

The Voice of Saint Anthony

Monthly Newsletter of Saint Anthony Greek Orthodox Church

October 2009
Volume 4, Number 6



Beloved Parishioners,

It is hard to believe that we are already beginning our 4th year together at St. Anthony Church.

These three years, as your Pastor, have been joyful, fulfilling and very busy. We have accomplished so much together as a community, but as always in the vineyard of the Lord, there is much more to do. The Lord is always with us helping us to keep looking forward. I see in each of you a desire to improve in all your efforts, and to work hard as a community. Your works show that you understand that we are to be a beacon of light. Our 51st Annual Greek Festival was the most recent, perfect example of the beautiful Saint Anthony family working together. The hospitality you showed to the community at large will surely bring more believers into the fold. Proceeds generated enable us to continue to help those in need. As you each worked for hours, each in your own way, you contributed to a bigger picture of witness. In these and many other ways of service and worship we will continue, as a Christian family, to work to gain our salvation through the Grace of the Lord.

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Pastoral Assistant

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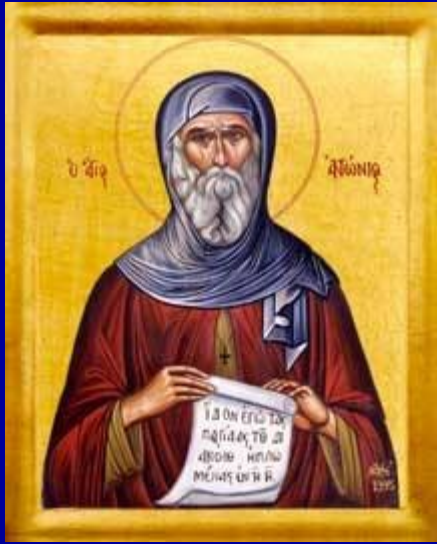
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As we look to the future, we are off to a fast start, We have begun our new Ecclesiastical Year with the arrival of our new Pastoral Assistant, Christos Kanakis, and his lovely wife, Jessica. They are a delightful young couple, who are beginning their life of dedicated service to Christ in our Parish. What a tremendous addition they are to our Saint Anthony community. We look forward to having them here in our family for a long time. Again, I thank you all for your hard work and dedication which made this year's Festival so very successful, warm, beautiful, joyful, full of everything that is best about the Greek and Christian spirit. We truly experienced a magnificent and memorable weekend. After this enormous effort, I am gratified to see that you are all on to the next task, the next effort, the next event...the continuing work of the Lord. Sunday School has begun. Family Nights begin again this Friday. The GOYAN's are beginning their charitable works projects. The Philoptochos is working toward another glorious charity fashion show event. The AHEPA is preparing for their October Glendi. The Bible Study groups begin again this week. More to come...

Each Sunday, as I read over the announcements at the end of Liturgy, I am amazed at how many things we do in our community on a daily and weekly basis. We truly are blessed, and we continue to work for the Lord, as laborers in His vineyard. (Matt 20:1). As we continue with our work for the Lord, I want to encourage **each** member of the parish to participate in the upcoming IOCC event.

Continued on page 3...



Sunday Services

Orthos 9:00 am
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

Church office hours:

Monday–Thursday
9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Friday
9:00 am to 12:00 Noon

Closed on Saturday & Sunday

Publication Reminder:

The Voice of Saint Anthony deadline is the 10th of the preceding month. Please submit announcements electronically to Vicki Kades at VKades@gmail.com.

St. Anthony's reserves the right to edit, alter or reject any content.

Thank you to Stephanie Soewers for editing the monthly bulletin.

Thank you to all that contribute photos to the monthly newsletter: Judie Christopoulos, Vicki Kades, Maria Karras, Steve Pappas and Esther Vavoulis.

ST. ANTHONY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
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(626) 449-6943 Fax (626) 449-6974
www.saint-anthonys.org

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Vicki Kades, Communications

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VIPs

Pantele Xanthos

To email any of our church groups, please go to our website www.saint-anthonys.org and you will be able to contact us!

