New Year's Spiritual Resolutions for Orthodox Christians by Fr. Brent Kuzyk

This is adapted from an article written by Reverend Fr. Brent Kuzyk, Priest of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada (UOCC).

The New Year will be upon us shortly. Society has implemented a tradition for those who wish to make resolutions which they will follow for the upcoming year and accomplish something be it weight loss, marriage, etc. As Orthodox Christians, it is incumbent upon each of us to re-visit our personal lives to ensure that we are learning, growing and becoming true to our call of becoming God-like.

In keeping with the ‘trend’ for New Year’s Resolutions, I have devised 10 Spiritual Resolutions for Orthodox Christians to aspire to. The expectation is not that all ten will be fulfilled in their entirety by the end of the year, but that an honest effort to accomplish some and to be aware of all is made. Life itself is a journey to theosis* and the whole journey of life is needed to work out our salvation.

1) Arrive for Church Services on time! We take for granted the Divine Liturgy at the best of times. Often we believe that as long as we are there for the Gospel Sermon and Communion we have had “a good enough dose of God for the week.” Partaking of the Matins or Orthros service and the full Divine Liturgy will prepare you fully for stepping up to the precious and life giving Chalice of Christ. This will in turn fortify your spiritual journey into the world for the coming week. Our responsibility to Our Lord is to respect the schedule laid out for us, at least once a week.

2) Ask for forgiveness from our family, friends and Christian brothers and sisters in our parish. Forgiveness is a difficult virtue to put into practice and even more difficult to use regularly. Let us therefore use the virtue of forgiveness as a basis for our continued commitment to theosis and by regarding our earthly relationships with one another as truly important. Let us practice forgiveness, as it is the first step in preparing for Holy Confession and Holy Communion each and every Sunday.

3) Learn about praying and prayers. We tend to use the prayers we were taught as children. There are many prayers available for parishioners to use. Check the prayer book and ask your priest, he can assist by providing prayers that pertain to your specific situation. Pray often, more than once a day. If you don not have a prayer corner set up in your home, ask your parish priest to assist you in setting one up.

4) Become a steward in your parish and community. Become an active, involved caring Orthodox Christian. Donate to your parish, become if not already, involved in keeping our environment clean (God placed us on this earth to care for His creations!!!), donate to food banks, school lunch programs, etc. Create and organize community outreach for the less fortunate residents of your area. As stewards of humanity, it is incumbent upon us, as Orthodox Christians to lead by example.

5) Attend more than one (1) church service per month. Don't be a “C” and “E” (Christmas & Easter) parishioner. Place prayer, worship and church services on your list of priorities, above all other recreational activities. The benefit of a fulfilling spiritual life will lead you to many rewards in the future.

6) Put your God-given talents to use. We all have hidden talents, or talents not used to their full potential. Recognize them, ask for guidance from Our Lord and put them to use for the benefit of God’s Holy Church.

7) Invite your children, grandchildren, siblings and friends to Church services. Become a host to your own family. Guide them and explain to them that the One Holy Universal and Apostolic Church is the One True Church. Explain that Orthodoxy offers all to its faithful. Bring one guest to Church per year at least and allow God to do His work.

8) Contact your family members that have stepped away from your family; or if you have stepped away, call your family. Practice patience, understanding, and forgiveness. We are on this earth but once. We have one opportunity to practice forgiveness and ask for it as well. It is never wrong to come back home, even after a lengthy absence. We should never be embarrassed to admit our faults to our families and our desire to renew our relationships. We must remember, we are not perfect, as we have faults and we never know when we may be called by God to return home.

9) Experience the life of the church and her many gifts to heal you. Attend church services; come to Confession and Communion on a regular basis. We were born unto this earth dependent upon our Lord. Use Confession to unburden your sins and Communion to heal you. Rely on your Parish Priest to be your Father Confessor and Spiritual Guide.

10) Recognize that we are tested by Our Lord and tempted by the devil himself, daily. We are put to the test daily in school, so in life. Pray frequently, ask for guidance, see beyond the test, look for the good only in all situations. Avoid temptations that are “too good to be true.” Recognize that we are accountable for all of our thoughts, actions and deeds.

* Note - Theosis (Deification) is the Orthodox Christian doctrine of sanctification. According to this teaching, human are to become holy, godly and in that sense adopt the nature of God. This opportunity has been made possible through Jesus Christ, who is God incarnate. St. Athanasius of Alexandria stated that “The Son of God became man, that we might become God.”

Special articles: Ordination of Bishop Demetri, pg. 2; Tradition of Vasilopita, pg. 6
From Father Rick

A Glimpse of History / A Step Into The Future

On Saturday December 9th, in the historic Greek Orthodox Church of the Assumption in Chicago, I attended the Divine Liturgy and Sacrament of Episcopal Ordination for Fr. Demetri Kantzavelos. Many of you know His Grace Bishop Demetri who has served as the Chancellor of our Metropolis for ten years, from his visits to our parish in 2001 for our Feast Day and the Clergy-Laity we hosted, in 2003 where he presided over Fr. Parry Parascou’s funeral and this year when he celebrated Divine Liturgy in February.

This was my first time witnessing the ordination of a bishop. It was an amazing and beautiful service with His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America, ten other hierarchs, ten priests and four deacons concelebrating. Approximately twenty chanters and fifty acolytes assisted. The singing of the hymns was truly inspiring. Nearly 2,000 people attended the service including eighty Orthodox priests from around the Metropolis and Archdiocese. Several Roman Catholic bishops along with other religious leaders were also present.

Besides the distinctive aspects of a hierarchical liturgy, the ordination began right after the Doxology when Bishop-elect Demetri standing at the Royal Doors, partially vested in priestly vestments, holding the gospel, read the Confession of in 2003 where he presided over Fr. Parry Parascou’s funeral and this year when he celebrated Divine Liturgy in February.

the prayers and petitions of ordination (descent of the Holy Spirit) were read by the Archbishop Demetriou. The newly ordained Bishop Demetri was given and put on the distinct vestments of his office while the people proclaimed and chanted "Axios!" (He is worthy!). Bishop Demetri then took his place with the other hierarchs around the Holy Table for the Epistle and Gospel readings as the Divine Liturgy continued. Following Holy Communion, after the chanting of "Blessed be the Name of the Lord," Archbishop Demetrios presented Bishop Demetri once again and set a mitre/crown upon his head and gave him his new pastoral staff (Greek = pateritsa) while "Axios!" was proclaimed and chanted again.

While much of the bishop’s ordination is similar in form to the rites for priest and deacon, it is interesting to note that it is done before the readings to underscore his role as chief pastor, teacher and preacher of the flock of Christ. To emphasize this point, the Holy Gospel is opened and placed on the bishop-elect’s head during the ordination prayers. The priest’s ordination occurs immediately following the Great Entrance because he is able to invoke the Holy Spirit at the epiklesis/ consecration of the Holy Gifts. The deacon is ordained after the consecration but before Holy Communion to underscore is ability to assist the bishop and priest in administering the Holy Mysteries.

After witnessing this great Mystery of the Church I felt I was transported into rich history of the ancient Church. Another historical note is that this was the first ordination of a bishop in the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese outside of New York. Not only was it my first episcopal ordination but it could possibly be my last because these are rare events and often difficult to attend. Nevertheless, this sacred experience directs us to the future as younger, American-born men are ordained for leadership in the Orthodox Church.

