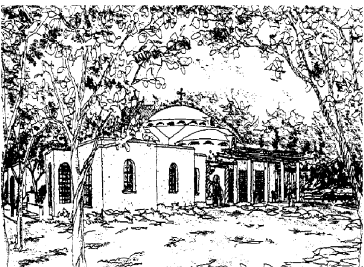


# CROSS CURRENTS

Monthly Newsletter  
October 2001



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Church of the Holy Cross  
900 Alameda / Belmont, CA 94002-1604  
(650) 591-4447 / fax (650) 508-9846  
office@goholycross.org / http://www.goholycross.org

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Articles and ads for the DECEMBER 2001 *Cross Currents* are due on **Monday, November 26.**

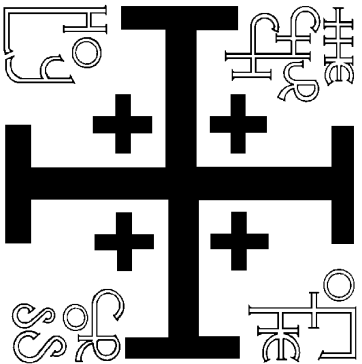
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## JANET JACKSON ... THE NEWEST ICON?

*by Father Peter Salmas, Pastor*

Recently, MTV aired a special which awarded to **Janet Jackson** the title of “icon”. Sadly, even tragically, this honor by the entertainment industry is a gross distortion of the traditional and orthodox understanding of this word. As Janet Jackson is now considered by thousands upon thousands of young and not so young people to be an icon, it is critical for us to be educated as to the significance of this word.

The word icon comes from the Greek and means “image.” Historically and to our modern day, the word icon has been used in reference to God



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and to those images of people who reflect, spiritually, His image. Because our Lord Jesus Christ, who is God in the flesh, became flesh through His incarnation, we are able to depict Him in images for veneration. Because of His incarnation, His becoming like one of us, we can become like Him. The icons of our Holy Orthodox tradition share with us this spiritual reality.

However, the distortion of many aspects of our God-given world includes the distortion of the meaning and use of words, words like icon or image, not to mention the distortion of “marriage”, “love” and other pivotal words. ‘Icon’ is now used to describe people and lifestyles that unfortunately have little or no connection to the etymological intent of the word.

The Church is the place where, in the world, the image of God can be recognized and our struggle for salvation takes place. This process of recognition and salvation is ongoing, and a constant struggle for all who desire to become more like the Creator and less like an image devoid of His grace. We are familiar with the adage, “A picture is worth a thousand words.” This reality has its greatest realization in the images that we see on a daily basis, those images that lay claim to our memories and often become the subconscious but determining influence in our lives.

One of the great images given to us in the New Testament is the Transfiguration of our Lord on Mount Tabor. From the icon of this Feast, we learn that His disciples Peter, James and John witnessed the revealing of Christ’s full nature and were forever changed by it. The process of our “transfiguration” is one which begins in our homes and continues, as Orthodox Christians, within the place and with the gathering we call the Church. Sounds and images from home and the Church, when dominant in our lives, can bring us into the greater spiritual fullness that we all seek and can forever change us. It is unfortunate that these images which bring us the peace of God are often pushed aside to make way for the images and sounds that are louder and flashier, those which reflect more the visible and physical world in which we live.

We live in a tumultuous time and yet, are we offended by Janet Jackson becoming an icon? Are we offended enough to take seriously the threats to our children? The images that we permit to hold a place within our minds as parents and spiritual guardians to our children will either assist the Holy Spirit in the all important work of salvation or cause those for whom we are responsible and us to be led into further temptation.

The spiritual education of the Church is multifaceted. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. His icon is the one we need to promote. It is His icon that needs to be written onto the walls of our Churches, placed in our homes and etched into our minds. We need to share with everyone the

high school term. Being a new member my freshman year, I was warmly encouraged by everyone that I met to join the youth group and explore what it had to offer. Little did I know that my experiences in GOYA would leave a lasting impression on me. During those four years, I met many new people not only from our parish here, but other youth from the parishes of Modesto, Santa Barbara, Fresno, San Jose, Roseville, and many others in Oregon, Washington, Nevada, and Alaska. The friends closest to my heart however, are those that I met and got to know very well here in our own community.

The experiences that GOYA provided me with are priceless. Because the church sponsored and encouraged trips to St. Nicholas Ranch, Disneyland with other youth groups, and the Marin Headlands and Santa Barbara for the Lenten Retreats, I met new people; but in discussion of any subject with my peers under the guidance of the clergy and adult supervisors, we all grew in our faith, our knowledge, and grew as well-rounded people. GOYA is made up of but a few people in comparison to larger society. Those of us who took advantage of our youth program truly received an unbelievable amount of love, support, and dedication by all those in the community. With that, my experiences were tremendous. The things I learned in discussion, in company, and in friendship with my Greek Orthodox peers, genuinely influenced my life in a positive way.

By being so involved in the church, my peers and I were introduced to many illuminating experiences. Those aspects of life and experiences (left unnamed so that everyone can get their own personal, special spark as they progress through GOYA), led me to become be a more human, compassionate, critical thinking person. My experiences in GOYA helped refine my leadership skills, enlightened me about our worldly affairs, reaffirmed my faith, and most importantly introduced countless learning opportunities. Because of these, I can be a more secure, confident person outside the confines of our own little family at Holy Cross. All these experiences, which provided my peers and me to grow, are directly possible because of the loving care of those in our youth program here at Holy Cross.

