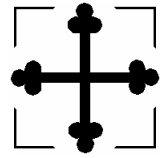




Agape



ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH MAY 2016

Christ is Risen!

For this month's edition of the AGAPE I wanted to share with you an interview that was done by C.O.M.E. Assistant Director Thomaida Hudanish with Charles Leontis of St John the Baptist Orthodox Church of Monterey Co. I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Leontis at the Metropolis Clergy Laity Assembly and I was inspired by his person and his story. While I don't know his exact age I believe he is close to 80-years old. This is a good example of the work of C.O.M.E. and why its important for us to support Mochas for Missions.

For several years the parishioners of St. John the Baptist in Salinas, California were without a full-time priest. Their membership had dwindled and their church location was no longer satisfactory. They approached the Metropolis for guidance, which resulted in a visit from C.O.M.E. Director, Fr. Theodore Dorrance, and regular mentoring visits from Fr. Aris Metrakos of Holy Trinity in San Francisco. In a short time, parishioners created a 5-year plan, doubled their Stewardship, developed their parish life, and set their focus on reaching out to both former members and the non-Orthodox. In July 2015, Fr. Ion Coman was assigned full-time and in December of the same year, the parish moved to Carmel. Long-time parishioner and Parish Council President Charles Leontis spoke with C.O.M.E. about the process.

Mr. Leontis, in a matter of a few months the parish doubled its stewardship. Can you tell us how you did it? When Fr. Theodore came to visit us, he told us that we needed to double our stewardship before proceeding further, so we made that our priority. First, all the Parish Council members made the commitment. Then, I went around to each parishioner's home or place of business, told them what the Parish Council did and asked them to join us. Because there are so few of us in the parish, I was able to make all the visits myself. Some people struggled with it, but they really responded to the need. Of course, it's not ideal to ask for people to give just to meet a need. It's much better to cultivate a spirit of sacrificial giving. But this worked in our emergency.

What other changes helped your community? One significant change is that we're using mostly English in our services now. I was born and raised in Greece and I learned to chant the hymns in Greek, so I struggle to do them in English, but I'm trying. Although I believed otherwise for a long time, I've come around to the idea that you should do the services in the language of the people. The older people in our parish got used to it and now anybody new that comes in knows what's going on. Doing the Liturgy in English has really helped a lot, in my opinion. That and small groups. Small groups were probably one of the most impactful of all the things that we've done. How did that work? What topics were discussed? Fr. Aris brought various questions for discussion. One that comes to mind is, "Are you a Martha or a Mary?" We were all together in one room in 3-4 groups of 6-7 people each. We discussed the topic for a while and then reported back to the group at large. The biggest benefit was that we really got to know one another. It allowed people to express themselves who wouldn't have felt comfortable talking in front of 50 people. Everyone who participated was really pleased. By the way, we had some new members join the parish as a result of the small groups. We advertised in the community and people came-also people came from other Orthodox parishes in the Bay Area.

Building a Stronger Orthodox Christian Community by: Spiritually growing together; Sharing the Orthodox Faith through fellowship, outreach, and philanthropy; Worshiping in a traditional Byzantine church; Supported through Stewardship

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What does your 5-year plan look like now? We need to continue to grow our stewardship. And we need to find ways to expose the community to our parish.

What has been the most noticeable change in parish since the assignment of a priest? The first noticeable thing is that people pay greater attention in church. There's a sense of awe—you feel that you're in church, because Fr. Ion gives that example. The services are very reverent. He's very devoted and sincere.

Please tell us more about the parish's new location. In mid-December we began worshipping at All Saints Church in Carmel. The congregation uses their hall only rarely, so they've allowed us to rent it; we have access for both weekend and weekday services. There is also a library for meetings and space for an office, Sunday School and storage. All Saints has been very friendly and welcoming. They even presented a cake to us on our first Sunday. We invited them to our feast day and twenty of them came to Vespers. They were really pleased with Met. Nikitas' homily. It's a nice facility and it's really what we need right now, because we want to concentrate on outreach. There are two other Orthodox churches nearby, but there's no other church that is offering Orthodoxy to Americans [i.e. services in English] and we hope to be able to do that.