Bishop Demetri holds the titular (in title only) ancient diocese of Mokissos. He is assigned to the Archdiocese but is on loan to the Metropolis of Chicago and will continue to serve as the Chancellor of the Chicago Metropolis. We look forward to his first pastoral visit to our parish as a hierarch. Axios!

*Note- we hope to have information about the ordination service posted on our website in the near future.

In the meantime, you can visit: www.goarch.org/en/chapel/liturgical_texts/
Parish Announcements

Canonical Communion Restored
The Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia (ROCOR) and the Russian Orthodox Church of the Moscow Patriarchate recently restored canonical communion. The two Churches separated during the Communist era. For more info, go to www.russianorthodoxchurch.ws/synod/engdocuments/enmat_akt.html

Loaves & Fishes News
Come serve the hungry a spaghetti dinner Monday, December 10, 2006, 5:15-7 PM, Faith Lutheran Church, 499 Charles Avenue, St Paul. Contact Dimitri Dokos, 651-699-0313 or Naomi Tsantir, 612-781-6485. Every other month, on the second Monday, we need cooks, set-up people and servers. Future opportunities to serve in 2007 are February 11, April 9, June 11, August 13, October 8, and December 10.

Parish Council Election
Congratulations to the newly elected parish council members for 2007-08 term: Diane Anastos, Eric Chadwick, Penda Eliou, Stacy Katsiyannis, Christ Kontenakos, and Paul Pliakas. Thank you to George Kanavati and John Lambros for their dedicated service on the parish council.

Church Etiquette
In order to preserve the orderliness and sanctity of the services, please remember not to enter or exit the church nave during the Small Entrance, Epistle and Gospel Readings, Sermon, Great Entrance, Creed, Consecration, Lord’s Prayer, Holy Communion, and all times the priest faces the congregation. Also, please do not talk unnecessarily, keep your attention focused towards the altar and do not read the bulletin or inserts during the service. Please dress appropriately, use common sense. Ladies, wipe lipstick off before Communion. Thank you.

Philoptochos News
A big thank you and appreciation to all Philoptochos ladies and parishioners for their generous contribution of Greek pastries, breads, time, monies, etc., that made our bake sale a success. It is because of all your wonderful support that we will be able to help fulfill our philanthropic missions and obligations. God Bless.

Adopt-a-Family Thank You
Thank you so much to all of you who donated gifts for Trinity Mission Families. We gave gifts to 10 families this year. Next year we’ll adopt more so many of you can have the opportunity to sign up. Christ is born! Glorify Him!! —Presvytera Jane

Axios!
The Very Reverend Archimandrite Demetri Kantzavelos, Chancellor of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago was Ordained Titular Bishop Demetrios of Mokissos on Saturday, December 9 at Assumption Greek Orthodox Church in Chicago.

Incense Needed
Please consider making an offering of sacred incense for use in the church. Incense for donation is now available in the St. George Bookstore.

Treasurer’s Financial Report

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Stewardship Report

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*All year-to-date figures are as of November 30, 2006.
Glad Tidings

Church Staff and Office

Church Office Hours
Mondays 10:00AM-12:30PM, 1:30PM-4:30PM
Tue.—Thurs. 8:00AM-12:30PM, 1:30 PM-4:30 PM

Rev. Fr. Richard Demetrius Andrews, Presbyter
(651) 222-6220
Email: FatherRick@usa.com

Fiona Eustathiades, Administrative Assistant
(651) 222-6220
Email: fionamaria_1@netzero.com

Jason and Kelly Barbes, Youth Ministers
(612) 926-0281
Email: barbes11@msn.com

Eric Chadwick, Parish Council President
(507) 665-8053
Email: chadwick@ptslaw.com

Reva Adkins, Philoptochos President
(651) 738-1630
Email: rradkins@comcast.net

Andrea Faches, Sunday School Director
(507) 665-8053
Email: afaches@msn.com

Barbara Bauman, Choir Director
(651) 415-0556

Anna Christoforides, Greek School Director
(651) 225-8016
Email: annachristoforides@comcast.net

Diane Anastos & Ann Woods, Glad Tidings Co-Editors
Email: StGeorgeGladTidings@excite.com

November Registry

40 Day Churchings

November 12  Maxine Papaconstantinou and daughter Eleni
November 26  Elea Bentley and daughter Alexis Christine

Photo Gallery

During His Eminence Metropolitan Iakovos’ recent visit to St. Mary’s, clergy from several Minnesotan Greek Orthodox Churches had a chance to celebrate Vespers together.

A group of MEOCCA clergy from various area Orthodox Churches gathered at St. George’s to celebrate a Pan-Orthodox Thanksgiving Eve liturgy.

Theophany Feast Day Preparation

Friday, January 5

Come join the St. George Greek Orthodox Community for an evening of preparation for the feast day of Theophany–The Baptism of Jesus Christ.

Program
6:00 Vespers
7:00 Potluck Dinner & Fellowship
7:30 Adult & Children Discussions
8:30 Children join adults for closing prayer & and dessert/coffee

Bring a friend!
All ages welcome and encouraged!

Sponsored by the Spiritual Life Committee.

An evening of preparation for the Feast of the Meeting of our Lord is being planned for Thursday, February 1. Please also join us then!
YOUTH NEWS

ORATORICAL and ARTS FESTIVAL

January 28th

This year’s Oratorical and Arts Festival is January 28th immediately following the Divine Liturgy. Children in grades 7th through 12th are strongly encouraged to participate.

Participation may include either original speech presentation, iconography or artist presentation. Students have been given the diocese prepared speech topics in Sunday School and have access to the full Sunday School resources and staff in preparing speeches. Individual counseling and assistance is available by appointment with Father Rick or any member of the Sunday School staff.

Younger grades will also participate in the Festival. Each Sunday School class will be preparing group and/or individual presentations.

2007 BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

February 2nd, 3rd and 4th
Waukegan, Illinois.

Basketball practice: St. Paul Academy, 1712 Randolph Ave., St. Paul

Practices will be held every Sunday in January from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

January 7th January 14th January 21st January 28th

Registration and hotel reservation forms are available in the Church Office. Visit www.greekball.org for more information.

More coaches are needed. Call Jason Barbes (612) 926-0281 if you would like to coach.

UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS

SATURDAY, January 13th, HOPE preschoolers
4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Meet at the Bruer’s new house and be part of a house blessing. Their new address is:
130 Sunrise Court in Medina.
Please let Georgia know if you plan to attend by January 5th.
Gpanopo1@fairview.org

FRIDAY, JANUARY 25th, Family Night at the Children’s Museum 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Come join the fun. Details to follow. Register for this event by January 21st.

SAVE THE DATE Feb 23-25th

Winter Camp Lock-In St. Mary’s Greek Orthodox Church. Stay tuned for details.

FESTIVAL OF NATIONS

Children’s Program, Greek Dancing Practice after Greek School on Sunday, January 7th Sunday, January 28th.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

We need parent volunteers to help out with the youth programs. If you are interested in helping with JOY, GOYA, or the Youth Newsletter, please contact Jason or Kelly Barbes.

