



From Father Anthony

Responding to Temptation, A Sign of Spiritual Maturity

The summer is over, a new year is coming to St. Philothea. I pray that it has been a profitable summer and that people have had a time to be refreshed and renewed through vacations, spiritual reading and temptations. That is right temptations. Temptations come in many forms. They can be the faith testing kind like health problems or financial set backs, career changes or unexpected loss of jobs. These kinds of temptations test our faith in God's providence. Do we really look to Him as the director of our life and the supplier of our every need, or is He our back up plan if we don't do so well on our own. Do we really trust that He cares for us, and that we can trust that all the unpleasant things that happen to us, those things beyond our control are really an opportunity in disguise? The reason they are a temptation is that we are tempted to despair, to pout, to get angry, to lose heart, and to sin. If we respond in this way we are learning something about our spiritual maturity, mainly that we are of little faith. In the Gospel of Luke 18:8 Christ asks a poignant question ". . . when the Son of Man comes, will he really find faith on the earth." In an era when everyone's image of God is equally valid (Post Modernism, the very definition of idolatry) there is a great litmus test to that validity, 'how do I handle temptation'. If I am of the "entitlement" mentality, I will respond to the kinds of temptations that I have listed above with incredulity, "Moua"? Why me? What have I done to deserve this? "I'm going to get a lawyer, I can fight this." Very American perhaps, but not particularly spiritual. Nor is it particularly helpful to play the victim, "woe is me?" "I deserve this, and God is just a big bully waiting to punish us anyway, and this proves it." Both fall short of a spiritually mature response. A third unhelpful response is to pull back away from God and ignore Him as if we were punishing Him. This is the response of the person who lives the spiritual life for the perks, good feelings, warm fuzzies, and friendly fellowship; a typical response but not very mature. When faced with this kind of temptation, the temptation of inconvenience and disaster, we often think of Job, and with good reason. He is the universal image of someone unjustly suffering. He certainly did not deserve it, as we are told that he was a righteous man, (not that we fit that category, but we still can identify with unjust and undeserved suffering). But what can we learn of spiritual maturity by his response? I know it is not glamorous, and certainly easier said than done, but "patient endurance, with joy if possible", is a spiritually mature response. As James 1:2 says ". . . count it all joy when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. What he has outlined is the formula for spiritual growth. This is transfiguration in process. And if we fail at this, then there is always confession. That is the way to back into spiritual benefit, by confessing and acknowledging failure in the face of trial. You don't get the same benefit as having conquered it, but you do benefit from humility and self knowledge of where you really are spiritually. Perhaps this is not what you were hoping to read if you have made it this far. Perhaps this kind of thinking does not always mesh with our "image of God", the God we have created, but as Orthodox Christians we are constantly growing and that includes having our presuppositions about God challenged and expanded. It is a constant process, with constant growth and change if we truly embrace the spiritual life and really want to grow into the Image and Likeness of God. So when faced with the "temptation of trials", follow James advice, "count it all joy."

Parish Happenings

His Eminence **Archbishop Demetrios** will be serving Diving Liturgy at the Cathedral of the Annunciation in Atlanta on Sunday, September 9.

Philoptochos will meet on Wednesday, September 12, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. at the Church. The new officers are.... Ann Volk, President; Frieda Dekazos, Vice President; Rose Lieffring, Secretary; Pres. Christine Salzman, Treasurer

PILGRIMAGE TO ST. ANTHONY'S MONASTERY

HOLY TRANSFIGURATION, Marietta, GA is organizing a Pilgrimage to the Arizona Desert Monastery of St. Anthony between November 12-16, 2007. Monastery website www.stanthonysmonastery.org. St. Anthony's is a monastic community in America that follows the lifestyle of the Monks of Mount Athos. This monastery was established in the desert and has transformed the desert to a heavenly setting. For more information or questions, contact Fr. Panayiotis Papageorgiou, 770-924-8080.

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 conditioner 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.

*Announcements for the bulletin can be emailed to **Greekgirl1087@aol.com**



COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

Please check the chart below for when you are scheduled to host coffee hour .

