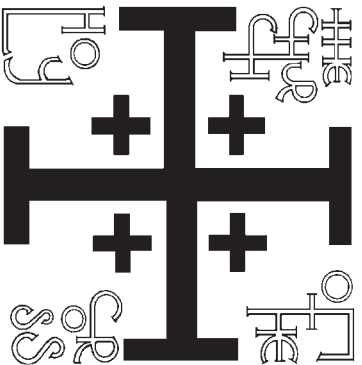


# CROSS CURRENTS

Monthly Newsletter  
MAY/JUNE 2005



**900 Alameda**  
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TIME VALUE

## CROSS CURRENTS

The Monthly Newsletter of the Church of the Holy Cross  
900 Alameda / Belmont, CA 94002-1604  
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office@goholycross.org / http://www.goholycross.org

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

From the President .....	3	StewardshipNews .....	4
Salvation : Bible Study .....	8	About Real Estate .....	10
ORAcle .....	12	Announcements .....	15
<i>Youth Currents</i> .....	17	“Circle of Friends” .....	20
Belmont Greek Fest .....	21	Service Schedule .....	center

*The next issue of Cross Currents will be out very soon!*

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

## THE PROPHETS OF OLD

by *Father Peter Salmas, Pastor*

Christ is Risen!

How inspirational and glorious it was to look into the dome this Paschal season and gaze upon the Prophets of the Old Testament, each of whom give testimony to the saving Passion of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The readings of Holy Week, replete with prophetic scriptures, reveal God’s plan for our salvation through Jesus Christ His Son.

In particular, I recall the reading from the Prophet Job that is read on Holy and Great Saturday. We also commemorate his memory on Friday of Bright Week, the Feast of the Life-Giving spring. The Prophet Job is important to us for he reveals in his suffering the example of humility and faith that we need to exhibit in our own lives.

When sorely tested, the Prophet Job did question why his life should have such a tragic and dramatic turn, but he never lost his faith in his Creator. In fact, when his friends tried to convince him that it was because of some sin that he had committed that he was being punished, he rebuked them. When all turn away from him, he remains confident in his relationship to his Lord.

We find a perfect response to injustice and falsehood in the person of the Prophet Job. His humble and faithful responses to falsehood and gossip was not a striking back at his faithless friends and acquaintances but a recommitment to God, even though he did not understand why such seemingly undeserved tragedy had come upon him.

What else is needful as we draw upon these examples to find the strength to respond to injustices in our own lives? As Christians, we are to respond with love and compassion instead of anger and vengeance. Rather than gossip, prayer should be our daily conversation. Rather than a shunning away from spiteful attacks, our loving embrace to our brethren should be our action.

Let us learn from the Prophet Job, realizing that our challenges in this life are opportunities for further spiritual growth. A restful and peaceful summer to all. See you on Sunday, and remember - Divine Services begin at 8:15 AM.

## ENJOY YOUR SUMMER!

by *Jenny Cladis, Parish Council President*

As we go forward into the summer months, anticipating all the joys of special events, ranging from summer camps to family vacations, we should not neglect going to church wherever we may be. We all need quiet moments to communicate with our Counselor when we are away from home. As the Lord said, “For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them” (Mathew 18, vs 20). We are so grateful that our Lord does not take a vacation from us!

During the Sunday School graduation services, **Father Peter** reminded us that the church doors do not close on Sundays or other Feast Days, as do the public schools. God is always there waiting to see us, hear from us and to praise Him. We should never close the door on Him even when we are away from our familiar surroundings.

As we travel to our various destinations this summer, let us “Send around the world the news of God’s saving power and His eternal plan for all of mankind” (Psalms 67).

I wish you a safe and wonderful summer!

## STEWARDSHIP NEWS

by *Tanya W. Spirtos, M.D., Stewardship Chair*

### *OPEN LETTER TO THE KOUMBARO*

First, let me congratulate you on your impending sponsorship of a couple soon to be wed in a neighboring Greek Orthodox Church. As a very well-educated young woman you are accepting quite a responsibility during this sacrament of marriage. May God grant the new couple many years of joy, strength, wisdom and peace –with you by their side for guidance and advice.