## YOUTH CHOIR

Youth Choir is more than a youth program; it’s also a ministry of the church. The ONLY prerequisite for joining Youth Choir is to love singing. If you are interested in joining, contact Khara-Maria Salmas at (650) 345-6830 / kmsalmas@aol.com

Americans have joined this war against evil, and we welcome them to the fight. As Christians, we cannot let down our guard, for the one true enemy will be fighting harder than ever to turn us away again from the One who is Truth and Peace. In faith, as we prepare to do battle daily, let us remember our battle cry as Christians, “Lord, save Your people and bless Your inheritance, granting victory to the Faithful over adversaries and protecting Your commonwealth by Your Cross.”

## GREEK FOLK DANCING

Our dance year is underway. For more info, please contact the appropriate parent advisor:

### *Angeloudakia*

Hope Callas (Pre-School) ..... 345-1672  
 Anthia Giotinis (1st Grade) ..... 568-0281

### *Kamari Mas* (2nd –3rd Grades)

Paulette Costantini ..... 591-4529  
 Nicky Papadakis ..... 321-2225

### *Eleftheria* (4th – 6th Grades)

Irene Fotinos ..... 349-1535  
 Tula Giesecker ..... 652-4641

### *Efstrofia* (7th – 9th Grades)

Vicki Boubalos ..... 802-0422  
 Hope Callas ..... 345-1672

### *Meltemia* (10th-1st Year College)

Pauline Alevizos ..... 340-8689  
 Hope Callas ..... 345-1672

## WHAT I GOT OUT OF GOYA

by *Louis Taptelis*, GOYA alumnus

What a change! What a great change from our close knit community here at Holy Cross to a large university. I was a member of GOYA for my entire

spiritual experience of His image and those who reflect His sacred grace, His saints. It is in this way that our spiritual transfiguration, as individuals and as communities, takes place.

Many of us grew up in homes where icons were recognized for their spiritual significance. In turn, many of our children have grown up in an environment where icons are visible. Yet, as we have sought worldly acceptance and success, perhaps we have dismissed their influence, perhaps we have neglected to walk, talk and think in awareness of the significance of their presence. Our Lord however cautions us when He asks the question, “What does it profit a man to gain the whole world and lose his soul.” As Orthodox Christians, our list of priorities should begin with God and the things of God. We need to first value His spiritual gifts to us and place all other valuables in relation to them. His icon and the icons of His saints teach us well, certainly more aptly than any other image that we can place before us.

Many thousands filled a stadium to honor Janet Jackson. Talented as she is, are her talents developed to the glory of Our Lord Jesus Christ? She does not stand as an image to be emulated for people of faith. She is not a beacon for the advancement of our God-given spiritual goals. She is a beacon perhaps and unfortunately for the advancement of the spiritual goals of this generation. Sadly, we act as a godless generation which worships idols . . . idols created by the likes of the mentality of MTV, while the icons of the saints and martyrs of our Christian Church are ignored if not maligned by this and other equally offensive great travesties.

Let us be offended by such contemporary icons and let us rather live our lives in Christ, emulate His life and the lives of those transfigured through faith, for in doing so our eternal salvation is given its due priority.

## OUR ICONOGRAPHY : A PROGRESS REPORT

As you read this, mosaic icons are being written in **Mr. Tonelli’s** Tuscany Studio in Italy. It is our hope that all will be finished and installed by Christmas of 2002. That is why your support and financial gifts are important.

To date we have received nearly \$500,000 in pledges. Of the amount pledged, \$175,000 has been received. These pledges and cash donations represent the commitment of only 45 families from Holy Cross and have come in with no formal program for solicitations. It would then appear that the remaining \$325,000 could be pledged within the next few months. If every family in the

parish would give \$1000 between now and May of 2002, the first phase would be complete and we could then focus our attention toward our Educational Center.

Members of our Iconography committee are available each Sunday following Church services to answer any question you may have regarding the project. Those who have already pledged may contact you seeking your financial gift to fulfill this first phase.

I invite you to contact me, any member of the Iconography Committee, or any member of the Parish Council for answers to your questions, pledge forms, or assistance in choosing a saint's medallion, prophet, palm, or symbol.

PLEASE! Choose a saint. Give a gift.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

by *Nicholas Peros, President of the Parish Council*

2001 has been a spectacular year here at Holy Cross.

At the Special General Assembly in February, we heard thoughtful arguments regarding substantial needs in 4 areas.

**First – Classroom buildings.** In the intervening months there has been substantial progress in architectural work and in fundraising. We now know that what we dreamed about is going to happen. A recent soundbite that sticks in my mind is : *“In my engineering judgment, the project **can** be built”*. With no obvious engineering impediments, I see a bright green light and a groundbreaking ceremony in the not too distant future.

**Second – need for additional parking.** In a report today you will see that our Architects have also addressed this matter in a significant way. You have spoken and we have listened.