Stewardship Description: Provide simple refreshments, including drinks and snacks; set up and clean up—includes making coffee, checking supplies, wiping, tables and vacuuming as necessary. Please call Georgia Parthemos to confirm and for special requests. You may be asked to provide Prosforon, coffee or creamer when necessary. Lenten dates are marked in grey.

Georgia Parthemos: 706-548-3876

THANK YOU FOR HELPING WITH THIS BLESSED MINISTRY

DATE	HOST
26-Aug	Horescu
2-Sep	Andros
9-Sep	Anest & Parthemos
16-Sep	Teaching Liturgy/C. Dish Cramer
23-Sep	Angelova
30-Sep	Stoian Connor
7-Oct	Covered Dish Dekazos
14-Oct	Davis & Dandolo
21-Oct	Demos
28-Oct	Gess
4-Nov	Covered Dish Herrington
11-Nov	Horescu
18-Nov	Advent Fast Begins Iakovou
25-Nov	Johns
2-Dec	Covered Dish Knisely
9-Dec	Kefalas & Grissom
16-Dec	Sun Sch Nativity Program Kimbaris
23-Dec	Lambros
30-Dec	Lamson
6-Jan	Epiphany/C. Dish/Vasilopeta Mahoney
13-Jan	Lavelle

20-Jan	Rose
27-Jan	Lyubimov
3-Feb	Covered Dish Manzione
10-Feb	Miletkov & Seiss
17-Feb	Nameday Weekend O'Malley
24-Feb	Pagonis
2-Mar	Covered Dish Papadopoulos
9-Mar	E. Pappas
16-Mar	Great Lent Begins Pottier
23-Mar	Raev
30-Mar	Ragan
6-Apr	Covered Dish Salzman
13-Apr	Shih
20-Apr	Tesfai/Tseggai
27-Apr	****GREAT & HOLY PASCHA***** Volk
4-May	Vlahos
11-May	Wright
18-May	Sunday School Awards
25-May	
1-Jun	Covered Dish

Epistle and Gospel Readings *September*

9/2/2007	Gospel: Matthew 22:2-14	Epistle: St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians 1:21-24; 2:1-4
9/9/2007	Gospel: John 3:13-17	Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 6:11-18
9/16/2007	Gospel: Mark 8:34-38; 9:1	Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 2:16-20
9/23/2007	Gospel: Luke 5:1-11	Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 4:22-27
9/30/2007	Gospel: Luke 6:31-36	Epistle: St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians 9:6-11

