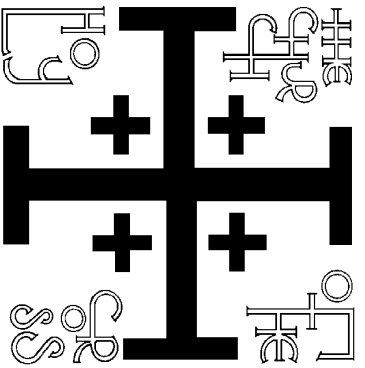
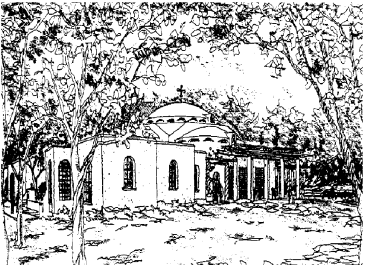


CROSS CURRENTS

Monthly Newsletter
September 2003



900 Alameda
BELMONT CA 94002-1604

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TIME VALUE

Cross Currents

The Monthly Newsletter of the 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 *Cross Currents* are due on the 26th of the month prior to the month of desired publication.

WHO DWELLS WITHIN

by *Father Peter Salmas, Pastor*

The Cross is the guardian of the whole earth; the Cross is the beauty of the church. The Cross is the strength of kings; the Cross is the support of the faithful. The Cross is the glory of angels and the wounder of demons!

- Matins Hymn

The Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross invites us to reflect upon the significance of the Cross of Our Lord Jesus Christ and upon its relevance in our own lives.

Save O Lord your people and bless your inheritance. Grant victory to us against those who assail us. And through the power of your Cross bless your commonwealth.

Each Sunday, in the chanting of our parish hymn, we are reminded that the Cross protects us from evil and dispels evil's deceptive might. As we

TREASURED GREEK PROVERBS

Ἀγάλι, ἀγάλι, ἐφύτευεν ὁ φρόνιμος ἀμπελι, καὶ ἀγάλι, ἀγάλι, ἐγένετο ἡ ἀγουρίδα μέλι.

Little by little, a prudent man planted a vineyard; little by little, the unripened grapes became sweet as honey.

Patience is a virtue.

Ἀγάπα τὸν πλησίον σου μέ τὰ ἐλαττώματα του.

Love your neighbor with his faults.

Love your neighbor with his foibles.

Ἄδουλος δουλεῖα δέν ἔχει, τὸ βράκι του καὶ λύει καὶ δένει.

An idle person has nothing to do so he unfastens and fastens his breeches.

Of idleness comes no goodness.

Αἱ παροιμίαι εἶναι σοφία τοῦ δρόμου.

Αἰὼν πάντα φέρει.

An era brings all things.

Time changes all things.

Ἄκουε πολλά, λάλει καίρια.

Listen too much, speak timely.

Ἀκριβὸς στά πίτουρα καὶ φτηνὸς στ' ἀλεύρι.

Miserly with the bran, pour yield of flour...

Penny wise, pound foolish...

Ἄλλα λέγει, κι' ἄλλα πράττει.

He says one thing and does another.

He does not practice what he preaches.

Ἄλλα λόγια νὰ ἀγαπιούμεθα.

Say something else so that we may love each other.

Change the subject.

FALL General Assembly

The following is the proposed agenda for the next General Assembly meeting. Join us on **Sunday, November 2** immediately following Divine Services. All active members of the Church of the Holy Cross are encouraged to attend. The 2004 Proposed Budget and the Minutes from the Previous General Assembly will be available in the Narthex in October.

1. Call to order & Opening Prayer
2. Selection of GA chair
3. Approval of minutes of previous meeting
4. Pastor's report - Fr. Peter
5. President's report - Tom Mavrakakis
6. Treasurer's report - Chris Canellos
7. Committee Reports
 - A. Stewardship – Tanya Spirtos
 - B. Festival – Nick Peros
 - C. Audit – Cathy Zamenes
 - D. Building – Frank Valavanis
& Peter Bibbes
 - E. Iconography – Jim Smith
8. Old Business
9. New Business
 - A. 2004 Budget – Chris Canellos
 - B. Nomination Committee
 - C. Election Committee
 - D. Selection of Auditors
10. Adjournment & Closing Prayer

hear these words, do we ponder their significance? The power of the Cross sanctifies our created world, but is it the motivating force of each of our personal worlds? Does the Cross of Jesus Christ inspire us to a conscientious commitment to follow Him who grants us life, abundant life?

Each time I step upon the grounds of our Church campus, I cannot help but glance up and gaze upon the cross atop our beautiful Church. In that moment, I am strengthened and renewed for the day's challenges. It is such a distant thought to think of the cross as an instrument of torture and death when it brings such solace and peace, and yet it is precisely for these combined reasons that the cross inspires us. An instrument of such cruelty and pain has become a symbol of comfort and healing, the symbol for God's love for mankind. This is not by accident but by divine design; as unjust and cruel as Christ's death was, our salvation could not have been accomplished in any other way.

