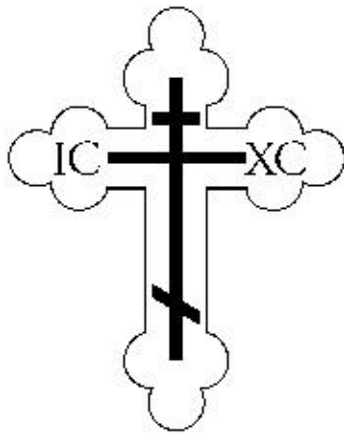


The Heavenly Host

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Volume 1, Issue 6

September 2001



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Pastoral Message by Father Timothy Baclig

“Let the children come to me, do not hinder them;
for to such belongs the Kingdom of God...

Truly I say to you,

Whoever does not receive the Kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.
And He took them in His arms and blessed them, laying hands on them.”

(Mark 10:14-16)

September 1st is the beginning of our new Liturgical Year. September also marks the beginning of school for many, and particularly in our church, **Sunday, September 15th**, will be the first day of Church School classes.

We are indeed thankful for the faithful work of our teachers who are returning to help our children with their personal understanding of our Orthodox Faith. I would like to take this opportunity to first of all express our gratitude to **Tiffany Akoury** who served as our Superintendent last year. Tiffany and Tom Akoury are new parents to two children: Alexander and Genevieve Akoury. We thank God for their family, pray for God’s blessings upon their life together, and look forward to their return to our church soon.

Each year, our church School classes commence following Holy Communion and meet in classrooms on the first floor of our Community Center. The children are instructed from the curriculum prescribed by the Orthodox Education Commission; an inter-Orthodox Department of the Standing Council of Orthodox Bishops in America. This year our teachers include: **Bobbi Monsue**-Kindergarten, **Rima Hage**-1st & 2nd Grade, **Katrina Tambouras**-3rd & 4th Grade, **Don Meena**-5th & 6th Grade and **Hani Abughazaleh**-Teens.

Our Church School Class lessons also include the memorization of prayers, Bible verses, and the Creed, according to their age group. The children are rewarded points for their attendance, participation in lessons, special activities, church processions, regional festivals and parish programs. These points, which are accumulated during the year, enable them to acquire special gifts, some of which include religious books, icons, jewelry and games.

Our largest age group, this year, is our “cradle roll.” The Cradle Roll include our children who are newborn, newly or soon-to-be baptized infants of our families. I cannot overemphasize the importance of church attendance as a means of educating our children in participating in the Sacrament or the Holy Eucharist. We do not believe that a child must reach an age of reason to be a recipient of the Sacrament of the Body and Blood of Christ. In fact the more a child becomes accustomed to being in church with his or her parents, who also participate in the Sacrament, the easier it is for the Holy Eucharist to be a regular part of their family life. This is one of the best means of building our Church School program. It also becomes much easier when a child learns to be familiar with church life as a normal and not irregular family activity. I encourage all parents, grandparents, and Godparents to do their part in helping their children to learn the faith by practicing it with their own attendance and participation.

Today we are not without adequate materials to help our children learn our faith and practice;

(Continued on page 6)

Definition of Stewardship submitted by Ron Nicola, Stewardship Chairman for the Archdiocese**STEWARDSHIP...A TOTAL DEFINITION**

Stewardship is a concept that encompasses every phase of our lives as Orthodox Christians. Stewardship also has relevance to all aspects of parish life. Once acceptance of this very broad application is achieved, and once an understanding is developed that there is a scriptural basis for stewardship practices, the task becomes one of developing a set of principles or guidelines upon which a stewardship program can be built.

The wording of a stewardship definition can vary as long as basic principles are incorporated into the statement.

1. Stewardship is learning how to be a responsible and concerned caretaker of Christ's church. It is also learning how to enjoy church life and be happy in church work.
2. Christian Stewardship is our commitment to the proportionate giving of time, talent and material possessions. These are a trust from God to be used in His name for the benefit of all mankind in grateful acknowledgement of Christ's redeeming love.
3. Stewardship is offering of one's self as He Himself was offered to us.
4. Stewardship is the caring for the needs of one another.
5. Stewardship is what a person does after saying, "I Believe," as proof of that belief.
6. Stewardship is being devoted and totally committed to serve God and His church morally, spiritually, physically and financially as an individual and collectively as a family unit.
7. Christian stewardship could be defined as the effective commitment or investment of human and material resources in participation with Christ in His love for others.

How would you define stewardship?