TREASURER'S REPORT

As we enter the month of May, the operations account is at \$11,160. By comparison, the operations account at the beginning of April was at \$16,029. Please make every effort to keep your stewardship giving up to date and to do your part to make "The Evenings in Greece" a rousing success. The dedicated account is unchanged at \$7,096

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

Join us for the 2nd annual Evening in Greece dinners, May 14th and 21st. Get your reservations in soon; seating is limited.

The events will be full of fun and festivities. Thanks to everyone who has been working hard on this fundraiser, and to our "fearless leader," Julie.

Our next meeting will be May 22nd.

Presbytera Maria

Annual Tsoureki Fundraiser:

Tsoureki Baking went well this year. 92 loaves were baked. Interesting Facts: 60# of Flour were used; \$54.00 worth of supplies were donated by Philia members; 1 Dough Master and 6 Loaf Masters were busy workers - 56 Women Hours & 18.5 Man Hours were given.

Remaining loaves of Tsoureki are currently available for sale. You will find them for purchase at the Pascha dinner and the Evenings in Greece as available. Please contact John or Gloria Zeazeas-Timmons for further information.

Last but not least, a big thank-you to those that helped make this Philia fundraiser a success. All proceeds will support Philia's Philanthropic Projects.

Gloria Zeazeas Timmons

STEWARDSHIP AND THE STEWARD

Orthodox Christian Stewardship is a way of life, which acknowledges accountability, reverence, and responsibility before God. A primary goal of Stewardship is to promote spiritual growth and strengthen faith. Becoming a Steward begins when we believe in God, to whom we give our love, loyalty and trust and act on those beliefs. As Stewards, we affirm that every aspect of our lives comes as a gift from Him. Stewardship calls on the faithful to cheerfully offer back to God a portion of the gifts with which they have been blessed.

An Orthodox Christian Steward is an active participant in the life of the Church. The parish encourages all who accept the Orthodox Faith to become practicing Stewards. Each year the Steward is expected to carefully review his or her personal circumstances and make a commitment of time, talent, and treasure to support the Parish and her Ministries, which in turn support the National Ministries of our Archdiocese, Metropolises, and institutions.

STEWARDSHIP AND THE BUDGET

A successful Orthodox Christian Stewardship Program should provide for the entire Parish Ministries and Operating Budget as well as the growth of those ministries. Stewardship revenues should completely support and provide total coverage and even allow for growth of the budget. Once this has been achieved, our fund raising events may be seen as community events and outreach opportunities, with proceeds going to capital improvements and/or the philanthropic work of the Church.

AN INSPIRATIONAL BUDGET

A budget is an expression of the vision of our parish – its priorities, concerns and plans for the future. Members who see a church doing more than “paying the bills” will be inspired by the vision of a church that seeks to serve its parishioners, neighbors and people in need throughout the world. We should be inspired by the vision of a parish interested in improving and adding to its ministries.

STEWARDSHIP AND SAINT GEORGE IN 2016

IF WE WANT OUR PARISH TO GROW, IT WILL REQUIRE A COMMITMENT ON THE PART OF ALL OF OUR MEMBERS – A COMMITMENT OF TIME, TALENT AND TREASURE. WE CAN FULFILL THE VISION OF OUR FOUNDERS BUT WE MUST ALL BE COMMITTED TO THEIR VISION. ARE YOU ALL IN? WE CAN MAKE IT HAPPEN!

PHILIA

Thanks to the efforts of Gloria and John, we were able to create dozens of lovely loaves of Tsourekia. With the help of those who came to bake and those who purchased them, the sale of this traditional Greek Easter bread was deemed a success. Our next project will be the Evening in Greece dinners, scheduled for two days this year. With everyone's support we can turn this fun-filled event into a successful fundraiser for the parish.

Plans for the future:

- Greek Dinners – Saturday, May 14 and Saturday, May 21.

For info on wedding or baptismal items contact Gloria at 541-424-0575 or via email at zeazeastimons@gmail.com. And see Melita if interested in Rada products.

Next meetings: May 8 and June 5, 2016

Reminder: Philia is a philanthropic organization open to ALL women in the parish, Come and join us! We could always use helping hands and helpful minds.

Julie Lenkoff, Philia Coordinator

COFFEE CHAT :

May 8 is Mother's Day. As a special treat for Moms, the Dads are being asked to create a nice luncheon in their honor. Please contact Michael Creech if you are able to help. And a reminder that May 29 is another potluck day; please jot that on your calendars and bring something to share. It becomes a very nice affair when everyone remembers to bring something to share.