Each of us as Christians must follow our Lord, for He said, "whoever desires to come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his Cross, and follow me." (Mark 8:34). As Orthodox, each of us has crosses to bear, things that remind us of Christ's suffering and death and of His glorious Resurrection and the commitment we have made. To follow Christ is not easy, not without hardship because to follow Him is to confront evil at every turn, in every circumstance. To be called a follower of Christ, to live the life of a Christian, requires commitment and sacrifice, sometimes ridicule, sometimes pain. Very often we stand alone, but that is what men and women of integrity do. They stand on principle, they commit to what they believe is right and true.

We chant at the conclusion of the Exaltation of the Life-giving Cross the following hymn: "We venerate your Cross, O Christ, and your Holy Resurrection we praise and glorify." The cross that we hold as individual Christians is the symbol of our faith and commitment. Let it speak of our personal faith and commitment that conquers the deceptive evil that swirls around us and bolsters our very own willingness to stand in the face of temptation and not succumb to its enticing power.

It is in that moment that we finally come to understand what Saint Paul felt when with faith and commitment he boldly confesses... "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me." (Gal. 2:19)

steWArDshIP

- to Be or to LeArn to Be?

...A GrAteFuL steWArD

by *Tanya W. Spirtos, M.D., Parish Council and Stewardship Chair*

Physicians have for years debated whether genetics or environment have the greatest impact on personal development. Studies of twins reared apart have been especially informative. As we get older and look in the mirror, we see glimpses of our grandparents and catch ourselves saying things the “old folks” used to say.

So, is it our genes that determine who will be a physician and who will run for political office? Who will thrill at debate and who will faint at the thought of speeches? Who will want to travel around the world and who will show up to clean calamari for the festival?

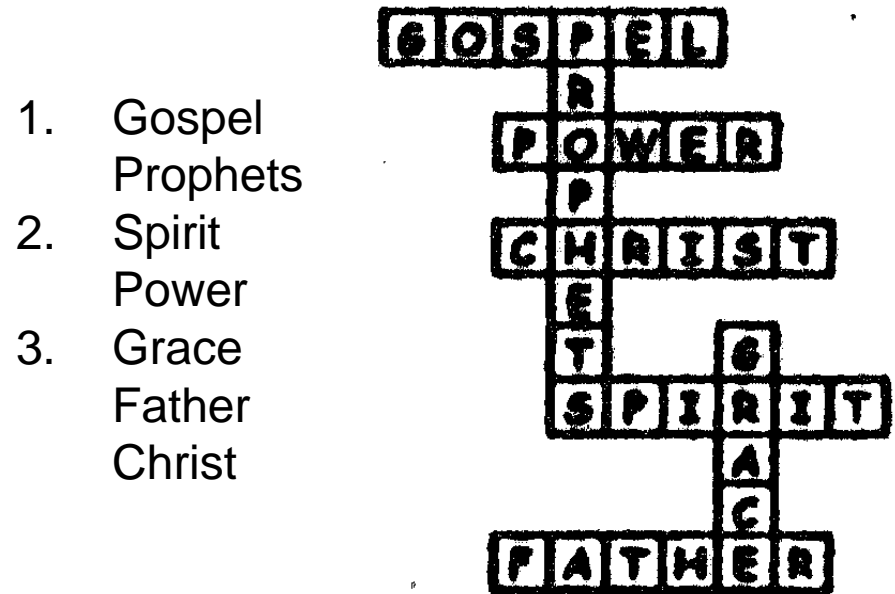
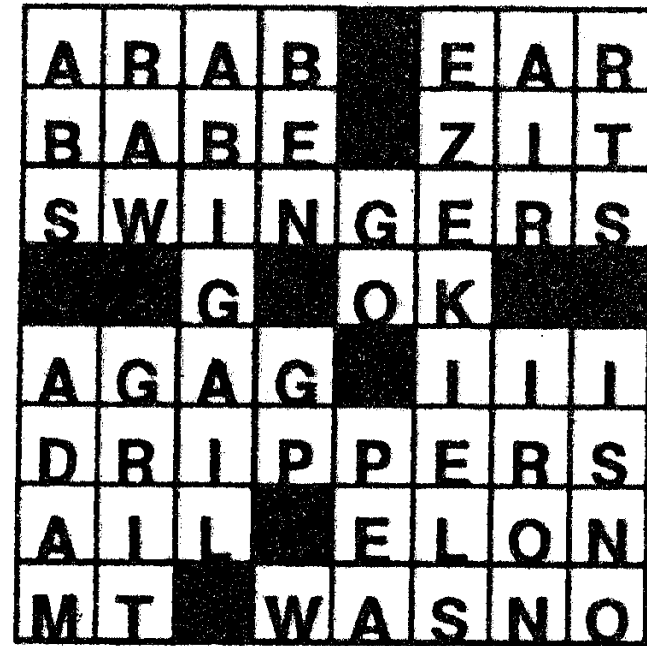
Are some of us more attuned and responsible to society, to our church, to helping the poor and suffering? Do others really believe that “living in the moment” and savoring the fine food and wine is life’s best reward?