Please register your student(s) for these events by contacting Jason and Kelly Barbes (612) 926-0281 or at barbes11@msn.com.
Vasilopita Celebration

This tradition commenced in the fourth century, when Saint Basil the Great, who was a bishop, wanted to distribute money to the poor in his Diocese. He commissioned some women to bake sweetened bread, in which he arranged to place gold coins. Thus the families in cutting the bread to nourish themselves, were pleasantly surprised to find the coins.

This original event which happened in Cappadocia of Caesarea in the last half of the fourth century, is very much alive in our Orthodox homes each year on January 1st. According to tradition, special sweet bread (in some areas of Greece, it takes the form of a cake) is prepared both in the Orthodox homes and in the Church community which is called Vasilopita. Sweets are added to the bread which symbolize the sweetness and joy of life everlasting. It also symbolizes the hope that the New Year will be filled with the sweetness of life, liberty, health, and happiness for all who participate in the Vasilopita Observance.

When the Vasilopita is prepared, a coin is usually added to the ingredients. When the bread is cut and the observance begins, the individual who receives that portion of the Pita which contains the coin is considered blessed. St. George will hold the cutting of the Vasilopita ceremony on January 7. Please join us in this blessed event!

Some Books to Check Out for 2007

Wounded By Love-The Life and the Wisdom of Elder Porphyrios

Elder Porphyrios, a Greek monk and priest who died in 1991, stands in the long tradition of charismatic spiritual guides in the Eastern Church which continues from the apostolic age down to figures such as Saint Seraphim of Sarov and Staretz Silouan in modern times. In this book he tells the story of his life and, in simple, deeply reflected profoundly wise words, he expounds the Christian faith for today.

First Fruits of Prayer, A Forty-Day Journey Through the Canon of St. Andrew by Frederica Mathewes-Green

First Fruits of Prayer will bring to life the prayer experience of first- millennium Christianity through immersion in this fascinating text. The Canon of St. Andrew weaves together Old and New Testament Scriptures with prayers of hope and repentance, offering ancient ways of seeing Christ that nevertheless feel new today.

Icons and Saints of the Eastern Orthodox Church by Alfredo Tragido

Through Icons this book helps to explain and give background to the Orthodox faith. Through explanations and icons the book delves into experiencing the Iconostasis, the Royal Doors, the Feast Cycle, Calendar Icons, Processional Icons, Domestic Icons and Theological Icons.

If you wish to order a special icon the Book Store can do that for you.
Welcome Address by Patriarch Bartholomew to Pope Benedict, courtesy www.goarch.org

Your Holiness, beloved Brother in the Lord, It is with sentiments of sincere joy and satisfaction that we welcome you to the sacred and historical city of Istanbul.

This is a city that has known a treasured heritage for the growth of the Church through the ages. It is here that St. Andrew, the "first-called" of the Apostles founded the local Church of Byzantium and installed St. Stachys as its first bishop. It is here that the Emperor and "equal-to-the-Apostles," St. Constantine the Great, established the New Rome. It is here that the Great Councils of the early Church convened to formulate the Symbol of Faith. It is here that martyrs and saints, bishops and monks, theologians and teachers, together with a cloud of witnesses confessed what the prophets saw, what the apostles taught, what the church received, what the teachers formulated in doctrine, what the world understood, what grace has shone, namely the truth that was received, the faith of the fathers.

This is the faith of the Orthodox. This faith has established the universe.

So it is with open embrace that we welcome you on the blessed occasion of your first visit to the City, just as our predecessors, Ecumenical Patriarchs Athenagoras and Demetrios, had welcomed your predecessors, Popes Paul VI and John Paul II. These venerable men of the Church sensed the inestimable value and urgent need alike of such encounters in the process of reconciliation through a dialogue of love and truth.

Therefore, we are, both of us, as their successors and as successors to the Thrones of Rome and New Rome equally accountable for the steps - just, of course, as we are for any missteps - along the journey and in our struggle to obey the command of our Lord, that His disciples "may be one."

It was in this spirit that, by the grace of God, we visited repeatedly Rome and two years ago in order to accompany the relics of Saints Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom, formerly Archbishops of this City, whose sacred remains were generously returned to this Patriarchal Cathedral by the late Pope. It was in this spirit, too, that we traveled to Rome only months later to attend the funeral of Pope John Paul.

We are deeply grateful to God that Your Holiness has taken similar steps today in the same spirit. We offer thanks to God in doxology and express thanks also to Your Holiness in fraternal love.

Beloved Brother, welcome. "Blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord." "Blessed is the Name of the Lord now and forevermore."

Missionaries Needed

The Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC) is urgently seeking seminarians, theologians, Bible study leaders, teachers, doctors, and those with construction experience for its 2007 Orthodox Mission Teams. Mission Team members serve for 2-4 weeks abroad offering education, healthcare, construction, and leadership services as a witness to the Gospel of Christ. You may visit www.ocmc.org/teams for complete details regarding 2007 Team opportunities. Please contact Andrew Lekos at 1-877-463-6784 or by e-mail at teams@ocmc.org for more information or to volunteer.

Receive The Light Reaches Milestone

Come Receive the Light (CRTL), the National Orthodox Christian Radio Program is pleased to announce they have reached a new milestone. The program is now ministering to listeners in over 150 cities throughout America. This milestone makes Come Receive The Light the most successful and consistent media outreach for Orthodox Churches produced in America specifically to both educate the faithful and raise awareness of Orthodoxy in the general population.

With its mandate by the hierarchs of the Standing Conference of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in the Americas (SCOBA), Orthodox Christian Network is well on its way in creating a national, sustainable, and effective media witness for Orthodox Christianity in the United States. But the radio stations are only a part of the reach of the program. With online access, CRTL is heard in over 120 countries.

This wide-ranging media witness is really at the beginning of its possibilities. Fr. Chris Metropulos, founder and CEO of OCN says that he is truly humbled by the success thus far of the ministry. "Our staff is on a mission to share the beauties of Orthodoxy. We have a vision for using media as a tool to both encourage Orthodox faithful to stay connected to the Church and to expose spiritually seeking Americans to the fullness of the faith found in the timeless beauty of Orthodox Christianity."

Orthodox Christian Networks is headquartered in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida and is a commissioned agency of SCOBA (The Standing Conference of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the Americas). www.receive.org
ST. GEORGE GREEK
ORTHODOX CHURCH

1111 Summit Avenue
St. Paul, Minnesota 55105

Phone: 651-222-6220
Fax: 651-225-9276
Web Site: www.stgeorgeoc.org

Monday, January 1,
St. Basil, Divine Liturgy, 10:00am

Friday, January 5,
Eve of Theophany, Vespers w/ Great Agiasmos, 6:00pm

Saturday, January 6,
Theophany, Divine Liturgy w/ Great Agiasmos, 9:00am

Saturday, January 6,
Nativity Vigil For Resurrection Skete ,
7:00pm @ St. Mary OCA

Wednesday, January 17,
St. Anthony, Divine Liturgy, 6:00pm

Monday, January 25,
St. Gregory the Theologian, Divine Liturgy, 9:00 am

Monday, January 30,
Three Hierarchs, Divine Liturgy, 9:00 am

Saturday, December 9, 16, 23, 30
Vespers, 5:00 pm

REGULAR WEEKLY SERVICES

Holy Confession: By Appointment

Vespers: Saturday 5 pm
(September—May)

