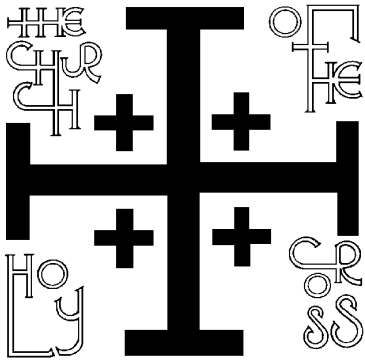
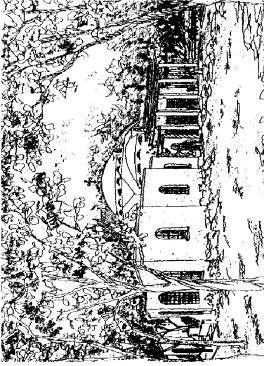


CROSS CURRENTS

Monthly Newsletter
April 2002



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Cross Currents

The Monthly Newsletter of the Church of the Holy Cross
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Articles and ads for *Cross Currents* are due on the 26th of the month prior to the month of desired publication.

repentanCe: a reversal of the JustifiCation of our Misdeeds

by *Father Peter Salmas, Pastor*

Repentance is a complex word, yet one that is seldom used in our daily conversations. At one time, when relationships were viewed with greater introspection and care, repentance and its synonyms, regret, contrition, penitence and sorrow, were commonplace terms. They were also used with impact and forethought. Sin, transgression, repentance, forgiveness, debt, mercy are all terms used to describe a state of being and in reference to proximity. When we are in a state of sin we are at a distance from God, our Creator, and from the people around us whom we have offended, transgressed, and otherwise wronged. When we are in a state of repentance, this distance from God is diminished. When we are repentant, we seek forgiveness and offer contrition, to repay in some way the wrongs committed. Once forgiven, we are reinstated and stand in closer proximity to God and in fellowship with our brothers and sisters.

"Transgressions" refers to a state of being similar to sin. A trust is broken. A promise is dismissed. Our word no longer carries the strength of honesty and commitment. Integrity is replaced with mistrust. What allows us to be reinstated is love, as it is expressed through the actions of mercy.

Our Lord offers us mercy. It is His mercy that makes forgiveness pos-

YOUTH CURRENTS

APRIL 2002 edition

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

2 Peter 3:18



Join us this Summer for...



SUMMER CAMP 2002

Sign up for **Summer
Camp 2002 at St.
Nicholas Ranch today!**
Pick up a registration
form at the Church
Office, or else download
the form from the St.
Nicholas Ranch Summer
Camp website:
[www.stnicholasranch.
org/summercamp.htm](http://www.stnicholasranch.org/summercamp.htm)

time on tournament day, please call tournament co-chairs **Chris Canellos** (341-9080) or **Greg Rubis** (940-1816).

Let's all get together to make the 2002 tournament yet another great success. Don't wait for an invitation. Please fill out the section below and return it to the Church with your check.

Very truly yours,

Fr Peter

Chris Canellos

Greg Rubis

**36th Holy Cross
Golf & Tennis Tournament**

Your name _____

Your address _____

Count me in! Here is my reservation for :

_____ golfers @\$200 and/or _____ tennis players @\$110

Names of my guests are _____

_____ *please also provide handicap information (for each)*

+++++

----- I can help! Here is my donation of \$_____ to sponsor a tee or green.

----- Here is my donation of a prize for the Tournament.

----- I can volunteer to help. Give me a call at _____ - _____.

Best time to call is _____ .

sible and erases transgressions from the journal of our lives. Sadly, too many of us do not take advantage of the great and holy gift of the mystery of Confession and therefore are unable to appreciate the absolute and joyful release, even momentarily, of a life free of transgressions. There is a well-defined and proven process by which we can return to our Lord and regain a place close to Him.

Father John Chryssavgis speaks of this very theme in his book “Soul Mending.” He states that repentance “precedes reconciliation and renewal . . . a continual enactment of freedom, a bold movement forward leading toward greater spiritual liberty . . . reentry into that consuming fire of love where all sin and imperfection and selfishness are burned away.”