Julie Lenkoff, Fellowship Coordinator

CLEANUP CORNER:

No one signed up to clean the week of May 28, so it will be up to all of us to tidy up after ourselves or chip in as needed. For your scheduled cleaning, please contact Neal at nealzoumboukos@msn.com if you need to have the door opened.

Thank you.

Julie Lenkoff, Cleanup Coordinator (email: julielenkoff@comcast.net)

Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen! Greetings from the Salem Mission,

Thank you for your warm welcome and hospitality as several faithful Salem mission attenders joined you for the beautiful Holy Week and Pascha services. St. George and other area parishes help communicate the aesthetic beauty of Orthodox Christianity in an even fuller sense than we are able to express in the borrowed space we rent in Salem. We do what we can and are working on making our space look even more Orthodox when we're there, but there's just something really special about worshipping in a full-time Orthodox Church with a beautiful iconostasis, the kandilia illuminating the icons, icons of the Great Cloud of witnesses surrounding us on every wall, and hearing the ringing of the bells. You are a great blessing and encouragement to us. May our Lord continue to bless St. George and encourage her faithful, as He continues to bless and encourage the faithful and the seekers at the Salem Mission as we labor together for His kingdom.

With love and gratitude in Christ,
Maria Hauser

From the mission in Roseburg

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ ~

Christ is Risen!

Thank you so much for welcoming the parish of Holy Cross to this year's Holy Week and Pasha services. We are truly one family, and you always make us feel that way by your hospitality and love. We also were blessed to join together on Holy Saturday for the baptism of Timothy Beatty. May he live for us!

We would like to extend an invitation for you to join us at our next Divine Liturgy in Roseburg on Saturday, May 14. Just in case you have not had enough feasting by then, stick around for our annual Pascha Celebration following Liturgy. We look forward to seeing you there!

In Christ ~ Lisa Buck, Holy Cross

May Celebrations Birthdays

May 2nd-Michael Buck
May 7th-Andrew Lilles
May 13th-Neal Zoumboukos
May 14th-Elena Kokkino
May 15th-Michelle Creech
May 16th-Ray Knerl
May 17th-Ben Hauser
May 18th-Bridgid Groomer
May 19th-Kay Mehas
May 20th-Art Mehas
May 25th-Maria Hauser
May 29th-Lewace Knerl
May 30th-Brad Thomas

Feast Days

May 8th-St Emilia

Emily Kaelin

May 21st-Sts. Constantine & Helen

Eleni Radcliffe, Elena Kokkino, Lisa Lilles, Elena Diamond, Liana Creech, Eliana Hauser

May 23rd-Holy Myrrhbearer Mary

Maria Hauser

Wedding Anniversaries

May 17th

John & Gloria Timmons

May 19th

Art & Kay Mehas

May 24th

Jerry & Joanie Rundt

Baptized in Christ/Chrismated

May 29th

Michael Creech, Jr.

Many Years! Chronia Polla!

News and Events

What's New!