Orthros: Sunday 8:30 am

Divine Liturgy: Sunday 9:45 am

Sunday School: (September through May) starts after administration of Holy Communion

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<tr>
<td>1 + ST. BASIL NEW YEARS DAY HOLIDAY + 10:00am LITURGY • 6:30pm Missions and Benevolence</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3 + FAST DAY</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5 + STRICT FAST DAY + EVE OF THEOPHANY • 6:00pm VESPERS with AGIASMOS • 7:00pm Discussion Group</td>
<td>6 + THEOPHANY + 9:00am LITURGY w/ GREAT AGIASMOS • 12:30pm GOYAL Basketball Tournament Mtg. @ St. George GOC • 5:00pm Radio Program 980 AM • 5:00pm VESPERS • 7:00pm NATIVITY VIGIL FOR RESURRECTION SKETE @ ST. MARY OCA</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 + SYNAXIS OF FORERUNNER + 8:30am ORTHROS + 9:45am LITURGY • 12:00pm Greek School • 12:00pm Vasilopita Celebration • 12:30pm Basketball Practice @ St. Paul Academy</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10 + FAST DAY</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12 + FAST DAY</td>
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<td>14 + SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY + 8:30am ORTHROS + 9:45am LITURGY • 12:30pm Basketball Practice @ St. Paul Academy</td>
<td>15 MARTIN LUTHER KING BIRTHDAY + OFFICE CLOSED + 6:30pm Youth Ministry Meeting • 6:30pm Greek School • 7:00pm Catechism Class</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17 + FAST DAY + ST. ANTHONY + 6:00pm LITURGY • 7:00pm Glad Tidings Meeting</td>
<td>18 + STS. ATHANASIOS AND CYRIL • 5:00pm Spiritual Life Committee</td>
<td>19 + FAST DAY</td>
<td>20</td>
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<td>21 + 15TH SUNDAY OF LUKE (Zacchaeus) + 8:30am ORTHROS + 9:45am LITURGY • Sanctity of Life Sunday • Share the Light Sunday—Radio Program • 12:30pm Basketball Practice @ St. Paul Academy</td>
<td>22 + ST. TIMOTHY + 9:00am LITURGY • 6:30pm Greek School • 7:00pm Catechism Class</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24 + FAST DAY</td>
<td>25 • 9:00am LITURGY</td>
<td>26 + FAST DAY</td>
<td>27</td>
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<td>28 + TRIODION BEGINS-PUBLICAN &amp; PHARISEE + 8:30am ORTHROS + 9:45am LITURGY • Oratorical Festival • 12:00pm Greek School • 12:30pm Basketball Practice @ St. Paul Academy</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>30 + THREE HIERARCHS + 9:00am LITURGY</td>
<td>31 + FAST DAY</td>
<td>Coming in February...</td>
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- GOYA Basketball Tournament (Waukegan, IL) - YAL Conference (Chicago, IL) - Meatfare—Last Sunday - Metropolis Clergy Retreat - Cheesefare—Forgiveness Sunday - Great and Holy Lent Begins - Winter Camp (St. Mary GOC)
Unfortunately, such small-mindedness abounds in our Church. These people cannot see that the Church in Albania is connected to the Church in America. We are one Church with the mission churches in Africa, in Indonesia, in Mexico, because we all are part of the “one, holy catholic and apostolic Church.” We can never view it as “us and them.”

I remember when I lived in Kenya. At times, I would travel to villages that rarely if ever saw a white person. In most places, the children would flock around this wazungoo (this white man), but in some cases, little children who never had seen a white person before would start crying because they thought I was a ghost! Anyway, one day, a friend of mine put my arm next to his and asked, “Do you know what the difference is between you and me?” Then he pointed to the color of my skin and then his and said, “Only this color. What is in our hearts, what is in our souls, what is in our minds, is the same. We are brothers.” And truly we are!

When people ask us why my family and I left our homeland and our loved ones, I now answer “Because we felt that we were not only fulfilling St. Paul’s command to be “ambassadors of Christ,” but we understood that the Orthodox Church in America also needed to send ambassadors into the world, and therefore, we are your representatives!

Please understand, in order to be faithful Orthodox Christians, each of us should be asking ourselves, “How am I helping to fulfill God’s universal vision?” When we hear about someone interested in becoming a missionary, are we saying, “Why are you going to Albania, or Africa, or elsewhere?” when we should be saying, “Great! You can be our representative there. We will be behind you, with our prayers, with our finances, with our encouragement! Godspeed!”

Are we thinking, “You should stay here because there are many needs in this country,” instead of responding, “That’s great that you are going over there and will be a witness of God’s love. You go there, and I’ll stay in this country and offer my witness of God’s love to all the people here. Together we’ll make a great team!”

“The parish is my universe?” Hopefully not for many of our parishes.

“The universe is my parish!” This is our calling, and I pray, that many of our communities will fulfill this vision!

Fr. Luke Veronis is presently offering courses in Missiology at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology and St. Vladimir’s Seminary. He is also serving the Sts. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church in Webster, MA. He and his wife Faith have served as missionaries in Albania for more than 10 years, and in Africa for a year and a half. He is the author of “Missionaries, Monks and Martyrs: Making Disciples of All Nations.” Fr. Luke graduated from Penn State University, Holy Cross Theological School and Fuller Theological Seminary’s School of World Mission.

Missions in the Local Church
The Universe is Our Parish
Fr. Luke A. Veronis

St. John Chrysostom preached, “There are two kinds of bishops. One bishop is a pastor who says, ‘My parish is my universe.’ While the other bishop says, ‘The universe is my parish.’”

One of the most common, yet subtle, dangers – I may even say heresies – that has plagued the people of God from the time of ancient Israel until today, is the illness of parochialism in its individual and communal forms. “My parish is my universe” is what so many faithful still believe today.

Instead of a worldview where God the Creator is at the center, a view where all creation points to God and gives Him glory, slowly the ego – whether the individual ego: I, me, my, mine; or the communal ego: my people, my parish, my language, my culture – gradually takes over and this self-centered mentality distorts an authentic Orthodox worldview.

Our Triune God has a love and vision for all. In the Old Testament, we may remember how God chose a certain people as his prized possession, but we often forget why he chose them. When God called Abram in Genesis, he said, “Go forth from the land of your kinsfolk and from your father’s house to a land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you. I will make your name great, SO THAT you will be a blessing... And all the families of the earth shall find blessing in you.”
This central verse of the Old Covenant reveals God’s overarching plan of salvation for all. Abraham was called to leave what was familiar, to leave his own, to depart from his tiny ego, and to follow God in faith, so that he would be blessed by God, and, SO THAT he and his nation would become a blessing for ALL the families of the earth!

“The universe is my parish!” That is the mentality that God wanted us to have from the beginning, and this represents an authentic Orthodox worldview.

Unfortunately, we see time and again how God’s people forget, ignore, and even deny their universal calling, and choose instead to become a closed, parochial, often ethnocentric community.

Jesus Christ, the supreme example in the New Testament, made abundantly clear that no boundaries could limit His unconditional love for all people. Whether it was a heretical Samaritan, a Roman centurian, a foreign Syrophoenician woman, a corrupt tax collector, or an immoral adulteress, Christ saw each and every person as a beloved child of his. He fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah: “Although a mother may forget her child, I can never forget you. I have carved you on the palm of my hand.”

The whole meaning of Orthodox Christianity has to do with looking outward, remembering the other! The Philokalia teaches, “Blessed is the one who rejoices in his salvation, but even more blessed is the one who rejoices in the salvation of the other.”

St. John Chrysostom said a similar message, “I do not believe in the salvation of anyone who does not try to save others.” ‘My parish is my universe?’ or ‘The universe is my parish?’

Our Church Fathers represented a truly ecumenical, universal and missionary spirit that we need to practice today. Why is it that so many of our local churches and leaders too often lack a vibrant worldwide vision and outreach? Why are we, as individuals, so weak in cultivating this universal spirit in our own spiritual journeys?

The answer is simple, because it is a problem that has plagued humanity since Adam and Eve. The ego. Our little ego continually limits our worldview, poisoning not only our perception of self, but corrupting our understanding of the Church and the world around us. Our spiritual journey becomes a self-centered pursuit for individual happiness, comfort, pleasure, and self-fulfillment – an idea completely foreign to the theology of the Great Fathers.

Even many of today’s Churches reject the universal vision and become nothing more than proud, closed, social clubs. For example, how many of our communities will spend 95% of their church budget on themselves! Even if we are spending all our money on something good – like catechetical work, youth ministry, and beautification of a Church, we still have to ask ourselves, what percent of the Church’s money and time goes outside her own people?

Surely, a Church and her pastoral team must take care of their own people! But simultaneously, the Church community must remember that she is called to be yeast within the general society where we live, she must be a light to the non-Orthodox and secular people around her in America, as well as participating in the overall witness that is needed throughout the entire world! What a terrible distortion of God’s vision when a community focuses only on its own! Archbishop Anastasios of Albania says, “The opposite of love is often called hatred. But its real name is egoism. This is the denial of the Triune God who is a koinonia (a communion) of love. Christian life means continual assimilation of the mystery of the cross in the fight against individual and communal selfishness.”

We must recover this life of asceticism and self-sacrifice. We must make every effort to flee from our self-centered wills, and enter into the “mind of Christ.” Through this struggle, we can overcome our destructive egos, rejecting the parochial view of “the parish as the universe,” and united to Christ, developing a worldview of “the universe as the parish.”

This is the reason why my family and I left America ten years ago to serve the Church in Albania. Yet, over the years, so many people have questioned us, “Why did you leave America? You should have stayed here. There are so many needs in our own country!”

Some even think the whole idea of mission is just downright wrong. A while ago on a six month sabbatical at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Theological School, the President of the school told me that someone complained to him about us living on campus. This person grumbled, “Don’t you think it’s dangerous to have Veronis living among the students, because maybe he will influence some of them to become missionaries.”
A Little History

St. George celebrated its 65th Anniversary in 2005. Like many other Orthodox churches, St. George owes its beginning to Greek immigrants who began to arrive in the 1900’s.

In 1940, a group of faithful decided to establish St. George Greek Orthodox Church & purchased the McDonald mansion on this property for a place of worship. Seven priests, including Fr. Parry Paraschou (1975-1999), have served our parish by helping her to grow in numbers, spiritual & community activities.

A fire in 1967 forced the community to rebuild in 1968. It was consecrated by Archbishop Iakovos on May 11, 1975. In 1999, a major renovation added an elevator, offices in addition to updated restrooms & entrances. In 2001 the church purchased the adjacent land to the West. Expanded parking & landscaping are planned for 2006 & a new iconostasis is underway for 2007.

Today, the members of our parish represent many nationalities & ethnicities—founding (families), converts, seniors & immigrants. There are approximately 250 families and 550 parishioners.

We are pleased that you are visiting with us today & would like to hear from you. Please fill out the detachable visitor card & give to an usher or mail it in at your leisure. Welcome to our community!

Church Ministries

Being a part of the Body of Christ, we strive to follow His example by teaching, preaching and healing. We do this through our worship, spirituality, philanthropy and community service.

Philoptochos is the official philanthropic arm of the Greek Orthodox Church. This organization has dedicated members who spend many hours raising money for a variety of causes as well as helping to cook and serve (at Loaves and Fishes).

Our youth ministers also organize & lead activities for children. Projects include assisting the elderly or collecting and delivering non-perishable items for food shelves. A more recent development has been an art auction that supports youth activities.

While supporting our daily operational needs through stewardship giving, St. George contributes to missionary work & gives money to charitable organizations that help the hungry & the homeless.

We also enjoy connecting with old & new friends through cultural events such as our Annual Greek Festival (held in August) as well as reaching out personally.

Education

Worshipping God, receiving the sacraments, hearing the scriptures during the Divine Liturgy are the primary ways we encounter our Lord Jesus Christ & His Holy Spirit to grow in knowledge of God’s grace & truth.

Sunday School begins for preschoolers & runs through 12th grade. If you would like to register your child(dren), registration is available on our web site stgeorgegoc.org. Vacation Church School is scheduled for one week every August.

Dedicated volunteers have coordinated Greek School for the younger children. Bible Study is held monthly (check web site for day and time) & Catechism classes are held twice yearly for those interested in learning more about their Faith or wanting to convert.

St. George runs a bookstore with an impressive collection of books & icons. Our parish & spiritual life committee collaborates with other local Orthodox churches to organize & host workshops that enhance & nurture our Faith.

We are blessed by your presence & hope that you will keep our parish in your prayers.

Visitor Information Card

We are pleased that you are visiting. Please complete the information below at your leisure and give to an usher or drop in mail.

Name__________________________ Address _______________________________ Email__________________________
City_____________________ State_____________________ Zip Code___________________
Phone_____________________ Spouse Name_______________ Children________________________________________ Ages_________________________

I am looking for a new church and interested in learning more about the Orthodox Church
Visiting as a guest today only
New to area and would like to be contacted by priest or welcome committee

We are pleased that you are visiting. Please complete the information below at your leisure and give to an usher or drop in mail.
Information

Services
❖ Vespers: Saturdays (October-May) 5 pm
❖ Matins: Sundays 8:30 am
❖ Liturgy: Sundays 9:45 am

Office hours
❖ Mondays 10-12:30, 1:30-4:30
❖ Tuesdays-Thursdays 8-12:30, 1:30-4:30

Address
1111 Summit Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55105
(651) 222-6220 phone
(651) 222-9276 fax
stgeorgegoc@msn.com

Website
www.stgeorgegoc.org

Fr. Richard Demetrius Andrews, Pastor
fatherrick@usa.com

Fr. Rick is a graduate of Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Seminary, Boston, MA (Master’s of Divinity, 1994). He has served St. George parish since 1999. He is pleased to answer any questions or meet for pastoral counseling.

Introduction
St. George Greek Orthodox Church is part of the Eastern Orthodox Christian Church, whose roots can be traced directly to the Apostles of Jesus Christ.

The Orthodox Church teachings are taken from the Holy Scriptures and Apostolic tradition. The first teachings of the Disciples were oral, preceding the New Testament. However both are equal in value being the medium in which God revealed his will and the Church accepts as being the only truth.

Eastern Orthodox worship centers on the Sunday Divine Liturgy and seven major sacraments: Baptism, Chrismation, Holy Eucharist, Confession, Ordination, Marriage and Holy Unction.

Membership is not restricted to persons with certain ethnic backgrounds. Rather it is open to anyone seeking to follow our Lord Jesus Christ through the worship, sacramental life and ethical teachings of His Body—the Church.
# COOPERATIVE CATECHISM

## WINTER 2007

**Mondays 7:00-9:00PM**

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<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 8</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>Fr. Richard Andrews</td>
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<td>January 15</td>
<td>God- Holy Trinity</td>
<td>Fr. Paul Wesche</td>
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<td>January 22</td>
<td>Mankind- Creation, the Fall, Messiah</td>
<td>Fr. Thaddeus Wojcik</td>
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<td>January 29</td>
<td>Christ I- Incarnation, Theotokos &amp; Saints</td>
<td>Fr. Thomas Begley</td>
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<td>February 5</td>
<td>Christ II- His Work &amp; Teachings</td>
<td>Fr. Chris Wojcik</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 12</td>
<td>Church I- Birth, Mission, Structure</td>
<td>Fr. Paul Wesche</td>
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<td>February 19</td>
<td>Church II- Councils, Creeds, Bible, Tradition</td>
<td>Fr. Nathan Kroll</td>
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<td>February 26</td>
<td>Sacraments I- Baptism, Chrismation, Confession, Unction</td>
<td>Fr. Jonathan Proctor</td>
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<td>March 5</td>
<td>Sacraments II- Eucharist, Liturgy, Worship, Prayer</td>
<td>Fr. Paul Paris</td>
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<td>March 12</td>
<td>Sacraments III- Marriage &amp; Monasticism</td>
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<td>March 19</td>
<td>The Goal- Second Coming &amp; Living the Christian Life</td>
<td>Fr. Richard Andrews</td>
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<td>March 26</td>
<td>Conclusion- Orthodoxy in America, Jurisdictions, Q&amp;A</td>
<td>Fr. Nathan Kroll</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 8</td>
<td>GREAT &amp; HOLY PASCHA</td>
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*Clean Monday- Great and Holy Lent Begins*

**Texts:** *Introducing the Orthodox Church* by Anthony Coniaris, *The Orthodox Church* by Kallistos Ware, *The Orthodox Way* by Ware, *The Faith* by Clark Carlton.

**Cost:** FREE (Sponsored by Clergy Association)

**Location**

St. George Greek Orthodox Church, 1111 Summit Avenue, St. Paul, MN  55105   651-222-6220.

**REGISTRATION FORM**

NAME:________________________________________
ADDRESS:________________________________________
CITY:_________  STATE:_________  ZIP:_________
PHONE:________________________
PARISH:_____________________________________
EMAIL ADDRESS:_____________________________________
ARE YOU ORTHODOX:  YES  NO  (circle one)
IF NO, WHAT RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION:________________________
WHAT BEST DESCRIBES WHY YOU ARE ATTENDING THIS CLASS:
1. Just interested in learning more about the Orthodox Faith.
2. Seeking to prepare to join the Orthodox Christian Faith.
3. Not sure yet.
REGISTRATION FEE:  FREE
PREFERRED BOOK:_____________________________________

1
Instructors

Fr. Richard Andrews is pastor of St. George Greek Orthodox Christian Church in St. Paul, MN and a volunteer chaplain with the St. Paul Police Department. He is a graduate of University of Minnesota (BS 1988) Minneapolis, MN and Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology (MDiv 1994) Boston, MA.

Fr. Nathan Kroll is pastor of the Holy Myrrhbearers Orthodox Christian Mission parish of St. Cloud, MN. He is a graduate of Augsburg College (BA) Minneapolis, MN and of St. Vladimir’s Orthodox Seminary (Masters of Divinity).

Fr. Paul Wesche is pastor of St. Herman’s Orthodox Christian Church in South Minneapolis. He is a graduate of Nazarene Theological Seminary (Masters of Divinity), Kansas City, MO and St. Vladimir’s Orthodox Seminary (Masters of Theology), Crestwood, NY, and Fordham University (Ph.D in Patristics 1986), New York, NY.

Fr. Christopher Wojcik is pastor of Holy Trinity Orthodox Christian Church in Clayton, Wisconsin. He is a graduate of the University of Minnesota (BA 1993) and St. Vladimir's Orthodox Seminary (MDiv 1996), New York, NY.

Fr. Jonathan Proctor is pastor of Holy Trinity Orthodox Christian Church in Saint Paul. He is a graduate of the University of the Witwatersrand (BA) and St. Vladimir's Orthodox Seminary (MDiv 1990), New York, NY, and studied theology at the University of Athens, Greece.

Fr John Magram is pastor of Resurrection of Christ Russian Orthodox Church and Abbot of the men's monastic community in Minneapolis. He is a graduate of St. John's University (Secondary Education), St. Francis College in Brooklyn, NY (BA, English) St. Vladimir's Orthodox Seminary (MDiv.), St. Clare's Medical Center, NYC (R.N.)

Fr. Paul Paris is pastor of St. Mary Greek Orthodox Church in Minneapolis. He is a graduate of Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology (MDiv. 1991) Boston, MA.

Fr. Thaddeus Wojcik is pastor of Holy Assumption Orthodox Church in Lublin, WI and St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church in Stanley, WI. He is also Dean of the Minneapolis Deanery in the Midwest Diocese of the Orthodox Church of America. He is Adjunct Professor of Theology at St. Thomas University, Saint Paul, MN (2005-2007). He is a graduate of University of Minnesota (BA, 1964) and St. Vladimir's Orthodox Seminary (MDiv. 1968).

Fr. Thomas Begley is pastor of St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church in West Saint Paul, MN.
EVENT CALENDAR 2007

January 1  ST. BASIL THE GREAT / CIRCUMCISION OF LORD
January 5-6 THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD
  Agiasmos/Blessing of Waters
January 7 Vasilopita Celebration
January 15 Martin Luther King Holiday- Office Closed
January 21 National Radio Program Sunday- Come Receive Light
January 28 TRIODION BEGINS;  Youth Oratorical Festival
January 30 THREE HIERARCHS

February 2 MEETING OF OUR LORD
February 2-4 Family Basketball Tournament, Waukegan, Illinois
February 9-12 YAL Conference, Chicago, IL
February 10 Greek School- Apokreatiko Glendi
February 11 Godparent/Child & Newcomer Luncheon
February 12 Loaves & Fishes
February 18 CHEESEFARE- OCMC Missions Sunday Luncheon
February 19 CLEAN MONDAY- GREAT LENT BEGINS
  Presidents’ Day- Office Closed
February 23-25 Youth Winter Retreat

March 11 VENERATION OF CROSS
March 25 ANNUNCIATION / GREEK INDEPENDENCE

April 1 PALM SUNDAY- HOLY WEEK BEGINS
April 6 HOLY FRIDAY- take day-off from work & school
April 8 GREAT & HOLY PASCHA- St. George- Parish Feastday
April 9 BRIGHT MONDAY- Office Closed;  Loaves & Fishes

May 3-6 Festival of Nations
May 13 Mother’s Day- Greek School Graduation
May 17 ASCENSION OF OUR LORD
May 27 PENTECOST
May 28 Memorial Day Holiday- Office Closed