**Third – Mortgage paydown.** At the beginning of the year our mortgage balance was \$558k. Today it is down to \$435k, a **22% reduction in just 10 months**. I would like to thank again those who have come forward to help.

**Fourth – Iconography.** We have obtained pledges for a substantial fraction of the money needed for Phase 1 *without* even having a focused fundraising drive. Our iconographer, **Sirio Tonelli**, is under contract and the recently-displayed shop drawings show us where we are headed. The design of an excellent indirect lighting system has been worked out – complete with computer simulations - thanks to a generous donation. And, yes, we are under contract today based only on the

We have as an example Saint Anthony, the first monastic, who battled demons to the point where they cut his flesh and beat his body. When a person is baptized, the Prayers of Exorcism are read over the person first, stating, “The Lord condemns you, Satan...be gone, depart from this soldier newly enlisted, now marked for Christ our God.” During the Great Compline Service celebrated during Great Lent, we read in one of the prayers, “Extinguish the fiery darts of the Evil One which insidiously fly in our direction.”

We have been born into a fallen world, one in which we are confronted with sin and death. As Christians, we are constantly tempted by the devil to stray from the path that leads to God. It is a struggle between good and evil, we are at war, and our souls are at stake.

In response to the horrific events of September 11<sup>th</sup>, people turned to God. Churches filled up, candles were lit, prayers were said in schools, and of course, God Bless America became the national slogan. How many of us even knew the words to “God Bless America” on September 10<sup>th</sup>?

As I write this, some 50 days after that terrible day, most of the religious fervor has died down. Church attendance nationally has dropped, candles are no longer being lit, lawsuits are being heard to keep prayer and God out of schools again, and I have forgotten the words to “God Bless America.”

Yet we are still at war, and as Christians we will always be at war. The devil is a relentless enemy, he will continue to fight even when we have grown weary. But when we turn to God, we draw our strength from Him. Every day we are bombarded by “the fiery darts of the Evil One,” and every day we need to turn to God for protection.

It is our faith that brings about our protection – faith strengthened by worshiping in church, by praying in our homes, by reading the scriptures, and not just by making God a part of our lives, but by making Him a way of life. “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain. By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, took heed and constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac. By faith the people crossed the Red Sea as if on dry land. And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets – who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight.” (Hebrews 11:1, 4, 7, 17, 29, 32-34)

## YOUTH CURRENTS

October 2001 edition

Grow in the Grace and knowledge  
of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

2 Peter 3:18



## HEY AMERICA . . . THANKS FOR JOINING THE FIGHT!

by *Simon Thomas, Pastoral Lay-Assistant*

We are at war. We are at war with **Osama bin Laden**. We are at war with *Al Qaeda*. We are at war with the Taliban leaders of Afghanistan. We are at war with terrorists around the world. As **President George W. Bush** says, we are at war with evil. My response to that is...welcome to the cause!

As Orthodox Christians, we have been at war with evil from the moment of our baptism. The Orthodox Church has been at war for 2000 years, and our forefathers have been battling evil from the times of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. This is no new war, we just received a few more soldiers into the ranks.

Saint Paul speaks of the battle that is at hand, "Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we are not contending against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the equipment of the Gospel of peace; beside all these, taking the shield of faith, with which you can quench all the flaming darts of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Pray at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication to all the Saints." (Ephesians 6:10-18)

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moneys pledged – with a contingency.

We have made significant progress in all four of these areas but we still have work to do.

Regardless of how you personally prioritize these four projects, I challenge you all to come forward. Commit substantially with at least a pledge, before the end of **this year**.

These are exciting times at Holy Cross. Let's spread the word.

## THE STEWARDSHIP OF ST. ARTEMIOS THE GREAT MARTYR - OCTOBER 20

*This article is a part of a continuing series on Stewardship sent to us by the Archdiocese' Stewardship Ministry office. Additional articles may be found at their website - [www.goarch.org](http://www.goarch.org).*

*"In this sign conquer!"  
(Vision at the Milvian Bridge)*

We usually recall these words when thinking of the vision that St. Constantine the Great saw prior to entering into battle. This vision inspired him to have the Cross parted on the shields of his soldiers. Their victory placed Constantine as the sole Emperor of the Roman Empire. But, what happened to the soldiers that witnessed this event? This month, we call to mind the life of St. Artemios the Great Martyr.

Artemios was one of Constantine's generals. When he saw the Cross he pledged himself to Jesus Christ and was baptized. With the Empire now united, Artemios was charged with the responsibility of taking the relics of St. Andrew and St. Luke to Constantinople. He carried out his orders with joy and was honored to be able to carry the sacred relics of these saints. Recognized as an able military leader, Artemios became the Governor and Ambassador of the Emperor in Egypt. He held these positions for a number of years and protected the Eastern region of the Empire.

The politics and intrigue that surrounded the Imperial Court in Constantinople led to the rise of Julian the Apostate as Emperor. He desired that the Empire turn from its Christian direction and return to paganism. When Julian declared war on the Persians, he summoned Artemios and his army to meet him



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in Antioch. Artemios was obedient to the command and joined the Emperor. While in Antioch, Artemios witnessed two priests being persecuted by order of the Emperor Julian. Outraged, Artemios went to the Emperor and said: "Why are you so ruthlessly torturing these innocent and dedicated men, and why are you putting pressure on them to turn back from the Orthodox Faith?" Artemios' intercession saved them from death and they were exiled to another land. As for Artemios, however, the Emperor stripped him of his military rank, had him beaten, and imprisoned. While in prison, he endured a number of tortures and was finally beheaded in the year 362.