Father Peter's Message Continued from Page 1

This event will benefit our community and the world community at large. The IOCC is sponsoring a walk-a-thon called **SoCal Step Up! Walk-A-Thon- 5K** (3.1 Miles). All proceeds from the event will benefit the IOCC (International Orthodox Christian Charities). Our Saint Anthony parish has supported the great efforts of the IOCC in the past, and I know we understand the need for the IOCC and their important work. They are the Orthodox Christian Charity which has helped in the Katrina ravaged communities, in Indonesia after the dreadful tsunami, in Afghanistan after the massive earthquake, in Greece after the devastating fires, and in Africa to fight disease and educate the people. Please take a moment to link onto their website IOCC.org , where you can read more about their exceptional outreach throughout the world to help those in need. Most importantly, 92% of all money raised for and by the IOCC goes directly to those people in need of help. That is why this event is so important. It benefits us spiritually as we reach out to those in need (as God has instructed us), and it directly helps the needy to receive the aid they so desperately require to survive. I cannot emphasize enough how important this event is for us, for our children, and for those throughout the world who need our help.

The **SoCal Step Up Walk-Ao-Thon 5K** will be held at the **Rose Bowl (Parking Lot B) on Saturday October 31st at 10AM**. All Orthodox Churches in Southern California will participate. We at Saint Anthony Church have the benefit of having this event in our own back yard. I really want everyone from our community that can walk to participate. That includes all age groups from children to senior citizens. I am the Spiritual Advisor for the Southern California Chapter of the IOCC, and I estimated that we would have, at least, 200 people walk from the Saint Anthony community. I would love to see more. Each parish organization should be well represented at such an important event. Our GOYANS/ and Dance Groups are already committed to walking. I hope and pray their parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and siblings will be with them. I challenge all organizations of our community to participate. Enclosed in this newsletter is a flyer with all of the information you will need to register. If you cannot walk that day, then certainly please help sponsor someone who will be walking. Finally, let us show our strength in numbers to God, and through our efforts let us show our strength, financially, to those who need our help. See you there!

In Christ,
Fr. Peter

Weekday Services for the month of **OCTOBER 2009:**

Friday, October 23

St Iakovos, Orthros/ Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m.

Monday, October 26:

St. Demetrios, Orthros/ Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m.

Saturday, October 31

Great Vespers of Cosmas and Damianos with
Artoclasia at 7:00 pm.

Reception to follow in the Parish Hall.



President Message



This past month we hosted the most successful GreekFest in our recent history. The gross receipts and attendance were the highest for a festival held on our grounds. More importantly, Pasadena GreekFest was an enjoyable, classy and festive celebration that reflected very well on our community! As this year's chairman, I was so proud of the warm hospitality and festive spirit displayed by all of our parishioners.

I would like to thank all of our volunteers and donors who gave their hard work and generosity that made Pasadena GreekFest such a success! There are many, many people who gave their tireless efforts, but at this time I wanted to specifically acknowledge the "gang of five" who essentially ran the Festival this year: Charlie Christos, Jimmy Christos, Louie Kades, Julie Kiotas Balas and Athena Dallas. These vice-chairs provided not only their passionate hard work but also their talent and creativity that really shined through this year.

In other news, we are headed for a major milestone in the building project. On November 3, 2009 there will be a public hearing before the Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning where we hope to obtain the final approval for our building project. While the County's unexpected requirement to hold this hearing caused a three to four month delay in the process, the Building Committee, led by John Buzas, Randy Soewers and Steve Pappas, have done a great job reaching out to the local neighborhood and working with the key county officials to where we are optimistic of obtaining the requisite approval. The final approval by the County would enable us to break ground this spring.

Finally, congratulations to Irene Albeck and Andy Demopoulos for being selected to receive the Spirit of Stewardship Award by the Metropolis! They will be honored at a regional Metropolis banquet on October 3rd, hosted by Saint John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church in Anaheim. The Spirit of Stewardship Awards program for the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco is an opportunity to honor the many dedicated individuals who give unselfishly of their time,

talents, and resources to support the ministries of their local parishes and Metropolis.

