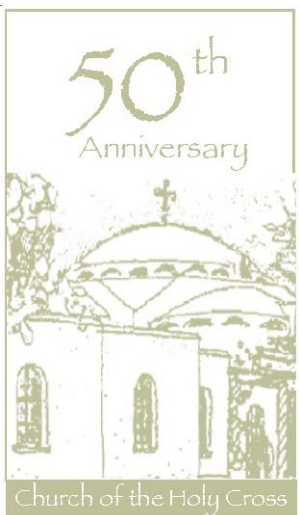


# CROSS CURRENTS

Monthly Newsletter  
SEPT / OCT 2005

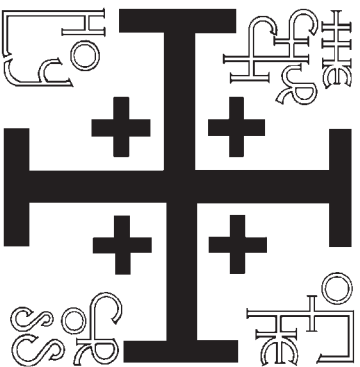


## OUR FOUNDATION IS CHRIST!

*“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”.*

With the celebration of our feast day this past September, we as a parish community entered into our Jubilee year. Fifty years ago our parish community was founded here in the Peninsula. The Greek Orthodox community of San Mateo County would grow from a fledgling parish of less than 20 families to the Church of the Holy Cross with a membership of nearly 800 families and serving several hundred more each year.

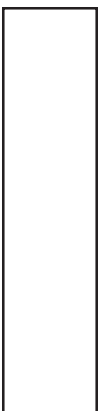
Like all fledgling parishes, families exhibited the strength of faith to guide them through the stormy waters of sacrifice and struggle to build upon the foundation, which is Christ, our Lord. The early families of our community were hard working, committed Greek Orthodox families who understood the need to establish the church for the well-being of their families and the many generations of Orthodox believers who would make the Peninsula their home. And, like the communities established by Saint Paul and chronicled in the New Testament, they share in common foundational guidance of our Lord.



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## 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.

*(continued from front cover)*

There will be many acknowledgements throughout this coming ecclesiastical year recognizing the sacrifice and hard work of many, from our founding families to our newest and most energetic stewards. However, we must never allow our focus of the Lord be distracted by these celebratory events, for without His guidance and care we would not have grown and become the spiritual center for so many.

Let us give thanks for all those who came before us and for the Grace of our Lord that guided them. May the Holy Spirit continue to bless our community for many generations to come, illumined by the light of His Cross.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

*by Jenny Cladis, Parish Council President*

### HOLY CROSS NAME DAY CELEBRATION

Our services commemorating the Feast of the Exaltation of Holy Cross mark the beginning of a year-long celebration of the 50th Anniversary of our church. Vespers was held on September 13; a dinner was served afterwards for the visiting clergy; the Divine Liturgy was held on the following day; and after the church service on Sunday, September 18, a luncheon for the community was held.

As you may recall, fifty years ago our founders had the foresight, perseverance, and religious fervor to establish this church. Some of them even mortgaged their homes to raise the needed funds! We are extremely grateful for their effort. We are also grateful to many more faithful and devoted parishioners who, with the help of God, have continued to develop our church to what it is today. We have regularly honored such parishioners in the past. At our luncheon on September 18, we were pleased to honor the following additional parishioners:

- o **Gary and Arleen Brenner**
- o **Vicki Buonocore**
- o **Frank Catomer**
- o **Kosta and Jenny Kalaitzidis**
- o **Bob and Helene Nemchik**
- o **Emily and Harry Mitsanas**

We thank Philoptochos for the dinner they prepared for the clergy following the Vesper Service. Also, we thank **Dr. Tanya Spirtos** for chairing the Luncheon on Sunday. She was assisted by **Ella Stamates** and other Parish Council members, **Elias Eleftheriades**, **Jenny Kalaitzidis** and **Presbytera Nikki**. The lovely floral arrangements were created by **Diane Stephanos**.

With the grace of God, and with our faithful parishioners, we will continue to go forward. We deeply thank our Lord for His loving hand in our church.

## MAKING *CROSS CURRENTS* THE BEST EVER

Since it was first published, *Cross Currents* has been an important way in which information regarding our parish community is distributed. It takes a great deal of time and effort to publish *Cross Currents* and keep it relevant and news worthy. Your help is needed to continue in this tradition. If you or anyone you know is interested in participating as a writer and serving on the editorial staff please contact **Father Peter** by calling the church office, 591-4447.