The goal then is to develop among us an understanding of the concept of stewardship. Once this is achieved, parishes, groups of parishes and even an entire archdiocese can build programs based on stewardship's sound foundation. A key element in the development of a clear understanding of stewardship is the issue of freedom. Christians must freely express their faith in God and then be able to take the actions, which that belief prescribes. To give is a mark of freedom. In fact, giving is freedom, since truly to give is to act without constraint or obligation. To pay wages or to meet obligations, for example, is not true Christian stewardship. "Freely you have received. Freely give." Matthew 10:8

St. Michael Church

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SEPTEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Regular Services in August</u></p> <p><i>Saturdays:</i> <u>Great Vespers at 5 pm in the Chapel.</u></p> <p><i>Sundays:</i> <u>Orthos at 8:45 am & Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am in the Church.</u></p> <p><i>Confessions are arranged by appointment or prior to services.</i></p>						<p>BEGINNING OF THE CHURCH YEAR 5:00 pm -13th Sunday after Pentecost - Vespers in Chapel 6:00 pm -Kitchen & Banquet Room Rented 1</p>
<p>6:00 pm -Kitchen & Banquet Room Rented 2</p>	<p>LABOR DAY HOLIDAY 4:00 pm -Classrooms (1-6) Rented 3</p>	<p>7:00 pm -Classrooms (1-6) Rented 4</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7:00 pm - Vespersal Divine Liturgy for the Theotokos in Chapel 7</p>	<p>NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS 10:00 am -Divine Liturgy 6:00 pm -Kitchen & Banquet Room Rented 8</p>
<p>10 am -Hierarchical Divine Liturgy with Bishop JOSEPH 1:00 pm -Raies-Murr Educational Trust Award Luncheon (Pickwick Center Burbank) 9</p>	<p>4:00 pm -Classrooms (1-6) Rented 7:30 pm -Parish Council Meeting in Conference Room 10</p>	<p>7:00 pm -Classrooms (1-6) Rented 11</p>	<p>7:00 pm -Banquet Room Rented 12</p>	<p>7:30 pm - Vespersal Divine Liturgy for the Exalation of Holy Cross in Church 13</p>	<p>ELEVATION OF THE CROSS 14</p>	<p>6:00 pm -Kitchen & Banquet Room Rented 15</p>
<p>16</p>	<p>4:00 pm -Classrooms (1-6) Rented 17</p>	<p>7:00 pm -Classrooms (1-6) Rented 18</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>7:30 am -Banquet Room, Classrooms & Church Rented 20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>6:00 pm -Kitchen & Banquet Room Rented 22</p>
<p>THE CONCEPTION OF THE PROPHET & FORERUNNER JOHN THE BAPTIST 23</p>	<p>4:00 pm -Classrooms (1-6) Rented 24</p>	<p>7:00 pm -Classrooms (1-6) Rented 25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>6:00 pm -Kitchen & Banquet Room Rented 29</p>
<p>30</p>						

Things to See and Do submitted by Carrie Skaff

Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA): "Winslow Homer & The Critics" ends September 9, 2001 (323) 857-6000; Closed Wednesday.

Getty Museum: "Walker Evans & Company: Works from the Museum of Modern Art" through October 28, 2001. (310) 440-7300; Closed Monday. Reservations needed during the week. No reservations after 4 pm weekly or on weekends. Parking is \$5.

Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA): "David Hockney-Photo Works" ends October 21, 2001. (213) 626-6222; Closed Monday.

Norton Simon Museum: Newly Remodeled (626) 449-6840; Closed Tuesday.

San Diego Museum of Art (Balboa Park): "Grandma Moses in the 21st Century" ends August 26, 2001 (619) 232-7931

Bowers Museum of Cultural Art: "Remington, Russell & the Language of Western Art" ends September 16, 2001. (714) 567-3600; Closed Monday.

Don't forget about all the events at the Hollywood Bowl this season, the plays and operas at the Music Center in downtown Los Angeles and the "Lion King" in Hollywood at the Pantages Theatre.

Next Bake Day is Saturday, October 6, 2001

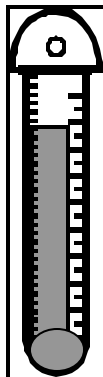
Stewardship News

Membership: If you see somebody new at church, please tell the ushers or pick up a welcome letter at the entrance of the Church and hand it to them.

Please remember to inform the office of any changes to your address or phone numbers. Thank you.

To date, the church office has received about 73% of the pledge cards. Our goal remains at 100%. Please fill out your card and submit to the church office.

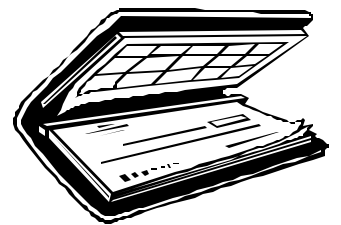
In the next few months, look for our revised Visitor Card and guest offering envelopes. If you have any ideas or helped to work on the current cards or envelopes, please contact the Stewardship committee.