The church in which they will wed is gorgeous, with spectacular iconography, soaring ceilings, and impressive iconostasis—a marvelous stage for a bride beautiful in her designer gown, perfumed by gorgeous flowers, and surrounded by beaming bridesmaids, elated parents and godparents. I cannot even imagine the cost of this once-in-a-lifetime spectacle! Our modern society today even has a tendency to regard the marriage ceremony as incidental to the highly-overpriced extravaganza called a “wedding.”

But you may ask: why am I writing this letter addressed to you? The Parish Council has learned that, although you were raised in our Church community, you have not been a member in good standing since you became an adult, completed your post-graduate degrees, obtained gainful employment and purchased your own home. It has been many years since, as a child and teenager, we considered you one of

our own. Your parents, however, have continued to worship and participate in the fellowship of the Holy Cross family. And that brings me to the reason for addressing you: as you plan to be a *Koumbaro* in another Orthodox Church, you needed a “letter of good standing” from our parish priest.

The Sponsor (or *Koumbaro*) must be an Orthodox Christian not only because of his/her role in the ceremony, but also because of the important spiritual and moral bond and duties incumbent upon the sponsor for the well-being of the couple. Exchanging rings and crowns is symbolic, spiritually and sacramentally, and not simply a ritual. Archdiocesan directives on this matter are very clear and unambiguous: “The sponsor must be in good standing with the Orthodox Church . . . morally and spiritually in communion with the church.”

Under the Uniform Parish Regulations of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of North America, a member in good standing is one who is christened in the Orthodox faith, participates in the Sacraments, and contributes to stewardship in the support of his/her church; your claim of membership through your parents is not correct under the Regulations pertaining to young adults. A “letter of good standing” from the parish priest is not “just a formality” but a rigorous screening by the Church to ensure that those participating in a sacrament (such as a baptism or marriage) are, in fact, cognizant of their responsibilities as Orthodox Christians and fully participating in the life of Christ and His Church.

And that brings me to the moral dilemma you pose: our Church has a policy, as determined at a Parish General Assembly, that people desiring to join in order to participate in a sacrament (whether occurring here or proving their good-standing to participate elsewhere) are required to pledge the average for our community which is currently \$860; **Father Peter** does have the ability to waive or adjust this amount in circumstances of need or poverty. You objected to this amount on the grounds of your parents’ membership. Sadly, We now learn that you recently submitted a pledge of \$750 while they have lowered theirs by the exact amount. So what is worse: finagling a “discount” on stewardship or active participation by parents in this charade? What did you learn all those years ago as a teenager in our midst? What did your

parents teach about responsibilities as an Orthodox Christian adult in the financial support of your church? Did your own godparents educate you concerning their spiritual and sacramental role in your life or were they simply window-dressing?

Alms may be a secret between your right hand and left hand but tithing to your church is not; even our Lord sat and watched the widow give generously. In this case, however, I have chosen to remain ignorant of your identity in order to address the global issue of appropriate pledging and stewardship.

When I joined this Church in 1990 for the baptism of my children, I came without a history of good standing and faced the same dilemma. I chose to give generously then and still continue to do so. So I'll amend my wedding wish to all of you: may our Lord grant you wisdom to see the right way and strength to follow it; may all of you experience the joy of stewardship in all facets— and may there always be peace in this marriage!

## STEWARDSHIP THOUGHTS FROM PARISHIONERS

by *Tanya W. Spirtos, M.D., Stewardship Chair*

### WHY DO YOU PLEDGE?

In January's article, I posed a question to a number of parishioners and then published their answers to the question: "Why do you pledge what you pledge?"

Additional answers include:

It took me many years of heedless living, tribulation and neglect of God to come to the realization that, all along, God had been with me every step of the way.

***"The Lord is with you, while you are with Him. If you seek Him, He will be found by you, but if you forsake Him, He will forsake you"*** (2 Chronicles 15:2). Yet by the grace of God and

His infinite mercy, He was still there for me, and I need Him to be with me every minute as long as I am here on earth.

Where can we best seek God? In church, in my case, specifically at the Orthodox Church of the Holy Cross.

