br>12:00p <a href="#">Put up Christmas trees</a>                                  | 27<br>6:30p OCF Dinner and<br><a href="#">Discussion 6:30</a><br>7:00p <a href="#">Cut Baklava for OCAF, decorate Christmas Cards</a> | 28<br>6:30p OCF Dinner and<br><a href="#">Discussion 6:30</a><br>7:00p <a href="#">Cut Baklava for OCAF, decorate Christmas Cards</a> | 29<br>6:00p Adult<br><a href="#">Ed/Catachumen Class</a><br>6:00p <a href="#">Choir practice</a><br>7:00p <a href="#">Vespers</a> | 30<br>9:30a <a href="#">Mothers' Morning Meeting</a>                                                           | 1<br>12:00p <a href="#">Zaxby's- Matt Brooks</a> | 2<br>7:00a <a href="#">Garage Sale at the Lamson's</a><br>12:00p <a href="#">Brandi Dempsey Wedding &amp; reception</a>  |

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Volume 13 — Issue 9  
November 2006