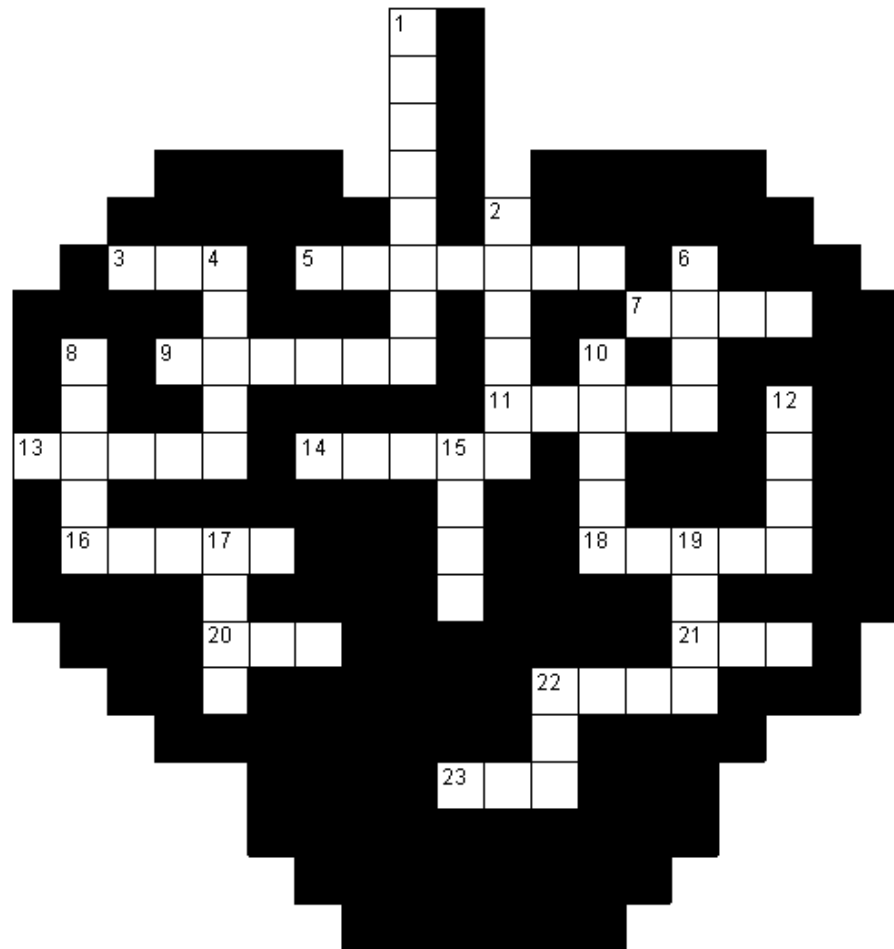
Food for Father's and Mother's

For what else is the feast, but the constant worship of God, and the recognition of godliness, and unceasing prayers from the whole heart with agreement? So Paul wishing us to be ever in this disposition, commands, saying, 'Rejoice evermore; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks.' Not therefore separately, but unitedly and collectively, let us all keep the feast together, as the prophet exhorts, saying, 'O come, let us rejoice in the Lord, let us make a joyful noise unto God our Saviour.' Who then is so negligent, or who so disobedient to the divine voice, as not to leave everything, and run to the general and common assembly of the feast?

St. Athanasius the Great, Letters.

KIDS CORNER!

Creation



Across

3. God removed one of these from man to make woman
5. Creatures
7. What God used to water the Garden
9. To make from nothing
11. Our planet
13. Healing type plants
14. Eve was the first one

16. Little night lights

18. Grew in the garden; one was of life; one was of the knowledge of good and evil
20. The heavens
21. First woman
22. The lesser light that rules the night
23. The greater light that rules the day

Down

1. Another name for the Garden of Eden
2. The _____ of Eden
4. They fly in the air
6. These swim in the seas
8. These are sown to grow plants; fruits reproduce by these

10. Apples, oranges, and bananas
12. God created our earth in 6 of these
15. First man
17. What God did on the 7th day
19. Where God planted the first garden
22. Adam was the first one

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Frieda Dekazos, Nina Herrington,

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President: Presbytera, Christine Salzman

Philochochos Board:

President: Ann Volk

Vice President: Frieda Dekazos

Secretary: Rose Lieffring

Treasurer: Presbytera, Christine Salzman

Marketing and Maintenance Chair:

Rick Volk

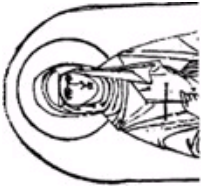
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Georgia Parthemos

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St. Philothea Greek Orthodox Church Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Atlanta

September 2007

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
	26	27	28	29	30	31	1
8:30a Orthros and Divine Liturgy 12:00p Sunday School Kickoff pool party. Knisely's home				7:00p Vespers			
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
8:30a Orthros and Divine Liturgy	7:00p OCF Dinner on Campus	7:00p Vespers	7:00p Vespers		12:00p Robinson Rehearsal	Birth of the Theotokos 9:00a Lesa Robinson Wedding&Reception	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
9:00a Orthros and Divine Liturgy 12:00p Knisely Baptism	11:00a Pan-Orthodox Clergy Luncheon	6:00p Catechumen Class 7:00p Vespers			Elevation of the Holy Cross		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
9:00a Orthros and Divine Liturgy 10:00a Teaching Liturgy	7:00p OCF Dinner and Discussion	6:00p Catechumen Class 7:00p Parish Council 7:00p Vespers	6:00p Catechumen Class 7:00p Vespers			3:00p Patel Baby shower	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
9:00a Orthros and Divine Liturgy 12:00p Simmons Baptism			Falling Asleep of St. John the Theologian 6:00p Catechumen Class 7:00p Vespers			12:00p Diane Rittenberry-Birthday	
30	1	2	3	4	5	6	
9:00a Orthros and Divine Liturgy			6:00p Catechumen Class 7:00p Vespers			12:00p Williams-Cade Wedding & Reception-Curtain	



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