## A NEW RELIGIOUS EDUCATION YEAR BEGINS

Believe it or not summer is over, autumn is here, and our academic work year is in full swing. We are two months into offering our young students religious instruction and connecting them to their faith and tradition. Our Eastern Orthodox roots provide a vital link to our important historic past as well as providing them the necessary spiritual tools to confront their future.

**Anastasia Stamates** along with her very capable and very talented staff are looking forward to a great year of learning and sharing. Already our youngest students have performed before the coffee hour crowd to raise money for the Holy Trinity Cathedral in New Orleans, the oldest Greek Orthodox Church in America, and her Sunday School.

Along with a great staff of teachers, this year will prove to be a great experience for our families as they learn not only of their faith, but also of the founding of our church community. The Holy Cross Sunday School was the first parish ministry to be founded in the same year and the same month as the founding of the church community. Those first families met with their families at the IOFF Hall on Second Street in San Mateo.



Father Silviu Stanculescu and the 2005-2006 Staff of the Holy Cross Youth Religious Education Program : (left to right) Kathy Craighead, Presbyteria Nikki Salmas, Don Craighead, Khara-Maria Kalamaras, Olivia Bagis, Alexandria Combs, Gina Schmidt, Kristina Amarantos, Krystyna DeFerrari, Father Silviu, Jim Bagis, Bea Walker, Nicole Tsardoulis, Dan Kalamaras, Nadia Milhukin, Athena Kozar, Tina Cardaris, Anastasia Stamates (Director of Youth Religious Education), George Chechopoulos

If you have not yet filled out the registration form (yes, some of you have not!), please do so today and return it this coming Sunday. In addition, young men wishing to serve as acolytes will be invited to a meeting in the next few weeks outlining the duties and responsibilities of our Altar Acolytes.

If you know of a family that did not receive the forms and would like to participate in our religious education program please call the Church Office and speak with **Father Silviu**. You may also email him at [frsilviu@goholycross.org](mailto:frsilviu@goholycross.org). May our Lord bless this new year of education and learning.

## SUNRISE, SON RISE

### My Big Fat Greek Festival Blog

by *Chris Canellos*

The 2005 Belmont Greek Festival was one of the most successful ever. The combination of reasonable weather, great attendance, our hard-working and talented cast and crew and God's blessings combined to make the Labor Day Weekend event a culinary masterpiece, an aesthetically pleasing spectacle and a financial success. Thanks to all of you who gave so freely of your time, treasure and talent to this great venture.

Congratulations to **Bob Nemchik** and **Peter Bibbes** who ably planned and led this effort. In so many ways, Bob and his family have profoundly shaped the Festival into its current form. Bob and his wife **Helene** envisioned the beautiful windmill structure that adorns our grounds during Festival season. Bob brings the crew together to put up the structure each year. Along with **Jim Stephanos**, Bob also modeled and built the food booths that allow us to serve so many more Festival goers. And in this festival, he responded to every call, tapping into a great supporting cast, to see the great project through.

Helene directs the Festival play each year. Grateful Festival patrons fill the Amphitheatre for each performance of these delightful plays that are adapted from Greek mythology. More important is the great learning opportunity that the young actors and actresses enjoy.

This year's play, *Jason (Craighead) and the Argonauts*, was adapted by talented daughter **Alexandra** and included daughter **Gabby** in the cast.

With Bob as the good builder, Peter "engineered" the Festival to its successful conclusion, seeing to it that deadlines were met and details were being minded in the months before the Festival. Peter also kept a close eye on preparing the facilities to host the event. **Fran** had a hand in several areas including the Agora and Hellenika.

The coolest heads at 900 Alameda during any festival are those of **Tyke** and **Ella Stamates**, whose experience at chairing festivals for many years is so valuable. Tyke is always "there," coordinating a small army of maintenance workers, directing traffic, locating things we could not find and keeping many of us on track. Ella's indomitable and optimistic spirit was truly infectious for all of us. She made hundreds of phone calls to obtain and schedule volunteers. Responding to my desperate call, she summoned **Alex** and **Willie Geranios** and **Callie Spirtos** to help with the raffle, which they turned into a great success.

And where would we be without the practical genius of **Mary** and **Nick Peros**. The 2004 Festival was affected by the loss of the Agora. Numerous Festival goers complained last year that they missed the Agora! Mary Peros would not allow that to happen again! She made the Agora a priority this year, chairing this popular area, and as Philoptochos president, organizing teams of Philoptochos ladies and other volunteers including many of the Agora veterans, to work long hours during the summer to get all the "flea market" items ready. They cleaned them up, organized them, priced them, laid them out in a beautiful display and manned the area during the three-day Festival. The result of their hard work and dedication was a wonderful \$9,000 of clear profit for the Church! I was truly amazed at the quality of the items and how nicely they were arrayed. Thanks to Mary and all who worked tirelessly to bring back this great Festival tradition.