Who we are could also be a result of the home in which we were raised, the environment of our youngest years. Dim memories from our youth of grandparents venerating icons, saving pennies for their church, practicing their religion as immigrants in this “land of the free” may have had a subconscious impact on the adults we are today.

There is no clear answer, when it comes to stewardship, whether the able stewards are born that way or are molded by the teachings of our faith. There are those among us gravitating toward healing professions, toward religious calling, or toward giving “fair share” in time, talent and treasure. Yet, there are others we seem unable to reach, who feel no compunction in regard to their attendance, participation, or tithing. Would Scripture readings, articles in *Cross Currents*, and homilies from the pulpit ever make a dent in their self-absorption or egocentric focus?

The answer to my initial question is that both genetics and environment play a role: a receptive soul exposed to a nurturing Church community with plenty of role models and opportunities has the best chance of living up to its full potential. We must keep repeating ourselves in Sunday school, in homilies and in articles; we must pitch in at the festival with good spirit and a joyful heart because we are the “old folks” this next generation will someday remember when their turn comes as members of Holy Cross.

BIBLe PUzzLe AnSWers



1. Gospel
Prophets
2. Spirit
Power
3. Grace
Father
Christ

“The best thing, my child, at this time would be to think of that which you have. In other words, first of all that you have health. Second, that by being a doctor, you have fulfilled a pursuit of yours. Many [women] would wish to be in your position. They tried, but did not manage to do it. Thirdly, that you have made a successful marriage. Hundreds of women at your age are mourning over ruins. Unfortunately, we people think of what we lack and never of what we have. There! Did we ever think of saying “Glory to God” because we can drink water? There are many who are not even able to swallow!”

MeAnInG of sePteMber nAMes

Zacharias : “Remembered by the Lord” is the translation of this name from the Hebrew. Zacharias is the Old Testament martyr who was slain in the temple between the Altar and the Holy Place (Luke 11:51.) He is the father of Saint John the Baptist. His memory is commemorated on September 5.

Anna: The name represents the Greek form of the Hebrew Hannah, which means, “Grace” or “gracious.” We read in Luke 2:36 that the mother of the Theotokos is named Anna and the Orthodox Church solemnizes the dates of July 25, September 9, and December 9, in her honor.

Joachim: “The Lord will judge” is the translation of this Hebrew word. Joachim is the name of the father of the Theotokos, and his memory is observed on September 9.

Eustathios: The Greek meaning of this name indicates “healthy, strong.” The Orthodox Church observes September 20, in memory of Saint Eustathios, his wife and two children who suffered martyrdom. Also, the memory of Saint Eustathios Patriarch of Antioch is commemorated on February 21.

Euphemia: In Greek Euphemia means “pleasant speech,” “fairest of the famous.” The Orthodox Church commemorates the memory of Saint Euphemia the All- extolled Great Martyr on September 16.

Stavros: This name from Greek means “cross” and refers to the Cross of Christ’s Crucifixion. Those named Stavros celebrate their name day on September 14.

Ephrosyne: This name means “delight, gladness” in Greek. Ephrosyne is one of the three Graces of Greek mythology. The name Ephrosyne was taken by Christians, and two women achieved sainthood. The Orthodox Church commemorates their memory on September 25, and October 18.

FestIvAl tHouGHts FroM tHe CHAIr

by **Bob Nemchik**, Parish Council and Festival Chair

What a Festival! We didn’t break many records (except Sunday was our biggest ever), but we did, I am told, have one of the smoothest running Festivals of all time. This was because of all who participated and I thank you for your cooperation, patience, consideration and hard work, regardless of when or how long you came to work.

Working on this Festival reminds me of the Anastasi service at Easter. To paraphrase and take some poetic license: before we break our Lenten Fast, it is announced, some came on the first hour and lasted till the twelfth hour; some on the third hour and lasted till the twelfth hour; some the sixth hour and lasted till the twelfth hour; some didn’t come until the eleventh hour but regardless of when we came, we were of one purpose to make the Festival a success and your efforts have shone, this 2003 Festival. Incidentally, those who came at the Eleventh hour may come earlier next year, you can never tell? Your efforts were heroic and all I can say is, “Bravo.” People who are not parishioners came to work and enjoyed our company. Some do it every year. Even the outside workers seemed to do a much better job this year.

It has been a very trying year for some, due to the tragic loss of a loved one or due to serious illness; but as a community we have risen above adversity. I am convinced this has happened because of the beautiful memories we have of them and with the Grace of God.