The Bible tells us that the Church is the Body of Christ. A body needs two things: physical sustenance and spiritual sustenance. I pledge and give money and good and energy to the church because it needs it to sustain itself and be there for me. Since God is my priority, the amount I give is at the top of my list: the first-fruits.

I participate in worship in the church and provide whatever spiritual gifts are within the capabilities God has provided for me in order to maintain it as a living Church, hospitable to the Holy Spirit.

—Johanna Manley

Tithing is an expression of the awareness of the gifts that God has blessed me with. It is one opportunity to follow His teachings of giving back to Him from what He has given to me.

—Khara-Maria Salmas

Think for a second to whom we give freely, without second thoughts. We give to those that we love (parents to children, spouse to spouse, friends, family). We give freely because we share a special bond with them. We also give to those that are in need, even if we have not ever met them. We feel that we also share something special with them; we are part of God's creation and they are our brothers and sisters. All of us in this community belong to one family, and as such we should not hesitate for a moment to give freely. The family, as our parents always told us, is there for us; are we there for the family?

—Vangelis Hytopoulos

Stewardship is at once a gift and a responsibility, as God has determined in His wisdom on our behalf. When we understand that what we enjoy is in fact a gift from Him, then we also

understand that it is our responsibility to care for this gift. Whatever it is, our person, our family, our material assets, our church community—all are gifts for whose proper nurturing we are responsible. Scripture teaches us that to return to God our firstfruits is our acknowledgement to Him of Who He is and Who He is in our lives. Our firstfruits?—ten percent, the best off the top. If we have one dollar, then we have 10 cents to return to Him from Whom the one dollar emanates.

—Pres. Nikki Salmas

Someone was puzzled as to why I asked *him* this same question. My answer: helping to educate each other about stewardship is *in itself* a type of stewardship. When I ask for help from *any* one of you, I appreciate whatever you can do to assist; this is no different than if I was asking for festival workers or youth council volunteers. Remember that “stewardship” includes the giving of time and of talent as well as of treasure.

May our Lord help each of us help each other as we continue climbing up the “Ladder of Divine Ascent” as depicted by Saint John Climacus.

## SALVATION : BIBLE STUDY ASSIGNMENT

by *Ella Stamates*

*During the Great Lent, our Tuesday morning Bible study class read the book entitled “the Passion of Christ,” by Vasein Vesich. For a final exercise, Father Peter asked everyone to answer, in written format, the question, “What is my understanding of salvation?” The follow-*



*ing response by Ella Stamates is indicative of the depth to which this class pursues matters of spiritual importance. The responses of other class members will be printed in consecutive issues of Cross Currents. Do join us to share in the lively discussions we enjoy.*

I’ve never given a lot of thought to salvation for me personally. Instead I’ve focused more in trying to do the right thing or what God would like me to do. As I reflect more on salvation as an adult, more thoughts come to mind. It is our responsibility to establish a relationship with God. Praying to Him is one way but more is necessary. A continuous dialogue is imperative throughout each day. Referring to Him for advice and above all asking Him to guide each action in order to do His will. Every time I lose my temper or gossip or criticize, I act against Him. Every time I do less than my best, I act against Him. And when I catch myself acting against God, I realize how imperfect I am and how difficult it is to do good and be good all the time. It is impossible! Therefore, if I have even a small chance for salvation, I must receive God’s grace and forgiveness. I love the prayers of the church that ask for our forgiveness for sins that are intended and unintended. My sins are plentiful just because I am a human being and imperfect in this state besides the sins I commit knowingly. I can only beseech God to grant me mercy with the realization I am always trying to become a better person.

Of course, Christ was our greatest example and supreme teacher in living a life in fulfillment of God’s will. He was born in love and to teach love. Finally, he died because He loved us so much. No greater gift can we receive is that which He so willingly gave . . . His life. His purpose was to reach all people in the world especially those most in need. His kingdom was not of this world of power and riches but one in harmony with God. It sets the course for all of our lives. Through his love, miracles occurred that healed the ill and taught love of each other in such a way that was never realized before and that we are still trying to understand today. There is no greater love than to give one’s life for another and Christ exemplified it best of all. Salvation then, can only be achieved by following Christ’s example; giving of oneself without expectation of rewards, giving generously of spirit and pock-

etbook, and by giving the best of one self. I think that's His message in a nutshell for us in this life because it helps us to prepare for the next life with Him.