He further states that repentance must not be confused with mere regret, remorse, guilt or shame. It is death to one’s former, sinful ways and new life received from the Source. In the end, it is only repentance that matters. We can feel regret for sins and wrongdoings committed but if we do nothing to change and reverse our course, our regret is meaningless. Shame and guilt needs to lead us to repentance, for repentance is change.

Our Lord, in the Gospel of John, relates the story of the adulterous woman. It is here that we can see more clearly this concept concerning sin and repentance, as He states to the adulterous woman, “Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more.” Remember that earlier the Lord confronted those around her who were ready to stone her to death for her sin. How disarmingly he states, “He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first.” One by one they left in shame. They recognized their sin, but did repentance follow?

The challenge to us is that following recognition of our sin, we must carefully search our hearts and ask ourselves if we desire repentance? Great Lent offers us this very gift of repentance and reconciliation, first with our brothers and sisters and, to some extent, through them with our Lord. For the Lord also tells us that before we can come before the altar, if there is anyone with whom we have a grievance, we must first leave our offering and reconcile with our brother or sister before we can offer our gift to God.

Often I hear how we are all sinners. Surprisingly, however, few take advantage of the great and awesome mystery of Confession. Many state that they do not believe in confession, despite the fact that our Lord urges us to repent and seek forgiveness through the Apostles, “If you forgive the sins of any they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any they are retained.” (John 20:23) Thus the power to forgive sins is granted by Christ to His Apostles and their successors.

The Mystery of Holy Confession can take place only within the context of the Church because it is within the Church, the Body of Christ, that the full

act and power to forgive sins is realized. Holy Confession does not and cannot take place outside the community of Christ. Holy Confession is not a private act of contrition. In fact, in the early Church, confession was a public act before the entire community of believers. The quick growth of the early Church soon made it impractical to continue this practice. The Bishops, having received this sacred responsibility through the "laying on of hands", also entrusted this mystery of the Church to priests who, in representing the Bishop in a given locale, also came to represent the congregation or community of Christians that made up the church in a certain area. It was in this way that the Sacrament or Mystery of Confession developed to the present time.

It is once again Great Lent, a time given for introspection, for recognition of our distance from God and from one other and a time to seek forgiveness. The process of repentance is ongoing and can be likened to the refining of metal. It is no coincidence that one of the most repeated themes throughout the Old and New Testament is that of repentance. Why? Our proclivity to justify our misdeeds is sadly repetitive. Break the cycle and let your repentance lead you to confessing your sins before God, receiving forgiveness through the "laying on of hands" in the confessional, and receiving the precious and Holy Body and Blood of Christ with His full embrace.

reMeMBerInG Christ's visit to taYBeh

by *Dr. Maria C. Khoury*

Dr. Khoury was born in Greece and raised in Denver, Colorado. A graduate of Hellenic College in Massachusetts, she is the mother of three teen-age children and the author of several children's books, Christina Learns the Sacraments, Christina Goes to Church, You are Special! and An Alphabet Book for Children. She is trying to help 30 families in the village of Taybeh build their first home on land donated by the Greek Orthodox Patriarch, for which she is seeking donor support. To learn more about Taybeh, go to: www.holylandchurches.com.



The Sunday before Palm Sunday, our village of Taybeh traditionally remembers Christ's retreat to Efraim (the biblical name for Taybeh). The parishioners of the Latin Patriarch Church of the Redeemer were honored to have His

ing Tips": open "Windows Media Player" on your own, access the "FILE" menu, choose "OPEN URL ...", and enter "mms://63.66.10.9/hc" - without the quotes, of course.

Q. Why are some children listed in the directory?

A. Members of the Church of the Holy Cross who pledge are listed in the Church directory.

Q. What are you doing for Easter?

A. I'll be hiding eggs around the church grounds for your children to find. Contrary to rumors, I do NOT dress up in a white suit, top hat, bow tie and tails.

Max will entertain any question submitted on clean, natural, carrot pulp-based paper written with low-salt, soy-based ink . . . or e-mail him at askmax@goholycross.org.

