



# From Father Anthony

## Freedom in Christ

In late September I had 11 students at the Diakonia Center for an Intermediate Iconography Workshop. Each of them had some experience in Byzantine Iconography, and there were varying degrees of natural ability. The work was intense and the days were long, but no one gave up, although there were moments of discouragement and despair (not mine) along the way. But in the end everyone arrived at a place of satisfaction for having persevered and accomplished to some degree a presentable icon. Along the way we learned many rules about drawing, perspective, color mixing, color relationships, expression, and technique. There were many rules and guidelines to follow in order to get the desired effect or result. In the process our ability grew and our eye matured. The results although, although not perfect did increase both our hope for future progress and our confidence in our ability. This is an important lesson for our Christian life as well.

As Orthodox Christians living in a Post Modern World where any consensus about right and wrong, good or evil, freedom and responsibility no longer exists; the idea of rules and regulations is seen as oppressive, destructive, subjective, and certainly not helpful. “Why should anyone tell me what to do” we ask? “Am I not the master of my fate? Am I not the captain of my ship”? Well to a certain degree we may answer “yes you are responsible for your life”, but does that mean that there are no rules to follow that would increase your chances for success, happiness or fulfillment? Are there no rules that would help guide you in your decision making?

If we go back to our iconography example we see that even with instruction and intense oversight and guidance the results although good, were far from perfect. In fact the students were diligent to write down every rule, every guideline, and every color combination in order to “get it right”. They did not find these rules oppressive but rather as a helpful guide along the way to make their job easier. The rules were there to insure their freedom not to inhibit it. In the end they had to learn to see, to walk on their own two feet, to apply the principles that they had learned in new and more challenging situations. Copying Master Iconographers was a step on the way to becoming one themselves. A Master does not shun discipline and rules but embraces them so that they are free to create master pieces as their work and decision making process improves. In the end rules do not inhibit their freedom, they guarantee it.

Our life in Christ is the same way. In Scripture we are encouraged to “have the mind of Christ”, to “put on Christ”, to “take up our cross and follow Him”. Is this to restrict our freedom? No, it is to guarantee it. When we know the rules then we are free from deception, passions, enslavement to things, bad relationships, discouragement, ego, pride, and evil thoughts. The rules help us to avoid pitfalls that capture and enslave those who reject them. Does Christ want robots that blindly follow Him? An emphatic “No!” He wants Sons and Daughters who freely choose to follow Him and worship Him with full understanding. He wants mature men and women who freely choose to do His will. Christ expressed this when He said to the disciples “My food is to do the will of the Father.” The will of the Father was not burdensome; it was His source of sustenance. Rules do not inhibit or limit our freedom or pleasure in life, rather they guarantee it.

Fr. Anthony



## Sunday Epistle & Gospel Readings

- 10/1/2006    Gospel: [Luke 6:31-36](#) Epistle: [St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians 6:1-10](#)
- 10/8/2006    Gospel: [Luke 7:11-16](#) Epistle: [St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians 6:16-18; 7:1](#)
- 10/15/2006    Gospel: [Luke 8:5-15](#) Epistle: [St. Paul's Letter to Titus 3:8-15](#)
- 10/22/2006    Gospel: [Luke 8:26-39](#) Epistle: [St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians 11:31-33; 12:1-9](#)
- 10/29/2006    Gospel: [Luke 8:41-56](#) Epistle: [St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 1:11-19](#)

### TREASURER REPORT:

Now that we have all returned from summer, and with increased bookings for the chapel and Marswood Hall, we continue to meet our expenses to date.

The end of the year is coming. If you would like to receive an update on your pledge, please e-mail Andrew at [andrew.shih@mindspring.com](mailto:andrew.shih@mindspring.com). In addition, this is a good time for us all to begin thinking about our next year's pledge. Whether it be time, talent, or treasure, please rest assured that it is greatly appreciated and very much needed.

- Andrew Shih

# Parish Happenings

**Philoptochos** will be selling Greek Pastries at the OCAF Holiday Market the first weekend in December. We wanted to get the baking done earlier this year as it gets busy near the holidays. Below are the two dates set, please plan to come. Many hands make light the work.

- Sunday October 1<sup>st</sup> from 5:00-7:00 p.m
  - Wednesday October 4<sup>th</sup> from 7:30-9:00 p.m
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Philoptochos is also planning a Garage Sale for November 4<sup>th</sup> to benefit charity. Please begin putting aside “yesterday’s treasures” to donate to this very worthy cause.