There are many who deserve individual accolades for their efforts and I can’t list them all unfortunately, however, I do promise to say thank you on an individual basis when I see you. We can’t have a good Festival without ALL of you; and for that, I say, Thank you again.

KIMMIE Court uPDAtE

As of this date we, as a community, have raised just over \$100,000 for the purchase of the a five bedroom house at #8 Kimmie Court in Belmont. The agreed purchase price is \$770,000. Although a \$200,000 down payment is desirable we will be moving ahead with the money raised to date, financing the remainder \$680,000. This is a great opportunity for our church community and will greatly assist our needs as a parish. If you have any questions regarding the purchase and or would like to offer a donations for the down

payment please do not hesitate to contact **Father Peter** at the Church office, **Tom Mavrakakis** at home 565-8909, or **Chris Canellos** at home 529-0180. A huge THANK YOU to each our parishioners who has given a gift of any size towards this purchase. Your donations of have enabled us to move forward in meeting our goal. May God bless us in our efforts.

Get CHurCH MAIL BY e-MAIL

To save money on printing and postage on SOME church mailings, we would like to e-mail such mailings to our parishioners instead of going the expensive, and old-fashioned paper, ink and envelope and stamp way. If you would like to help us save money, please send us your e-mail address at office@goholycross.org. These e-mailings will be infrequent but, in the long run, will save us a lot of money. We will identify these with “Church Mailing” in the subject line. Thank you for lending a hand!

DoCtor tHAnKs our PHILoPtOCHos!

If you have ever considered joining the Philoptochos Organization, but have failed to take action, this letter is for you. The letter comes from a doctor in Albania who received one of two medical kits the Philoptochos purchased last year. The kit contained thousands of dollars worth of medicine, offered to us at a greatly discounted price. These kits were sent to areas in our world where medical care is almost a luxury.

Please read this beautiful letter, and as you do, ask yourself, “Why have I not become a member?”

I can't go into all the details but please tell the ladies group that had helped us buy the medicines for the Albanian people, this story.

This story is about a 5 year-old little girl who developed intractable asthma. Her condition was so bad, inhaled steroids and bronchodilators would not break the bronchospasm. Her condition worsened to a point where her oxygen stats had dropped to 76% on room air (normal is 98%) and she was breathing very fast. After speaking with a specialist, I was told I needed a pediatric dose of Prednisone. The likelihood of finding it in our pharmacies is extremely low . . . not to mention that

- 1 . "PAUL , A SERVANT OF JESUS CHRIST, CALLED TO BE AN APOSTLE, SEPARATED UNTO THE **LGEOPS** OF GOD, (WHICH HE HAD PROMISED AFORE BY HIS **STRPEOHP** IN THE HOLY SCRIPTURES,) CONCERNING HIS SON JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD, WHICH WAS MADE OF THE SEED OF DAVID ACCORDING TO THE FLESH." (ROMANS 1:1-3, KJV)
2. "AND DECLARED TO BE THE SON OF GOD WITH **RPEWO**, ACCORDING TO THE **TSIPIR** OF HOLINESS, BY THE RESURRECTION FROM THE DEAD." (ROMANS 1:4, KJV)
3. **EGCRA** TO YOU AND PEACE FROM GOD OUR **RFEAHT**, .AND THE LORD JESUS **TCHSIR**." (ROMANS 1:7, KJV)

WisDoM/reFLeCtions

from the teachings of Father Epiphanius Theodoropoulos

Concerning Complaining

A certain confessor complained to the Elder:

“Father, I am very worried that I am lacking money to fulfill my dreams, satisfactory colleagues for me to work successfully, a wife who would give me happiness, children who would obey me ...”

And the Elder interrupted him:

“Do you have health?”

“I have.”

“Income?”

“Good.”

“A home?”

“My own.”

“Insurance?”

“Full.”

“Well, you poor thing, why do not you glorify God for these things which you have, instead of being worried about the things you are lacking?”

One night, a couple, which was spiritual children, both doctors, visited the Elder. The wife, exhausted from the day's work, said:

“Elder, is this a life? From six in the morning on my feet and only just now we left the hospital! And the food ... that standing, also. And tomorrow again the same thing. How much can one bear?”

BIBLe PUZZLe - DouBLLe tHe Fun

On the next page, unscramble the underlined words in each verse. Place your answers in the spaces below and then complete the cross-word puzzle

1. _____ / _____
2. _____ / _____
3. _____ / _____



it was very late at night. I ran to the box you sent us, and Glory to God there were 5 bottles of the exact steroid she needed. I immediately gave it to her and suffered through one of the most frightening nights of my life . . . but she slowly improved.

As you probably have guessed, it was not a girl from the street but was our own lovely Melania. I will always keep one of those 5 bottles to remind be of the miracle of your donation. With all my heart and soul, I asked God to bless you and the lovely ladies of your church group.