## ABOUT REAL ESTATE

by *Dimitri Melas*



The Real Estate Market, especially in the Bay Area, has reached unbelievable new heights, who could think just 5 years ago, that a 2 bedroom 1 bathroom home, in some areas, can be offered for over \$1,000,000 and have multiple offers.

As the prices go higher and higher by the day, so are the qualification standards (you got to make more income to qualify), yet we are seeing many more buyer and multiple offers by the day. Can we stop and think what will happen when the interest rates will rise to the unthinkable high rates? We all know the present sellers' market will not last for ever, in fact as this article is written there is strong indication of real estate market changes.

*(Of course, I would like to know if this article is well received by my fellow parishioners, and if this type of information is truly helpful to anyone who will read it. You may e-mail me or just call me, both are available below at the bottom of this article.)*

We are spoiled with the very low interest rates, it is easy to qualify a buyer with low income with such teaser rate of 1.95% or less, in fact one of the radio commercials is offering only one point and no closing costs, another was saying "0" points and \$5,000. cash back

This message is for those who purchased or refinanced at the very low attractive (ARM) rates. For example 1.95% adjustable rate mortgage with a lifetime cap of 11.95% (plenty of those around).

I personally believe that by this time in 2006 the rates could very well reach the high 7% or even 8% or what if the rates reach the 9%; It is possible isn't it?

I know of some cases where the buyers' income is only enough to qualify at the 1.95% negative amortization.\* As the rate increases so do the payments. \$100,000 mortgage at 1.95% the payment is \$367 per month, at 7% the payment almost doubles to \$662 per month per every \$100,000. (\* We will talk about this in another issue.)

\$500,000 first mortgage, which is common these days in our area, at 1.95% the payment is approx. \$1835 per month, but at 7% interest the payments are \$3,310 per month, what a huge increase and what happens then?

These are the people so very excited to own a home for the first time their lives (the American dream) and even if they have been explained, will not pay serious attention to the future REALIZATION OF RESPONSIBILITY, And what happens then.?

One answer will be to sell fast- grab what ever profit and run, and that will be fine providing the market is what it is now, but we are also talking of many of those kind of homebuyer and mortgages, and as it becomes more and more a BUYERS MARKET, and so will the buyers have a multiple property choice, and with more buyer choices on more listings, they start bargaining on the asking price . . . that's how the lower prices . . . then who knows how low will they go.

I remember the late 1980's and early 1990's owners where begging the buyers to just take over their payments to avoid foreclosure.

Will this present market continue? Who knows, or better say only god knows. But let's analyze our present situation:

The inflation is at a fast pace, our national deficit is at a record high level and adding, the economy is spattering at best, household income have been steadily decreasing, gasoline prices have doubled and adding, health care costs way up, especially for our seniors and I can go on and on, and on . . .

THE WRITING IS ON THE WALL and GETS BOLDER BY THE DAY. Of course this is only my opinion and I hope I am wrong, but one question remains unanswered . . .

### **HOW HIGH IS UP ?**

Dimitri E. Melas - (650) 474-3630

e-mail: dimitri@dmelas.com

NOTE: Dimitri is a top producing Realtor with Coldwell Banker, Redwood City Office both in residential and commercial properties. He has served as Cantor Hor Holu Cross Church, since June of 1965. Cantors in the Orthodox Church are a highly paid commodity, however Dimitri although offered he has never accepted any money from our church. He will however be the best Realtor you can ever choose. Please visit: [www.dmelas.com](http://www.dmelas.com) for the answers to all of your questions.

## "ORA" cle NEWS

After years of meeting the first Tuesday of each month luncheon meeting we are going to expand our activities to the **THIRD Tuesday** as well. All members and their friends are invited to an informal fun activity outing in The Oaks, etc. from noon till 3 PM. Bring your toys, games, cards, crafts, walking shoes and whatever it takes to enjoy each others friendship and company while exercising our brains and bodies. See you all there. Any questions, call **Theo Peter** at 327-1429.