2002 Golf & tennis tournament

Dear Friends:

On **Monday, June 3**, Holy Cross will host our 36th Annual Golf and Tennis Tournament at the Sharon Heights Golf and Country Club in Menlo Park, with dinner to follow at the Church. It is the second largest annual fund-raiser for our Church, raising a critical \$20,000 per year, in each of the last five years, and is regarded as one of the finest tournaments in the Bay Area.

If you are a golfer or a tennis player, I urge you to commit to playing in the tournament this year and invite a guest to play with you. Better yet, arrange an entire foursome. You and your guests will be pampered from the moment you arrive at the Club, greeted with an assortment of gifts and a delicious lunch before play begins. Then, you are on the beautiful Sharon Heights Golf Course or tennis courts for an afternoon of fun with your friends. Along the way, enjoy plenty more food and drink. In the evening, you are served a great dinner and have a shot at some very fine prizes.

Anyone can assist the tournament by sponsoring a tee or green for a contribution of \$100 or more, or arranging the donation of a prize of \$25 or more in value, such as a restaurant gift certificate. If you can volunteer some

Then some of our top elected officials said it doesn't matter what we Do in private as long as we do our jobs. And agreeing with them, we said it doesn't matter to me what anyone, including the President, does in private as long as I have a job and the economy is good.

And then someone said let's print magazines with pictures of nude Women and call it wholesome, down-to-earth appreciation for the beauty of the female body. And we said, OK.

And then someone else took that appreciation a step further and published picture of nude children and then stepped further still by making them available on the Internet. And we said OK; they're entitled to their free speech.

And then the entertainment industry said; let's make TV shows and movies that promote profanity, violence, and illicit sex. And let's record music that encourages rape, drugs, murder, suicide, and satanic themes. And we said its just entertainment, it has no adverse effect, and nobody takes it seriously anyway, so go right ahead.

Now we're asking ourselves why our children have no conscience, why they don't know right from wrong, and why it doesn't bother them to kill strangers, their classmates, and themselves.

Probably, if we think about it long and hard enough, we can figure it out.

I think it has a great deal to do with "WE REAP WHAT WE SOW."



ask MaX

by *Max the Office Rabbit*

Q. I can get the *audio* internet broadcast of church services but *STILL* can't get the *audio/video* broadcast. What can I do?

A. Most humans who have this question are using Netscape instead of Internet Explorer. With Netscape, you cannot click directly on the link on our webpage to get the broadcast. Like it tells you in the webpage's "Troubleshoot-

spiritual refl eCtion

AND THE WORD WAS GOD

Now this is a proof that Christ is God the Word, and the Power of God. For whereas human beings cease, and the word of Christ abides, it is clear to all eyes that what ceases is temporary, but that He who abides is God, and the true Son of God, His only begotten Word.

St. Athanasius of Alexandria. *On the Incarnation.*

Through the incarnation of God the Logos, there entered into human nature the all-perfect Divine Wisdom, the all-perfect Divine Logic, and the all-perfect Divine Mind. "The Word became flesh," which means: all the transcendental Divine values became internal to human nature, for they are congenial to the essence of man's godlike soul. All the eternal Divine values, incarnated in man, ultimately merge into one immeasurable and insuperable value: the God-man Christ. Consequently, the God-man is the first, the greatest, the most basic, and the supreme value in the world of man. For nothing is more human than the Lord Christ, who personifies in Himself the most ideal perfection of all that is truly human, truly manlike. Furthermore, He, as the God-man, is the most perfect synthesis of the Divine and the human . . . of the natural and the supernatural, of the physical and the metaphysical, of the real and the ideal. In Him, being the God-man, there was created and preserved in the most ideal way an equilibrium between the Divine and the human; and preserved together with this was the autonomy of what is of man and human, as well as the autonomy of what is of God and divine . . .

What especially makes the God-man Christ the value above all values is the fact that He is the first and only one to solve completely the problem of life and death...having actually demonstrated in His Divine-human person incarnate, humanized immortality and life eternal. He demonstrated and proved this powerfully indeed by His resurrection from the dead and ascension into the eternal life of the Godhead . . .

"He came into His own." Yet how are they His people unless by reason of their godlike soul? . . . By acknowledging the God-man, we indirectly acknowledge the Christlikeness of man, the divine descent of man, the divine elevation of man . . . The struggle of the God-man is the struggle for man. Not humanists, but men of divine-human faith and life are struggling for true man, godlike and Christlike man.