Irene and Andy have been true stewards of our Saint Anthony parish, faithfully and humbly serving for several decades. They have both been very inspirational to me as two people whom I have always admired and looked up to throughout my life at St. Anthony, dating back to about 35 years ago when I was a young Sunday School student of Irene's to serving on the parish council with her. As a young boy, I distinctly remember Andy working tirelessly for St. Anthony in many capacities, as he has done for over 50 years, and continues to do so today. No two people have dedicated more time and effort to St. Anthony than Andy and Irene. For that reason, they are truly the most deserving of this award.

Yours in Christ,

John Patzakis



*Irene Albeck and Andy Demopoulos
Metropolis Spirit of Stewardship
Award Recipients*



October 31st—"Gather my people to my home."



Saturday, October 31st

7:00 pm

*Refreshments & fellowship in the Church
Hall following Vesper Service*

All families are invited to a special Great Vesper Service in honor of Saints Cosmas and Damian, the Unmercenary Doctors!

The Holy Wonderworkers and Unmercenary Physicians Cosmas and Damian and their mother St Theodota were natives of Asia Minor (some sources say Mesopotamia). Their pagan father died while they were still quite small children. Their mother raised them in Christian piety. Through her own example, and by reading holy books to them, St Theodota preserved her children in purity of life according to the command of the Lord, and Cosmas and Damian grew up into righteous and virtuous men.

Trained and skilled as physicians, they received from the Holy Spirit the gift of healing people's illnesses of body and soul by the power of prayer. They even treated animals. With fervent love for both God and neighbor, they never took payment for their services. They strictly observed the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, "Freely have you received, freely give." (Mt. 10:8). The fame of Sts Cosmas and Damian spread throughout all the surrounding region, and people called them unmercenary physicians.

Once, the saints were summoned to a grievously ill woman named Palladia, whom all the doctors had refused to treat because of her seemingly hopeless condition. Through faith and through the fervent prayer of the holy brothers, the Lord healed the deadly disease and Palladia got up from her bed perfectly healthy and giving praise to God. In gratitude for being healed and wishing to give them a small gift, Palladia went quietly to Damian. She presented him with three eggs and said, "Take this small gift in the Name of the Holy Life-Creating Trinity, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit." Hearing the Name of the Holy Trinity, the unmercenary one did not dare to refuse. When St Cosmas learned what had happened, became very sad, for he thought that his brother had broken their strict vow. On his deathbed he gave instructions that his brother should not be

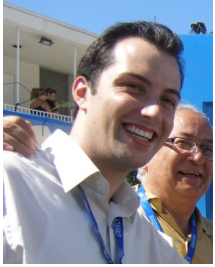
buried beside him. St Damian also died shortly afterward, and everyone wondered where St Damian's grave should be. But through the will of God a miracle occurred. A camel, which the saints had treated for its wildness, spoke with a human voice saying that they should have no doubts about whether to place Damian beside Cosmas, because Damian did not accept the eggs from the woman as payment, but out of respect for the Name of God. The venerable relics of the holy brothers were buried together at Thereman (Mesopotamia).

Many miracles were worked after the death of the holy unmercenarys. There lived at Thereman, near the church of Cosmas and Damian, a certain man by the name of Malchus. One day he went on a journey, leaving his wife all alone for what would be a long time. He prayerfully entrusted her to the heavenly protection of the holy brothers. But the Enemy of the race of mankind took on the appearance of one of Malchus' friends, and planned to kill the woman. A certain time went by, and this man went to her at home and said that Malchus had sent him to bring her to him. The woman believed him and went along. He led her to a solitary place intending to kill her. The woman, seeing that disaster threatened her, called upon God with deep faith.

Two fiercesome men then appeared, and the devil let go of the woman and fled, falling off a cliff. The two men led the woman home. At her own home, bowing to them deeply she asked, "My rescuers, to whom I shall be grateful to the end of my days, what are your names?" They replied, "We are the servants of Christ, Cosmas and Damian," and became invisible. The woman with trembling and with joy told everyone about what had happened to her. Glorifying God, she went up to the icon of the holy brothers and tearfully offered prayers of thanksgiving for her deliverance. And from that time the holy brothers were venerated as protectors of the holiness and inviolability of Christian marriage, and as givers of harmony to conjugal life. From ancient times, their veneration spread also to Russia.

The Unmercenary Saints Cosmas and Damian of Asia Minor should not be confused with the Unmercenary Saints Cosmas and Damian of Rome (July 1), or the Unmercenary Saints Cosmas and Damian of Arabia (October 17).