- **St George Feastday:** The Feastday of our patron Saint will be observed on **Bright Monday, May 2nd**. Please join us for Orthros & Divine Liturgy beginning at 9 am that day! May St George, who is quick to hear, intercede for us!
- **First Saturday Breakfast:** The dates for the May First Saturday Breakfast events are **Friday, May 6th and Saturday, May 7th**. Many hands make for light work so please consider lending us yours.
- **Pascha at OSP:** Thanks to your generosity, and to Pete's efforts, seven inmates at the Oregon State Penitentiary will get to celebrate Pascha on Wednesday, May 4th. I think I shared with most of you my experience last year so suffice to say, the guys experienced the joy of the Resurrection in a big way. The joy on their faces is a sight I will never forget. On their behalf I want to thank St George for supporting this important ministry and for your prayers and support.
- **Mothers Day:** Mothers Day is **Sunday, May 8th**, and a special luncheon is planned to honor all the Mothers, Grandmothers and Godmothers. Please join us for the Divine Services and stay for the luncheon hosted by the guys. Special thanks to Michael Creech for coordinating this event!
- **"Thank You":** A very special thanks to Art Mehas and his Olympic Landscaping Crew! Art and his crew love the Church and take such good care of the building and grounds. Their work is exceptional and we appreciate them.
- **Great and Holy Lent and Week 2016:** We want to thank all of you who gave of your time, talent and treasure to make this Great & Holy Lent and Week so special. Special thanks to the acolytes, chanters, icon frame decorators, cleaning crew, hosts for the meals after the Presanctified Liturgies, flower crew, Avgolmeno and Lamb providers, and the Parish Council. "And to next year!"
- **Mochas for Missions:** This grassroots campaign is both a fundraiser for the Commission for Orthodox Missions & Evangelism and an opportunity to grow in our understanding of the evangelistic vision of the Orthodox Church. Last year, over \$34,000 dollars was raised Metropolis-wide and we contributed over \$600 dollars towards that. This year the goal is \$45,000 dollars so let's do all we can to help them reach it!
- **St John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival:** We congratulate Timothy and Stephen Kaelin who both took first place in their respective divisions at the district Oratorical Festival. They both move on to the Metropolis competition in May at St Nicholas Ranch & Retreat Center.
- **Evening in Greece:** We hope that you can join us for one or both "Evening in Greece" dinners. In light of these events Great Vespers will begin at 5 pm on both May 14th & 21st.
- **In our prayers: "Pray for one another that you might be healed" (James 5:16)**-Jim, Eleni, John, Elaine, John, Fr. Constantine, Fr. James, Kevin, Lisa, Eugenia, Niko, Rebeca, Maria, Anastasia, Zinaida, Katherine, Rachel, Nektaria, Leda, Jesse, John, Ann, Kay, Photini, Elaine, Elle, Jan, Andy, Jimmy, Froso, Andy, Dimitri, Christian, Judy; Mary, Gloria, John, Eloise, Matteus, Chris, Nikki, Anastasia, the unborn, pregnant women contemplating abortion, & those who pray for the end of abortion. Please also be praying for all those being persecuted for their faith in the Middle East, Iraq, Africa, Syria, and the whole world.

KOINONIA

	5/8	5/15	5/22	5/29	
FELLOWSHIP	Mothers Day Luncheon	Creech	Zoumboukos	Potluck	
GREETER	Jerry R	Larisa L	John & Gloria	Ann L	
PROSFORON	Hauser	Lilles	Freezer	Creech	
FLOWERS	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	
READERS	Brad Thomas	Brad Thomas	Brad Thomas	Brad Thomas	
CLEANING CREW	5/7 Zoumboukos	5/14 Creech	5/21 Hauser	5/28 Everyone	

GET INVOLVED!!!

Look through this list of organizations, programs, and ministries at our parish, then call the contact person and get involved!!!

- PARISH COUNCIL** Greg Sebastian 541-220-9560
- ACOLYTES** Bob Graham 541-937-2670
- BOOKSTORE** Greg Sebastian 541-220-9560
- PHILIA WOMEN'S GROUP** Julie Lenkoff 541-345-2107
- CHURCH SCHOOL** Ann Marie Kaelin 541-335-9256
- CHANTER/CHANT GROUP** Brad Thomas 541-689-9690, Ann Marie Kaelin 541-335-9256
- FRIENDS OF ST. JOHN** Art Mehas 541-485-8671
- FELLOWSHIP** Julie Lenkoff 541-345-2107
- STEWARDSHIP** Neal Zoumboukos 541-344-4485
- GREETERS** Melita Green 541-543-8792
- 1ST SAT. BREAKFAST** Adrienne Bonosevich 541-343-72832/7
- FLOWERS** Diane Monger 541-530-3210
- MISSIONS & EVANGELISM** Melita Green 541-543-8792
- FUNDRAISERS** Presbyteria Maria 971-678-5112

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Eugene, OR 97408-5018

A good word from the Fathers....

Here is what St. Hesychios the priest says about the five types of watchfulness:

1. Closely scrutinize every mental image or provocation; for only by means of a mental image can Satan fabricate an evil thought and insinuate this into the intellect in order to lead astray
2. Watchfulness consists in freeing the heart from all thoughts, keeping it profoundly silent and still and in praying.
3. Continually and humbly calling upon the Lord Jesus Christ for help (ie. the Jesus Prayer)
4. Always have the thought of death in one's mind.
5. Fix your gaze on heaven and pay no attention to anything material.