Archimandrite Justin Popovic
The Supreme Value and Infallible Criterion

Beatitude Patriarch Michel Sabbah officiate the Mass under what were impossible road conditions to reach the church. The roadblocks were many and the entrance to the village was closed with large rocks and piles of dirt in order to keep the Palestinians off of roads that only the Israeli settlers wish to access. The Palestinians should stay caged in and locked up in their towns and villages so the settlers can easily move around. It is such a cruel way to treat humankind.

While delivering his homily, the patriarch admitted he thought about turning around and going back to Jerusalem but the driver asked the patriarch to keep getting in and out of the car as he drove through various holes by the valley and managed to sneak into the village for the Mass. The patriarch told the faithful that during our current tragic situation the final hope we have is God. He urged the local people to be faithful to our country, faithful to our land, faithful to our people and to remember God at all times. Patriarch Sabbah said, above all, we as Christians must be like the example of Christ himself, a builder of peace among all kinds of people in the Holy Land. These special encouraging words were offered to the congregation before the patriarch rushed off to Bethlehem to meet other Muslim, Jewish and Christian leaders for a peaceful demonstration and prayer for the Holy Nativity Church. The demonstrators were not allowed to go to the Nativity Church and pray as had been organized by the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate for solidarity with the Palestinians suck inside the church.

Fr. Ibrahim Shomali, the parish priest felt it was very important for the patriarch to be with the people of Taybeh during this special day in the village in remembering Christ's visit to the area more than two thousand years ago. Fr. Ibrahim felt the patriarch could offer encouraging words to the faithful and show support for this small diminishing Christian community. People are currently depressed over the economic situation and stressed with over 50% unemployment, more and more families are becoming poor and people in general are very nervous and anxious about their future. During the three weeks of occupation even rich people could not get money from the banks because they were closed. And people that were working could not receive their monthly salaries as usual due to the Israeli invasion.

Fr. David P. Khoury, the Orthodox priest also agrees that people are suffering. He said: "These were the worst days we have ever had in our whole life. It was horrible what the Israelis have done in Jenin, the massacres...we can't do anything just evoke God to settle the problem." Fr. Jack Abed, the Melkite parish priest confirmed that "in our prayer to the Lord, we pray for God to save us from evil...during these days we need to be

Many people every year watch the Holy Light and feel intensely the presence of God between them. This Light should light humanity for a better tomorrow.

this wil I MaKe You think

Finally, The Truth on National TV

Billy Graham's daughter was being interviewed on the Early Show and **Jane Clayson** asked her "How could God let something like this happen?" regarding 9-11-01...

And **Anne Graham** gave an extremely profound and insightful response. She said, "I believe that God is deeply saddened by this, just as we are, but for years we've been telling God to get out of our schools, to get out of our government and to get out of our lives. And being the gentleman that He is, I believe that He has calmly backed out. How can we expect God to give us His blessing and His protection if we demand that He leave us alone?"

In light of recent events...terrorists attack, school shootings, etc. Let's see, I think it started when Madeline Murray O'Hare (she was murdered, her body was found recently) complained she didn't want any prayer in our schools, and we said OK. Then, someone said you better not read the Bible in school... the Bible that says thou shalt not kill; thou shalt not steal, and love your neighbor as yourself. And we said, OK.

Then, Dr. Benjamin Spock said we shouldn't spank our children when they misbehave because their little personalities would be warped and we might damage their self-esteem and we said, an expert should know what he's talking about so we said OK.

Then, someone said teachers and principals better not discipline our children when they misbehave. And the school administrators said no faculty member in this school better touch a student when they misbehave because we don't want any bad publicity, and we surely don't want to be sued (There's a big difference between disciplining and touching, beating, smacking, humiliating, kicking, etc.) And we said, OK.

Then someone said, let's let our daughters have abortions if they want, and they won't even have to tell their parents. And we said, OK.

Then some wise school board member said, since boys will be boys and they're going to do it anyway, let's give our sons all the condoms they want, so they can have all the fun they desire, and we won't have to tell their parents they got them at school. And we said, OK.