How many of us would risk our jobs, our positions, our financial resources to defend someone wrongfully being treated? This is the example of St. Artemios' life. He knew what the consequences of his actions would be when he supported the two priests being tortured because of the Emperor's command. Nevertheless, it was his Christian Orthodox duty to stand up for what was right, no matter what the cost might be to himself. St. Artemios had converted from a pagan lifestyle to become a soldier for Christ. He was a good and faithful steward who used his Time, Talents, and Treasure on many occasions to glorify God. The time came, however, when he had to be completely truthful and ask himself how far he would go in expressing his faith. By reviewing his life we know his answer, but what about our response? Are we willing to risk our possessions or status in the community in order to defend someone being wronged? Take a good and honest look at your Stewardship commitment to God and His Church and answer those questions yourself. The witness we are called to fulfill is one that requires our full and complete support through truthful and faithful Stewardship. Our every effort in contributing our Time, Talent, and Treasure to achieve this may not bring the type of death that the martyrs suffered, but will most assuredly bring life eternal!

## PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

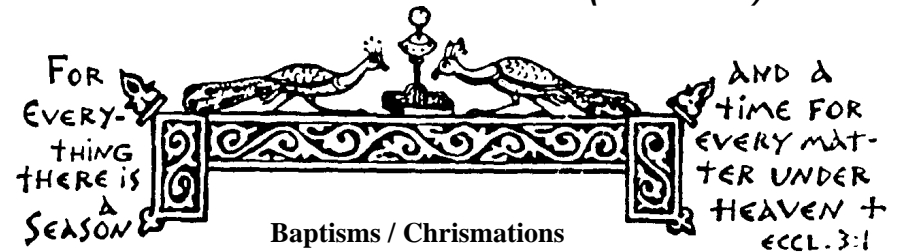
by *Helene Nemchik, President*

On September 10, the new Philoptochos board had their first meeting of the year. Plans are underway for the events and project for 2001-2002.

One special project we'll be focusing on is the raising of funds to purchase two Icons to be placed on the pillars of the church. These Patron Saints of the Philoptochos, Cosmas and Damianos were doctors who gave of themselves without pay or recognition. Like these brothers, Christians from Asia Minor, the Philoptochos also strives to help others without asking for anything in return. This will be a two year fundraising effort starting with a "kickoff" luncheon **November 11** after church. Anyone desiring to help can donate to the Philoptochos

- o Thanks to those who served in the Samaritan House Food Line in **August and September** : **Edie Christoforidis**, and **John and Vivi Sarantitis**. Anyone, as a representative of Holy Cross may serve - we usually go the third Friday of the month. If you are interested, please call **Vivi Sarantitis** at 697-3739.
- o **Yianni's of Burlingame** has immediate openings for evening work (servers, kitchen, etc. Ideal for college students home for the summer. No experience necessary. Will train. Please call Jack at 347-2088.
- o **Khara-Maria Salmas** is happy to announce that she is offering Voice Lessons for anyone desiring to know the joy of singing. (650) 345-6830.

## 2001 ANNOUNCEMENTS *(continued)*



- May 26 Joanne, daughter of Alexander & June Kucy; Tanya Spirtos, sponsor
- Aug 26 Yiorgos John, son of Jacques & Alicia Petrakis; Eleni Lolas, sponsor
- Sept 15 Sophia, daughter of Philip & Nihad Siotos; John Siotos, sponsor
- Sept 22 Susan, daughter of Richard & Isabel Farrar; George Stergion, sponsor
- Sept 29 Sophia Katerina, daughter of Vacilis & Renee Kollias; Anthony Chatzigianis, sponsor
- Oct 14 Alexa Kathleen, daughter of Alexander & Kathleen Kalafatis; George Sotirios and Theodora Gavros, sponsors

### Weddings / Blessings

- Sept 8 George Tragas & Karyn Erickson; Josh Tragas, sponsor
- Sept 9 Fred Ganjei & Joanne McFall; Mike Milon, sponsor
- Sept 22 Anthony Chatzigianis & Florence Blangy; Vacilis Kollias, sponsor
- Sept 29 Greg Charonis & Jessica Castellano; Angelo Charonis, sponsor
- Oct 20 John Bagis & Susan Beruan, Barry Stergion, sponsor

*If there are omissions or corrections to the above, please let the church office know (591-4447 or office@goholycross.org).*

namedays, birthdays, baptisms, weddings and anniversaries. Gift certificates are also available.

The bookstore is open **Saturday** evenings after Great Vespers; **Sunday** mornings after Divine Liturgy and **Wednesdays** from 4 to 6 PM. **Bookstore Volunteers** - If you are interested in serving as a volunteer for our bookstore, please contact the church office.

## OFFICE HOURS

Church office hours will revert to the usual **Monday** through **Friday**, 9 AM to 5 PM effective immediately. As usual, PLEASE call before coming to the office to conduct church business. PLEASE leave a message on our new voice-mail system during off-hours.

