

The Heavenly Host

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**Happy
Valentine's
Day!**



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Letter from the Parish Council by John Khouri

Dear Friends,

I hope this letter finds you and your family in the best of health as we conclude the celebration of the Nativity of our Lord.

This is an exciting time in the life of our parish, as we begin to lay the spiritual foundation for many new endeavors about which we will say more as the year progresses. 2002 is a year of long-range planning and goal setting, and we look forward to another year of sharing ideas and working together for the glory of God.

And, to get us started on the right track, let's stop a moment, look back and say "thank you".

This, the first issue of *The Heavenly Host* for the year 2002, is a thank-you letter to the individuals and groups of people who silently and humbly continue to keep the St. Michael family thriving and growing -- a vital parish of the region and the Archdiocese, and most importantly, in our own lives.

We at St. Michael are blessed with too many to mention here, and we take the risk of inadvertently omitting some. It is, therefore, up to all of us to tell those people "thank you" when we see them working in the kitchen or behind the altar, in the board room or in the bookstore, in the office or in the pews. We all have people in our lives to whom we are grateful for their efforts on our behalf and for the abundance of joy they bring to our lives, directly or indirectly. Even though for them it is a labor of love, they...you...deserve to hear our gratitude.

As recently as two months ago when I was attending a church banquet in Boston, Metropolitan PHILIP said to me, as we were casually discussing our parish, "Remember, John, where God is concerned, there is no summit." There is work ahead of us, to be sure, and with all our participation and prayers can we realize Sayedna's words echoed in the hearts and actions of our founding members over thirty years ago.

The Heavenly Host will continue to keep us updated on the myriad church activities, the successes and the areas where more support is needed. For now, our trek toward the summit continues, as we pause for a simple "thank you".

T H E G A R D E N F O R N E W Y E A R

Come to the garden alone, while the dew is still on the roses...



FOR THE GARDEN OF YOUR DAILY LIVING PLANT THREE ROWS OF PEAS:

- 1. Peace of mind
- 2. Peace of heart
- 3. Peace of soul

PLANT FOUR ROWS OF SQUASH:

- 1. Squash gossip
- 2. Squash indifference
- 3. Squash grumbling
- 4. Squash selfishness

PLANT FOUR ROWS OF LETTUCE:

- 1. Lettuce be faithful
- 2. Lettuce be kind
- 3. Lettuce be patient
- 4. Lettuce really love one another

NO GARDEN IS WITHOUT TURNIPS:

- 1. Turnip for meetings
- 2. Turnip for service
- 3. Turnip to help one another

TO CONCLUDE OUR GARDEN WE MUST HAVE THYME:

- 1. Thyme for each other
- 2. Thyme for family
- 3. Thyme for friends

WATER FREELY WITH PATIENCE AND CULTIVATE WITH LOVE. THERE IS MUCH FRUIT IN YOUR GARDEN BECAUSE YOU REAP WHAT YOU SOW.



My instructions were to send this to people that I wanted God to bless and I picked you. Please pass this to people you want to be blessed.



St. Michael Church
www.stmichaelvannuys.com
FEBRUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>Regular Services in August</i>						
<p><i>Saturdays:</i> <u>Great Vespers</u> at 5 pm in the Chapel.</p> <p><i>Sundays:</i> <u>Orthos</u> at 8:45 am & <u>Divine Liturgy</u> at 10:00 am in the Church.</p> <p><i>Confessions are arranged by appointment or prior to services.</i></p>						
<p>12:00 pm-Coffee Hour Honoring Fr. Thomas O'Dea</p> <p>3</p>	<p>4:00 pm-Classrooms (1-6) Rented</p> <p>4</p>	<p>7:00 pm-Classrooms (1-6) Rented</p> <p>5</p>	<p>7:30 am-Kitchen & Banquet Room Rented</p> <p>6</p>	<p>10:00 am-Banquet Room Rented</p> <p>7</p>	<p>9:00 am-Ladies Prep for Baking (Kitchen)</p> <p>7:00 pm - Presentation Feast Vesperal Liturgy</p> <p>1</p>	<p>7:00 am-Ladies Bake Day (Kitchen & Banquet Room)</p> <p>2</p>
<p>10</p>	<p>4:00 pm-Classrooms (1-6) Rented</p> <p>7:30 pm-Parish Council Meeting</p> <p>11</p>	<p>7:00 pm-Classrooms (1-6) Rented</p> <p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>6:00 pm-Kitchen & Banquet Room Rented</p> <p>16</p>
<p>17</p>	<p>4:00 pm-Classrooms (1-6) Rented</p> <p>18</p>	<p>7:00 pm-Classrooms (1-6) Rented</p> <p>19</p>	<p>7:30 am-Kitchen & Banquet Room Rented</p> <p>7:00 pm-Banquet Room Rented</p> <p>20</p>	<p>7:30 am-Banquet Room & Classrooms Rented</p> <p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24</p>	<p>7:30 am-Kitchen & Banquet Room Rented</p> <p>4:00 pm-Classrooms (1-6) Rented</p> <p>25</p>	<p>7:30 am-Kitchen & Banquet Room Rented</p> <p>7:00 pm-Classrooms (1-6) Rented</p> <p>26</p>	<p>7:30 am-Kitchen & Banquet Room Rented</p> <p>27</p>	<p>28</p>		