- How the Holy Light Comes Out

Inside the Holy Sepulchre the Patriarch prays kneeling and reading the special wishes requesting our Lord Jesus Christ to send His Holy Light as a gift of sanctification for the people. And in the absolute quietness at the hour when the patriarch prays a wheeze is heard and almost simultaneously blue and white lightning's of Holy Light penetrate from everywhere, as though millions of photographic flashes turn on embracing the walls and all the lamps light up miraculously. In the Holy Sepulchre the torches the Patriarch holds while he prays turn on also by the Holy Light. The crowd bursts out in cheers while teardrops of joy and faith run from the eyes of the people.

For a few minutes the Holy Light doesn't have the attributes of fire. This happens the first minutes after the patriarch comes out of the Holy Sepulchre and gives the Light to the people. Anyone can touch the fire of the 33 candles and he doesn't burn. After 33 minutes the flame is normal.

IN GENERAL FOR THE HOLY LIGHT

Only the Greek Orthodox Patriarch has the privilege the honor and the power to make this ceremony. Attempts from the other doctrines to perform this miracle were made but it was impossible. For example in 1549 AD according to historical recordings, the Armenians bribed Sultan Mourat in order to give them permission to go in the church of the Holy Sepulchre and perform the ceremony. Indeed the sultan gave the authorization and the Armenians entered the Temple and locked out the orthodox. The Orthodox Patriarch full with despair when he saw the Armenians in the church kneeled and prayed out of the church's entry near one of the columns. Suddenly the column was torn and the light came out that way, lighting the patriarch's torches. The Agarino's Emir was watching from the minaret across the street. When he saw these events he cried out: "The faith of the Christians is great! One is the real God, the God of Christians! I believe in Christ the resurrected from the dead. I kneel to him as my God". After his consent he jumped from the minaret but he wasn't hurt. The Muslims captured him and decapitated him. His relic is kept until today in the Monastery of the Great Virgin in Jerusalem.

The Holy Light symbolizes and reminds us in a miraculous way the Resurrection of Christ. It is a Godsend miracle through centuries from the light of the world, and this light is Christ for the world. Science cannot explain this great miracle and this time in its honor science never tried to explain it not even theoretically. Besides how can anyone explain a genuine miracle?

saved from Sharon but we are just a voice crying in the wilderness and no one's hearing us." Actually, I laughed because just the same day President Bush said Sharon is a man of peace but unfortunately he had to demolish 800 homes to get "the terrorists" and make 5,000 people homeless. I tend to think like Fr. Jack and thought about Psalm 140 "Deliver me, O Lord, from the evil man; preserve me from the violent man...keep me, O Lord, from the hands of the wicked...I said unto the Lord, thou art my God; hear the voice of my supplications, O Lord."

Fr. Ibrahim also confessed how difficult it is to preach the word of God during war times. "You can't preach Jesus Christ at the moment...everything turns into politics...about the Nativity Church, about where are the Christians in the world...the people just put you in a difficult situation ...you can't deal with it because their questions are real...you can't say love your enemies easily because people do not accept these words of Christ and they respond that the Israelis are killing us, they are making us hungry, etc., how can we love them? It is not easy to explain loving your enemies ...so instead, I say love one another, try to help each other, your families. In the moment we have only God to trust. It depends on God only... even on changing the mentality of President Bush and the American government...that's it... it's up to God."

The regular Christian services continue in Taybeh with daily Mass at six o'clock and a special silent hour of prayer every Wednesday in adoration of the Holy Sacrament with beautiful music in the church. Christians are trying to live their values and traditions and embrace the faith during these difficult times. Fr. Ibrahim has a routine of individual prayer in the convent every morning to begin his day. "We must pray," he emphasizes. As he was speaking about prayer I remembered the words I had read that morning in Psalm 57 "Be merciful unto me, O God, be merciful unto me: for my soul trusts in thee: yea, in the shadow of thy winds will I make my refuge, until these calamities be over past."