## SEND US YOUR FAMILY EMAIL ADDRESS

To save money on printing and postage on *some* church mailings (like *Cross Currents*), 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 with this expense, please tell us the e-mail address where you receive *family* e-mail. These e-mailings will be infrequent but, in the long run, will save us a lot of money. We **will not give** your e-mail address to anyone else and will **only** use it for this church mailing purpose. Your e-mail address will not appear on these e-mailings (as we will "blind copy" you) and we will identify these with "Church Mailing" in the subject line.

If you can lend a hand, just e-mail your address to [OFFICE@GOHOLYCROSS.ORG](mailto:OFFICE@GOHOLYCROSS.ORG). Thank you!

## MEETINGS & UPCOMING EVENTS



**26th** of the Month, 4 PM - Articles and ads due for *Cross Currents* and *Youth Currents* (church office)

First **Tuesday** of the month, 11 AM – ORA (Oaks)

**Wednesdays**, 7:30 PM - Volleyball (Gym)

First **Thursdays** of the month, 6:30 PM - Technology Committee (Contos Library)

Third **Tuesdays** of the month, Noon-3 PM - ORA gathering - for fun and games (The Oaks)

Third **Tuesdays** of the month, 7:30 PM – Parish Council (Contos Library)

*Religious Education, Youth Groups, Philoptochos, etc. are off for the summer - please check your Sunday Bulletins for the dates and times of their first meetings in the Ecclesiastical New Year.*

## SCHEDULING MEETINGS AT CHURCH

Every meeting, every use of the church facilities, every use of church equipment must be arranged for through the church office. The form "**FACILITIES RESERVATION REQUEST FOR CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS**" is available for this purpose. Organization leaders are asked to fill out ONE form for their regular meetings during the year. For example, Philoptochos would fill one out for their board meetings : "First Tuesdays of the month, September through June, 7:30 PM in the Contos Library". Information for the other "events" of your

organization (ie, the Fashion Show, New Year's Eve, etc.) must also be submitted on this form, one event per form.

There is a list of a dozen or so guidelines on the back of the "FACILITIES" form which must be followed so that the church facilities remain open and available for all parishioners. Principal among these rules is that no meeting of any kind may take place while a church service is occurring. Also, please remember, that since we do not have a night custodian, ALL meetings scheduled for the evenings, MUST be on the church calendar -- otherwise, we will not have the room(s) available or the door(s) open for your group.

The forms are available from the church office or at the "DOWNLOADS" link on our website; or contact the church office and we will send you one.

## BELATED EASTER GREETINGS

*We missed a few names on our Community Easter Cards this year and include them here with our hope that you had a wonderful Pascha and a wonderful Paschal season.*

*John & Susan Bagis  
Olivia, Kathie & Jim Bagis  
Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Baxter & Katerina  
Helen E. Karos  
George & Iriini Kehagias  
Pat Lagiss  
John & Demetra Raptis  
Gina & Ernie Schmidt  
Ted Theodore  
Angelo & Vaso Tonas & Family  
Mr. & Mrs. John Vasil  
Athena Zografos*



(please notify the church office of any errors or omissions)

### 2004 & 2005 Baptisms

- June 28 - Nicole, daughter of John & Lisa Maneatis, Stephen Maneatis, sponsor
- July 11 - George, son of Christopher & Penelope Benis, George Davlantes & Alexa Conomos, sponsors
- August 14 - David, son of Raymond & Dee-Raye Bragg, Katherine Ballart, sponsor
- August 28 - Kathleen, daughter of Peter & Allison Virsik, Matthew Shaheen, sponsor
- September 11 - Ares, son of Rajil & Lydia Kapoor, Maria Alexander, sponsor
- September 12 - Joseph, son of Joseph & Andrea Gillette, Alexa Conomos, sponsor
- September 19 - Sofia, daughter of Christofer & Julie Ann Christoforidis, Bill Tamaras, sponsor
- September 25 - John, son of Nick & Audra Tisvikas, John Tisvikas, sponsor
- September 25 - Zachary, son of David & Tanya Aurelio, Elsa Kitss, sponsor
- October 9 - Sophia, daughter of Blaine & Christina Bolich, Alexa Boubalos, sponsor
- October 23 - Alexa, daughter of William & Catherine Danigelis, Nicholas Hallas, sponsor
- October 23 - Ella, daughter of Alex & Ramee Ray, John Anagnostou, sponsor
- October 30 - Madison, daughter of Greg & Gloria Higham, Veronica Feyling & Michael Lazarakis, sponsors
- October 31 - Anastasios, son of John & Amanda Conomos, Nicholas Vriheas, sponsor
- November 13 - Angelina, daughter of Tarek & Niloufar Ebeid, Samer Ebeid, sponsor