Glory to God in all things.

In His Service, *Charles*

Imagine how wonderful it would be if we could buy not two, but twenty or two hundred of these kits. Could another child or two or twenty be saved? We can only do this with the generosity of the members who pledge to this organization. **Please consider joining the over 40,000 Orthodox women in this country who already belong to the largest Christian women's organization in America.**

Please take a moment to fill out the membership form below. By making a contribution of \$25 or more, we can make a difference to another child or adult in need of someone's loving help.

=====

2003 Membership Pledge

***It's Time! It's Now! - 2003 PHILOPTOCHOS Membership
Membership Calendar year is January 1, 2003 to December 31, 2003***

Enclosed is my 2003 Philoptochos Membership donation (Jan to Dec).

name _____

address _____

city _____ zip _____

phone _____ annual pledge \$ _____

Holy Cross Philoptochos / 900 Alameda / Belmont, CA 94002

YOUTH CURRENTS

September 2003 edition

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

2 Peter 3:18

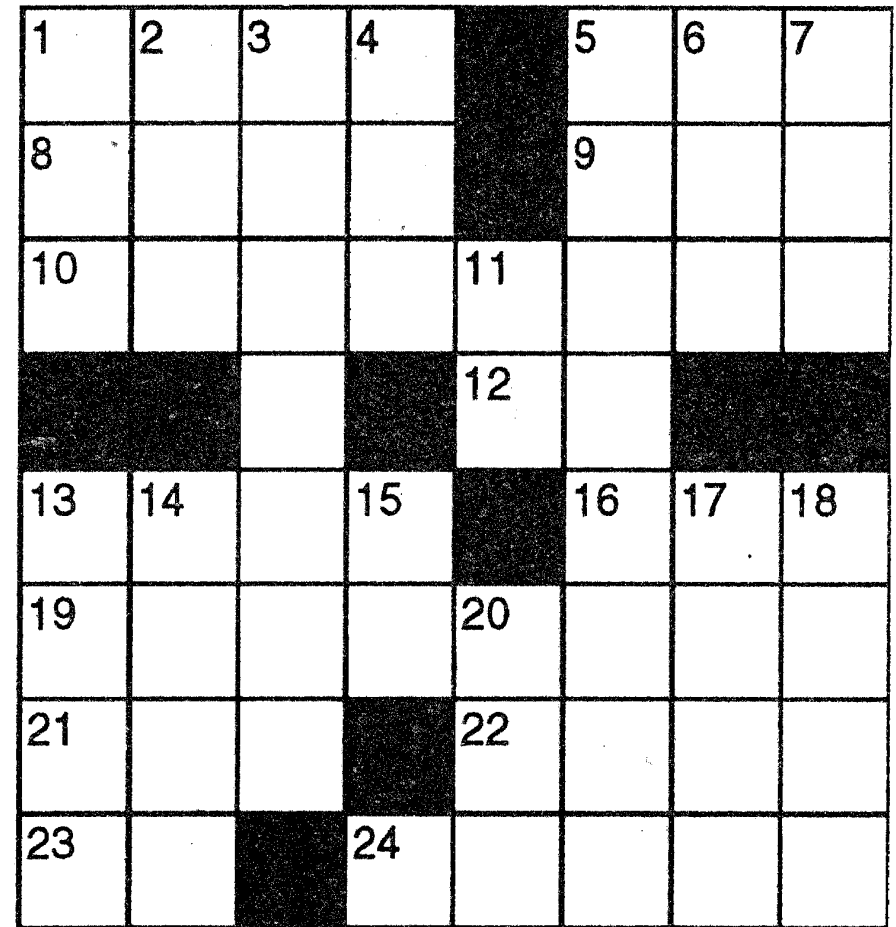


From DeACon AtHAnAslos

I would like to wish all of you a Happy New Ecclesiastical Year but especially I would like to wish all the students a blessed school year. Since it's the start of a new year let me remind the students that at this time you have in A's in all your courses (100 or 4.0). So now it's up to you if you are going to keep you're A's or if you are going to loose them. All of us know how your parents love you and how when you accomplish your goals you make them proud and of course you make us proud here at Holy Cross also. If you think a step further you are the future of our community and very soon you are becoming its inheritance. It is a characteristic of our culture for the parents to offer their best to you their children. This is the reason why your parents with their love try to garnish you with the education at your school, the faith at church, the Greek language and dances so you become more familiar with our culture. Just remember "a person without knowing his history is like a tree without roots." And for us the education of our faith and culture is our identification as to who we are.

In the Ecclesiastical language we use terms that distinguish the life of the church. It is natural for the church to use older terms because our church has existed for two thousand years but we also use terms from the Old Testament in order to show the tradition. One of these terms is the "Indiction."