Not to be outdone, Nick seized upon a new project by chairing the Fun Zone children's area. One of his first moves was to enlist the capable help of **Brenda Visas**, who is somewhat new to our community but full of ideas and energy. Brenda had a great vision of an area packed with entertaining games and activities for the younger Festi-

val-goers, and she created a fantastic layout with more facilities than ever before. But she needed a large staff of young people and parents to produce a fun and safe environment. Enter Mr. Peros, who called every home of any family with middle school or



younger children and found more than sixty willing volunteers. Nick lined them up in shifts and arranged day captains as well. (He also took time to give a golf lesson to my son on Monday for the cost of one blue ticket!) Kudos to Nick as well as his excellent day captains: Brenda, **Elaine** and **Harry Breeze**, **Kathy Roque** and **Irene Fotinos**, and the many volunteers who kept our kids safe and well-entertained. Brenda receives my first nomination for Festival Rookie of the Year, due to her fine work in organizing the layout of the Fun Zone. The Fun Zone truly became the place to be during the day, especially Saturday, when our resident children's troubadour, **Andy Z(amenes)**, lit up the faces of young and old, with his great talent. Watch out, Santa, Andy Z is moving into your territory! When it was all said and done, the Fun Zone more than doubled its gross revenue from the previous year. Final score at the Peros household : Fun Zone \$9,141, Agora \$8,986. (Anyone for a recount?)

The Festival days began very early. Preparations began at 5 AM each day with **Tanya Spirtos** and **Gary Brenner** baking the moussakas, pastitsios and pitas, so all the delicious food was ready by the noon opening. **George Milanos** brought moral support in the form of lattes. Head chef **Thomy Iuppa** began her day a little later. She was responsible for assuring the continuous supply of hot food flowing to the busy food lines, particularly challenging on Saturday and Sunday evenings. Tanya's daughter, **Alex**, and **John Ropoulos** followed Thomy's instructions, moving food in and out of ovens, cutting and garnishing and carrying food out to the lines to be served. **Alexandra Capraro**, Tanya's mother, made sure that the serving lines were running well and ordered food items from the kitchen as they ran low. Parish Council

President **Jenny Cladis** greeted the hungry customers and made sure we had enough volunteers to serve the food. Another Rookie of the Year candidate, **Dan Kalamaras**, was busily cooking chicken and helping in any way he could. And one by one, thousands of people were magically served their delicious Greek favorites and by the end of the weekend, our cashiers led by **Anastasia Terranova**, who came back from Tennessee to help, had collected over \$83,000! Awesome!

The Festival is a very fragile enterprise. Imagine what would happen if the Band could not play because of an electrical problem. Or if we lost running water in the kitchen. Game over! Well, not if you have **Don Craighead** on your team. Within two hours on Saturday, the talented contractor dealt with both problems and got the Festival on track.

Many contributed to the aesthetic side of the Festival. The play was a wonderful blending of the talents of accomplished high school and middle school thespians, as well as children at the elementary school level. The plot was captivating and funny, the stagecraft featured a Colossus and a giant dragon. The kids were great!! Special thanks to **George** and **Linda Chechopoulos** for the offerings of three of their children, **Ani**, **Aris** and **Raquel**.

**George Liviakis** once again presented the Festival Ensemble singing Greek folk song favorites and arranged once more the appearance of the Aurora Mandolin Orchestra, which played music from all over the Mediterranean area. These performances are always a great hit for Festival audiences.

Hymns of our faith were presented Sunday afternoon by our choir under the direction of **Steve Cardiasmenos**. This is a wonderful opportunity for those in the community-at-large to sample the beautiful hymnology of our church.

How proud we are of our four dance groups – *Epitihia*, *Enomeni*, *Angeloudakia* and *Kamari Mas*. Beautifully clad, they expertly danced the steps of our heritage. Thanks go to **Kathy Roque**, the leader of the dance program, and to the dancers, the instructors and parents, who work so hard each year.