November 27 – Maria, daughter of Silviu & Irina Stanculescu, Panor & Maria Kantounias, sponsors  
 January 22 - Zachary, son of Michael & Stephanie Orth, Catherine Dacey, sponsor  
 January 22 - Matthew, son of Timothy & Cynthia Mattis, Steve & Maria Colyvas, sponsors  
 February 5 - Nikolas, son of Michael & Peggy Maloney, Katerina Tavoularis, sponsor  
 February 27 - Vicki, daughter of Pete & Anastasia Samaras, Tom & Zafiro Kyriakis, sponsors  
 Mar 5 - Thomas, son of George & Sheila Bouri, Houda Bouri, sponsor  
 Mar 5 - Sophia, daughter of Elie & Layna Haddad, Sophia Souhaila, sponsor  
 Mar 19 - Laney, daughter of Colin & Maureen Hawkins, Corbett Hawkins, sponsor  
 Mar 19 - Nolan, son of Colin & Maureen Hawkins, Corbett Hawkins, sponsor  
 Mar 20 - Teresa, daughter of George & Susan Kotsovolos, George & Colleen Bibbes, sponsors  
 April 3 - Nicholas, son of Douglas & Valerie Ramler, Nicholas Moore, sponsor

#### 2004 & 2005 Weddings

July 10 - Joshua Buffum & Elaine Maneatis, James Maneatis, sponsor  
 August 28 - Robert Siller & Xenia Prionas, Katerina Steck, sponsor  
 Sept 18 – Alexander Douglas & Brande Natoli, Michael Douglas, sponsor  
 Sept 24 – Dimitri Lolonis & Larissa Motoviloff, Frank Lolonis, sponsor  
 October 16 - Michael Eliopoulos & Nicole Parisis, John & Katerina Polychroniou, sponsors  
 October 31 - Nikolaos Maheras & Carol Albert, Ilias Karkabasis, sponsor  
 February 26 - Kirk Scolari & Matilda Modonas, Don Craighead, sponsor  
 February 27 - Colin Hawkins & Marueen Mansfield, Alexi Liviakis, sponsor  
 February 27 - Corey Hawkins & Jamey Wilson, Mary Liviakis, sponsor  
 Mar 5 - Demetrios Hionis & Evangelia Souliotis, Konstantin & Mary Milionis, sponsors  
 Mar 10 - Jeffrey Chianakas & Sheila Heylin, Elie Haddad, sponsor  
 Mar 12 - Andrezij Skoskiewicz & Ellen Longinidis, Angelo Charonis, sponsor  
 Mar 13 - Daniel Molinari & Lisa Lougas, Georgia Skyriotis, sponsor

#### 2004 & 2005 Funerals


Magdalena Vozaitis, who fell asleep in the Lord August 12  
 John Sarles, who fell asleep in the Lord September 18  
 Emmanuel Cayafas, who fell asleep in the Lord October 1  
 Angela Ioannides, who fell asleep in the Lord October 20  
 Peter Speros, who fell asleep in the Lord October 24  
 Sophia Peros, who fell asleep in the Lord November 23  
 John Mouzes, who fell asleep in the Lord November 23  
 Constantine Glafkides, who fell asleep in the Lord January 2  
 Gust P. Joanou, who fell asleep in the Lord January 4  
 Paula Poulos, who fell asleep in the Lord February 24  
 Constantine Pavidis, who fell asleep in the Lord February 27  
 Dino Sarles, who fell asleep in the Lord March 19

**YOUTH CURRENTS**

*May / June 2005 edition*

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

2 Peter 3:18



## CHRIST IS RISEN . . . TRULY HE IS RISEN

Beloved brothers and sisters in Christ,

I hope this letter finds you all in good health! I pray that Holy Week and Pascha was a time of spiritual cultivation and renewing our baptismal pledge.