The Indiction was used in the Middle Ages to specify the position of a year in a 15-year taxation cycle. It was introduced by Emperor Constantine the Great on the first of September 312 AD. At



11. " _____ ye into all the world, and preach the gospel" (Mark 16: 15)
13. The first man,
14. What some people do to their teeth while they're sleeping
15. General practitioner, abbr.
17. Metal
18. There _____ God like thee in the heaven" (2 words) (2 Chron. 6: 14)
20. A green vegetable

Youth Choir

The Youth Choir is looking for new or returning members. We meet the first three **Thursdays** of each month from 3:45-4:45, and sing with the adult choir monthly. Second-graders through high school are welcome. It is a fun group of kids and your participation will make this important ministry even more rewarding. For more information, call Khara Salmas (650) 345-6830.

BIBLE CrossWord Puzzle

ACROSS

1. Person who speaks Arabic
5. "Hearken unto me, my people; and give _____ unto me" (Isa. 51:4)
8. Infant
9. Pimple, slang
10. Things that swing
12. All right
13. The king of the Amalekites that Samuel cut into pieces (I Sam. 15:33)
16. Three, in Roman numerals
18. Things that drip
21. To be sick
22. Esau's father-in-law (Gen. 26:34)
23. Mountain, abbr.
24. "I beheld, and, lo, there _____ no man, and all the birds of the heavens were fled" (2 words) (Jer. 4:25)

DOWN

1. Stomach muscles, for short
2. Not cooked
3. One of King David's wives (I Sam. 25:39)
4. Benjamin, for short
5. Belonging to one of the prophets
6. What we breathe
7. Routes, abbr.

the First Ecumenical Council in 325 AD, it was decreed that the Church Liturgical Year would begin on September 1st. This was no random selection, for the Romans had been celebrating the start of the civil year on this day for quite some time. The Jews also attached significance to the month of September. It was in September that Moses descended from Mt. Sinai with the Ten Commandments. It was also during this month that Solomon's glorious Temple was consecrated. The Jews also viewed September as a time for offering sacrifices of thanksgiving to God, for this was the month when they harvested their crops.

It is the tradition of the Church that it was on September 1st that Christ came to the synagogue in Nazareth and read this passage from the book of Isaiah: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the Gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed and proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord. Today, this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing." (Luke 4:18-21)

Also, on the 8th of September our church celebrates the birth of Mary (Panagia.) Then on the next day Sept. 9th the church celebrates the parents of Mary, Joachim and Anna. The practice of the church is that when we celebrate the nativity of the birth the following day we celebrate the parents in order to follow the 5th commandment to honor the parents and at the same time we do not have to forget our parents.

As we begin another Ecclesiastical Year and School Year, it is a time to pray asking the Lord's help and guidance with the goals that we want to achieve. Each one of us has room for improvement spiritually but also educationally. It is our responsibility to give our best to the Lord each one of us according to his/her own abilities. Let us make room in our heart so He can dwell in us in order to guide us in our lives.

AthLetICs

Practices will be starting in **October**, so please turn in your registration forms to the Church Office. For more information, please call the Holy Cross Athletic Director, Mr. **Frank Catomer** in the evenings at (650) 343-7191.

YouTH KICKoFF

On Sunday, September 21, the Holy Cross Youth Council hosted their annual Youth Kickoff. Dinner included pizza, salad, and soda, and dessert. At the Kickoff, **Fr. Peter** introduced **Deacon Athanasios Pieri**, the newly assigned assistant here at Holy Cross, as well as the Youth Ministry volunteers for the upcoming year. We also held the first Youth Group meetings of the year, at which, officers will be nominated for voting the following Tuesday.

ACoLYtes

The schedule for the 2003-2004 year is available in the church office. If there are any questions about guidelines or expectations, call **Deacon Athanasios** at (650) 591-4447.

Greek FoLK DANcInG

Registration for the 2003-2004 year is will close October 10. In order to participate in the Holy Cross Dance Program, a child must be a baptized Orthodox Christian, participating actively in the Holy Cross Religious Education and Youth Group Programs, and his/her family must be a pledging member of the community. Practices are on Tuesday nights, beginning at 6:30 PM. For more information on practices, please contact the appropriate parent advisor:

Group / Age / Instructor(s)
Parent Reps (Phones)

Angeloudakia / 5-7 / Sophie Callas, Chrysann Zongus, Nicole Zongus
Athia Giotinis (568-0281) and Cathy Pereira (631-9952)

Kamari Mas / 8-10 / Nick Taptelis, Ashley Brenner
Paulette Costantini (591-4529) and Nicky Papadakis (321-2225)

Astarakia / 11-13 / Lea Papavasiliou, Kristina Dimmitt, Dean Angelis
Kathy Roque-Albert (574-5518)
and Anthie Mitropoulos (571-8830)

Zoiri / 14-16 / Valerie Paraskevas, Victoria Najjar
Tula Giesecker (652-4641) and Chris Hopkins (367-7861)