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<td>June 11</td>
<td>Loaves &amp; Fishes</td>
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<td>ALL SAINTS- Sunday School Graduation</td>
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<td>June 17-23</td>
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<td>July 4</td>
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<td>August 1-15</td>
<td>FAST OF THEOTOKOS</td>
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<td>August 6</td>
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<td>August 6-10</td>
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<td>August 18-19</td>
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<td>September 1</td>
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<td>NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS</td>
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<td>September 9</td>
<td>Sunday School Begins; Church Picnic</td>
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<td>September 14</td>
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<td>September 16</td>
<td>OCF- College Student Sunday</td>
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<td>September 17</td>
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<td>October 8</td>
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<td>October 13</td>
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<td>October 23</td>
<td>ST. IAKOVOS- Metropolitan’s Nameday Celebration, IL</td>
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<td>October 26</td>
<td>ST. DEMETRIOS- Archbishop’s Nameday</td>
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<td>October 28</td>
<td>PROTECTION OF THEOTOKOS- OXI Day</td>
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<td>November 4</td>
<td>Philoptochos &amp; Patriarchate Sunday- Sts. Kosmas &amp; Damianos</td>
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<td>November 15</td>
<td>ADVENT FAST BEGINS</td>
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<td>November 17-18</td>
<td>Philoptochos Bake Sale</td>
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<td>November 18</td>
<td>IOCC- Int’l Orthodox Christian Charities Sunday</td>
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<td>November 21</td>
<td>ENTRANCE OF THEOTOKOS INTO TEMPLE</td>
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<td>November 22-23</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Holiday- Office Closed</td>
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<td>December 10</td>
<td>Loaves &amp; Fishes</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 25</td>
<td>NATIVITY OF CHRIST- Office Closed</td>
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<td>December 26</td>
<td>SYNAXIS OF THEOTOKOS- Office Closed</td>
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GREEK ORTHODOX DIOCESE OF CHICAGO

ECCLESIASTICAL CALENDAR

Regulating Fasts and Sacraments and Celebrations

November 15
The Christmas Fast Begins
This is a forty-day fast in preparation for the Nativity of our Lord. During this period the faithful are expected to become more aware of being properly prepared in awaiting the Great Feastday of Christmas. The Church in Her understanding of human weaknesses however has allowed weddings to take place up to and including December 12. Nevertheless, the faithful are discouraged from this in order to help their spiritual development during this period. Weddings are strictly prohibited between December 13 and December 25 inclusive. Baptisms are also discouraged during this period and prohibited between December 25 and January 6 in honor or the Great Feastday of Epiphany.

December 13 to December 25
Weddings are not permitted; baptisms are not encouraged.

December 26 to January 4
Baptisms are not permitted; weddings are permitted.

January 5
STRICT FAST DAY
Weddings and baptisms are not permitted

January 6
Epiphany/Theophany
Weddings and baptisms are not permitted in honor of Theophany. Memorials (mnimosina) are not permitted.

Triodion Begins
No Fasting for the entire First Week.

Second Week of Triodion
Wednesday and Fridays are days of abstinence.

Third Week of Triodion
Dairy and cheese products are permitted. However, a meat abstinence exists for the entire week.

Weddings and Baptisms are permitted throughout this three-week period.

Pure Monday
The Great Fast begins and continues until Holy Pascha. No weddings are permitted; while baptisms are allowed but not encouraged.
Saturday of St. Lazarus
Weddings are not permitted; baptisms are permitted.
No memorials (mnimosina) are permitted from the Saturday of St. Lazarus to, and including, the Sunday of St. Thomas.

Palm Sunday to Pascha Sunday
Weddings and baptisms are not permitted for the entire eight-day period.

Bright Week
No fasting or abstinence is permitted for the entire week.

The Ascension of Our Lord
Weddings and baptisms are not permitted.
Memorials are not permitted.

Pentecost
Weddings and baptisms are not permitted. No abstinence permitted
Throughout the entire week following Pentecost in honor of the Holy Trinity and the establishment of the Church.
Memorials are not permitted on Pentecost.

August 1 to August 15
The Fast of the Mother of God
Weddings are not permitted and baptisms are not encouraged.

August 29
STRICT FAST DAY- The Beheading of St. John the Baptist
Weddings and baptisms are not permitted.

September 14
STRICT FAST DAY- Elevation of the Holy Cross
Weddings and baptisms are not permitted.

Note: On these days and periods of abstinence and fasting, festive banquets, dances, festivals, and other public and private expressions of celebration are not permitted. The members of the Church are, therefore, requested to make every attempt to follow these regulations for their spiritual edification and growth in the faith.

Diocese of Chicago
September 1981
Reissued; March 1982
House Blessings and Theophany—The Feast of Lights

On January 6 the faithful attend a Divine Liturgy and the Great Blessing of the Water service to celebrate Theophany, also called “Ton Photon” (“Feast of Lights”) with reference to the spiritual illumination of the Holy Spirit. The service commemorates the baptism of Christ and the manifestation of God in three persons.

Large numbers of people attend church to be blessed and to receive holy water which they take home in small bottles provided by the church. Some parishioners bring their own bottles often made specifically for holy water. In most churches in America the blessing is held indoors, and the water is contained in a large urn. Some communities hold outdoor celebrations by a body of water.

Blessings of the Home

It is customary, to invite your priest to bless your home with holy water within a few weeks following Theophany. Prepare by cleaning the house and opening and lighting all the rooms. The items needed for a house blessing are:

- icon of Christ
- candle
- large serving bowl for the Holy Water
- incense
- incense burner
- charcoal
- a sprig of basil leaves (available at a grocery store)

Many of these items can be purchased in the church bookstore. Place the items on a small table. The priest blesses the water by dipping a cross in it and repeating a blessing. Using the basil sprig dipped in water as a sprinkler, he will go to each room and sprinkle it in the four corners blessing the home with the grace of the Holy Spirit which also protects you from evil spirits. Save some of the holy water in a bottle in your ikonostasi (home altar) and pour the remainder on plants. Although ideal, all family members do not need to be present for the house blessing. House Blessings are a yearly tradition.

Personal Use

According to Orthodox doctrine, holy water has the power to sanctify and heal. Have each family member drink a small amount of the holy water from Epiphany or the home blessing. Keep the unused holy water in your home ikonostasi for future use: times of adversity, before starting a new venture or trip, to give thanks, or when someone is ill. You may drink it or anoint yourself when you feel spiritually afflicted. To rid the house of evil spirits, it should be sprinkled in the four corners of each room, so no one will step on it. In rural Greece the holy water is sprinkled in the fields and on the animals.

If you would like to have your home blessed, call or email Father at fatherrick@usa.com.
St. George Greek Orthodox Church, St. Paul, MN
Parish Council Meeting Minutes
November 9, 2006


Members Absent: George Kanavati, Ronald Adkins, Katerina Kaniamos, Paul Pliakas

The meeting convened at 7:04 pm with an opening prayer led by Fr. Richard Andrews. Christ Kontenakos and Ann Woods read Bible verses.

A. Officer’s Reports

1. Secretary’s Report

--Minutes from Parish Council Meetings on October 12, 2006 approved as corrected.

2. Treasurer’s Report

--No Report (attachment)

B. Father’s Report

--Attachment

C. Committee Reports

1. Stewardship

--Steve Arsenault and Peter Hofrenning presented.

--Pledge calls in October have yielded $22,000.00 in pledges so far.