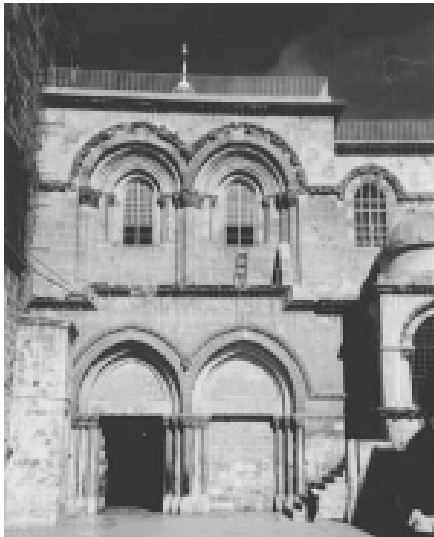
Even praying in the Holy Land has become difficult. Deacon Sami, Fr. Ibrahim's assistant told me how he got stuck in the Beit Sahour Church (one hour away) after he had gone to help out with the Western Easter services during Holy week because in Taybeh all Christians will celebrate Pascha with the Orthodox Calendar. The Israeli army invaded Bethlehem in the middle of Holy week and Deacon Sami could not return home. When the curfew was uplifted for three hours and he tried to leave the area he could not make it to Taybeh nor back to the Beit Sahour Church thus ended up spending one more week at the Beit Jala theological seminary before the Red Cross helped him return to Taybeh recently.

Truly our life is in the hands of the Israeli army concerning everything with schools, work and church. When we are not prisoners in our own homes, we are prisons in whole open areas. It is currently not allowed for Palestinians to travel out of the Tel Aviv airport nor over the bridge to Jordan and these are the only two ways out of the country. Sharon thinks his military aggression will stop suicide bombers but instead he is making average good people think about turning into suicide bombers because of the awful and harsh conditions he imposes on a whole nation. The humiliation is so vast, the frustration is so deep, the injustice is so great and the rage and the anger are so out of control. May our Dear Lord and Savior, show Mercy. "For with God nothing shall be impossible." (Luke 1:37)

the Great Miracle of orthodoxy through the Centuries

This article was translated directly from the original Greek - and may suffer somewhat in the translation - but your patience will be rewarded by what it has to say.

Every Holy Saturday (Saturday of the Holy Week) at noon in the church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem recurs the GREAT MIRACLE OF THE HOLY LIGHT that stirs, affects rejoices and gives delight and faith to those who have the honor and blessing to be there for the ceremony of the Holy Light.



DESCRIPTION OF THE MIRACLE

- Preparation of the Holy Sepulchre

In the morning of the Holy Saturday, before the ceremony of the Holy Light takes place a very thorough check of the tomb and after that they seal it with a mixture of honey and wax that was prepared in the morning. This check

takes place so that everyone is ascertain that there is nothing in the Holy Sepulchre that can cause a fire. After the tomb is sealed the authorities affix the wax with their seals. All the other doctrines who have rights in the Holy Sepulchre show great interest in this procedure. This interest is by no means accidental. If for one year the miracle of the Holy Light doesn't happen when the Greek Orthodox Patriarch performs the ceremony the other doctrines will try to undertake the precedence in the Holy Sepulchre.

The checking begins at 10:00 and finishes at 11:00. While this takes place orthodox Arabs demonstrate in the church for the orthodox rights. It must be recorded that this pedantic check of the Holy Sepulchre watch representatives of the Armenians and of the other doctrines.

- The Ceremony of the Holy Light

The ceremony of the Holy Light takes place at 12:00 and constitutes of three stages: a. The Litany, b. The entry of the Patriarch in the Holy Sepulchre and c. The prayers of the Patriarch in order for the Holy Light to come out.

Following the tradition, at noon of the Holy Saturday the Greek Orthodox Patriarch with his escort - archpriests, priests and deacons and the Armenian Patriarch - enter the Holy Sepulchre, while the bells strike mournfully. Before the entry of the Patriarch the keeper of the Sacristy of the Holy Temple carries the unsleeping oil lamp, (it is put out that day in order to turn on with the Holy Light). From the interior entry of the Temple of Apostle Jacob the Patriarch enters in the sanctuary and seats on the Patriarchal throne. Then the representatives of the Armenians, the Arabs, the Copts and others pass and kiss the hand of the Patriarch so that they will have the right to receive the Holy Light. According to the privileges if they don't kiss the hand of the Orthodox Patriarch they do not have the right to receive the Holy Light from his hands. Immediately afterwards begins the Holy Litany that goes three times around the Holy Sepulchre and then it stops in front of the Holy Sepulchre where the officials stand.