The Festival is replete with heroes, the **Fetscos** at the Kafenion, **Evan Economos** and the **Sarles** family at the Deli, **Tony**, **Leo**, **Dimitri**

and **Kostas** shouting out “Kalamari” with every order, **Annette Vlahos’** program book, **Ted** and **Mary Pappas** and all who prepared and served those wonderful loukoumades, **George** and his Lamb team, the chairmen and team members who work all summer long to prepare all the delicious food, those who cooked and served the gyro and souvlakia, poured the drinks and prepared and served all the delicious pastries and those who added up all the receipts! And at the hub, the dependable and tireless **office staff**, making signs, paying bills, answering thousands of questions and making us all look good, even when we often forget ourselves.

If you were part of this team, you are a champion! The 35th annual Festival banner will always fly very high in the history of Holy Cross. *Ke tou hronou!*

If you were not part of the team, tryouts for next year are only weeks away. With just a few more willing hands, 2006 will be even better!!

## WE NEED KIDS/TEENS SHOES!!



The children/teens (aged 1 to 17) from the Hogar Rafael Orthodox Orphanage in Guatemala are in desperate need of shoes.

Please help us by bringing your used (but clean and usable) shoes to church until November 25. Place all shoes in a labeled bag (with “Orphanage” written on it) to the narthex. For more information, call **Claire Gagas** at 589-5051.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!!

## HOLY CROSS BENEVOLENCE FUND STILL ACTIVE

by *Virginia Lagiss*



The Holy Cross Benevolence Committee was organized in the 1980’s by John Athanasiou and George Anagnostou and administered by **Father Peter** and the following Committee members after several requests were received to give financial aid to families from Greece which needed thousands of dollars to help cure and improve heart conditions: Chairman **Mary Pappas**, M.A. who has expertise in social services, **Dr. Peter Economus**, medical doctor, the Philoptochos President, now **Mary Peros**, and two members at large, **Dr. John Cladis** and **Virginia Lagiss**. Funds available are invested in a Franklin Fund, which earns interest and has a checking account. All actions are highly confidential. They were assisted by **Marika Tsadoulias** and **Jenny Hatzopoulos**.

Funds were raised for each individual case as needed. It was decided by our then Pastor and several individuals who were raising funds, to invest in the Franklin Fund to have cash available. People within and outside our parish, regardless of race or creed, has been assisted. Cases are investigated thoroughly and all information is kept confidential. During the years at least 50 families have received financial aid.

Persons who know of a needy case should speak confidentially to our Pastor, Father Peter, or to one of the Committee members.

Although no one has applied for aid recently, in past years people have requested grants or informal loans. Most loans have never been repaid into the Holy Cross Benevolence Fund. Funds have been contributed to the recent tsunami disaster in Southeast Asia and will be forwarded to the Hurricane Katrina relief efforts.

Funds are raised from donations, memorials or honorariums from individuals. O.R.A. has been faithful in making memorial contributions. Some of our parishioners have sent memorials during the

years made out to Holy Cross Benevolence Fund. These donations are directed to our current Chairman Mary Pappas. The chairman records them, prepares acknowledgements for mailing and leaves them with Father Peter to review and mail.

Major contributions come from our Philoptochos, which donates a substantial monetary gift at the annual Vasilopita celebration in January commemorating the fest day of St. Basil the Great.

The Committee is protective of the Fund so that there will always be some funds available for our own parishioners who may be in need. Anyone who knows of a case that should be investigated should contact Father Peter or a Committee member. The Committee will meet to determine action.

## "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. We are currently on "hiatus" because of the holiday seasons. Check the *Sunday Bulletins* to find out when we resume. 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. Thank you!

## MEETINGS & UPCOMING EVENTS



*Also, please check your Sunday Bulletins for the dates and times of all meetings in the Ecclesiastical New Year.*

**Weekdays**, 4:30-6:30 PM - Greek School (Classrooms and Fireside Room)

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

**Mondays**, 3:30 PM - Toddler Play Group (Gym)

**Mondays**, 7 PM - Studies in the Faith (Contos Library)

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

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

First **Tuesday** of the month, 7 PM – Philoptochos Board (Classrooms)

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

**Wednesdays**, 5 PM - Adult Greek School

**Wednesdays**, 4-5:30 PM - Greek Conversation Class

**Thursdays**, 7 PM - Evening Bible Study (Contos Library)

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

Second and Fourth **Tuesdays** of the month, 7 PM - HOPE, JOY, and Junior GOYA

Second **Tuesdays** (7 PM) and fourth **Sundays** (TBA) of the month - GOYA

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)

## 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.

## FESTIVAL SPONSORS

We missed including some very generous Festival sponsors in the Program and Guide Book but include them here with our thanks for helping make our annual food faire a wonderfully successful event :

*Pat Lagiss  
George & Celia Manetis  
M.S. & Vera Wasacz*

## A SPECIAL THANK YOU

It’s been on my mind for the longest time to some how thank all of the nice people who have helped us move forward. After Vicki’s passing, having people around the kids was the greatest way to help keep their minds busy.

