



## From Father Anthony

We end our Ecclesiastical year having reflected on the theme, not only reflected but strove for “Be ye perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect.” By concentrating on this theme we got a new perspective on what perfection means from God’s point of view. By God’s standards it is the one who imitates Christ in love, patience, kindness, wisdom, and self-control.

This year a theme for our parish in the state that it is, e.g. new building, growing members, and Athens sitting next door . . . “do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.” In other words, be ‘the Church’ that others may see the Kingdom of God in their midst and so find salvation. The longer quote that this comes from gives a fuller context and reason for the phrase “do the work of an evangelist.”

*“I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: preach the word, be urgent in season and out of season, convince, rebuke, and exhort, be unfailing in patience and in teaching. For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own likings, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander into myths. As for you, always be steady, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. (2 Tim. 4:1-5)*

*In the presence of Christ, our Lord and King whom we serve, we must preach the word, be urgent about it, when we feel like it and when we don’t, use our skills and gifts to convince, rebuke, exhort, never tire of being patient, and always be ready to teach. Not an easy list to fulfill off the bat. But there it is. The reason it is so important is that people are so easily defeated when it comes to spiritual vigor. They can get distracted, they can get discouraged, they can wither under pressure, they can be deceived, just look at what happens to 75% of the seeds in the parable of the sower. Some get trampled in the ground, some get snatched up by the birds, some sprout but soon wither in the heat, some get choked by vines, (cares of this world). Lots can happen to defeat us in our spiritual life.*

*I pulled out the phrase “do the work of an evangelist” but we should remember the greater context when we hear that phrase, and what it involves. The image is of St. Paul seeing the whole mission of the Church, the needs of the world, eternity, and knowing who he is and how he should live to complete his ministry, given to him by Christ Himself. A ministry that is not isolated to just St. Paul in the 1<sup>st</sup> century, but extending by nature of baptism to every Orthodox Christian.*

*To be effective ministers of the gospel we need to know what it is, we need to study our faith, we need to put on Christ in order to know when and how to “convince, rebuke, exhort”. These are spiritual development issues. What can we do differently than we are currently doing? We can be conscious and deliberate about our commitment to Christ and His Church. We can take responsibility for the state of our souls and focus our energies on utilizing the resources available to us. If we need more resources, we can make efforts to find them. We can make every effort to live in the moment, with Christ, to address every need, temptation, frustration, joy, sorrow, and unexpected event in the context of His love, His forgiveness, and His wisdom. We can give it the time it needs. And in the end we can become spiritual giants. Why not? What is stopping us?*

*This year lets “do the work of an evangelist”. It is work, but it is the only work that will matter in eternity. What other kind of investment will transfer from the temporary to eternity? Certainly not stocks or bonds, or real-estate. What will matter are hearts and minds that have been shaped by God’s love. That investment has eternal value and significance. Along with our portfolio for college funds, and retirement, we need a spiritual portfolio that contains, 20% convince, 20% exhort, and 20% rebuke, and then diversify with prayer, Bible study, reading the fathers, worship and participation in the sacraments. That is the kind of portfolio that will bring eternal returns. That is a goal worthy of our time in the coming year.*

*Have a blessed Year.*

*Fr. Anthony*

## **Sunday Epistle & Gospel Readings**

### **September**

### **Epistle**

### **Gospel**

September 3

St. Paul’s First Letter to the  
Corinthians 1:3-9

Matthew 19:3-12

September 10

St. Paul’s First Letter to the  
Corinthians  
2:6-9

Matthew 10:37-42; 11:1

September 17

St. Paul’s First Letter to the  
Corinthians  
1:26-31; 2:1-5

John 8:21-30

September 24

St. Paul’s Second Letter to Timothy  
3:10-15

Luke 5:12-16

## Parish Happenings

### **Sunday school Kick-Off**

The Sunday school kick-off will be held on September 11th right after church. It will be pot luck, BBQ style. The party will be held at the home of Andrew Majsztik, 1081 Red Oak Court Watkinsville, GA 30677. For directions call 706-310-1243 or call Pre. Christina @706-310-1304. All are welcome to come. There will be swimming in the pool so bring a suit and any floating devices you would like to use.

