



From Father Anthony

We begin another New Year at St. Philothea

We have completed a year focused on the theme “Do the work of an Evangelist” 1 Tim. We move on to another theme but do not leave behind our lessons learned this year. Hopefully we have been sensitized to our mission as the Church, and will incorporate the lessons learned for the rest of our lives.

Our journey to eternity continues as we begin a New Ecclesiastical Year, which also means a new opportunity to focus our attention on a new theme. This year I have chosen a fragment from a prayer that we use every liturgy. We pray “Let us commit ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.” What exactly does it mean? It means that we should consciously focus our attention on serving Christ, and to individually and corporately commit ourselves to helping each other serve Christ. We see how this works in a family. When one member of the family is having a difficulty or behaving contrary to what is good, we feel an obligation to help them get back on track. To not do so would be to neglect what feels like an innate responsibility. The same is true in our spiritual lives. If we see a brother or sister taken in sin We are to restore them in a spirit of humility. By doing so the body remains whole and we progress together in spiritual maturity.

Each member is given a measure of grace according to his faith, and each is given gifts by the Holy Spirit to exercise for the building up of the body of Christ. In practical terms that means that we support one another in taking faith risks, we serve according to our abilities; we offer in small ways what we can to aid the body where we are. In that way we are good stewards of the gifts that God has given us, and we do indeed commit ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

As for the current situation that we find ourselves in financially, we are never far from faith, because we do not have financial security to rest upon. That is not a bad thing. But as for experiencing a little relief, we now have the room to give our cleaning teams a rest, and include the cost of cleaning in the rentals. That is good news. The summer went extremely well with bookings. There were only a couple of blank weekends in the schedule, so we were able to maximize the income that we received from Marswood Hall. Barbra Knisely has taken over day to day management of the hall and already has several bookings lined up. Athens Tech will begin using the hall in mid-September, Monday thru Thursday from 9-4 for a Culinary Arts School. So things are looking up for us. God would never have allowed us to build the hall without faith, and our faith has been tested over the last couple of years. Every young family goes through similar experiences and growing pains; it is not unusual. St. Philothea has endured this particular trial with patience and perseverance and for that we give glory to God. Although finances have commanded our attention for the last two years for obvious reasons, as finances become less of a challenge we can refocus ourselves on outreach and education. For that reason, we are undertaking a teaching liturgy on September 10th as an outreach and education program both for Orthodox and non-Orthodox. We are also establishing a Youth, Diakonia, and Culture board, as per the request of Metropolitan Alexios, in order to be purposeful in our planning of educational events for our youth. We also look forward to a strong Sunday School under the guidance of

Presbytera Christine, and a dynamic OCF under the leadership of Stella Hondros our new OCF president. Our catechumen class continues on with 3-5 participants and our Philoptochos begins the New Year with a social meeting on August 29th and will host the Pan-Orthodox Clergy luncheon on Sept. 11th. They are also planning fund raisers and other activities for the coming year.

The new ecclesiastical year brings with it many new opportunities for encounters with Christ, growth in knowledge of our faith, times and places to serve one another, and the chance to grow spiritually through participation in the sacramental life of the Church including confession and the Holy Eucharist. So therefore, let us “Commit ourselves and one another and our life to Christ our God.”

Fr. Anthony



Sunday Epistle & Gospel Readings

9/3/2006	Gospel: Matthew 19:16-26	Epistle: St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 15:1-11
9/10/2006	Gospel: John 3:13-17	Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 6:11-18
9/17/2006	Gospel: Mark 8:34-38; 9:1	Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 2:16-20
9/24/2006	Gospel: Luke 5:1-11	Epistle: St. Paul's Second Letter to Timothy 3:10-15

Parish Happenings

Upcoming Dates:

September 9th- Sunday School Swim Party at Kinsely's home

September 10th- Teaching Liturgy (Orthros at 9:00, Divine Liturgy 10:00), followed by a luncheon

September 10th- Sunday School Registration

September 11th- Clergy Brotherhood Luncheon (Hosted by Philoptochos)

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 Tuesday, September 5th, and September 19th at 6:30 pm at St. Philothea.