Sitting alone in your room is terrible. Good friends, family and the community sure helped us. My kids could have easily gone off the wrong end, but kind people like all of you kept us on the right track.

The shock of Vicki passing was a nightmare. Almost three years have passed and I still have a hard time believing it today. I have shared my feelings with some of you.

We didn’t need the food, but the food was a comfortable way to have people around. Thank you for the nice dinners, I remember Pauline asking me to let everyone bring food, she convinced me it would be good for everyone, and she was right. I believe Vicki would have also been very supportive to any family that was feeling grief. Vicki was a very loving, giving person, that never spoke an unkind word about anyone. She had a classy way about her. I think a lot of her friends looked up to her. Not just because she was tall.

Adrianna was crying last night about her mom. Still it’s so hard. Especially with the holiday’s approaching and Vicki’s three years coming up. Anyway, thank you all for helping me with my kids. Vicki always kept them busy and I try to do the same.

Alexa is back to playing soccer and Greek dancing after 3 years

of being absent. She is also getting straight A's at Notre Dame. Adrianna is playing piano, soccer and Greek dancing and doing great in school. Dino is going to college, surfing and motorcycle riding.

Thank you for your continued love and support.

Love,

*George Boubalos*

## SPOTLIGHT

### HOLY CROSS FILLED WITH RADIO STARS

Two of our Council members **Gary Brenner** and **Tanya Spirtos** made the news recently . . . in good ways. Both appeared on KGO radio (810 AM) in interviews.

Lawyer Gary was the guest expert on the new bankruptcy laws and survived a grueling interview by newscaster **Rosie Allen** and guest-interviewer **Phil Matier**. (Just kidding about the "grueling" part, it sounded like Rosie melted over Gary's accent.) Dr. Tanya was interviewed by a KGO reporter on the potential easy availability of a contraceptive pill.

Speaking of Dr. Tanya, our former Parish Council President was recently elected to the significantly loftier position of President of the Santa Clara County Medical Association. Congrats Tanya!

### 2005-2006 CARNEGIE SCHOLARS NAMED

*Stanford, CA, March 2005* - The Carnegie Academy for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (CASTL) has selected the 2005-2006 class of Carnegie Scholars, 21 outstanding faculty members who will work together to craft and share new models for teaching, learning, and research.



This year's Scholars include **Mark S. Cladis**, Professor of Philosophy, Religious Studies, and Environmental Studies at Brown University. He has authored and edited many books in his field and has written over thirty articles. After receiving his doctorate from Princeton University, where he studied philosophy and social theory as they relate to the field of religious studies, he taught at the University of North Carolina, Stanford University, and at Vassar College where he served as Chair for six years.

His publications and teaching pertain to the history of Western political, social, and religious thought, especially the religious nature and origins of liberal, democratic society. Religion and the environment is another subject of his research and teaching.

Mark's proud parents are our resident physicist, **Dr. John Cladis**, and our Parish Council President, Mrs. **Jenny Cladis**. Congratulations!

## CARDINAL POOF

by *Konstantine Salmas*

Blood is part of the everyday reality in Scripture. When one of the people sin, an animal is killed so the sin is forgiven. The Lord is very closely connected to these offerings which bring forgiveness. The Lord gives this instruction to the people. He asks for the killing so the people's sin will be forgiven. The idea of offering to God is one of the most important themes in Scripture and the sin offering for forgiveness - killing of goat, ox, etc - is a primary way in which a person's status with God is understood.

Against this background of sacrifice, offering, sin, forgiveness, and God, we understand the salvation of Christ. Offering, sin, and sacrifice are close to God, they are how God operates. These words carry little currency any more because what we do and what we read do not deal with these words. They are disappearing from our vocabulary because they carry less and less weight in how life plays out. Our background has changed, but at church we hear these words still.

What we know of Christ from Scripture is that he built his understanding on the sorts of ideas put forward by the community of Israel over time. We also know that his disciples and the gospel writers looked to understand Jesus through these same Scriptural ideas. This shared understanding that Jesus is the Christ and that Christ's Resurrection shows God's steadfast care for His creation, is the beginning of faith in and understanding about one God. This understanding was put forward first by Christ. Those people who share Christ's understanding make up the Church, where offering, sin, sacrifice, and forgiveness, still carry the weight God expects them to carry for us.