### **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 7<sup>th</sup>.

### **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-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.

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

Father Anthony Salzman, Presbyter  
Phone: 770-725-5033  
E-mail: [frantonios2@mindspring.com](mailto: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:**

Mari Iakovou

### **Philoptochos Board:**

President: Karen Kimbaris  
Vice President: Mari Iakovou  
Secretary: Nina Lamson  
Treasurer: Tara Mahoney

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

Rick Volk

### **Hospitality Chair:**

Georgia Parthemous

### **Communications Chair:**

Tammy Andros

### **Liaisons to the Caterer:**

Dean and Karen Kimbaris

## **Message for the Volume of the 5th Halki Seminar (18 April 2005)**

To the readership our Modesty's beloved children in the Lord: Grace and peace from God.

As a result of the first five environmental Summer Seminars on Halki (1994-1999) we have established that the protection of the environment in which humanity lives is a divine commandment. Our position is founded upon God's commandment to those whom he first created, that they, according to the teaching of our faith, "labor and tend the garden" in which they were first placed by Him. This is the theological basis for the humankind's role in the protection of the environment. Thus, at the beginning of this new millennium, it is not only our divine obligation to labor and utilize the fruits of His gifts on this terrestrial globe, but also we, as His most humble servants, are responsible for tending of the garden of Eden.

Keeping this garden in proper condition and then keeping and protecting it after the dispersions of peoples all over the earth is also our respectful duty to our fellow human beings, as well as generations to come. For the pollution or destruction of a single element of the environment brings hardship on the life of another. Consequently, there is an ethical responsibility on our part that we not make life difficult for our fellow human beings.

Heroditus tells us that among certain ancient peoples there was a well known custom that they not pollute the rivers, which they believed to be in the divine order of things. Certainly conveyed here was an ethical condemnation of the hardship brought upon the lives of one's fellow human beings using the flowing waters at some point further downstream. Also well known is the commandment of Moses to the Israelites dwelling in the desert, that they follow what is described in the Bible (Old Testament) by taking certain measures to conceal and bury the polluted wastes and keep their environment clean and healthy.

Thus, today, we are able to say that the Christian religion, the Jewish religion, and the Muslim religion- which accepts in part of the Old Testament as encompassing the declaration of God's will to humankind- we are obliged to emphasize their faithful that tending and protecting the earthly environment and, in general, the worldly environment which we live, is a commandment of God; as such, a religious obligation.

The highlights of the first five Summer Seminars on Halki in the Holy and Patriarchal and Stauropegial Monastery of the Holy Trinity, which were dedicated to the protection of the environment, have been carefully chosen for this volume. They range in themes from ethics to religious education to community action, but all underscore humankind's most responsible role in protecting the Garden of Eden, our greatest gift from God, our all-loving creator.

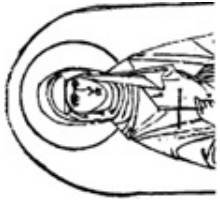
This volume also represents the hope that by its circulation and study, the reader will fulfill his or hers most sacred duty and help make this garden which we all share a cleaner and better place.....

At the Phanar, 18 April 2005

Your fervent supplicant before God,

THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH

+ Bartholomew of Constantinople



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

## September 2005

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
8:30a Orthros and Divine Liturgy 8:30 a.m.	28	29	30	31	1	2	3
		Beheading of the Forerunner, strict fast					
8:30a Orthros and Divine Liturgy 8:30 a.m.	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
			6:30p OCF Dinner and Discussion 6:30	6:00p Greek School, 6:00 p.m., & Catachumen Class	Nativity of the Theotokos		
9:00a Orthros and Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m.	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
			11:00a Pan-Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood luncheon and Art tour at Georg	6:00p Greek School, 6:00 p.m., & Catachumen Class			
12:30p Sunday School Kickoff pool party at Andrews			5:00p Orthros and Divine Liturgy for Holy Cross 5:00 p.m.	7:00p Spiritual Enrichment with Philoptochos			
9:00a Orthros and Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m.	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
			6:30p OCF Dinner and Discussion 6:30	6:00p Greek School, 6:00 p.m., & Catachumen Class	Byzantine Iconography Workshop	Byzantine Iconography Workshop	Byzantine Iconography Workshop
9:00a Orthros and Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m.	25	26	27	28	29	30	1
		Translation of the Relics of St. John the Theologian		6:00p Greek School, 6:00 p.m., & Catachumen Class			

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