



The Church Year Begins (September 1st)

A great historian said once that a good way to start historical analysis of a particular people is to ask what holidays they celebrate on their calendar. If one wishes to understand for example, the Greek people or American People, one can begin by studying what great events they celebrate on their national calendar every year. These events tell much about a people or a nation. To understand the United States, for example, we have to look at its calendar and the great events it celebrates such as Thanksgiving or the Fourth of July.

In the same way, the liturgical calendar of the Greek Orthodox Church reflects and expresses the whole history and faith of the Church. The liturgical calendar, which begins on September 1st, unfolds before us annually the whole life of Christ, from His birth to the ascension and the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. It helps us remember the great events in the history of our salvation and makes them present again mystically, so that we may re-live them and participate in them.

Important Scriptural truths have been woven into the Orthodox Church calendar. An example of this are the words of John the Baptist about his relationship to Christ. "He must increase, but I must decrease" (John 3:30). Hence, the birthday of Christ was fixed on December 25 because it is the beginning of the winter solstice, where the days grow longer. Jesus has entered the world; He must increase. John the Baptist's birthday, however, was set on June 24, which is at the beginning of the summer solstice where the days grow shorter. John the Baptist must decrease and Jesus Christ, The Light, must increase. "He (John the Baptist) was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light" (John 1:8).

Most of us have two calendars we follow; our yearly calendar and our Church calendar. September is not only the beginning of the liturgical year, it is also the beginning of the school year, sports seasons, etc. Some people even begin their holiday planning in September. It can get busy juggling our two calendars. As Orthodox Christians, keeping in touch with the Church calendar helps us connect with God, His teachings & our community. It is through the Church, it's services, people & ministries, that we find peace in our busy lives. The Church gives us time to focus on God's purpose for our lives and challenges to improve in faith and good works. I pray that this new liturgical year will be filled with blessings for our community and growth for our mission. God bless !

Rev. Fr. Bill Tragus



September

Sat 1st: Goya meeting Tontisakis home 5:00

Tues 4th: Prime Timers 12:30 p.m.

Sun. 9th: Sunday School Begins

Sun 9th: Greek Dance begins 12:30 pm

Sun 9th: Voting of Parish Name (coffee hour)

Tues. 11th: Bible Study 7:10 p.m.

Fri 14th: Liturgy Holy Cross 9:30 a.m.

Sun. 16: Voting for Parish Name (coffee hour)

Prime Timers ~ September 4th: The next luncheon will be held on Tuesday, September 4th at 1:00 p.m. at the The Tastes of Greece. The restaurant is located at 30012 Crown Valley Pkwy, Laguna Niguel. Contact Bert Dumais (949) 412-9169.

Sunday School ~ September 9th: 1st day of Sunday School is September 9th . Register your children ASAP. We are hosting registration online again, go to www.gomsoc.org to register your children for the year! Should you have questions, please email them to annanicole777@gmail.com.

Ladies Auxillary ~ September 9th: We will meet in Church a bit after coffee hour starts. If you have any questions please contact Fran at yiyiafran@yahoo.com.

Bible Study ~ September 11th: Please join us for the study of our scripture & church tradition on Tuesday, September 11th at 7:15 p.m. upstairs in the Church hall. Refreshments will be served. For more info, please email: frbill@gomsoc.org.

Greek School Registration Begins ~ September 26th: Greek School classes will begin on September 26th. Classes will be held on Wednesdays for all grades. The registration form is on our website: www.gomsoc.org, click on Youth Ministries then Greek School. You will need to download the form, complete it and return it to the office.



Vacation Church School, Aug. 2012

Youth Calendar - September

Greek Dance Orientation/ Practice~ September 9th: Greek Dance will begin on Sept. 9th. We will meet with the parents and dancers for a short orientation upstairs in the hall. A practice for the kids will follow. Contact: John Basdakis: john@msn4loans.com.

Calling all Goya'ns ~ SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 1ST: Grades 7-12th, We are having our 2012-2013 Kickoff Meeting! We will plan activities for the Year and vote for officers! It is going to be a fun night of fellowship and we will serve Pizza! 5:00pm-7:00pm at the Tontisakis home. Any questions contact Sandy Rains sandy rains1@gmail.com or 951-972-0719.

MINISTRY CONTACTS

Parish Council: Reggie Sellas: rsellas@aol.com
Sunday School: Anna-Nicole: annanicole777@gmail.com
Greek School: Tessy: tessyjoy7@gmail.com
GOYA: Sandy Rains: sandy rains1@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: yiyiafran@yahoo.com
AHEPA: Bob Stavrou: bstavrou@cox.net
Prime Timer's: Bert Dumais: bert.dumais@cox.net
Choir: Bert Dumais: bert.dumais@cox.net
Vacation Church School: Pres. Mia: presmia@yahoo.com
Apokries: Steve Dafnis: steved@quizglass.com
4th of July: Sam Konugres: sam.konugres@sbcglobal.net
Parish Directory (2012): Sally: meyerhofer@cox.net

Save the date ~ November 3rd, The Naming of our Parish

Please join us for a Dinner Dance at The Mission Viejo Country Club to celebrate the naming of our mission parish. Additional Information will be mailed out soon. You can keep up on the latest info by checking our website at www.gomsoc.org



2012 Stewardship Update

Annual Operating Budget	\$375,000
Amount Pledged	\$108,650
% of budget pledged	29%
Amount Received	\$71,640
%of budget received	19%
2012 Stewards	82