## EVENING BIBLE STUDY CONTINUES

“*Bible Study : A Topical Study*” for young adults, adults, and those seeking scriptural guidance in their daily lives will continue at 7 PM in the Contos Library on **THURSDAYS**. If you are interested in attending please call Father Peter and/or Konstantine Salmas at 591-4447. Some of the topics include :

- (1) The Incarnation and Man : Time/Revelation
- (2) Discipleship and Modern Life : Sacrifice/Witness
- (3) The Holy Trinity : Our Model : Hospitality/Communion
- (4) The Mystery of Love and Passions : Identity/Hosea
- (5) The Healing Nature of Forgiveness : Salvation/*Theosis*
- (6) The Apocalypse and the Lord's Return : Creation/Worship
- (7) The Holy Scriptures and the Mind of the Church : Christ/Chrysostom's Paschal Letter
- (8) Stewardship and the Care of God's Creation : Ego/Fasting
- (9) Image and Likeness and Our Humanity : Holiness/Evil/Psalms
- (10) Discernment and Wisdom : Councils/Heresy

## PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

*The Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos Board and  
Its Chapters Invite You and Your Friends to...*

Our Annual Holiday Brunch



**“O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL...”**

Saturday, December 3, 2005

Nativity of Christ Greek Orthodox Church  
1110 Highland Drive, Novato

An Elegant 11 a.m. Reception  
followed by a Superb Luncheon at Noon

Three Christmas Tree Drawings with  
Prizes under the Trees, Valued at \$1,000 Plus  
Holiday Entertainment to Greet the Season



Honoring Evie Karas for her years of service as the Metropolis Philoptochos Board Treasurer  
Guest Speaker: Pete Sotiras, Youth Director, Metropolis of San Francisco

*Please use the reservation forms, available in the Narthex.*

Your Holiday Tickets will be held at the door. Please Make Reservations No Later than November 20, 2005.  
For Further Information/Reservations, Please Contact: Pat Alek (415) 431-2600 or Rose Hunter (415) 491-4159  
Proceeds will benefit the Bishop Anthony Student Aid Endowment Fund which supports our Seminarians/Students from  
Our Metropolis at the Holy Cross Collegiate Holy Cross Seminary Brookline, Massachusetts.

## PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Elections for the Parish Council term of 2006-07 will be held **Sunday, December 4** following Liturgy. All candidates must fill in a Petition of Candidacy form and attend one of two Parish Council Candidates Seminar meetings (**Mondays, November 21** or **November 28**) to qualify. Candidacy forms are available in church or by calling the church office. PLEASE NOTE : All members wishing to cast a ballot MUST be current on their Stewardship Pledge for 2005.

# YOUTH CURRENTS

September / October 2005 edition

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

2 Peter 3:18



## KEEP YOUR FORK



Beloved in Christ,

Please allow me to share this beautiful story with you  
. . . it is entitled: “Keep Your Fork”

There was a young woman who had been diagnosed with a terminal illness and had been given three months to live. As she was getting her things “in order,” she contacted her pastor and had him come to her house to discuss certain aspects of her final wishes. She told him which songs she wanted sung at the service, what scriptures she would like read, and what outfit she wanted to be buried in. Everything was in order and the pastor was preparing to leave when the young woman suddenly remembered something very important to her. “There’s one more thing,” she said excitedly. “What’s that?” came the pastor’s reply. “This is very important,” the young woman continued. “I want to be buried with a fork in my right hand.” The pastor stood looking at the young woman, not knowing quite what to say. “That surprises you, doesn’t it?” the young woman asked. “Well, to be honest, I’m puzzled by the request,” said the pastor. The young woman explained. “My grandmother once told me this story, and from there on out, I have always done so. I have also, always tried to pass along its message to those I love and those who are in need of encouragement.

### Grandmother’s Story

In all my years of attending church socials and potluck dinners, I always remember that when the dishes of the main course were being cleared, someone would inevitably lean over and say, “Keep your fork.” It was my favorite part because I knew that something better was coming . . . like velvety chocolate cake or deep-dish apple pie. Something wonderful, and with substance! So, I just want people to see me there in that casket with a fork in my hand and I want them to wonder: “What’s with the fork?” Then I want you to tell them: “Keep your fork . . . the best is yet to come.”

The pastor’s eyes welled up with tears of joy as he hugged the young woman good-bye. He knew this would be one of the last times he would see her before her death. But he also knew that the young woman had a better grasp of what heaven would be like, than many people twice her age, with twice as much experience and knowledge. She KNEW that something better was coming.