## 2001-2002 CHURCH DIRECTORY

After a LONG hiatus, a new church directory is in the offing.

A change this time around is that we will not include a business "Yellow Pages" section as such but we will happily make note of any donations to offset printing and mailing costs. Also new, if you'd like, we will print family or individual cell-phone numbers or e-mail addresses. If you wish to have your cell phone number or e-mail address posted alongside your street address and phone number, please e-mail the church office at office@goholycross.org.

Only pledging members will be included in this directory - if you currently receive *Cross Currents*, you will most likely be listed in the directory. (PLEASE be sure your pledge is CURRENT.) Also, if you will be moving soon, please let us know your new address or any impending changes. Donations or any changes, additions or comments regarding the directory should be sent in *as soon as possible*.

## NEWS & NOTES

- o Thanks to the ladies who participated in the Samaritan House Kitchen in **August** and **September**. The next preparation dates are **October 10** and **16** (the second Wednesday and third Tuesday of each month). Please join us if you can. Interested parishioners should call **Edie Christoforidis** at 345-8981.

chos Cosmas and Damianos Icon Fund anytime. I know with the support of the Philoptochos community we'll be able to reach our goal of \$25,000 for each Icon.

Each month our other events will be highlighted in the *Cross Currents* by the committee chairs.

Be sure to check the monthly issues for more information. You are welcome to call me if you are interested in helping on any of these upcoming projects. Helene Nemchik, 345-2719

## PHILOPTOCHOS GENERAL MEETING - OCTOBER 6

by *Helene Nemchik, President*

After a brief meeting and a Philoptochos calendar update **Father Michael Rymer** and **Bob Nemchik** gave a very informative presentation on HIV/AIDS. The presentation began with a very moving video about a Greek family touched by AIDS. This family, told from the point of view of the mother was like any family you might know. AIDS can and does happen to anyone. However, with all the modern medicine and technology the disease has somehow lost it's im-

## Kick Off Luncheon



Help the Philoptochos raise funds to purchase The icons of Cosmas and Damianos.

**Luscious Lasagna Luncheon**

**November 11, 2001**

**After Church.**

**Price:**

**Adults \$12.00**

**Children \$ 8.00**

For information or

reservations call:

Helene Nemchik 345-2719

Any additional contributions to this fund are appreciatively accepted

pact. People are living longer with less visible signs of death. We are wrong to think that this is not a serious disease or a threat to us. Every day worldwide 8,000 people die from AIDS related illnesses. New cases of HIV/AIDS infections are up 6% over last year's figures and the largest numbers of new cases in the United States are people under 25. Of that women and children are the largest percentage. In other countries the virus is also on the rise. The continent of Africa has lost a whole generation of teens to AIDS due to lack of education and proper medicine. The only way to combat this disease is through the education of our children.

The San Francisco Diocese HIV/AIDS Ministry is striving to help in that process with training manuals for our priests, brochures about communion and presentations to our young seminarians at Holy Cross. The Philoptochos can help this ministry through donations of time and money. Also plans are underway for educational seminars for our teens stressing abstinence as the only sure way of preventing the contraction of the HIV/AIDS virus.

Perhaps the timing for this presentation, in light of the September 11 terrorist's attacks was not good. Many of the usual Philoptochos members were not in attendance. However, a very small but supportive group was there. We are grateful for the dedication of Father Michael and Bob Nemchik to this very worthy Ministry and thank them for their time in presenting this information to us. Knowledge is Power.

Our next General Meeting will be in early 2002. Please be sure to check the Philoptochos calendar to see where you might fit in to help with our many special events. Call me any time - **Helene Nemchik** 345-2719.

## PHILOPTOCHOS BOARD, 2001-2002

Helene Nemchik, President  
Christine Hopkins, First VP  
Hope Callas, Second VP  
Janice Conomos, Corres. Secretary  
Eleni Baxter, Recording Secretary  
Cathy Zamenes, Treasurer  
Demetra Sperow, Advisor

Carole Angelis	Arleen Brenner	Kathy Craighead
Alexandra Fotis	Theofana Hegis	Roxanne Koston
Theodora Kounalakis	Alexandra Koutsogeorgas	Eleni Metaxas
Joanne Zongus		

inclusive as a member of the Parish Council. I certify that I am a member in good standing for the year 2001 in that my Parish Stewardship Commitment is current and that I will attend the Parish Council seminar scheduled prior to the elections. I further certify that I am ecclesiastically in order in that I :

- > Have been baptized in the name of the Holy Trinity;
- > Have been confirmed in the Orthodox Christian Faith;
- > Have had our marriage blessed in the Orthodox Church;
- > Participate regularly in the Sacraments of Holy Confession and Holy Communion, and in the services of the Church;
- > Observe the Fast Days and way of life our Church teaches us.