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.

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

The Bookstore:

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

You are invited to

St. Philothea's Homecoming

A special "Teaching Divine Liturgy" and covered dish luncheon.

The Divine Liturgy will be explained according to its' major movements, including the Liturgy of the Word, the Liturgy of the Faithful, the consecration, and the processions. An explanation will be given about the historical connection, the theological meaning and the practical dimension within the liturgy.

Join us for the beginning of the Ecclesiastical year and experience the worship of the early Church as we celebrate a "Teaching Divine Liturgy."

Date: Sunday, September 10th
Time: 9:00 a.m. (Orthos), 10:00 a.m. (Divine Liturgy)
Where: St. Philothea Greek Orthodox Church
3761 Mars Hill Road
Watkinsville, GA
(770) 725-5035

(Lunch, served by St. Philothea parishioners, will immediately follow the Divine Liturgy)

TREASURER REPORT:

The treasurer is happy to report that we have survived financially through August without the use of any reserve money. In addition, all of our bills to date have been paid. Many thanks once again to those who donated generously throughout the summer. Those contributions as well as increased activities from Marswood Hall helped greatly. The Hall was completely booked for the months of May, June, July and August. The outlook for the next three months also look great. By God's grace we have avoided tapping into our reserve for the past eight months. A big thank you to Barbara Knisely for agreeing to take over the booking of the Hall. This is a tremendous responsibility, but she is very committed and is doing a phenomenal job. Thank you Barbara, we all appreciate what you are doing for our Church. Though it may be difficult at times, I am confident that we, as a parish, are ready to face any obstacles that may come up in the future.

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

Music Director:

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

Marketing and Maintenance Chair:

Rick Volk

Hospitality Chair:

Georgia Parthemos

Communications Chair:

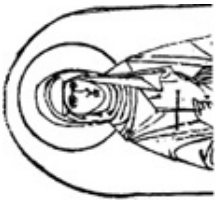
Liaisons to the Caterer:

Bulletin:

Writer: Kacina Lamson

Calendar: Peter Gess

Editor: Father Anthony



St. Philothea Greek Orthodox Church Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Atlanta

September 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
27 8:30a Orthros and Divine Liturgy 8:30 a.m.	28 5:00p Beheading of the Forerunner, Orthros and Divine Liturgy	29 Strict Fast Day	30 6:00p Catechumen Class	31	1	2
3 8:30a Orthros and Divine Liturgy 8:30 a.m.	4 6:30p OCF Dinner and Discussion 6:30	5 6:00p Catechumen Class	6 6:00p Catechumen Class	7 10:00p - Sep 8, 6: 1:00a Nativity of the Theotokos, OCF Vigil	8 10:00p - Sep 8, 6: 1:00a Nativity of the Theotokos, OCF Vigil	9 12:00p Sunday School Kickoff pool party 12:00p Tickerhoof wedding/reception
10 9:00a Orthros and Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m. 12:00p St. Philothea Homecoming, Teaching Liturgy	11	12 5:00p Exaltation of the Holy Cross, Orthros and Divine Liturgy	13 5:00p Exaltation of the Holy Cross, Orthros and Divine Liturgy	14 12:00p Jewell-chapel-c-6-8	15 12:00p Jewell-chapel-c-6-8	16 Jewell Wedding and Reception
17 9:00a Orthros and Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m.	18 6:30p OCF Dinner and Discussion 6:30 7:00p Philoptochos Organizational Meeting	19 6:30p OCF Dinner and Discussion 6:30 7:00p Philoptochos Organizational Meeting	20 6:00p Catechumen Class	21	22	23 4:00p McGinnis Wedding-c-reception
24 9:00a Orthros and Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m.	25	26 6:00p Catechumen Class 7:00p Parish Council	27 6:00p Catechumen Class 7:00p Parish Council	28	29	30

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