



CROSS CURRENTS

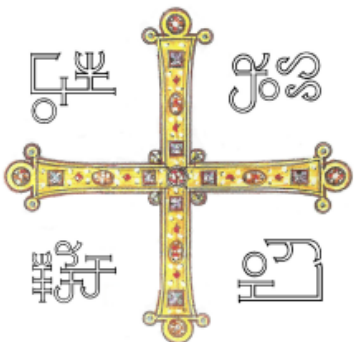
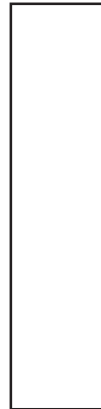
Church Newsletter
January/February 2011

BE IT RESOLVED

by *Father Peter Salmas, Pastor*



In beginning a new year, I am sure many of us have thoughts regarding how we will make this year better and more productive. Although for the Church, September is the start of a new year ecclesiastically, the Church also views January and the many commemorations in this month as opportunities for renewal and growth, especially spiritually and intellectually. In today's readings I came across a reflection from Saint Nikolai Velimirovich who writes the following regarding our Christian faith and the valuable standards our faith embraces. He says, "The Christian Faith is the only Faith in the world that has one determined and never changing standard of values." He also shares with us what St. John Chrysostom says about how Christianity measures and classifies its values. Saint John Chrysostom says, "**Things have a three-fold distinction: the first are good and cannot be evil, for example: wisdom, charity and the like; the second are evil and can never be good, for example: perversion, inhumanity and cruelty. The third, at times becomes this or at times becomes that, whenever, according to the disposition of those who make use of it.**" This divine teacher explains, "how riches and poverty, and freedom and slavery, and power and disease and even death itself fall into the neutral distinction which, are neither good nor evil by themselves, but become either this or that according to the disposition of men and according to the use which men make of them. For example, if riches were good and poverty evil, then all rich men would be good and all the poor would be evil. However, we are daily convinced that as there are good and evil rich men,



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so also are there good and evil poor men. The same can be applied to the healthy and the sick, to the free and the enslaved, to the satiated and the hungry, to those who are in authority and to those under subjugation. Even death is not evil, for the martyrs, through death, became more fortunate than all.”

As the chief of God’s creation, we are given all of the abilities and talents needed to care for our world as a place reflective of God’s grace and mercy. However, as St. John states, our disposition can take the beauty and good in our world and distort it to reflect the opposite.

As we begin this new year 2011, let us meditate on the words and examples that Saint Nikolai and Saint John Chrysostom offer as instruction and apply them, and resolve that through truth faith and proper commitment, we will seek to bring greater glory to God. May our Lord bless us with good health, strength of faith, and the love of God and one another to the benefit of all.

CLINGY

by *Konstantine Salmas, Lay Assistant*



When a memory continues to be easily accessible, it is a seal. I have several memories like this. I could imprint them on paper or carve them and use them as seals. One is of Piraeus from two thousand and three. A teacher of mine and a group of classmates.

I continue to be embarrassed by him because he did not represent me. I was not surprised. He thinks he best represents me by writing essays that pile up in books on library shelves. They do not make up entirely for his incoherent dealings with us. I imagine that no matter how often he represented us on our trip a thousand times, we would be disappointed.

He was a plant pulled partially up from the pot so that the bottom secures its stability from being gripped at an angle by the inside of the pot. Dirt is sprinkled like circles that are pulled into loose forms. I wanted to put my professor in the clay pot and pack all the soil onto the top.

Instead, he sits there, a man with all the degrees in the world, the day bringing out an imprint of hotel water on his t-shirt. I am embarrassed that he was representing us to the various groups of church people we were meeting. He was speaking for us even when he wasn’t speaking. I dislike what he was saying even when he wasn’t talking.

The church moves with faith, in a way like a boat cutting through night water. This is the image that I think represents me. There is room for my disappoint in him under the image of the boat cutting through the water so that two long crests rise up and hold their position. This is because the Church has room for my petty conclusions and disappointments about people. It continues to cut through the water and pull two cresting hedges of water behind it, despite the fact that my dogmatics professor misrepresented us in Greece and despite the fact that I wanted him to leave us alone.

A NEW BEGINNING...

by *Ella Stamates, Bible Study Student*

A new year has begun and so I thought it might be a time that a few might be looking for pursuit of a lively endeavor not considered before, specifically, Tuesday morning Bible Study. Indeed, it is lively, it is challenging, it is solid with knowledge, and spiritually strengthening. We continue to survey the Orthodox Study Bible and other religious writings led by our esteemed teacher, **Konstantine Salmas** along with the powerful spiritual guidance of **Father Peter**. In addition, we share experiences that we have, ask questions about what we are reading, open up discussions about what we are not sure of, and so much more as we work together every week from 10 AM to Noon. There's always room in the class for more and all are welcome to join us in The Oaks on **Tuesdays**. Drop in or call the church office and let Konstantine know that you are coming. We look forward to seeing you soon.