Christos Kanakis, Pastoral Assistant—Youth Programs



Community of Saint Anthony,

Father Peter and I are excited to report of some great plans and events for Saint Anthony's Youth.

We will be starting a **YAL (Young Adult League)** for young adults from the ages of 18-30. YAL is a great way for young adults, who are either from this community or are in the area attending college away from home, to stay connected to their faith. While we finalize our own schedule, the Metropolis is again having its Young Adult Ski Retreat at Lake Tahoe on February 12th-15th. Please email Christos@saint-anthonys.org if you are interested.

Under the guidance of Mrs. Esther Vavoulis, our **GOYA** has been meeting regularly.

Their tentative schedule includes the following planned activities:

Saturday, October 31st
IOCC Walk-a-Thon @ the Rose Bowl

Saturday, November 7th
St. Katherine's Bowling Tournament

Sunday, November 15th
Meeting @ the Church Fellowship Hall (1:00)

Saturday, November 21st
Fireside chat with Fr. Peter (6:30)

Friday, December 4th
Meeting @ the Church Hall following Family Night meal (6:30)

Saturday, December 5th
Participate in the annual Bible Bowl

Saturday, December 12th
Christmas Party

Fri.-Sun., February 12th-14th - St. Nicholas Lenten Retreat

Wed. March 3rd

Feeding the Homeless at Union Station

Saturday, March 20th

Hunger Strike

Junior GOYA will be directed by Presvytera Aida. It is a transitional group for those who are in Junior High School (6th, 7th and 8th). The meetings for this group are designed to enhance their knowledge and practice of our Orthodox Christian faith in a relaxed and fun environment. The 8th Graders will work as group leaders, in their various Family Night activities, in preparation for their mid-year move to Senior GOYA. Jr. GOYA will meet monthly on Friday Family Nights and will occasionally participate in GOYA charity projects and outings during the year. The Jr. GOYA will also select a charitable project of its own for this year. Currently the Jr. GOYA is planning to participate in the IOCC Walk-A-Thon, St. Katherine's Bowling T, Bible Bowl, and the St. Nicholas Lenten Retreat.

JOY is a youth ministry program of our Orthodox church designed to fulfill the very important responsibility of the spiritual growth and development of our children. JOY is designed for children grades 3rd through 5th. The JOY ministry program provides wholesome and fun activities for its participants, while supporting the efforts of the family to impart a positive value system to its children. Meetings are conducted in an informal, relaxed atmosphere that provides balance to the more formal experience of the worship services and religious education classes. Songs, games, craft projects and other activities will reflect and enhance the message of each meeting.

Continued on next page...

*So that your youth is renewed like the eagle's
(Psalm 103:5)*

JOY meeting times will follow community dinner and others will be scheduled as needed. The first Outreach project will be to participate in the IOCC Run to be held at the Rose Bowl, October 31st.

Moms and Tots is a wonderful group for the "little ones" who are not yet in preschool to play and interact with one another. It is also a wonderful opportunity for the mothers/ grandmothers to gather in a warm, Christian setting. They will be meeting Wednesdays 10:30- 11:30 starting October 14th.

The **Sunday school** year began this past Sunday September 27th, we are thankful to have our director Irene Albeck and all the teachers that educate the children about their Orthodox faith.

On Saturday, December 5th Saint Sophia Cathedral will be hosting the **Southern California Bible Bowl**. This is a fun trivia event, where teams from different Orthodox Parishes will be asked questions on Scripture, the Lives of the Saints, and Orthodox Theology. Mrs. Albeck, Mrs. Christopoulos, and I will be working with the Jr. High and High School Sunday School classes to prepare, at least two, dynamic teams ready to have fun and represent Saint Anthony at

this year's Bible Bowl.

Family Night is a great way for parents and children to spend an evening together and with Orthodox friends, enhanced by guest lectures, presentations, and activities which increase our knowledge of our Orthodox faith in a relaxed setting. Bring the whole family!

Family Night is at 6:30pm, and the upcoming scheduled dates are: Friday, October 2nd, Friday, November 6th, and Friday, December 4th.

