



# from Father Anthony

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## Journey Towards Pascha

Pray and you will learn how to pray. This season is a season of prayer. Every season seems to be dominated by a major focus in our lives. The fall it may be hunting or football. The spring may be gardening or fishing. The summer is a time for vacations and relaxing. Now is the season for prayer. A time to say no to the rest of life's demands and come quietly and humbly to God in prayer. It is the time to enter into the journey of Great and Holy Lent. This season, let us not let another Lent slip by without coming to the services and making a concentrated effort at prayer and fasting. I know many people look forward to this time of year as an opportunity to take time away from an insanely busy schedule and quiet themselves before God. We have a permission slip to say "no" to busy-ness because, "I must be with my Father," sharing my heart and my thoughts with Him, and listening to His wise counsel and instruction for my life. This is one time of year to shape our souls and form them to reflect God's image, and to contemplate our eternal destiny.

In our preparation for Lent we read about the Publican and the Pharisee, the Prodigal Son, The Last Judgement and the Gospel of Forgiveness. These are topics that talk of "true" spirituality, the liberation of repentance and the meaning of good works. One day we will all stand before God and be asked to give an account of our ministry, i.e. the work that God Himself has entrusted to us. We are all members of the priesthood of believers and as such we each have the ministry of bringing the "Good News" of God's love into our daily lives. Feeding the poor, clothing the naked, visiting the sick and imprisoned, this is what we do, this is who we are. That is why God has given us so many resources of time, talent and treasure. Lent is a time to take stock of where we stand as stewards of God's gift of love. We stand before God with no illusions, no masks, and no excuses, and let God shape us and mold us into His image. As Archbishop Demetrios said "Repentance leads to virtue and virtue to Doxology!" Therefore we should each set in our minds to begin this journey with commitment, to truly do something "good" for ourselves, by focusing our efforts on acquiring the Holy Spirit. Thinking about coming to services does not have the same spiritual result as coming to services. The one leads to deception the other leads to experience of God, and true fellowship with God. The one requires no effort, the other requires great effort, but also carries with it great reward.

Lent is a great time of year. A great time to redouble our efforts and dedicate ourselves to being children of God who seek to carry out the will of the Father. For that reason we need to come to services to acquire the Holy Spirit, and as spiritual exercise in order to be strengthened in what would otherwise be a very difficult time. In so doing we steal away the opportunity for cynicism, envy bitterness, strife, and enter into a purity of living in active communion with God. May God bless us as we begin this journey, with peace and perseverance as we strive for peace and holiness.

Fr. Anthony

Lent 2004

## Sunday Epistle and Gospel Readings:

	<u>Epistle</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
March.7	Hebrews 1:10-14; 2:1-3	Mark 2:1-12
March 14	Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:1-6	Mark 8:34-38; 9:1
March 21	Hebrews 6:13-20	Mark 9:17-31
March 28	Hebrews 9:11-14	Mark 10:32-45



### *Church Etiquette*

*Due to several requests for this information, we will be repeating sections of our previous Church Etiquette feature over the next several months.*



#### **When taking communion:**

If you are receiving communion, quietly move up the center aisle toward the Priest. Refrain from chatting with anyone else in line or in the pews. This should instead be a time of prayer.

To receive the Holy Communion, please come and stand in front of the Priest (not sideways). When the Priest calls you forward, you should be prepared, with the “fear of God, faith and love,” not with hands in pockets. If wearing any, please remove all lipstick or lip balm before approaching for communion so that the spoon will not be stained.

With your right hand, hold the corner (not the middle) of the red cloth hanging from the Holy Chalice and set it under your chin, so that no Holy Communion may fall on the floor. Keep your head up (never stoop or kneel when receiving Holy Communion), open your mouth and allow the Priest to put the spoon into your mouth. After taking communion use the red cloth to dry your lips and then release the cloth.

## Parish Family News

### *Na zísete eftychisméni!*

Congratulations to Richard and Ann Volk on their recent marriage in the Orthodox church. May you have many happy years!

### *Kalá stéphana!*

Congratulations to Bojana Bjelicic and Mihail Miletkov on their recent engagement. Good crowning!

*If you have any parish family news (birth, churching, graduation, award, engagement, marriage, retirement, etc.) that you would like included in a monthly bulletin, please e-mail Jennifer Gess: [jklewis@mindspring.com](mailto:jklewis@mindspring.com)*

## Parish Happenings

### *Lenten Services and Catachumen*

As we begin Lent we will have services every Wednesday and Friday. Wednesday will be the Pre-Sanctified Liturgies at 6:00 p.m., followed by a Lenten meal and the Catachumen class which will meet from approximately 7:30 to 8:15 p.m. All are welcome to come learn and share more about Orthodoxy, its faith, teachings, history and dogmas.