(signature of candidate)

ATTESTED to by at least two members in good standing : (signature #1) and (signature #2)

All of the above must be completed and returned to the Church Office by **Sunday, November 25.**

*The above was a facsimile of the PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS PETITION FOR CANDIDACY. The actual petition may be picked up in the Narthex or be sent to you on request.*

## THREE HIERARCHS MID-PENINSULA ORTHODOX BOOKSTORE AND RESOURCE CENTER

It has only been a few months, yet our Bookstore has become a very busy center for our parish. New shipments arrive weekly, so come see our wonderful selection of books, CDs, cards, icons, incense, vigil lights, gift items, crosses, pendants and wedding crowns. We've added many children's books, CDs, and cards to our inventory. The store is also an excellent source for gift items for

has not been turned in by the ascribed time, the person will be ineligible to run for Parish Council.

Please see the "Petition for Candidacy" form which is available in the Narthex for more information including rules and guidelines of the Greek Archdiocese of America pertaining to the election of a Parish Council member.

The following are the rules and guidelines of the Greek Archdiocese of America pertaining to the election of a Parish Council member :

### *Elections of Parish Council Members*

*Article VIII : Section 2 - A candidate for the Parish Council must be a member of the Parish for at least one year immediately preceding the date of the election and lives his or her life and activities in accordance with the Faith and canons of the Church.*

*Article IX : Section 5 - A new member to the Parish may vote in the election if he or she has been enrolled at least three months prior thereto.*

*Article XII : Section 1 - The Parish Council, under the leadership of the Priest, shall have the following duties:*

- to attend divine services regularly and to participate in the Sacramental Life of the Church, thereby setting an example for the Parish,
- to administer the affairs of the Parish in such a manner as to aid the Priest in the fulfillment of the Church, issuing receipts thereof, and paying the salaries of the Parish personnel, Parish expenses, budgetary grants-in-aid for the Parish educational and philanthropic organizations and such sums as may be fixed by the Clergy-Laity Congresses for the support of the Archdiocese,
- to buy, sell, or mortgage Parish property as hereinbefore provided,
- to submit to the Bishop at the end of the year a report of the stewardship and to submit annually to the Archdiocese, and,
- to the Diocese the Parish Budget for the ensuing year and the audited financial statement for the prior year.

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*The following is a facsimile of the PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS PETITION FOR CANDIDACY. The actual petition may be picked up in the Narthex or be sent to you after you call the church office.*

I, (first name) (last name) residing at \_\_\_\_\_, in \_\_\_\_\_, California, desire to serve the Church of the Holy Cross of Belmont, CA, for the years 2002 through 2003

## PHILOPTOCHOS CALENDAR

November 11	Cosmas and Damianos Icon Luncheon
December 16	Christmas Tea, drawing and pastry sale
January 13	Vasilopita Luncheon
February 10	Kids and Cancer Reception
May 18	Fashion Show
June 9	Community Service Awards
June 16	Father's Day Luncheon

## PARISH COUNCIL ELECTION INFO, WE ALL NEED TO KNOW

Each of us, as baptized Orthodox Christians, must make some effort of active commitment to our Church. Some of us serve our Church by participating in the Choir, some do so by joining the Philoptochos Society, others assist whenever the Parish sponsors a community activity and others, men and women alike, participate in the life of the church by serving as a member of the Parish Council.

Being a member of the Parish Council is truly a responsible task that must be served by an individual committed to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The role of a Parish Council member, therefore, is a holy and spiritual one that s/he makes in helping the Church of our Savior grow in its earthly ministry. Being a member of the Parish Council should not be for social reasons or for status in the Community, but rather, an act of humility and dedication to Christ.

In accordance with the decision of the 1988 Clergy-Laity Conference held in Boston, all stewards wishing to serve on the Parish Council must attend a PARISH COUNCIL SEMINAR conducted by the parish priest. The purpose of this Seminar is to prepare candidates for the Parish Council, as well as, to make parishioners aware of the sacred responsibilities expected of a Council member. A PARISH COUNCIL SEMINAR will be held in the Contos Library sometime during the last two weeks of **November - PLEASE CHECK THE SUNDAY BULLETIN** or call the church office for exact date and time. All potential Parish Council members must attend this seminar in order to be placed on the election ballot.

On **Sunday, December 2**, elections to the Parish Council will be held. Elections will be from Noon to 2:00 PM in the Church Community Hall. In order to be placed on the ballot, candidates must complete the PETITION FOR CANDIDACY form (available in the Narthex or by mail by calling the church office), and return it to the Church Office before **Sunday, November 25**. If a petition