Please mark your calendars for the **IOCC Walk** on October 31st. We hope that all our youth and their families will participate in this walk along with the entire community.

These are just a few brief highlights of upcoming activities for the youth at Saint Anthony. More details will be posted in the bulletins to come. Its exciting to see how active the youth of the Saint Anthony community are and we are all are looking forward to an eventful year.

In Christ,
Christos Kanakis
Pastoral Assistant
Christos@saint-anthonys.org



Thank you to all of our youth who helped at the festival! You all did a great job and it is appreciated!



43RD ANNUAL



PASADENA AHEPA FAMILY OCTOBER GLENDI

Limited to 200 Tickets - Paid Reservations Recommended

Saturday, October 24, 2009

Half Chicken Dinner

Catered by Nick Begakis

Dinner Served: 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
\$10 Dance Only: 8:00 p.m.

\$10 for Extra Goodie Bags
(while supplies last)



\$25 Dinner & Dance

**\$15 Goodie Bag and
Hot Dog Plate for Children**
(or \$5 Hot Dog Plate only)

Prizes for Best Costumes - Adults - Teens - Children

Giant Goodie Bag of Treats For All Children In Attendance
½ Net Proceeds to Benefit St. Anthony's Church

Sponsored by
The Pasadena Ahepa Family and St. Anthony's Community

St. Anthony's Church Center
778 S. Rosemead Blvd.
Pasadena, California



For Reservations Call:
(626) 449-0966

ΤΑ ΝΕΑ ΤΟΥ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟΥ ΣΧΟΛΕΙΟΥ

Το Ελληνικό Σχολείο εύχεται σε όλη την κοινότητα του Αγίου Αντωνίου Καλή Σχολική και Εκκλησιαστική Χρονιά!

Με μεγάλη χαρά ανακοινώνουμε την επιτυχία όλων των μαθητών του σχολείου μας (Τμήμα Προχωρημένων) που συμμετείχαν στις Εξετάσεις για την Πιστοποίηση της Ελληνομάθειας, 12-3 Μαΐου 2009, στο σχολείο του Τιμίου Σταυρού στο Μπέλμοντ της Καλιφόρνιας. Θερμά συγχαρητήρια στους επιτυχόντες:

Ειρήνη Κατοπόδη, Επίπεδα Α και Β
Αθηνά Williams, Επίπεδα Α και Β
Ζαχαρία Τριπόδη, Επίπεδα Α και Β
Λευτέρη Χριστοδουλέλη, Επίπεδο Α

Τα μαθήματα του νέου σχολικού έτους 2009-2010 άρχισαν την Παρασκευή, 25 Σεπτεμβρίου. Όπως κάθε χρόνο, προσφέρονται όλες οι τάξεις παιδιών και ενηλίκων, καθώς και τα προπαρασκευαστικά μαθήματα για τις Εξετάσεις Ελληνομάθειας, για όλα τα επίπεδα γλωσσικής επάρκειας.

Νέα τάξη ενηλίκων, “Ελληνικά της Βίβλου: Γλώσσα και Πολιτισμός”. Θα διδαχθεί η Ελληνική του Ευαγγελίου και της Θείας Λειτουργίας, η τέχνη και η ιστορία των Ελληνιστικών και Βυζαντινών χρόνων. Έναρξη μαθημάτων: **15 Οκτωβρίου, 6.30-8.30 μμ.** Η συμμετοχή είναι ακόμη ανοιχτή, παρακαλούνται οι ενδιαφερόμενοι να επικοινωνήσουν μαζί μας το συντομότερο δυνατό.

GREEK SCHOOL NEWS

The Greek School wishes to all members of St. Anthony community a Good Academic and Ecclesiastical New Year!

We are very pleased to announce the success of all our students who participated in the **Examinations for the Certificate of Attainment in Greek**, May 12-3 2009, at the School of the Holy Cross in Belmont, California. Congratulations to:

Lefteris Christodoulelis, level A
Eirini Katopodis, levels A and B
Zacharias Tripodis, levels A and B
Athina Williams, levels A and B.

Lessons for the school year 2009-2010 started on Friday, September 25. All levels for children and adults will be offered, as well as preparatory classes for the Certificate of Attainment, for all levels of language proficiency.