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS

STANFORD'S LUCK

by *Fr. Pete Sotiras, Assistant Priest**

Sophomore quarterback **Andrew Luck** had a tremendous season this past year. He led the Stanford Cardinal to an impressive win over Virginia Tech in the Orange Bowl and solidified his status as the hottest college football quarterback in the country. All the pro football teams were salivating, hoping that Luck would enter the NFL. Teams were no doubt going to offer him big money. And yet, despite all that, Luck just recently decided that he would stay at Stanford to get his architectural design degree.



There's no question that Luck's move is very unusual (and refreshing!) for a college athlete. So many athletes decide to leave college early to get the big paycheck and to be able to play on the biggest stage of sports, where the whole world is watching. What makes Luck's decision even more amazing is that by staying, he runs the risk of his value not being worth as much because of injury. Also, by not entering the NFL Draft this year, he will not be offered as much as he could have because the NFL is planning to put a limit on the salaries of rookies after this Draft. All this begs the question of why would Luck pass all this up for a degree? How a degree could be more important than a contract worth millions of dollars and all the publicity that comes with it?

Luck's decision teaches us that not everything that is glitzy, glamorous or sparkling is the real deal. There is something much more secure and powerful than a lot of money and popularity. A college degree, especially in our day of age, is worth a lot. In our society, having a degree gives you an advantage in securing a job. No matter what happens to Luck, once he has his degree, he will be able to secure himself a decent, if not an excellent, career. The same cannot be said for pro football. There are many pro athletes who ended up broke after they left their sport because they spent all their money and were unable to find a job because they had no degree. There's also the possibility of getting injured in pro sports and not being able to make the money you were planning to make. At the end of the day, despite all that Luck would have gotten, it wouldn't have been as secure as a degree.

The same can be said for our Orthodox faith. Sometimes, it doesn't seem like being Orthodox is as nice, attractive or glamorous as other things in life are. We may prefer to get drunk and do drugs in order to be accepted by the popular crowd. We may prefer to sleep with someone before marriage. We may prefer to cheat in school or at sports so that we can get into the best school or so that we can be a starter on the varsity team. We may want to lie to our parents and friends in order to get what we want. In all these scenarios, what we prefer and want is the attractive and glamorous option, but it is not the most secure option.

We need to do what Luck did, and refuse these attractive and enticing options in favor of those options that are long-lasting and secure. The secure option is the one that allows you to stay true to your Orthodox identity. You will always have a secure option in every decision that is put before you. When we stay true to our Orthodox identity, we remain faithful to God—there is nothing more secure and powerful than that. When we refuse to get drunk or do drugs, or refuse to sleep with someone before marriage, or refuse to cheat or lie, we are remaining faithful to our Orthodox identity and to God. When we choose the more attractive and glamorous option, we are setting ourselves up for disappointment and disaster. When we choose wisely, when we choose to be true to our Orthodox identity, we are absolutely secure and are setting ourselves up for true happiness and fulfillment, because we are rooted in Jesus Christ.

Yes, Fr. Pete **did write this article.*



GREEK SCHOOL NEWS

The Greek School is proud to announce that we have been chosen as an official center for the Greek Language Certification Examination for 2011.

The registration process will take place between **February 1 - March 21**. Testing will take place on **May 10, 11 and 12**.

<u>Level</u>	<u>Date</u>
Á1 (children 8-12)	Tues. May 10th (morning)
Á1 (ages 12-adult)	Tues. May 10th (morning)
Â2	Tues. May 10th (afternoon)
Ã1	Tues. May 10th (evening)
Ä2	Wed. May 11 (morning)
Å1	Wed. May 11 (evening)
Ã2	Thurs. May 12 (morning)

For detailed information about Greek school please look at our web site: <http://belmontgreeksschool.com/>

NEWS

ORA

Its that time again, a time for giving. As in the past ORA members have participated in Family to Family sharing, and last year donated over \$1,000. Your generous donations went in a special fund to purchase vouchers for food, gifts, and clothes to be given to the needy at Christmas. Holy Cross Church has again, as in past years, adopted 30 families from the Samaritan House. These families have been selected because they are the poorest of the poor, & the most in need.

Do you know what Samaritan Houses slogan is? It is “Neighbors helping Neighbors”. As I look around this room, I think I can honestly say that not one of us has a neighbor who needs our help. In our neighborhoods, we live in beautiful houses, on beautiful streets, with all the toys that make our lives comfortable. We truly have been blessed.