Yperifania / 17-21 / Perry Paraskevas

Carole Angelis (592-2754) and Joanne Zongus (571-5852)

YouTH GroupS

We have two meetings in **October**, and the second meeting will be the annual Pumpkin Carving! We look forward to seeing everyone there. The advisors for the year are:

HOPE / Tina Cardaris, 369-9629

JOY / Carole Angelis, 592-2754 and Joanne Zongus, 571-5852

Jr. GOYA / Kathy Roque-Albert, 574-5518 and Tula Giesecker, 652-4641

GOYA / Hope Callas, 345-1672 and Gary Brenner, 592-4755

tHe HoLY Cross YouTH GroupS PointS sYsteM

The Points System applies to the GOYA Youth Group. A total of **500 points** must be accumulated by **June 1** in order to be eligible for the End-of-the-Year Trips (i.e., Disneyland). Points may be earned in the following ways:

10 points for every meeting attended

100 points for 12 hours minimum worked at Belmont Greek Festival

100 points for working at the New Years Eve Dinner-Dance

100 points for working at the Godparents Luncheon

100 points for working at the Apokreatiko Glendi

25 points for helping to set up any of those events

Points can also be earned by doing community service at Holy Cross Church (community service must be approved by **Dn. Athanasios** *prior* to the time worked).

For every 100 points over the 500 point minimum, a GOYAn can earn \$25 off the total price of the trip (i.e., 600 points = \$25 discount, 700 points = \$50 discount, etc.). If you have any questions, please contact **Dn. Athanasios** at 591-4447 or athanasios@goholycross.org.

SPiRItuAL reFLeCtIon

"I will meditate on Your commandments, and contemplate Your ways." -Ps. 119:15

The Holy Martyrs and Equal to the Apostles Thekla - September 24

The Holy First Martyrs and Equal to the Apostles Thekla was born in the city of Iconium. She was the daughter of rich and illustrious parents, and moreover she was distinguished by extraordinary beauty. At 18 years of age they betrothed her to an eminent youth. But having heard the preaching of the holy Apostle Paul about the Savior, Saint Thekla with all her heart came to love the Lord Jesus Christ, and she steadfastly resolved not to enter into marriage, but rather to devote all her life to preaching the Gospel. The mother of Saint Thekla was opposed to her daughter's plans and demanded that she enter into marriage with the bridegroom betrothed to her. Saint Thekla's fiancée likewise made a complaint to the governor of the city against the Apostle Paul, accusing him of turning his bride against him. The governor locked up Saint Paul in prison. During the night Saint Thekla secretly ran away from her house, and she bribed the prison guards, giving them all her gold ornaments, and so made her way into the prison to the prisoner. For three days she sat at the feet of the Apostle Paul, hearkening to his fatherly precepts. The disappearance of Thekla was discovered, and servants were sent out everywhere in search of her. Finally they found her in the prison and brought her home by force.

At his trial the Apostle Paul was sentenced to banishment from the city. And with Saint Thekla they again began urging her to consent to the marriage, but she would not change her mind. Neither the tears of her mother, nor her wrath, nor the threats of the governor were able to separate Saint Thekla from her love for the Heavenly Bridegroom, the Lord Jesus Christ. Her mother in an insane rage demanded from the judges a death sentence against her unyielding daughter, and Saint Thekla was sentenced to burning. Without flinching, the holy martyrs went into the bon-fire and made the sign of the cross over her. At this moment the Savior appeared to her, blessing her present deed, and inexpressible joy filled her holy soul. The flames of the bonfire shot up high, but the martyrs were surrounded by a halo and the flames did not touch her. Thunder boomed, and a strong downpour of rain with hail extinguished the bonfire. The torturers scattered in fear. Saint Thekla, kept safe by the Lord, quit the city and with the help of a certain Christian youth searched out the Apostle Paul. The holy apostle and his companions, among which was also the Disciple Barnabas, were hidden away in a cave not far from the city, praying fervently, that the Lord would give strength to Saint Thekla in her sufferings.

After this, Saint Thekla went together with them preaching the Gospel in Antioch. In this city she was pursued by a certain dignitary named Alexander, who was captivated by her beauty. Saint Thekla refused his offer to enter into marriage, and so for being a Christian she was condemned to death. Twice they set loose upon her hungry wild animals, but they would not touch the holy virgin, but instead lay down meekly and licking at her feet. The Providence of God preserved the holy martyrs unharmed through all her torments. Finally, they tied her to two oxen and began to chase after her with red-hot rods, but the strong cords broke asunder like cobwebs, and the oxen ran off, leaving Saint Thekla unharmed. And the people began shouting: "Great is the God of the Christians!" The governor himself became terrified, reasoning it out finally that the holy martyrs was being kept safe by the Almighty God, Whom she served. He then gave orders to set free the servant of God Thekla.