After the litany the Holy Sepulchre is unsealed and the Patriarch takes off his pontifical vestments and remains only with his white priest's tunic. Then the governor of Jerusalem and the police director examine the Patriarch in front of everybody so that everybody is assured that he doesn't carry anything that can transmit light (fire).

After this his Beatitude the Patriarch of Jerusalem takes the (extinct) torches and enters the Holy Ciborium with the Armenian draguman. All the lamps are off and nothing is on in the Holy Temple and the Holy Sepulchre.

May / June 2002

<p>May 5 Holy Pascha 11:30 AM, Agape Vespers following, Easter Picnic & Egg Hunt no Sunday School</p>	<p>6 Saint George 9 AM, Divine Liturgy Office closed Preschool resumes No playgroup Evening, Golf & Tennis (Rms N-2)</p>	<p>7 10:30 AM, Bible Study (Freside) 11 AM, ORA (Oaks) 4 PM, Tutoring (Library) 7:30 PM, Philipp Board (Library) 7:30 PM, Ensemble (Oaks) 8-9:30 PM, OCF (Starford)</p>	<p>8 4:30 PM, Grk Schi (Field Trip) 7 PM, AHEP ADOTRS (N- 2) 7PM, Charter Comm. Mtg. (Lib) 7:30 PM, Ad Vball (Gym) 7:30 PM, Choir (Lof)</p>	<p>9 11 AM, Preschool Mother's Day Rehearsal (Oaks) 2 PM, Grif Support (Rm 384) 4 PM, Tutoring (Library) 7 PM, Fella (Oaks) 7:30 PM, Ad Ebail (Gym) 7:30 PM, Ensemble (Rms N-2)</p>	<p>10 Life-Giving Spring 9 AM, Divine Liturgy 11 AM, Preschool Mother's Day (Oaks) 3:30-4:30 PM, Youth Choir (Church)</p>	<p>11 5:30 PM, Great Vespers 11AM, Bap & Recep. (Oaks)</p>
<p>12 SUNDAY OF SAINT Thomas 2nd Sunday of Pascha Mother's Day Following, Mother's Day Reception (Gym)</p>	<p>13 10 AM, playgroup (N-2) 7:30 PM, Exec Council (Office)</p>	<p>14 10:30 AM, Bible Study (Freside) 4 PM, Tutoring (Library) 7PM, Charter Comm. Mtg. (Lib) 7:30 PM, Ensemble (Rms N-2) 7:30 PM, JOY (Rms N-2), Jr. GOYA (Rms 384), GOYA (Freside)</p>	<p>15 4:30 PM, Grk Schi (Class) 5:45 PM, PTO Meeting (Oaks) 7:30 PM, Choir (Lof) No Ad Vball</p>	<p>16 No Ad Ebail 4 PM, Tutoring (Library) 7:30 PM, Ensemble (Oaks)</p>	<p>17 3:30-4:30 PM, Youth Choir (Church) 5:30 PM, Rehearsal (Church)</p>	<p>18 5:30 PM, Great Vespers 11 AM, Bap & Recep. (Oaks) 2 PM, Blessing 4PM, Wedding</p>
<p>19 SUNDAY OF THE Myrrhbearers 3rd Sunday of Pascha Sunday of Joseph of Armetha and Nicodemus Coffee Hour (Gym)</p>	<p>20 No Playgroup</p>	<p>21 Preschool visits Burlingame 10:30 AM, Bible Study (Freside) 4 PM, Tutoring (Library) 7:30 PM, Parish Council (Library) 7:30 PM, Ensemble (Oaks) 8-9:30 PM, OCF (Starford)</p>	<p>22 Preschool visits Burlingame 4:30 PM, Grk Schi (Class) 7:30 PM, Ad Vball (Gym) No Choir</p>	<p>23 7 PM, RE Teacher's Spiritual Institute (Library) 7:30 PM, Ad Ebail (Gym) 7:30 PM, Ensemble (Oaks)</p>	<p>24 3:30-4:30 PM, Youth Choir (classrooms)</p>	<p>25 No Great Vespers morning, Ensemble (Oaks) ALL DAY, BIBAI Tourney (Gym)</p>
<p>26 SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC 4th Sunday of Pascha 4 PM, Cross Currents due</p>	<p>27 Memorial Day Office closed No preschool No playgroup</p>	<p>28 10:30 AM, Bible Study (Freside) 4 PM, Tutoring (Library) 7:30 PM, JOY (Rms N-2), Jr. GOYA (Rms 384), GOYA (Freside) 7:30 PM, Ensemble (Oaks)</p>	<p>29 4:30 PM, Grk Schi (Class) 7:30 PM, Ad Vball (Gym)</p>	<p>30 7:30 PM, Ad Ebail (Gym) 7:30 PM, Ensemble (Oaks)</p>	<p>31 3:30-4:30 PM, Youth Choir (Church)</p>	<p>June 1 5:30 PM, Great Vespers clear GYM/OAKS for Golf Tournament morning, Ensemble (Oaks) TENT Noon, Baptism 3 PM, Baptism</p>
<p>2 SUNDAY OF THE Samaritan Woman 5th Sunday of Pascha clear GYM/OAKS for Golf Tournament</p>	<p>3 Golf Tournament (Sharon/Gym/Oaks) DEF 10 AM, playgroup (N-2)</p>	<p>4 10:30 AM, Bible Study (Freside) 11 AM, ORA (Oaks) 4 PM, Tutoring (Library) 7:30 PM, Ensemble (Oaks) 7:30 PM, Philipp Board (Library) 8-9:30 PM, OCF (Starford)</p>	<p>5 Preschool to SF Zoo 4:30 PM or 6 PM, Grk Schi Graduation (Class) 7 PM, AHEP ADOTRS (N- 2) 7:30 PM, Ad Vball (Gym) 7:30 PM, Choir (Lof)</p>	<p>6 4 PM, Tutoring (Library) 7:30 PM, Ad Ebail (Gym) 7:30 PM, Ensemble (Oaks)</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8 5:30 PM, Great Vespers day, Bap & Recep. (Oaks)</p>