New Adult Class, “Biblical Greek: Language and Culture”. The scope of this course includes original Greek and translated texts from the Bible and the Divine Liturgy, as well as the art and history of the Hellenistic and Early Byzantine periods. Lessons begin on October 15, 6.30-8.30 pm. Enrollment is still open. If you are interested, please contact us as soon as possible.

Moms N' Tots

**Every Wednesday
10:30 am—11:30 am**

Ages 6 months to 4 1/2 years old are welcome to join in. Activities include crafts, singing, story time, playtime and much more! Come join the fun. There is no pre-registration necessary! Yiayias, papous, theas, godparents, nannies, cousins, etc., are all welcome!

For more information about Moms N Tots, please contact Mary Udria at 626-963-9384 or email mary.udria@gmail.com.

Come Join the Fun!



Fall Party

Everyone is welcome to join the Moms N Tots group for some Fall Fun!

Costumes are welcome!

For more information please contact Mary Udria at 626-963-9384 or email mary.udria@gmail.com.

2009 Pasadena Greek Fest



Thank you everyone for making this a fabulous Fest!



Thanks to
me for a
successful Greek
Fest 2009!



Sunday School Registration

We invite your children to participate in Sunday School each Sunday during the regular school year. All families are strongly encouraged to participate. Come learn, grow, and worship with us. The Sunday School year starts in September and ends in June each year.

This year's dedicated teachers:

Preschool: Mrs. Margaret Vagenas

Kindergarten/First Grade: Mrs. Fotene Trigonis

Second/Third: Mrs. Angie Stavros

Fourth/Fifth: Mrs. Jenny Tsouvalas

Sixth: Staff

Seventh/Eighth: Mrs. Dena Tripodes

High School: Mrs. Maria Grover

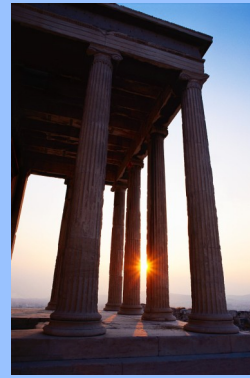
"Teach a child how he should live, and he will remember it all of his life."

Proverbs 22:6

Register your child today at www.saint-anthonys.org go to the ministries page and you will find a page for Sunday school registration.



NEW Greek School Class



New Adult Class, "Biblical Greek: Language & Culture"

The scope of this course includes original Greek and translated texts from the Bible and the Divine Liturgy, as well as the art and history of the Hellenistic and Early Byzantine periods.

Lessons begin on October 15, 6.30-8.30 pm. Enrollment is still open. If you are interested, please contact us as soon as possible.

Introducing Parish Pay

Stewardship and Donations made EASY!

Introducing Parish Pay a simple way to remember your stewardship, You will have the options to give one time, monthly, and annually.

You may also use Parish Pay for special events like the festival, Easter, and Christmas. Of course, you may also make capital campaign and stewardship gifts as well. Donations may also be made anonymously.

Go to www.saint-anthonys.org on the Donations link. For more information contact the church office.

*Thank you for contributing to
St. Anthony
Greek Orthodox Church.*





"What is Love?"- Part 1 of 4

By Rev. Deacon Niko Bekris

Is there any word in the English language that is thrown around as much as "love"? How about in any other language, for that matter? We hear the word "love" everywhere. Is there any song on the radio these days that is not about this word? How often do we see this topic in popular culture? How many clothing lines, backpacks, school supplies, you name it- have hearts on them or other love-themed pictures? We hear people using this word often in public, when saying something like "Oh, I love that!" or, "I'm in love." Certainly, everyone seems to know what love is, and I'm pretty sure everyone has an idea of what it means to be "in love." But truly, despite how often we hear this word, do we really know what love is?

I think it's safe to say that we love something when it has a lot of meaning for us, or when we really, really, enjoy something- a good restaurant, a movie we really enjoyed, maybe a song, a piece of jewelry, or anything else, we say that we "love" it. What about a person? We all love our parents, relatives and friends we meet in our lives, which is definitely a kind of love. What about a special someone in our life? One day we find ourselves in the presence of someone we find attractive, someone we'd like to get to know more about and be around. We find that we have butterflies in our stomach when we see them, we want to know more about them, and more than anything we really want them to like us back. When this happens, we say that we "have a crush" on this person, or we "like" this person, or we're "in love with" this person. Here is where our question comes in...

There's no doubt that love, to a degree, is an emotional response. Those butterflies in our stomach are our blood rushing and hor-

mones getting amped up. But why does this reaction happen? Is it just because we find the person physically attractive? Is it simply because we're infatuated with them? That's probably part of it, but not all of it. Someone's personality plays a part, doesn't it? Even if a person is very attractive, are we just as inclined to want to be in a relationship with them if that person is mean and acts like a jerk? We probably don't have the same feelings for them after that, do we?

The truth is that romantic love is just as much a spiritual response as it is a physical one. When we find that we are "in love with" someone, part of it is because our soul wants to have a special relationship with that person. Something about that person's soul connects with us. Have you heard a story of someone meeting their future spouse, and they knew right away they wanted to marry them? I felt this happen to me, and I am convinced it is a reaction of a person's soul. As I heard a dear priest once say to me, it's "two hearts speaking to one another."

Think about this: God is love (1 John 4:8), and therefore whatever true love we feel has been created by God. God wants to have a special relationship with each of us, and we, too, since we've been created in His image and likeness, feel this as well- someone's heart connecting with ours. Physical attraction is healthy, since God has given us these feelings as well. If we are to have a healthy relationship, however, even a "healthy crush," physical attraction cannot be the only attraction we feel, and we should not be duped by pop culture into thinking it is. So what is love? "Love" is an emotional reaction, yes, and something physical, but it is also very much a function of our soul, something we truly realize in our faith in Jesus Christ who loves each of us. With this in mind, we can be guided to a healthy idea of love, and who we are "in love with."

Now what about dating...?

Join IOCC for its first ever



Lace up to reach the world's most needy.
October 31, 2009

10 AM (Registration)

Rose Bowl (Parking Lot B)

\$25 Entry Fee (Donations Welcome)

Includes T-shirt & In-N-Out lunch

For more info, visit IOCC.org/StepUp





INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES

SoCal Step Up! Walk-a-thon

— 5k (3.1 Miles) —

ALL PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT IOCC



DATE: Saturday, Oct. 31, 2009
Check-In: 10:00 AM
Walk Begins: 10:45 AM
Lunch: 11:45 AM

LOCATION: The Rose Bowl
(Parking Lot B)

ENTRY FEE: \$25 (Includes T-Shirt
and IN-N-OUT Lunch)

CONTACTS: Nicolas Nicolaou
Home (714) 280-1310
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Cell (626) 445-6645

NO COSTUMES PLEASE.

Register at: www.iocc.org/stepup or

LACE UP TO REACH THE WORLD'S MOST NEEDY

What: Step Up!
When: Saturday, October 31, 2009, 10am
Where: Rose Bowl, Parking Lot B
Why: Join other Orthodox Parishes to Support IOCC
Who: EVERYONE!!!

Please join us for IOCC's first SoCal Step Up! Walkathon at the Rose Bowl, Saturday, October 31, 2009.

Joins hands and feet at this Pan-Orthodox event to support IOCC's humanitarian programs. For the first time, the Los Angeles and Orange County Metropolitan Committees are collaborating for their annual fundraiser.

We have planned this as a FAMILY event - no one is too old or too young to participate. Everyone who registers will receive a specially-designed t-shirt and an In-N-Out lunch.

This year, more than ever, IOCC is depending on our support to help maintain their programs here in the U.S. and abroad.

For every \$250 in pledges a registered walker receives, they will receive an entry into the Opportunity Drawing for a chance to win several prizes, including an Hawaiian vacation.

In order to reach our fundraising goal, we are also seeking sponsors who are able to give \$2,000, \$1,000 or \$500. Sponsorships come with walker registration as well as entry into the opportunity drawing.

Participation is open to everyone, Orthodox or not. Invite family, friends and neighbors to join us on October 31st.

Registration forms are available at church or you may call Lisa Xanthos at 626.445.6645 for additional information. You may also register on-line at www.IOCC.org and go to Upcoming Events where you will find further information.



Before I begin my article I would like to take a moment and welcome to our parish Christos and Jessica Kanakis. They are a wonderful young couple that will surely be a blessing to our community. I am extremely pleased that Father Peter will be provided with much needed assistance

when Christos is ordained as our Deacon. Please welcome them into our community and do keep them in your prayers.

Well, once again it is that time of the year where we begin our Monday evening and Wednesday morning Bible studies. Much was learned, discussed and debated during our previous Bible study sessions. This year we will actually take our studies from the very beginning. It will be an excellent introductory course for those who have little or no background in biblical studies. I think this would be a perfect opportunity to join the study group as it would provide a basic foundation which can be built upon as we progress in our studies. For those who have previous biblical knowledge it will serve as a refresher as we review the biblical stories we have learned over the years. But I do think we will obtain a fresh outlook as we read the Bible cover-to-cover.

Yes I did say cover-to-cover. I know this sounds most ambitious for beginners and even for seasoned readers of the Word. We will be able to complete our study since we will not go in depth within our studies. Remember we all have a lifetime of Bible reading that will allow for deeper study into the Word, but this study will provide us with the tools we need to begin upon that lifetime of Bible reading. I hope this study will provide us with the ability to follow "the plot" of the Bible, be able to keep track of all the important characters, and be able to compre-

hend what the story is all about.

Although the Bible consists of many books, it is not just a collection of individual books. There is actually a single plot and story to the Bible. When all these individual books were joined together and then placed in order by our ancient Church Fathers through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, it then actually created one book that tells one story. It is through this study that we will come to realize what that story is about and how to actually follow it through all of the individual books in the Bible.

Prior to us beginning with the book of Genesis, we will take a short time in our class to review how we as Orthodox Christians should in fact read the Bible. We will delve into Divine Revelation in relation to Scripture, Tradition and the Church. We will also look into a few rules of reading and interpreting Scripture as Orthodox Christians. Many of you may have heard that the Word of God is open to interpretation, but as Orthodox Christians we look into the content and unity of Scripture, the Church's living tradition and the Church's teaching authority. The Bible is not open to self interpretation, as Orthodox Christians we must make sure that our interpretations never contradict the interpretation in the Church's Creeds and other doctrinal statements. As we embark in our studies we will always look towards the Church and its traditions to rightly interpret the Scriptures.

In the beginning of our study we will be reminded that even though Scripture possesses a divine element, we must remember that there is also a human element present. Therefore we will learn that when we read the Bible we must remember that it is literature, it is ancient and it is religious.

Continued on next page...

It is this basic introductory background that will enable us to see that the Bible does give us history, but we must remember that it is history from the perspective of God. We will come to realize that the Bible, the entire Bible is true and without error. It is true and without error not just in matters of morality and faith, but also what it teaches about historical events and personages. The Word of God will never lead us astray, but we must remember to interpret it responsibly (the Church). This study will provide us with the opportunity to understand and realize that the Bible is providing us with history and natural events, but it is from a divine perspective and at times utilizes symbolic language. This beginning background will provide us with the ability to study biblical history from God's perspective. We will come to see how God is working to bring us to salvation and that is why we say that the Bible gives us "salvation history." We will come to see how this salvation history is attached to

the "covenants" that God makes with His people throughout the Bible. Our Church Father, Irenaeus, recognized the need for studying salvation history in terms of covenants: "Understanding ...consists in showing why there are a number of covenants with mankind and in teaching what is the character of those covenants" (Against Heresies, Book I, Chapter 10, and no.3). It is with this brief background of how an Orthodox understands the Bible that will enable us to begin looking into the Bible's content. So if there are any of you out there who have been thinking about getting serious about reading the Scriptures, now is the time to do it. Hope to see many of you at some of the Monday evening sessions and I am sure that Father Peter would love to have many of you in his Wednesday morning sessions.

In Christ,
Christos Theoharatos



Bible Studies:

Monday's
Beginning October 12
7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Wednesday's
Beginning October 14
10:00 to 11:30 a.m.

**The Greek Heritage Society of
So. California proudly
presents the Premiere of**

**"The Promise of
Tomorrow: The First
Generation 1940-1960"**

**Thursday, November 12,
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Thank you to Esther Vavoulis &
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