**Greek Orthodox Church of the Holy Cross**

**NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2001**

<b>November 4, 2001</b>		<b>5</b>		<b>6</b>		<b>7</b>		<b>8</b>		<b>9</b>		<b>10</b>	
<p><b>5<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF LUKE</b> Coffee Hour, Cosmas &amp; Damian Collection (Oaks &amp; Kitchen)</p>		<p>10 AM, Playgrp (N-2) 14:5 PM, ND (Gym) 6:30-7:30 PM, Dance-Kaman (Oaks) 6:45-8:30 PM, Dance-Keler (Gym) 7:00 PM, Study Class (Library)</p>		<p>10:30 AM, Bible Study (Fireside) 11 AM, ORA (Oaks) 3:30-6 PM, IHM Vball (Gym) 6:30-9 PM, Dance-Keler (Gym) 7:30 PM, Philip Board (Library) 8-9:30 PM, OCF (Stanford)</p>		<p>3:30-5 PM, ND (Gym) 4:30 PM, Gk Schl (Class) 6:30-8 PM, JVBall, 8 PM, Ad Vball (Gym) 7 PM, AHEPAOTRS (N-2) 7 PM, Youth Council (Lib)</p>		<p><b>ARCHANGEL'S GABRIEL AND MICHAEL</b> 9 AM, Divine Liturgy 3:30-6 PM, IHM Vball (Gym) 6:30-8 PM, JVBall, 8 PM, Ad Bball (Gym) 7 PM, RE Teacher's Spiritual Institute (Library)</p>		<p><b>SANT NECTARIOS</b> 9 AM, Divine Liturgy 4:5 PM, Youth Choir (Loft)</p>		<p>5:30 PM, Great Vespers 10-2 PM, JV Bball (Gym)</p>	
<p><b>11</b> <b>6<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF LUKE</b> Coffee Hour, Philip Icon Collection Kick-Off (Oaks &amp; Kitchen)</p>		<p><b>12</b> <b>VETERANS DAY</b> office closed no Playgroup no ND no Study Class 7:30 PM, Exerc (Library) Piece Meal Set up (Oaks) Clergy Institute (Ranch)</p>		<p><b>13</b> <b>JOHN CHRYSOSTOM</b> 9 AM, Divine Liturgy 8:30 - 3 PM, Mercy H.S. Retreat (GYM) 10:30 AM, Bible Study (Fireside) evening, Piece Meal (Oaks) no IHM Clergy Institute (Ranch)</p>		<p><b>14</b> 3:30-5 PM, ND (Gym) 4:30 PM, Gk Schl (Class) 6:30-8 PM, JVBall, 8 PM, Ad Vball (Gym) Clergy Institute (Ranch)</p>		<p><b>15</b> 3:30-6 PM, IHM Vball (Gym) 6:30-8 PM, JVBall, 8 PM, Ad Bball (Gym)</p>		<p><b>16</b> 4:5 PM, Youth Choir (Loft) Preschool Boutique set-up (Oaks) 5:30 PM, wedding rehearsal</p>		<p><b>17</b> 5:30 PM, Great Vespers 10-2 PM, JV Bball (Gym) - depends on fellowship Fellowship Luncheon (Gym/Oaks) set-up 10-4 PM, Preschool Boutique (Oaks) 11:30 AM, baptism 3:30 PM, wedding</p>	
<p><b>18</b> <b>6<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF LUKE</b> following Liturgy, Fellowship Luncheon (Gym/Oaks) following Liturgy, Youth Bake Sale following Liturgy-2, Preschool Boutique</p>		<p><b>19</b> 10 AM, Playgrp (N-2) 14:5 PM, ND (Gym) 6:45-8:30 PM, Dance-Keler (Gym) 7:00 PM, Study Class (Library)</p>		<p><b>20</b> 10:30 AM, Bible Study (Fireside) 3:30-6 PM, IHM Vball (Gym) 6:30-9 PM, Dance-Keler (Gym) 7:30 PM, Parish Council (Library) 8-9:30 PM, OCF (Stanford)</p>		<p><b>21</b> <b>THANKSGIVING EVE</b> 6 PM, Ortnes 7 PM, Divine Liturgy no GS no Ad Vball no ND</p>		<p><b>22</b> <b>THANKSGIVING DAY</b> office closed No Ad Bball no Preschool No IHM</p>		<p><b>23</b> office closed no Preschool</p>		<p><b>24</b> 5:30 PM, Great Vespers 10-2 PM, JV Bball (Gym) 4 PM, baptism</p>	
<p><b>25</b> <b>13<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF LUKE</b> 4 PM, baptism</p>		<p><b>26</b> 10 AM, Playgrp (N-2) 14:5 PM, ND (Gym) 4 PM, Cross Currents due 6:45-8:30 PM, Dance-Keler (Gym) 7:00 PM, Study Class (Library)</p>		<p><b>27</b> 10:30 AM, Bible Study (Fireside) 3:30-6 PM, IHM Vball (Gym) 7:00 PM, JOY (ms N-2), Jr. GOYA (ms 3&amp;4), GOYA (Fireside)</p>		<p><b>28</b> 3:30-5 PM, ND (Gym) 4:30 PM, Gk Schl (Class) 6:30-8 PM, JVBall, 8 PM, Ad Vball (Gym)</p>		<p><b>29</b> 3:30-6 PM, IHM vball (Gym) 6:30-8 PM, JVBall, 8 PM, Ad Bball (Gym)</p>		<p><b>30</b> <b>SANT ANDREW</b> 9 AM, Divine Liturgy 4:5 PM, Youth Choir (Loft) All-Star Auction for Academics (Gym/Oaks) set-up</p>		<p><b>December 1, 2001</b> 5:30 PM, Great Vespers no JV Bball (Gym) All-Star Auction for Academics (Gym/Oaks)</p>	
<p><b>2</b> <b>14<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF LUKE</b></p>		<p><b>3</b> 10 AM, Playgrp (N-2) 14:5 PM, ND (Gym) 6:45-8:30 PM, Dance-Keler (Gym) 7:00 PM, Study Class (Library)</p>		<p><b>4</b> <b>SANT BARBARA</b> 9 AM, Divine Liturgy 10:30 AM, Bible Study (Fireside) noon, ORA Christmas Party (Oaks) 3:30-6 PM, IHM Vball (Gym) 6:30-9 PM, Dance-Keler (Gym) 7:30 PM, Philip Board (Library) 8-9:30 PM, OCF (Stanford)</p>		<p><b>5</b> <b>SANT SAVAS</b> 9 AM, Divine Liturgy 3:30-5 PM, ND (Gym) 4:30 PM, Gk Schl (Class) 6:30-8 PM, JVBall, 8 PM, Ad Vball (Gym) 7 PM, AHEPAOTRS (N-2)</p>		<p><b>6</b> <b>SANT NICHOLAS</b> 9 AM, Divine Liturgy 3:30-6 PM, IHM vball (Gym) 6:30-8 PM, JVBall, 8 PM, Ad Bball (Gym)</p>		<p><b>8</b> 5:30 PM, Great Vespers 10-2 PM, JV Bball (Gym) 11 AM, baptism &amp; reception</p>			