But here in affluent San Mateo County, there are neighbors who do need our help, and most of us are not even aware of this going on day after day. Let us again this year open up our hearts to the less fortunate - the families who stand line at Samaritan House Kitchen to receive a hot meal that for some will be the only meal of the day; The families who stand in line at the Armory on North Humboldt Street for a bed and warm blanket for the night; and the families who again have to tell their children that Santa cant bring them a toy, new shoes, or jacket. These families can hardly pay their bills or buy food let alone buy toys and clothes for the kids, and they are most grateful to take home a bag of groceries that has been donated from Safeway or Luckys markets.

Can you imagine the look on the little children’s faces on December 20th when they see Holy Cross Parishioners deliver Christmas packages of food, clothes, jackets, and toys?!

Thank God for the Samaritan House & other charities and people like yourselves. I know all of us are devout Orthodox Christians and we try to practice what the Lord teaches us: “I was hungry and you fed me. I was naked and you clothed me.” So we can help our neighbors. You are the neighbors helping neighbors.

On behalf of all those families they say “thank you Holy Cross ORA members for your help”, and their prayer to you is “God bless you always to be able to be the givers and not to stand in line to be the receivers”.

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CARDS

We missed listing some names on this year’s Community Christmas Card. We happily list them here along with our wishes for a happy and prosperous new year.

Mary Glafkides
Pat Lagiss
Marjorie Mandanis
Ross Steven Ritterman
Mark, Kathryn, David, Jeanette and Alexander Simon
S. Stathopulos
Anita Stathos
Dolly Vasil

MEETINGS

Please check the Sunday Bulletin for the dates/times of all meetings.

second Monday of the month - 7:30 PM, Executive Council
first Tuesdays of the month - 11 AM, ORA
first Tuesdays of the month - 7 PM, Philoptochos Board
third Tuesdays of the month - 7:30 PM, Parish Council
Tuesdays - Bible Study, 10 AM - Contos Library or Fireside
Tuesdays - Dance
first three Wednesdays - Choir
Wednesdays - Studies in the Faith, 7 PM - Contos Library
second and fourth Thursdays of the month - Hope/Joy
Thursdays - BLAST

SERVICES

Tuesday, January 25 – 8 AM, Matins; 9 AM, Divine Liturgy, Saint Gregory the Theologian
Saturday, January 29 – 5:30 PM, Great Vespers
Sunday, January 30 – 8:45 AM, Orthros; 10 AM, Great Liturgy, The Three Hierarchs
Wednesday, February 2 – 8 AM, Matins; 9 AM, Divine Liturgy – Presentation of our Lord
Saturday, February 5 – 5:30 PM, Great Vespers
Sunday, February 6 – 8:45 AM, Orthros; 10 AM, Divine Liturgy, Saint Photios
Thursday, February 10 – 8 AM, Matins; 9 AM, Divine Liturgy - Saint Haralambos
Saturday, February 12 – 5:30 PM, Great Vespers
Sunday, February 13 – 8:45 AM, Orthros; 10 AM, Divine Liturgy, Triodion Begins
Saturday, February 19 – 5:30 PM, Great Vespers
Sunday, February 20 – 8:45 AM, Orthros; 10 AM, Divine Liturgy
Saturday, February 26 – 8 AM, Matins; 9 AM, Divine Liturgy - Saturday of Souls
Saturday, February 26 – 5:30 PM, Great Vespers
Sunday, February 27 – 8:30 AM, Orthros; 10 AM, Divine Liturgy- Meat Fare Sunday
Saturday, March 5 – 8 AM, Matins; 9 AM, Divine Liturgy - Saturday of Souls
Saturday, March 5 – 5:30 PM, Great Vespers
Sunday, March 6 – 8:45 AM, Orthros, 10 AM, Divine Liturgy
Monday, March 7 – Lent Begins
Monday, March 7 – 7 PM, Compline
Wednesday, March 9 – 7 PM, Presanctified Liturgy
Friday, March 11 – 9 AM, Presanctified Liturgy
Friday, March 11 – 7 PM, Salutations
Saturday, March 12 – 8 AM, Matins; 9 AM, Divine Liturgy - Saturday of Souls



“As many of you as were baptized in Christ have put on Christ. Alleluia.”

We joyfully invite you to participate in the Holy Sacrament of Baptism of our son

Alexander

12 February 2011

10:00 a.m.

Church of the Holy Cross

Dessert Reception until 12:30 pm - The Oaks

Daniel and Khara-Maria Kalamaras

and

Godparents

Philip and Laila Louridas

Alexander is so blessed! Any gifts may be made as donations to the *Holy Cross Preschool Scholarship Fund*

R.S.V.P. 650-278-6692

or kharamaria@kalamaras.org by February 1