Arson destroys Local Orthodox Church

Early Sunday morning, April 7, a fire began near the altar of the Antiochian Church of the Redeemer in Los Altos Hills and quickly consumed the rest of the church. In daylight, all that remained for the 200 families who worshipped at Redeemer was the skeletal framework of their church. Worse, a few days later, it was determined that the fire was set by an arsonist.

Father Samer Youssef, a graduate of Holy Cross Seminary, wondered, "What kind of human being would demolish with a fire the house of God?" Defiantly, the parish council president, Ray Bahou, told reporters, "The building means nothing - The people are the church." And with that, to a person, to a family, there is the resolve to rebuild.

Throughout this trial, the community of parishioners at the Church of the Redeemer continue to show they have earned their reputation as being a strong and warm people.



Likewise, when news spread of the disastrous fire in Los Altos Hills, Holy Cross parishioners, observing the Sunday of the Veneration of the Holy Cross that day, took a collection which was promptly delivered to, and gratefully received at Redeemer. Over the next few days, we were fortunate enough to be able to share with them, extra items which are vital to the divine services, which they lost in the fire. Father Samer sent us a thank you card :

In the Name of the Father and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Dear Father Peter Salmas,

I would like, on behalf of the Church of the Redeemer, to thank you for your support and all you have done for us with help of all kinds.

On the day of the Adoration of the Cross, our church was burned to the ground. Your church, Holy Cross, was the one to provide the cross again to us as a simple gesture to continue the work of the Lord.

Thank you again. Please pray for us. Love in Christ.

(signed)

Father Samer Youssef

If you would like to help them rebuild :

write to : 380 Magdalena Ave
Los Altos Hills, CA 94024

or wire to : Bank of America / 19376 Stevens Creek Bl.
/ Cupertino, CA 95104

Account # 2476205441 - Orthodox Church of
the Redeemer / c/o Reconstruction Fund