Friday will be the Salutations to the Virgin Mary from 7-8:00 p.m.

### *Kali Sarakosti!*

### *Philoptochos News*

March 6th is a Philoptochos Workshop day for all Philoptochos members for exchanging ideas, strengthening your chapters and fellowshipping with ladies from other chapters. It will take place in Atlanta from 11-4. R.S.V.P. to Karen or Presbytera Christine.

## *St. Philothea Ministries*

The Parish Council and other parishioners, through a facilitated process led by Father Nicholas Triantafilou, have established five "umbrella" ministries for the 2004 year. The ministries and associated chairpeople:

\* Stewardship (Stacey Cramer and Peter Gess)

\* Evangelism and Outreach (Frieda Dekazos and Alex Johns)

\* Liturgical and Sacramental Life (Bill Mahoney)

\* Education (Angie Shih)

\* Fellowship (Nina Lamson)

See one of the chairs, Father Anthony, or any Parish Council member to learn more or to volunteer your time and talents.

### *Morning Glories*

The Morning Glories are in bloom! We enjoyed a delightful outing to Ristorante Roberto's in Watkinsville on Friday, February 20th which included a cake for Mrs Francis' 90th birthday. After lunch we shopped a bit at the card store. Our special guest this month was Father Anthony who joined us for lunch and laughs as well. In attendance were Francis Gallis, Bertha Bourney, Christina Damian, Athena Andoniadis, Marie Falcon, Georgia Parthemos and Presbytera Christine (and Liz met us at the Hallmark Store).

Our March outing is tentatively set for Friday, March 19th and we hope to visit the art exhibit at the Lyndon House. If you can help pick up and drive that day please contact Georgia or Presbytera.

### ***Covered Dish Luncheon***

We will have our monthly covered dish luncheon Sunday, March 7, following the Divine Liturgy. Please bring lenten food to share.

### ***General Assembly***

A general assembly will be held Sunday, March 7 (in conjunction with the Pot luck). The main purpose is to discuss and approve the 2004 operating budget. We will also be receiving building and stewardship updates.



### ***Adult Catechetical School***

Adult Catechetical classes meet Sunday mornings from 9:25 to 10:00. We would love to have more people come join in the learning and discussions. It always proves to be a very interesting meeting. Contact Presbytera Christine for more information.

### ***Stewardship Ministry***

(Stacey Cramer and Peter Gess, Co-Chairs)

On Saturday, Feb. 21, the Stewardship Ministry held its first planning session of the year. At this successful “mini-retreat,” the group identified several important “subministries” to advance during 2004 (a special thanks to those who attended):

- \* TTT: Time, Treasure, Talents (stewardship pledge program, fundraising, increase membership, etc.)

- \* Student Life (OCF-parish relations, student memberships, adopt-a-student program)

- \* Building Maintenance (grounds, facilities, equipment, coordination with caterer)

- \* Communications (web, newsletter, public relations, newspaper ads, call list)

- \* Transportation (for elderly, students, international scholars, etc.; to and from church and other activities)

- \* Spiritual Health (active participation, Bible study, Catechumens, retreats, pilgrimages, confession)

- \* Baking and Food Preparation (festivals, fundraisers, community sales)

- \* Associate Memberships (past members, those who want to support St. Philothea)

In addition, the group identified several philanthropic and service-oriented activities that are already or will be organized by Philoptochos.

Keep an eye out and an ear open for opportunities to become involved with these subministries!

## **New Bulletin Features**

*Beginning last month the bulletin included monthly reports from the Treasurer and Secretary of the Parish Council. We will also have occasional reports from some of the other Parish Council Ministries in order to keep us all informed about the wonderful work going on all around us. If you would like to contribute reports of your parish organization, please send them to Jennifer Gess.*

### ***Treasurer's Report***

Donations year-to-date have totaled \$10,049.00, with expenses of \$6,738.00. While this presents a positive balance sheet, let me not lead you astray. The parish is facing a number of significant expenses this year that were not in last year's budget. The Parish Council will present the 2004 budget in March at which time there will be a discussion of these issues.

The rate of giving by those who made pledges is right on schedule. We're 1/6th of the way through the fiscal year, with 1/6th of the pledges received.

We thank all of you for your generous giving of time, talent and treasure. May Our Lord bless you all.