It is significant for Orthodox Christians that Pascha is the most joyous and prominent feast of the ecclesiastical year. The victory of Christ over Death is for us the most joyous and full of hope reality. As individuals, but also as Orthodox Christians, we have lived and al-

ways live-intensely the bitterness of death. Our sins on the one hand and the historical adventures on the other, many times have brought us and are bringing us to the chambers of Hades. To the depths of death. This makes us not only to feel intensely the need for death to be defeated, for Hades to be dissolved, for the Resurrection to dawn, but also to live more with the joy, when at last Hades is abolished and death is defeated by the God-Man Jesus Christ, and His Resurrection scatters everywhere the light of salvation.

The Catechetical Homily of St. John Chrysostom is a sermon that sums up the Resurrection of our Lord, and I would like to share it with you.

### The PASCHAL HOMILY of SAINT JOHN the CHRYSOSTOM ARCHBISHOP of CONSTANTINOPLE

“Whosoever is a devout lover of God, let him enjoy this beautiful bright Festival. And whosoever is a grateful servant, let him joyously enter into the joy of his Lord. And if any be weary with fasting, let him now receive his reward. If any has toiled from the first hour, let him receive his just debt. If any came after the third, let him gratefully celebrate. If any arrived after the sixth, let him not doubt; for he too shall sustain no loss. If any have delayed to the ninth, let him come without hesitation. If any arrived only at the eleventh the Master is gracious and receives the last, even as the first. He gives rest to him, who arrives at the eleventh hour as well as to him, who has labored from the first. He is merciful to the one who delays, and nourishes the first. He gives also to the one, and to the other He is gracious. He accepts the works, as he greets the endeavor. He honors the deed, and the intent He commends.

Let all of you then enter into the joy of our Lord. The first and second enjoy your reward. You rich and poor, rejoice together. You temperate and you heedless, honor the day. You who fasted, and you

who did not, rejoice today. The Table is richly laden. All of you, fare sumptuously on it. The calf is a fatted one; let no one go away hungry. All of you enjoy the banquet of faith. All of you enjoy the riches of His goodness. Let no one grieve poverty; for the universal Kingdom has been revealed.

Let no one grieve over sins; for forgiveness has dawned from the tomb. Let no one fear death; for the Death of our Saviour has set us free. He has destroyed it by enduring it. He despoiled Hades, when He descended thereto. He embittered it, having tasted of His flesh. Isaiah foretold this when he cried out : “*You, O Hades, have been embittered by encountering Him below.*” It was embittered,/ - for it was abolished. It was embittered,/ - for it was mocked. It was embittered,/ - for it was slain. It was embittered,/ - for it was annihilated. It was embittered,/ - for it is now made captive. It took a body, and, lo, it discovered God. It took earth and, behold! It encountered Heaven. It took what it saw, and was overcome by what it could not see. O death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory? Christ is risen,/ and you are annihilated. Christ is risen,/ - and the demons have fallen. Christ is risen,/ - and the Angels rejoice. Christ is risen,/ - and life is liberated. Christ is risen,/ - and the tomb is emptied of the dead; for Christ, having risen from the dead, has become the first fruits of those that who fall asleep. To Him be the glory and the dominion to the Ages of Ages. Amen”

In short God loves us all- the person who fastest and the person who did not, the rich and the poor, He gives rest to him, who arrives at the eleventh hour as well as to him, who has labored from the first.

This is the beauty of our Risen Lord; this is the beauty of Christian love; this is the beauty of our Orthodox faith.

I pray that the Paschal season may give us continued grace and blessings.