Guidelines for donations:

- All items should be in good condition, clean, and priced
- No clothing Drop off is Friday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> from 5:00- 8:00 p.m at Nina Lamson’s home
  - 1051 Stone Shoals Ln, Watkinsville
- Do not bring any items to the church

Directions to the Lamson home

- 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

**Philoptochos Business Meeting** will be October 3, 7:00 pm at the church.

## Information about our Youth Programs:

- **CATECHETICAL SCHOOL** classes are underway. Many thanks to our middle and high school teachers, Robi Ragan and Presbytera Christine and to our elementary school teachers, Tess Pottier, Stacey Sprouse and Jill Rithmire. We have a wonderful group of children eager to learn and grow in their faith. Please pray for our program, teachers and children, as this is an important Diakonia of our church.
- **THE FALL GOYA RETREAT** will be October 20-22 at the Diakonia Center. Our teens are looking forward to good weather, fellowship and faith-building at the beautiful camp facilities in South Carolina. For more information please contact Robi Ragan or Presbytera Christine
- **PAPAJOHNS FUNDRAISER:** The youth and OCF are selling Papa Johns Pizza Coupons to raise money for youth activities. The Coupon Booklet costs \$10 and has up to \$70 worth of savings. If you would like to get some to sell please contact Stephanos Salzman 706-310-1304.
- **YOUNG MOTHER’S GROUP:** A mother’s group is forming to get young mothers and their children together one morning a week. If you are interested in joining or helping with child care please contact Presbytera Christine for more information.

**MORNING GLORIES** are planning a luncheon outing for the Morning Glories later this month (tentatively for October 17). Please contact Georgia if you could help pick people up or for more information on visiting the Morning Glories at their homes.

## 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 will meet every other Tuesday night this month at 6:30 pm. October 3<sup>rd</sup> will be at T.J. and Robbi Ragan's home, October 17 will meet at the church and the October 31<sup>st</sup> meeting will be around the campfire at Father Anthony's home. The students are asked to bring finger food appetizers that night.

### **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)

### **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.

### **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



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

Father Anthony Salzman, Presbyter

Phone: 770-725-5033

Father Anthony E-mail:

[frantonios@imageandlikeness.com](mailto:frantonios@imageandlikeness.com)

Presbytera E-mail:

[prchristine@imageandlikeness.com](mailto:prchristine@imageandlikeness.com)

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

President: Stacey Cramer

Vice President: Karen Kimbaris

Treasurer: Andrew Shih

Secretary: Ann Volk

### ***Philochochos Board:***

President: Karen Kimbaris

Vice President: Ann Volk

Treasurer: Presbytera Christine

Secretary: Nina Lamson

Corresponding Secretary: Frieda Dekazos

Outreach: Dana Johns

Advisor: Georgia Parthemos

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

Pres. Christine Salzman

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

Rick Volk

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

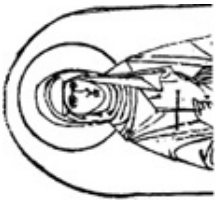
Georgia Parthemos

### ***Bulletin:***

Writer: Kacina Lamson

Editor: Father Anthony





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

## October 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
1 9:00a Orthros and <a href="#">Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m.</a>	2	3 6:30p OCF Dinner and Discussion 6:30 <a href="#">Ed/Catachumen Class</a> 7:00p Philoptochos <a href="#">Organizational Meeting</a>	4 6:00p Adult <a href="#">Ed/Catachumen Class</a> 7:00p Vespers 7:45p Choir practice	5	6	7
8 9:00a Orthros and <a href="#">Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m.</a>	9	10	11 6:00p Adult <a href="#">Ed/Catachumen Class</a> 7:00p Vespers 7:45p Choir practice	12 11:00a OCF lunch at <a href="#">Bull Dawg Cafe</a>	13	14 10:00a <a href="#">casas-pena</a> <a href="#">Baptism</a>
15 9:00a Orthros and <a href="#">Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m.</a>	16	17 6:30p OCF Dinner and Discussion 6:30 <a href="#">Ed/Catachumen Class</a> 7:00p Parish Council	18 6:00p Adult <a href="#">Ed/Catachumen Class</a> 7:00p	19	20	21
22 9:00a Orthros and <a href="#">Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m.</a>	23	24	25 5:00p St. Demetrios, Archbishop Demetrios' name day Orthros and <a href="#">Divine Liturgy</a>	26	27 7:00p <a href="#">chapel-c-Burton</a>	28 12:00p <a href="#">Burton</a> <a href="#">Wedding&amp; reception</a>
29 9:00a Orthros and <a href="#">Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m.</a>	30	31 6:30p OCF Dinner and Discussion 6:30 <a href="#">Ed/Catachumen Class</a>	1 6:00p Adult <a href="#">Ed/Catachumen Class</a>	2	3 6:00p <a href="#">Dempsey</a> <a href="#">rehearsal</a>	4 12:00p <a href="#">Brandi</a> <a href="#">Dempsey Wedding &amp;</a> <a href="#">reception</a>

Rev. Fr. Anthony Salzman  
3761 Mars Hill Road / Watkinsville, GA 30677  
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