Upcoming Events

February 2, March 9, April 12 & 13 - Baking Days

February 3 - Fr. Thomas O'Dea Coffee Hour

March 10 - St. Patrick Celebrates Meat Fare Sunday

March 23 - Annunciation Tea

August 10 - Golf Classic at Calabasas Country Club

September 15 - Church School Award luncheon

October 20 - Chili Cook Off, Backgammon & Whist Tournament

November 10 - St. Michael Feast Day Coffee Hour

November 23 - Christmas Festival

December 15 - Church School Christmas Program

Stewardship News

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



Most of the study will be held immediately after church. The Orthodox Study Bible will be used.

Get involved. This is an enriching experience. Call Carrie Skaff to register at (818) 501-3477.

Western Region Conference 2002 Theme:
 "Inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me."
 (Matthew 25:40)

Other Announcements

Plans are being made for the Catechism Bowl to be held at the Western Region Parish Life Conference in San Diego during the July 4th, 2002 weekend. We are hoping to enter three teams (Junior, Senior and Adult Participants). We will be studying the Book of Matthew.

Deadlines for eligibility for:

Festivals - May 1st,
 Oratorical - June 1st
 and
 Bible Bowl - June 1st.



Are you interested in a PARISH CRUISE in 2003? Help us plan!

Please complete these questions and give to an Usher in Church on Sunday or mail to the Church office:

*St. Michael Orthodox Church
16643 Vanowen St.
Van Nuys, CA 91406
Attn: Parish Cruise*

1. Would you consider going on a cruise with others from the parish and our local sister churches? Y or N
2. If so, where would you prefer to go? (check only one response)
 - Hawaiian cruise (11 day/10 night)
 - Caribbean cruise (8 day/7 night)
 - Mediterranean cruise (11 day/10 night land & sea package)
 - Other location, specify _____
3. Do you look cute in cruise wear? (optional) _____

THANK YOU. WATCH THE HEAVENLY HOST FOR FURTHER DETAILS!

Things to See and Do submitted by Carrie Skaff

Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA): (323) 857-6000; Closed Wednesday.

Getty Museum: (310) 440-7300; Closed Monday. Reservations needed during the week. No reservations after 4 pm weekly or on weekends. Parking is \$5.

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

San Diego Museum of Art (Balboa Park): (619) 232-7931

Bowers Museum of Cultural Art: (714) 567-3600; Closed Monday.

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 at (818) 501-3477.

ST. MICHAEL ANTIOCHIAN
ORTHODOX CHURCH
OF THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY

V. Rev. Fr. Timothy Baclig, Pastor

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ATTENTION LADIES...

IT'S ALMOST "TIME FOR TEA"

SAVE THE DATE: MARCH 23rd

Our 3rd Annual Annunciation Tea

Details to follow soon!

Recipe of the Month

Valentine Cookies

1 cup shortening
4 cups white, unbleached flour
1 tsp. baking powder
½ tsp. salt
1 cup white sugar
1 tsp vanilla
2 beaten eggs
½ cup milk
Various sized heart-shaped cookie cutters.

In large bowl blend first four ingredients together with pastry blender or cut with two knives as for pie dough. In another bowl mix together sugar, vanilla, beaten eggs & milk. Combine this with first mixture and work together till firm. Put in refrigerator for 1 hour.

Dust counter and rolling pin with flour. Roll no less than 1/4" thickness & cut with different sized flour-dusted, heart-shaped and fluted heart-shaped cookie cutters. Use a large heart & a small one. Make many of each size, cutting small heart inserts out of some of the big ones so you have a variety. The goal is to have a smaller cookie to sandwich on top of a larger one or to have pink icing peeking through a heart

"hole" on your sandwich cookie. Cut the small heart out of the center of a large heart, making a heart "outline." Cut enough small shapes to have some tiny sandwich cookies as well. Bake @ 375 for 8-12 minutes. Cool to racks.

Confectioner's Sugar Icing

2 cups Confectioner's sugar
2 Tbsp. Milk
1 Tbsp. Butter, soft
1 tsp. Vanilla
4-8 drops red food coloring. You may make them darker or lighter as you prefer.

In medium bowl, mix together until you get a smooth consistency. Add more butter or milk if necessary.

To Frost: Spread pink icing on large cooled cookie. Top with small heart. Sandwich cookies together so little one is on top or you can see pink icing from a small heart-shape taken out of a large one. These are pretty in a glass bowl & make nice gifts.
Variation: Use green food coloring and Shamrock shapes for St. Patrick's Day. Orange with pumpkins for October; green Christmas trees, etc. It just takes 2 sizes of the same shaped cookie cutter.