If you choose to mail your pledges or contributions, address them to:

St. Philothea Greek Orthodox Church  
c/o Bill Mahoney  
482 E. Central Avenue  
Madison, GA 30650

### ***Secretary's Report***

*Highlights from the February 8 Parish Council meeting, submitted by Stacey Cramer:*

\*Paul Cramer gave an update on the construction of our new building.

\*The PC gave Paul Cramer, Dean Kimbaris, and Gwynne Darden the authority to do whatever necessary to finish the building.

\*Treasurer's Report: In the General checking account the balance for the month of Feb. was \$9,506.94. Income of \$2,619.00 and expenses of \$3,112.06.

\*The 2004 budget was presented by Bill Mahoney. A lot of discussion followed. some revisions were made. Bill will present the budget during the General Assembly meeting on March 7th.

\*Clergy-Laity conference will take place in NYC from July 24 - 30th.

\*PC Board agreed to pay for a full page ad in our commemorative album.

\*Ad book deadline extended until 3/1.

\*Lee Epting would like to temporarily name our new hall The Marswood Hall. The board agreed with his decision.

\*Karen expressed concern that the kouvouklion for Good Friday needs a lot of repairs. If anyone is handy with woodwork please let Bill Mahoney know.

\*Angie will look into having Vacation Bible School this summer regardless of the status of our church building.

\*The new visitors packages are ready thanks to Judy Iakovou.

\*Ground breaking for the new Diakonia Center in SC is set for Sat. Feb. 28th at 1 pm. If anyone would like to attend see Presbytera.

## *Featured Website*

### **STANDING CONFERENCE OF THE CANONICAL ORTHODOX BISHOPS IN THE AMERICAS**

<http://www.scoba.us/>



*From the website, an icon of Pentecost provided by Theologic*

“Founded in 1960, the Standing Conference of the Canonical Orthodox Bishops in the Americas (SCOBA), brings together the canonical hierarchs of Orthodox jurisdictions in the Americas. The purpose of the Standing Conference is to create and foster ties of unity among the canonical Orthodox Churches and administrations for a stronger and more visible witness to the Orthodox Faith. The hierarchs meet semi-annually for discussion and decisions on inter-Orthodox and ecumenical matters, to review the work of its commissions and dialogues, and to plan future events.”

This website features released statements, news, events, and SCOBA resources. You may also subscribe to the SCOBA listserv. It is a fascinating site with information relevant to all Orthodox Christians.



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

March 2004	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
	29	1	2	3	4	5	6
	9:00a <a href="#">Orthros &amp; Divine Liturgy</a> 5:00p <a href="#">Sunday of Orthodoxy, Vespers, Marietta, with Dinner</a>			6:00p <a href="#">Presanctified Liturgy, Lenten Meal, Catachumen class, S</a>		7:00p <a href="#">Akathist Hymn, S</a>	11:00a <a href="#">Philoptochos General Meeting 11-4, Cathedral, Atlanta</a>
	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	<a href="#">St. Gregory Palamas</a> 9:00a <a href="#">Orthros &amp; Divine Liturgy</a> 11:30a <a href="#">Covered Dish</a> 12:00p <a href="#">General Assembly</a>			6:00p <a href="#">Presanctified Liturgy, Lenten Meal, Catachumen class, S</a>		7:00p <a href="#">Akathist Hymn, S</a>	
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	<a href="#">Veneration of the Holy Cross</a> 9:00a <a href="#">Orthros &amp; Divine Liturgy</a> 11:30a <a href="#">Parish Council Meeting</a>			6:00p <a href="#">Presanctified Liturgy, Lenten Meal, Catachumen class, S</a>		7:00p <a href="#">Akathist Hymn, S</a>	
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	<a href="#">St. John of the Ladder</a> 9:00a <a href="#">Orthros &amp; Divine Liturgy</a>			5:00p <a href="#">The Feast of the Annunciation, Orthros</a> 5:00. <a href="#">Divine Liturgy</a> 6:00p. <a href="#">S</a>		7:00p <a href="#">Akathist Hymn, S</a>	
	28	29	30	31	1	2	3
	<a href="#">St. Mary of Egypt</a> 9:00a <a href="#">Orthros &amp; Divine Liturgy</a>			6:00p <a href="#">Presanctified Liturgy, Lenten Meal, Catachumen class, S</a>		7:00p <a href="#">Akathist Hymn, S</a>	

Rev. Fr. Anthony Salzman  
Services held at: Church on the corner of 2nd Street and Barnett Shoals, Downtown Watkinsville GA 30677  
For more information: 706/310-1304



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