*With love in the Risen Christ,  
Fr. Silviu*

# The Holy Cross Philoptochos Society

is looking for VOLUNTEERS!!  
to be part of the



Circle of Friends is a service group that supports  
the Holy Cross community in times of need(s):

- FOOD EXPRESS • SENIORCARE • GIFT BASKETS
- SOCIAL SERVICE SUPPORT • HOLY CROSS SHUTTLE

*Look for more information about  
"Circle of Friends" coming soon!*

## OUR BELMONT GREEK FESTIVAL NEEDS YOU!!!

### HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO LEARN TO COOK LIKE A PRO

. . . delicious Greek Food - we hear year after year it's the best in the Bay Area -- and in quantities enough to satisfy the cravings of THOUSANDS. **HOW?** Join us for this year's Festival cooking and baking! We will start soon and will need co-chairs (to take over the preparation of an ENTIRE dish or pastry), helpers with a little experience, helpers with NO experience, people who just want to stand by to watch and learn, and ANYONE who wants to lend a hand -- we'll order the ingredients, give you the mega-serving recipes, etc. **SO CHECK OUT** our Festival Calendar (look in the *Sunday Bulletin*) or contact the church office or **Jenny Kalaitzidis**, our cooking coordinator, 302-8564, so we'll know to contact YOU when the actual cooking and baking dates have been set.

**AGORA NEWS** - The Agora is getting ready for your donations for sale during our Festival. **We are accepting items NOW (just drop off items outside the doors to rooms K and 1).** We welcome house wares, linens, books, holiday items, jewelry, small electric items, baskets, golf clubs, bikes, small decorative pieces, china, serving pieces, toys and any miscellaneous items of value. Please—no skis, computers, printers, monitors, televisions, clothing, hardwire electric, or large upholstered furniture. We would appreciate that all items be in good condition and clean. If you think you have an item to donate, but are not sure we can accept it, please call **Mary Peros** at 347-6910. Thank you and hold on to those collectibles!!! See you at the Agora on Labor Day!!!

## UPCOMING SERVICES

*subject to change - please check your Sunday Bulletins*

Saturday, July 16 – 5:30 PM, Great Vespers

**Sunday**, July 17 – Sunday of the Holy Fathers

Wednesday, July 20 – Prophet Elias, 9 AM, Divine Liturgy

Saturday, July 23 – 5:30 PM, Great Vespers

**Sunday**, July 24 – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Matthew

**Sunday**, July 24 – Dormition of Saint Anna, Great Vespers, 7 PM (in Roseville)

Monday, July 25 – Dormition of Saint Anna, 9 AM, Divine Liturgy

Tuesday, July 26 – Saint Paraskevi, 9 AM, Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, July 27 – Saint Panteleimon, 9 AM, Divine Liturgy

Saturday, July 30 – 5:30 PM, Great Vespers

**Sunday**, July 31 – 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Matthew

Monday, August 1 – 7 PM, Paraclesis

Tuesday, August 2 – 7 PM, Paraclesis

Wednesday, August 3 – 7 PM, Paraclesis

Thursday, August 4 – 7 PM, Paraclesis

Friday, August 5 – 7 PM, Paraclesis

Saturday, August 6 – **Transfiguration of the Lord**, 9 AM, Divine Liturgy

Saturday, August 6 – 5:30 PM, Great Vespers

**Sunday**, August 7 – 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Matthew

**Sunday**, August 7 – 7 PM, Paraclesis

Monday, August 8 – 7 PM, Paraclesis

Tuesday, August 9 – 7 PM, Paraclesis

Wednesday, August 10 – 7 PM, Paraclesis

Thursday, August 11 – 7 PM, Paraclesis

Friday, August 12 – 7 PM, Paraclesis

Saturday, August 13 – 5:30 PM, Great Vespers

**Sunday**, August 14 – 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Matthew, 7 PM, Vespers

**Sunday**, August 14 – Dormition of the Theotokos, 7 PM, Vespers

Monday, August 15 – **Dormition of the Theotokos**, 9 AM, Divine Liturgy

Saturday, August 20 – 5:30 PM, Great Vespers

**Sunday**, August 21 – 9<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Matthew

Saturday, August 27 – 5:30 PM, Great Vespers

**Sunday**, August 28 – 10<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Matthew

Monday, August 29 – Beheading of Saint John the Forerunner, 9 AM, Divine Liturgy

Thursday, September 1 - Day of Indiction, 9 AM, Divine Liturgy

Saturday, September 3 – No Great Vespers

*if necessary, remove this page from Cross Currents for reference*