Stewardship pledges are made in November of the preceding year. This is vital, as it enables us to plan, as any responsible household must, for the year ahead. At the Church of the Holy Cross, we encourage an open pledge based on no measures or minimum. A guide to follow is one dollar per week for each thousand dollars of annual income. Thus, your gift to the church is based upon your income according to the degree that Christ has blessed you. Payment of the pledged amount may of course be made in any schedule the family finds most convenient - weekly, monthly, quarterly. All pledge information is kept confidential.

All questions regarding our Stewardship Program should be directed to the church office.

## CONFESSION

The Sacrament of Confession has always been an integral part of preparing for Holy Communion in the Orthodox Christian Church. This Sacrament was instituted by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ after His resurrection when He gave His Apostles the power and authority to forgive sins. Confession is a public acknowledgment of one's sinfulness and need of forgiveness. It is a tangible sign of God's forgiveness in His Son, Jesus Christ. Confession is a reconciliation of man to God through forgiveness of sins that separate man from God. It is a sincere effort to examine our life, goals, values, priorities, and characteristics. Sincere prayer, asking God for His forgiveness and thanking Him for all the things He has given us, accompanied by a firm desire to live a renewed and changed Christian life. It can be tremendously uplifting and is a real foundation for spiritual growth and renewal (see John 20:21-23 and James 5:16)

Confession is the most neglected Sacrament, simply because many do not understand it. Each of us is tempted to commit sins - to displease God and violate His commandments. What types of sins are there?

- > **Sins against God** : If I lose confidence, trust or hope in God. If I blaspheme, curse Him, mock him, poke fun at Him. If I absent myself from the Divine Liturgy on Sunday without good reason. If I do not receive Holy Communion periodically.
- > **Sins against my fellow man** : If I am jealous, envious, hateful, malicious, slanderous, vindictive, revengeful, or mean. If I criticize unjustly, ridicule, poke fun, take advantage of, insult, hurt, inflict harm, or gossip in any way.
- > **Sins against myself** : If I lie, cheat, steal, or deceive. If I am unethical in my practices at home, school, or work. If I have impure thoughts in my mind. Acts of fornication and adultery. Pornography. Profanity. Pride and conceit.

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Confession is not meant to humiliate nor shame a person, but to help him come closer to God. Sin keeps us away from Him.

Many ask : What shall I say in Confession? Whatever is said in Confession remains there. Neither the Priest nor the confessor shall repeat anything. Sins are parted with at the Foot of the Cross. Express the sins which are suppressed in your heart and soul. Confess your sins and prepare yourself for Holy Communion, for prayer, and for spiritual renewal and happiness.

There are four elements necessary for the Holy Sacrament of Confession :

- > Contrition, or sincere sorrow for sins committed and a strong determination not to repeat those sins.
- > Examination of conscience, or comparing your way of living with God's commandments.
- > Confession of sins to the priest.
- > Absolution by the priest.

In order to make a good confession, it is first necessary to admit your own responsibility for sins committed and to regret sincerely for having committed them. You ask God to give you the grace to make a thorough examination of your conscience, courage to make a sincere and complete confession, and strength to avoid sinful ways to overcome temptations.

Prepare for confession by fasting and prayer. Keep away from amusements and distracting things. Seek forgiveness of those whom you have wronged, children ask forgiveness of their parents, husbands of their wives, wives of their husbands. Confessions are heard following the celebration of Great Vespers on Saturday evenings and by appointment and on designated days during the fast periods throughout the year.

## PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION

Every Sunday is a special day. It is the Lord's Day. It is the day when we gather as a family to worship and celebrate Christ's presence among us in the Holy Eucharist. It is when the Church as the people of God, the Body of Christ, is truly realized and we become sacramentally what God intended us to be : united to him in faith and love, and through Him, to one another. It is in love and faith and worship that we are truly members of the Church.

From this standpoint, one can more clearly see that a local parish lives up to its true task and is a most genuine expression of the Church when its activity and its life center on the heart of the matter, true membership, expressed in faith, love, and worship. This is the ideal which each parish, and each Orthodox Christian holds before him.

Orthodox Christians receive Holy Communion no less than four times a year : Christmas, Easter, the Feast of the Holy Apostles (June 29), and the Feast

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