At the funeral people were walking by the young woman’s casket and they saw the pretty dress she was wearing and the fork placed in her right hand. Over and over, the pastor heard the question: “What’s with the fork?” And over and over he smiled. During his message, the pastor told the people of the conversation he had with the young woman shortly before she died. He also told them about the fork and about what it symbolized to her. The pastor told the people how he could not stop thinking about the fork and told them that they probably would not be able to stop thinking about it either. He was right. So the next time you reach down for your fork, let it remind you ever so gently, that the best is yet to come!

God bless, *Fr. Silviu*

# CHRISTMAS PLAY AUDITIONS

will be held **Monday, November 21** and rehearsals will begin the week after Thanksgiving. **Saturday, December 10** will be a mandatory rehearsal from 10-4 (lunch will be provided) and the show is **Sunday, December 11** at 6:30. See or call **Helene** or **Alexandra Nemchik** for details (345-2719)..

## YOUTH KICK OFF 2005

Our Youth ministry year began on September 25 with our annual Youth Kick Off Dinner and Orientation. **Father Silviu** introduced the new members of this year's Youth Council as well as the new chair Mr. **Mark Simon**.

One of the changes that will take place involves our high school GOYAns. GOYA will meet every second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 PM in the Contos Library and every fourth Sunday of the month for an activity. Our other youth groups will continue to meet the second and fourth Tuesday of every month following the dance practices.

An outline of the major youth events for this coming year will include a series of speakers to address parents and their children on a number of important topics as well as a special 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary project.

In addition our youth families were encouraged to prepare "health kits" for the Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita victims. The response was great, sending nearly 150 kits to Lake Charles, LA, one of the hardest hit areas after Hurricane Rita. **Father Chris Flesoras** of the Church of Saint Anna in Roseville coordinated the San Franciscan Metropolis effort that helped raise our awareness and a great deal of aid, nearly \$66,000 worth of goods for the hurricane victims. We thank all who participated in this outpouring of love from our parish.

Do not forget that you can support the Youth Ministries of Holy Cross by signing up for "e-Scrip". Please speak with a member of the Youth Council for details. If you have signed up in the past remember that you need to renew your support every year. See you soon.

## GREEK SCHOOL NEWS

*September / October 2005 edition*



Our Greek School started this year with over 100 students in all programs, five new teachers and two new classes (for teen-agers)

We welcome all of them, wishing them a year full of success, and progress!

## OXI DAY

by *Κλεων* Skourtis

This past October 28 marked the 65th anniversary of a very historic day in Greek history.

Our students participated in the celebration of the "OXI" day which took place in the San Francisco city hall, the event was organized by the UHAS, among the Mayor of San Francisco were other dignitaries with special guest the former Prime Minister of Greece **Mr. Kostantinos Mitsotakis** and the Mayor of Athens **Mrs. Dora Bakoyianni**.

During the official celebration, our students **Chrysa Perakis**, **Dimitris Frangos** and **Nikos Chatziyiannis** recited various poems.

Let us join Greece, the people of Greek descent, the country, and the world in saluting the courageous acts of the Greeks against Mussolini and Hitler. On October 28, 1940, the Italian Minister in Athens gave an ultimatum to the Prime Minister of Greece, (Ioannis Metaxas) demanding the unconditional surrender of Greece. His answer was "Oxi," which means "no" in Greek.

The victory of the Greek Army against the Italians astonished the world. The heroic stance by the Greeks against insurmountable odds was the first glimmer of hope for the Allies, and today we can take great pride in those who risked their lives to defend their country.

The event in San Francisco was concluded by the raising of the Greek flag and singing the national anthems.

+ = + = + = +



▼ (l-r) Chrysa Perakis, Dimitris, Nikos



▲ (l-r) Antonis Chatziyiannis, Nikos Chatziyiannis, Theodora Kounalakis, Dimitris Frangos, Kleon Skourtis, Maria Frangos



▼ (l-r) Chrysa; The Honorable Dora Bakoyiannis, Mayor of Athens; Dimitris; Kleon; Nikos



▲ Former Prime Minister of Greece, Mr. Konstantinos Mitsotakis

We would like to share with you this letter from **Dr. Mavro-matis** the former Director of the Department of Greek Education in San Francisco.



ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΕΘΝΙΚΗΣ ΠΑΙΔΕΙΑΣ ΚΑΙ ΘΡΗΣΚΕΥΜΑΤΩΝ  
ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΙΚΟ ΙΝΣΤΙΤΟΥΤΟ

ΓΙΑΝΝΗΣ ΜΑΥΡΟΜΜΑΤΗΣ  
ΠΑΡΕΔΡΟΣ  
ΤΜ. ΕΠΙΜΟΡΦΩΣΗΣ / ΑΞΙΟΛΟΓΗΣΗΣ  
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ΚΙΝ.: 694-7750742  
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ΠΡΟΣ  
ΤΟ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟ ΣΧΟΛΕΙΟ  
ΤΙΜΙΟΥ ΣΤΑΥΡΟΥ  
BELMONT  
CALIFORNIA  
USA

Αθήνα 20 Σεπτεμβρίου 2005

Αγαπητοί μου μαθητές, εκπαιδευτικοί και γονείς,

Με το ξεκίνημα της νέας σχολικής χρονιάς, 2005-06, θα ήθελα να σας στείλω εγκάρδιες ευχές από την πατρίδα για υγεία, προκοπή και κάθε προσωπική ευτυχία.

Με χαρά και συγκίνηση πήρα από τον αγαπητό φίλο κ. Κλέωνα Σκούρτη τις εφημερίδες και τα φυλλάδια με τα εκπαιδευτικά προγράμματα που κάνει το σχολείο σας. Εντυπωσιάζει η καλαισθητή εμφάνισή τους και το πλούσιο περιεχόμενο. Ιδιαίτερα μου αρέσουν οι συμμετοχές των μαθητών του Ελληνικού Σχολείου. Χάρηκα βλέποντας αρκετούς παλιούς και αγαπητούς φίλους να είναι συντάκτες και συνεργάτες της εφημερίδας. Σας συγχαίρω γιατί με την εφημερίδα σας κρατάτε ζωντανή τη φλόγα του Ελληνισμού στο Belmont και για τα νέα προγράμματα που προσφέρει το Σχολείο σας.

Όπως πάντα, δάσκαλοι και γονείς είσαστε προοδευτικοί και πρωτοπόροι σε κάθε τι που προάγει τον Ελληνισμό στη Bay Area. Συχνά θυμάμαι τις όμορφες ημέρες που περάσαμε μαζί είτε αναπτύσσοντας εκπαιδευτικά προγράμματα και επιμορφωτικά σεμινάρια για τους δασκάλους των Δυτικών Πολιτειών στο Σχολείο σας, είτε απολαμβάνοντας το Ελληνικό σας Φεστιβάλ παρά με εκλεκτούς ευγενείς και φιλόξενους φίλους από την Κοινότητά σας.

Συνεχίστε με ενθουσιασμό. Η πατρίδα είναι περήφανη για όλους σας και για την πρόδοό σας.

Με τιμή  
  
Γιάννης Μαυρομμάτης

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## UPCOMING SERVICES

*subject to change - please check your Sunday Bulletins*

Sunday Services:

**Orthros at 8:45 AM, Divine Liturgy at 10 AM**

Saturday, November 12 – 5:30 PM, Great Vespers

**Sunday**, November 13 – Sunday

Wednesday, November 16 – Matthew the Evangelist, 9 AM, Divine  
Liturgy

Saturday, November 19 – 5:30 PM, Great Vespers

**Sunday**, November 20 – Sunday

Monday, November 21 – Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple, 9  
AM, Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, November 23 – Saint Clement of Rome, (Thanksgiving  
Eve), 7 PM, Vespers

Saturday, November 26 – 5:30 PM, Great Vespers

**Sunday**, November 27 – Sunday

Saturday, December 3 – 5:30 PM, Great Vespers

**Sunday**, December 4 – Saint Barbara, 9 AM, Divine Liturgy

Monday, December 5 – Saint Savas, 9 AM, Divine Liturgy

Tuesday, December 6 – Saint Nicholas, 9 AM Divine Liturgy

Friday, December 9 – Saint Anna, 9 AM, Divine Liturgy

Saturday, December 10 – 5:30 PM, Great Vespers

**Sunday**, December 11 – Sunday

Monday, December 12 – Saint Spyridon, 9 AM, Divine Liturgy

Thursday, December 15 – Saint Eleftherios, 9 AM, Divine Liturgy

Saturday, December 17 – Saint Dionysios, 9 AM, Divine Liturgy

Saturday, December 17 – 5:30 PM, Great Vespers

**Sunday**, December 18 – Sunday before Nativity

Saturday, December 24 – 5:30 PM, Great Vespers (tentative)

**Sunday**, December 25 – Holy Nativity

Tuesday, December 27 – Saint Stephen, 9 AM, Divine Liturgy

Saturday, December 31 – 7 PM, Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil