



Come and Receive God's Gifts

Pascha is quickly approaching and so is the moment when we hear the words chanted every Anastasi Service; "Come Receive the Light" We will light our candles which symbolizes the Light of Christ and sing Christos Anesti to celebrate His victory over death. To many peoples' surprise, this moment happens just before we begin the Divine Liturgy, where we will receive once again. This time we receive Holy Communion. All our preparation during lent should be followed by the action of taking Holy Communion that night. Yes, we are all tired and have the urge to go back to our cars with our lit candle instead of going back into the Church for the Paschal Liturgy. We need to remind ourselves that Christ offers us His body and blood that night as His gift to us.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion (the Eucharist) which literally means "Thanksgiving," is the Mystery whereby the bread and wine offering is changed, actually, not symbolically, into the very Body and Blood of Christ. The Eucharist is at the very center of the Church's life, and from it flows the prayer of believers in a sacrifice of entreaty for the peace of the world, for those who ask for help, and for all men and women "The Eucharist unites us; it nourishes our soul and body, and strengthens our spiritual life. According to the promise of the Gospel, "He that eats this bread will live forever." (The Gospel of John 6:58)

The chalice which holds the blood of Christ is the cup of salvation. Every Liturgy, we pray with the priest that the Holy Spirit may change the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Jesus. This means that when we receive Holy Communion, Jesus comes to live in us. How do we prepare to receive the Body and Blood of Jesus? We pray! We should have love in our hearts for all people. We should ask forgiveness from God and from anyone we may have hurt. Once we have received Communion, we must remember that we have become one with Christ and with all those who received Communion with us. Christ now lives in all of us.

We are all living icons of Jesus. It is by loving one another that we love Jesus. After receiving Communion our bodies become like the holy chalice. God lives in us. Jesus wants to use our hands, which have now become His hands, to help those in need. When we receive Communion, we become members of Christ's Body, the Church. This means that Jesus has no eyes but our eyes, no feet but our feet to do His work in the world today. How should we respond to knowledge that we are commissioned to do his works and take care of His ministry? There is only one response We take action! If we are truly going to "Receive the Light" we will truly live the message we hear in the Divine Liturgy of Repentance, Forgiveness and Love.



Our Greek School Celebrates March 25
Greek Independence Day & The Annunciation

Fr. Bill Tragus

Source: "Let's Take a Walk Through our Orthodox Church"
Fr. Anthony Coniaris

APRIL

- 4th: Pre-Sanctified 7:30 pm
- 5th: Philoptochos 7:15 pm
- 7th: Sat of Laz. Lit. 9:30 am
- *Youth Breakfast after Liturgy
- * Palm tying for Palm Sunday
- 8th: Palm Sunday Luncheon
- 13th: Holy Fri. Retreat & Lock-in

Holy Week Schedule

April

- Sat 7th: Sat of Lazarus Liturgy 9:30 am
- * Youth Breakfast & Palm Tying
- Sun 8th: Palm Sunday Liturgy 10:00 am
- * Palm Sunday Brunch following
- Bridegroom 7:30 pm
- Mon 9th: Bridegroom 7:30 pm
- Tues 10th: Pre-Sanctified 9:30 am
- Bridegroom 7:30 pm
- Wed 11th: 1st Holy Unction 3:30 pm
- 2nd Holy Unction 7:30 pm
- Thu 12th: St. Basil Liturgy 9:30 am
- Reading of Gospels 7:30 pm
- Fri 13th: Descent from the Cross 3:30 pm
- Epitaphio / Lamentations 7:30 pm
- Sat 14th: The Cannon 11:30 pm
- Anastasi / Resurrection 12:00 midnight
- Sun 15th Pascha: Agape Service 10:00 am
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- Sun 22nd: Sunday of Thomas
- God Parent Sunday
- Liturgy 10:00 am
- Sun 29th: Myrrh Bearers Liturgy 10:00 am

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Prime Timers ~ April 3rd: Prime Timers Luncheon will be catered by the Taste of Greece. We will meet at 12:30 p.m. upstairs at the Church. Please RSVP to Danny Tonge (949) 457—9524 or Jim Constantine (949) 218—7262 so that we can plan for food.

Philoptochos Meeting ~ April 5th: The Philoptochos/Ladies Auxiliary will meet on the 1st Thursday of April due to Holy Week. We usually meet on the 2nd Thursday of each month. Our next meeting is Thursday evening, April 5th at 7:15 p.m. at the home of Irene Basdakis, 4 Ventana Ridge Drive, Aliso Viejo, CA 92656, Gate Code: #5277, Phone: (949) 900-6765. Agenda: Holy Week, Epitaphio, presentation on Camp Zoe by Pres. Mia. Please join us for snacks and fellowship. For more info, contact Fran Karnazes at yiayiafran@yahoo.com or 949-633-0270.

Palm Sunday Luncheon ~ April 8th: Please join us for a Palm Sunday Luncheon in the Patio following Liturgy. Hosted by our Parish Council. For more info and to make reservations, please contact Ann in the office at office@gomsoc.org

God Parent Sunday ~ April 22nd: Please send Ann (office@gomsoc.org) the email address for your child's God-Parents so we may send them an official GOMSOC Evite. The Sunday School children will prepare a gift for their god parents, as well as provide a unique photo opportunity for your child and his/her god-parent. For more info, Ann Nicole at annaniole777@gmail.com

GOMSOC Glendi Dinner Dance-May 26th: Please join us for dinner, dancing and friends on Saturday Evening, May 26th at the San Juan Capistrano Community Hall, 25925 Camino Del Avion, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675. Our Greek Dance team will be performing. The event is hosted by the Greek Dance and GOYA as a fundraiser for our dance & youth ministry programs.



Our New Icon Screen being constructed

Youth Calendar - April

April 7 ~ Sat of Lazarus Youth Breakfast & Palm Tying: All our youth groups should attend Liturgy on the Saturday of Lazarus. Breakfast immediately following Liturgy and then Palm Tying. Confession for our youth will also be available. For more info contact Fr. Bill.

April 13 ~ JOY & Jr. Goya Holy Friday Retreat : We are having two separate Retreats this year. 10:30 am—3:00 p.m. School letters will be given out to parents. A Lenten lunch will be served. JOY is K-3rd & Jr. Goya is 4th-6th.

April 13 ~ GOYA Holy Friday Lock-in after Epitaphio Service: This is our 2nd annual GOYA Lock-in. A Lenten dinner will be served. There will be a discussion with Fr. Bill using a movie. GOYA should bring their sleeping bags, pillows, PJ's, clothes for Church on Saturday morning. The Lock-in ends following the Liturgy on Saturday Morning at 11:00 a.m. GOYA is 7th—12th grade only. Only GOYA age kids are permitted.

MINISTRY CONTACTS

Parish Council: Reggie Sellas: rsellas@aol.com
Sunday School: Anna-Nicole: annanicole777@gmail.com
Greek School: Tessa: tessyjoy7@gmail.com
GOYA: Sandy Rains: sandyrains1@gmail.com
Greek Dance: John Basdakis: john@msn4loans.com
Altar Boys: Fr. Bill: frbill@gomsoc.org
Stewardship: Katie VanHarten: vanhartenk@msn.com
Philoptochos: Fran Karnazes: yiayiafran@yahoo.com
AHEPA: Bob Stavrou: bstavrou@cox.net
Prime Timer's: Danny Tonge: mdtonge@sbcglobal.net
Choir: Bert Dumais: bert.dumais@cox.net
Vacation Church School: Pres. Mia: presmia@yahoo.com
Apokries: Steve Dafnis: steved@quizglass.com
Festival: Sam Konugres: sam.konugres@sbcglobal.net
Parish Directory (2012): Sally: meyerhofer@cox.net

Lent & Holy Week

Readers Needed

We need people to read on Wednesday evenings and during holy Week. If you are interested, please contact Fr. Bill at the office or at frbill@gomsoc.org

2012 Stewardship Update

Annual Operating Budget	\$375,000.
Amount Pledged	\$ 88,090.
% of budget pledged	23%
Amount Received	\$ 33,865.
% of budget received	9%
2012 Stewards	62