2. Spiritual Life

--Steve Arsenault presented.
--The plan is to organize adult education around the feast days.

3. **Building and Grounds**

   --Christ Kontenakos presented.
   --Glass to be cleaned and painting to be done.
   --North wall and library to be painted.
   --Window exteriors not to be done, cost too much for storm window removal.

D. **New Business**

1. **Prospective Capital Projects for 2007**

   --Christ Kontenakos presented
   --Four exit lights to be replaced, ($500).
   --Clean four domes ($1,000).
   --Security door for back door in the basement.
   --New Refrigerator ($2,300). Almost $1,000 to repair.
   --Paint library and install hard wood floor surface ($2,000).
   --Altar table.
   --Central monument in Roselawn Cemetery.
   --Fence around trash containers.

2. **Pan Orthodox Service and Letter to Chancellor**

   --Father Rick presented.
   --Reminder that Pan Orthodox Service coming up and parish council is responsible for the food.
   --It would be nice to write a letter to the chancellor congratulating him for the
ordination.

E. Unfinished Business

1. Land Development Project
   --Eric Chadwick presented.
   --Lights poles are to go up.
   --Striping to get done.
   --Third payment to be paid for only things that have been completed
   --Ann Woods is watering the vegetation so it doesn’t die.

2. Youth Ministry
   --Father Rick presented.
   --There has been a posting for the position of youth director.
   --Christ Kontenakos thinks it would be nice to have the youth director’s reports
     posted in the social hall for the parishioners to see.

3. Loaves and Fishes Update
   --Dimitri Dokos presented.
   --Dimitri Dokos and Naomi Tsantir are to be the coordinators for Loaves and
     Fishes.
   --Perspective couples to help are being found.
   --Benevolence committee says they will help. Help is still needed to run the
     operation.
   --Philoptochos as well as Benevolence committee will continue to help
     financially.

4. Nickitas Camp Scholarship Fund Guidelines
--Christ Kontenakos presented (attachment).

--Christ Kontenakos moves to accept Nickitas Camp Scholarship Fund Guidelines. Motion Seconded. Parish Council wanted a chance to review the guidelines and this will be voted on at the next Parish Council meeting.

5. **Steve Zeece Recognition**

--Christ Kontenakos presented.

--Recognition is scheduled for November 26th, 2006.

6. **Pictorial Directory**

--Eric Chadwick presented.

--Reshoot was last Friday. There are 80 families with pictures. Pictures will go out in about 3 weeks.

F. **Parish Assembly**

--Eric Chadwick presented.

--There will be at least 6 people to run.

F. **Good Of The Church**

1. **Presentation of $1,000 to the Church by Hellenic Post No. 129 (American Legion)**

--Chris Georgantones and Nick Kakos presented the check (letter attachment)

--Funds to be used for youth related programs.

--Funds are not to be used for normal administrative or religious functions of the church.

--For participants involved in the youth programs Hellenic Post No. 129 would appreciate that they be accredited as having provided financial support.
2. **Pie Sale**
   --Christ Kontenakos presented.
   --Help is needed Monday and Tuesday before Thanksgiving.

3. **Duration Time of Parish Council Meetings**
   --Christ Kontenakos presented.
   --Christ suggested that it would be nice to strive for shorter meetings.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 pm with a closing prayer from Fr. Rick.
Eric H Chadwick, President

Soule Paraschou, Secretary

Rev. Fr. Richard Demetrius Andrews, Presbyter
YOUTH MINISTER
JOB DESCRIPTION

Position Title: Youth Minister Part-Time

Supervision: The Part-Time Youth Minister works under the pastoral guidance of the Parish Priest and he is directly accountable to him.

- Commitment of Time: 10-15 hours/week
- Salary: Commensurate with education and experience ($15-20/hour)
- Primary Responsibilities:
  - GOYA – (Junior and Senior High School) Currently meeting once per month.
  - JOY – (Elementary School, grades 1-6) Currently meeting once per month.
  - HOPE – (Toddlers, Pre-school, K) Currently meeting once per month.
- Vitalize programs through increased participation of youth and parents.
- Seek increase frequency of meetings over time.
- Other Responsibilities: Participate in Vacation Church School, Summer Church Camp, Basketball Tournament, Retreats.
- Opportunity for growth in hours and compensation as program grows.
- Application: Current resume and recommendation from two supervisors in youth ministry.
- Full criminal background check required.

Dimension of Position: This position provides the leadership required...
- To develop Orthodox Christian fellowship (Koinonia) among our young people.
- To involve them in the Liturgical and Sacramental life of the Church (Liturgia).
- To encourage the sharing of their Orthodox Faith with others (Martyria).
- To provide opportunities for serving the Church and the Society at Large (Diakonia).
- To promote the bond between parents and children.
- To solidify Orthodox Christian beliefs in lives of parents and children.

Requirements of Position:
- An active Orthodox Christian.
- Attend regularly our Church worship services and activities.
- Know and be enthusiastic about his/her Orthodox Faith and Tradition.
- Be a good role model for our young people.
- Understand young people, love to work with them and interact successfully with them.
- Good communication skills and ability to work with volunteers.
- Good organizational and supervisory skills.
- Some experience in youth work.
- Willing to continually educate himself/herself about Youth by reading literature, attending conferences, etc.

Other Desirable Qualifications:
- Degree in Orthodox Theology or Orthodox Religious Education.
- Degree in Youth Ministry.
- Degree in Psychology or Counseling.
- Experience in athletics or physical fitness.
- Computer skills.
- He/she be physically fit.
• He/she know CPR.
BUILDING & GROUND MAINTANCE -2006

This year we experienced many extraordinary expenses for our Church for Maintenance. Following is a recap of the projects and costs incurred in 2006 that were not accrued at the beginning of 2006.

First I would like to take this opportunity to thank a few of the people that helped make my job easier.

Many thanks to Steve Zeece, Jimmy Theros and John Poulos. These guys, as many others, are dedicated to serving their church. The work that they do behind the scenes is outstanding. You do not have to ask them a second time. I also want to thank Harold Johnson for always being available whenever I ask him. We need a few more like these people.

Many may wonder why our Maintenance expenses were so high this year and this is why I compiled this list for information purposes.

Here is the list of projects completed this year. Many of these projects were safety issues that required immediate attention. Hopefully we are catching up and next year should be better. These projects came about because we did not stay on top of regular maintenance and they all caught up with us. The numbers are rounded to nearest $100.00.

1. Front sidewalk completed in July. $5900.00
2. Repaired leaks South wall of the church and around the Social Hall 2200.00
3. Repaired wall in back stairs. Big holes in cinder blocks 400.00
4. Repaired ceiling in back of kitchen 400.00
5. City Fire Inspection — cleaned vents by certified company and fee. 800.00
6. Repaired the four domes. One over the Bishop’s throne was leaking. Split the cost with Gopher roofing. 300.00
7. Replaced external water valves that were installed in 1968. 800.00
8. Work done in the library to comply with safety issues. 900.00
9. Coffee machine repairs. 600.00
10. Repaired and cleaned carpet in the Sunday school area due to safety issues 200.00

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Total $12,500.00

We still have a number of small items that will have to be taken care of in 2007 but not to the magnitude of this year.
Also, many thanks to all of you for helping making our church better.

God Bless
Christ Kontenakos
Maintenance Chairperson