With the blessing of the Apostle Paul, Saint Thekla then settled in the desolate surroundings of Isaurian Seleucia and dwelt there for many years, constantly preaching the Word of God and healing the sick through her prayer. Saint Thekla converted many pagans to Christ, and the Church names her worthily as "Equal-to-the-Apostles." Even a pagan priest, seeking to assault her purity and punished for his impudence, was brought by her to holy Baptism. More than once the enemy of the race of man tried to destroy Saint Thekla through people blinded by sin, but the power of God always preserved this faithful servant of Christ.

When Saint Thekla was already a 90 year old woman, pagan sorcerers became incensed at her for treating the sick for free. They were unable to comprehend that the saint was healing the sick by the power of the grace of Christ, and they presumed that the virgin-goddess Artemis (Diana) was her especial patroness. Out of envy against Saint Thekla, they sent their followers to defile her. When they had already approached quite close to her, Saint Thekla cried out for help to Christ the Savior, and the hill split open and hid the holy virgin, the bride of Christ. And thus did Saint Thekla offer up her holy soul to the Lord.

Holy Church glorifies the First-Suffering Thekla as of women the glory and guide for suffering, opening up the way through every torment. From of old many a temple was dedicated to her, one of which was built at Constantinople by the holy Equal-to-the-Apostles Constantine. And then too, the name of the First-Martyrs Equal-to-the-Apostles Thekla, a prayer intercessor for the ascetic, is remembered during the tonsure of women into monasticism

CALENDAR

subject to changes - please check your Sunday Bulletins

UPCOMING SERVICES

Saturday, September 27 - Great Vespers, 5:30 PM

Sunday, September 28 - Orthros, 8:45 AM; Divine Liturgy, 10 AM

Saturday, October 4 - Great Vespers, 5:30 PM

Sunday, October 5 - Orthros, 8:45 AM; Divine Liturgy, 10 AM

Saturday, October 11 - Great Vespers, 5:30 PM

Sunday, October 12 - Orthros, 8:45 AM; Divine Liturgy, 10 AM

Saturday, October 18 - Saint Luke, Divine Liturgy, 9 AM;

Great Vespers, 5:30 PM

Sunday, October 19 - Orthros, 8:45 AM; Divine Liturgy, 10 AM

Thursday, October 23 - Saint Iakovos, Divine Liturgy, 9 AM

Saturday, October 25 - Great Vespers, 5:30 PM

Sunday, October 26 - Orthros, 8:45 AM; Divine Liturgy, 10 AM

Saturday, November 1 - Cosmas & Damien, Divine Liturgy, 9 AM;

Great Vespers, 5:30 PM

Sunday, November 2 - Orthros, 8:45 AM; Divine Liturgy, 10 AM

Saturday, November 8 - Synaxis of the Holy Archangels Michael and

Gabriel, Divine Liturgy, 9 AM;

Great Vespers, 5:30 PM

Sunday, November 9 - Orthros, 8:45 AM; Divine Liturgy, 10 AM

Thursday, November 13, Saint John Chrysostom, Divine Liturgy, 9 AM

Saturday, November 15 - Great Vespers, 5:30 PM

Sunday, November 16 - Orthros, 8:45 AM; Divine Liturgy, 10 AM

Friday, November 21 - Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple, Divine

Liturgy, 9 AM

Saturday, November 22 - Great Vespers, 5:30 PM

Sunday, November 23 - Orthros, 8:45 AM; Divine Liturgy, 10 AM

MEETINGS & UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesdays, 10:30 AM, Bible Study (Fireside Room)

Wednesdays, 4:30 PM, Greek School (Classrooms)

Wednesdays, 7:30 PM, Choir (Loft)

for Dance practices, please see instructors

Thursday, October 2 - 3:45 PM, Youth Choir

Thursday, October 2 - Tech Committee (Library)

Tuesday, October 7 - 11 AM, ORA; 7 PM, Philoptochos Board

Thursday, October 9 - 7 PM, Religious Ed. Teachers (N-6) Meeting

(Library); 7 PM, Felia (Oaks)

Tuesday, October 14 & 28 - GOYA, Jr. GOYA, JOY & HOPE

Thursday, October 16 - 7 PM, Religious Ed. Teachers (7-HS) Meeting

(Library)

Tuesday, October 21 - 7:30 PM, Parish Council (Library)

Sunday, October 26 - following Liturgy, Greek School Oxi Day Program

(Oaks)

Sunday, November 2, following Liturgy, Fall General Assembly (Oaks)

Tuesday, November 4 - 11 AM, ORA; 7 PM, Philoptochos Board

Thursday, November 6 - Tech Committee (Library)

Tuesday, November 11 & 25 - GOYA, Jr. GOYA, JOY & HOPE

Tuesday, November 18 - 7:30 PM, Parish Council (Library)