Other Announcements

The bookstore is open after Liturgy each Sunday. Please see Andy or Bobbie Monsue for gift ideas for any occasion. Labor Day gifts can help children as they start the new school year.

Advertise in our newsletter to help defray our costs. Business card sized ads are available and will be placed in every issue at \$15 per ad per issue.

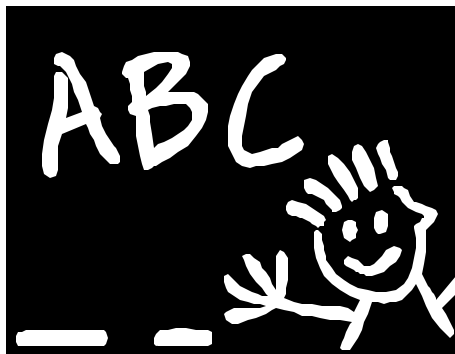


Did you know you can use your *credit card* to pay your pledge? You can have funds charged monthly or annually; what a great way to earn bonus miles. Either way you're writing a check.

Teen News

Parents, please urge your children to participate and encourage them to join Teen SOYO.

Debutantes of 2002: St. Nicholas Ladies' Society invites all young ladies who are 16 years of age and not younger than 15 years and 9 months, to become a 2002 Debutante. This is an exciting, memorable and most beautiful event in a young ladies' life. Please contact Mrs. Frieda Maloof (323) 665-5568, Mrs. Elsie Safady (626) 791-3742, or ask your parish priest for an application as soon as possible. The deadline is September 10, 2001. Mrs. Marion Deeb is the Ball Chairperson. God bless.



*September
means
back to school.*

From the Ladies Guild

Gift certificates are available each Sunday in the Community Center. A portion of each dollar is donated to our Church and is applied to our mortgage. Buy your scrip today!

You're all invited to sign up for Holy Bread & to host a coffee hour. Please call Leila Abu-Ghazaleh for more information on open dates at (805) 522-4797.

Spiritual Bouquets: Donations are offered in memory of the deceased in lieu of flowers. If you wish to participate, please see Jeannette Aboud.

Pageant of the Masters: 45 people attended this year's event in Laguna. Make your reservations now for next year's event. Please contact Carrie Skaff.

Nixon Library Tour: Bus will leave church parking lot at 8:30 am on Saturday, October 6, 2001 to tour the Library and have lunch. (35 people are needed to get free bus service). Please contact Carrie Skaff. The cost is as follows: \$3.95 for Seniors ages 62 and over AND college students with I.D.; \$5.95 for adults under age 62 AND children over age 12; \$2.00 for children between ages 8-12.

Christmas Festival: Invitations will be mailed soon. The event will be held on Saturday, December 1; look for your "save the date" flyer. Alice Andrews and Carrie Skaff are taking orders in advance for Arabic sweets. Gift packages of assorted sweets or by the dozen will be available.

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OF THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY

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(Continued from page 1)

to become familiar with our many symbols and their meaning. And our Church, more than many others, provides the greatest in an "audio-visual" worship experience. However, the best material things in and of themselves cannot and will not replace the good example and proper atmosphere which teaches attitude and conduct. Parents do not neglect your duty. What you desire for your children, grandchildren, and Godchildren is largely your responsibility. Work with us to help you and your children know God's presence and to grow in it. Share in what we are doing. Offer your ideas and suggestions. Call upon us to visit you and your family. Make us a part of your home and be part of your Church.

Recipe of the Month

Red Beans and Rice

Ingredients:

1 lb. dried kidney beans
8-10 cups water
1-8 oz can tomato sauce
2 tsp. garlic salt
¼ tsp. Tabasco sauce
1 tsp. Worcestershire sauce
½ lb. ham, diced
1 lb. smoked sausage, sliced
½ cup chopped celery
1 cup chopped onion
3 cloves garlic, pressed
2 bay leaves
salt & pepper to taste
¼ cup parsley (dried or fresh)
2 cups rice, cooked

Wash and sort the beans. Cover with water and boil for 2 minutes. Remove from heat and let the beans soak for at least an hour. Drain beans. Into the bean pot place water, tomato sauce, garlic salt, Tabasco sauce, and Worcestershire sauce. Cook, uncovered, over low heat. While beans are cooking sauté ham and sausage until grease is rendered. Add meat to the bean pot. To the grease in the skillet add the celery, onion, and garlic and sauté until soft. Pour vegetables into the bean pot. Add the bay leaves, salt, and pepper and continue cooking, uncovered, on low heat for 2-4 hours, or until the beans are soft and creamy. Add water while cooking, if necessary. Remove the bay leaves and add the parsley. Remove about two cups of the bean mixture and mash thoroughly. Return mashed beans to the bean pot and stir. Serve over rice.

Serves 6-8 people.