

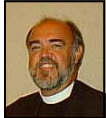
ASCENSION OF OUR LORD GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH



ANALYSIS NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 1 - ISSUE 1

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2005



From Father Jim's Study...

A story is told of a Chinese farmer who was tending to his rice fields during an earthquake. From his hilltop, he saw the ocean swiftly withdrawn, like some prodigious animal crouching for a leap, and knew the leap would be a tidal wave (tsunami). He also saw his neighbors were working in their low fields and that they must be warned and summoned to the hill or be swept away in the tidal wave. Without a second thought, he set fire to his rice-ricks and furiously rang the temple bell. His neighbors thought his farm was on fire so they rushed up the hill to help him. It was from the safety of the hill that they all saw the tsunami hit the shore and the rice fields. They all knew that if it had not been for their friend who summoned them to the hill, they would not be alive. In gratitude, they daily went to the temple, offering prayers for their beloved friend.

This ancient Chinese tale has great significance today, as the world experienced another such horror and tragedy, a little more than a month ago. As we have witnessed, the world has responded and has come to the aid of the people of South East Asia. You, the faithful of the Ascension of Our Lord, also gave willingly and unselfishly to help so many people in need, people you do not even know.

Whether you realize or not, you have given far more than money to those people. You have given them eternal hope through the love of Jesus Christ. Through your love for Christ, and through your benevolence, you have given your family and children a living example of Christ's concern and love for His people. Through your love for Christ, and through your prayers, you have given your family and children a living example which will remain in the hearts and souls of the people whose lives you touched and in your own family members, the rest of their lives. As a Church we do not only give thanks to God, for the ability He has given us to be givers, but we give thanks to those who have learned to give of themselves for others.

You, as a member of this parish, have helped to lay the foundation of indelible strength through your word and through your deed, so this Church may continue to grow abundantly in its ministry, in the Name of Christ Jesus. In the Name of the Lord, I thank you for your love, generosity and caring, remembering always — **to God give the Glory!**

INTRODUCING THE BRAND NEW "ANALYSIS NEWSLETTER"

With the blessing of Fr. Jim, we introduce you to the inaugural issue of the bi-monthly "Analysis Newsletter." We hope this new format will be enjoyable to you, keeping you informed of our Parish's many events as well as being a source of spiritual nourishment in your journey of your Orthodox Christian Faith. One such section of the newsletter, would be "From Fr. Jim's Study," which you see to the left.

Our "Analysis Newsletter" also has an informative section, "Parish Registry," listing the sacraments, 40-day blessings, funerals, and memorials that have taken place at our parish. You will also see all those who are involved assisting in the various ministries of the Church. The Parish Council members are also listed for your reference. Following this informative section, we have news and updates of our Parish, Philoptochos, and our Youth. Finally, on the back page you will find times and dates of our Church Services and other pertinent Parish Information. We hope you enjoy this first issue of our "Analysis Newsletter" and we look forward to bringing you a new and exciting issue every other month.



THE PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD Celebrated on February 2nd

The story of the Presentation of Our Lord is told in Luke 2:22-29. Mary and Joseph were faithful Jews and observed their religious customs. An important custom was for the couple to take their first-born son to the Temple. The baby was taken to the Temple forty days after his birth and was dedicated to God. In addition, if the parents were wealthy, they were to bring a lamb with a young pigeon or a turtle dove to be offered as a sacrifice at the Temple. The custom provided that if the parents were poor, they were to offer two pigeons or two turtle doves for the sacrifice.

When Jesus was forty days old, Mary and Joseph took Him to the Temple in Jerusalem. They were not wealthy, so they took two turtle doves with them to offer as a sacrifice at the Temple. As they arrived at the Temple, Mary and Joseph were met by a very old man named Simeon. He was a holy man and was noted as a very intelligent scholar. Simeon spent much time studying about the prophets of Israel. It was during his studies that he learned of the coming of the Messiah. The Jewish people were waiting for the Messiah to come and deliver Israel from their conquerors. From that time on, Simeon spent his time praying for the Messiah to come. He spent many years in prayer. Finally, while Simeon was praying he heard the voice of God. God promised Simeon that he would not die until he had seen the Messiah.

When Simeon saw Jesus, he took the baby in his arms and blessed the Lord and said: "Lord, now let Your servant go in peace according to Your promise, because my eyes have seen Your salvation which you have prepared before the face of all peoples, a light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory to your people Israel."

Also, in the Temple was Anna the Prophetess. She had been a widow for many years. Anna was about eighty-four years old and spent her time in the Temple worshiping, fasting, and praying. When she saw the Christ Child she praised God and spoke of Him to all who were awaiting the Messiah. After Jesus was presented in the Temple, the family returned to Galilee to the town of Nazareth. The Bible tells us that Jesus grew up and was filled with wisdom.

(Taken from Archdiocese Website)

Ascension of Our Lord Stewardship Ministries	Parish Registry												
<p style="text-align: center;">Rev. Fr. James S. Gordon, Protopresbyter</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Parish Council</u></p> <p>President: George Kartsimas Vice-President: Basil Athenson Secretary: Nicholas Marino Treasurers: Alex Marx Assistant Treasurer: Harold Anagnos Members: Elaine Alexander, Ernest Bakakos, Robert Buhler, Frank Columbus, Karen Dolin, Nicholas Gatsis, Michael Kaitson, Thomas Kiriakos, Paul Lillios, Eric Marcus, Bob Mantzoros, George Mouzakiotis, Thomas Papastefan, Carol Stamas, Tom Vabakos, Peter Venetos, Irene Werner</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Parish Ministry Team</u></p> <p>Acolytes (Senior Leaders): Michael Argol, Nick Lillios, Demetrios Treantafeles Bookstore: Senior Synaxis Members Chanters: Paul Lillios, Tassos Nassis, Nick Papastratakos Choir Director: Kay James Custodian: Marian Janowski Greek School: Eleni Adamis GOYA: Christina Marino, Carol Stamas JOY & Jr. GOYA: Presbyteria Nasia Gordon, Amy Sallas, Maria Vlahos Kollyva: Tina Anagnos, Rebecca Bremer LOGOS Adult Education: Fr. Jim Gordon, Alex Magdalinos Office Secretary: Kay James Office Volunteers: Maita Houppis, Antigone Zaverdas Pastoral Assistant: Alex Magdalinos Philoptochos President: Carol Stamas Senior Synaxis: Dee & Christ Christ Sunday Church School Director: Georgeanne Marx</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>40-DAY BLESSINGS</u></p> <p>08/01/04 Daughter of Phyllis and Steve Varon 08/22/04 Daughter of Amy and Charles Marlas 08/29/04 Daughter of Anastasia and Anthony Serpico 09/10/04 Daughter of Suzanne and James Saric 09/17/04 Daughter of Eleni and Nicholas Vlahos 09/25/04 Son of Magdalene and Angelo Panos 10/31/04 Daughter of Angela Kalb-Karr and Tom Karr 11/07/04 Son of Stacy and Robert Recchia 11/07/04 Son of Tina and Joseph Smith 11/09/04 Daughter of Christine and John Yasenak 11/14/04 Son of Georgia and Andreas Pappas 12/05/04 Son of Diane and Frank Belmonte 12/23/04 Son of Anna and John Panchisin</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>BAPTISMS</u></p> <p>08/01/04 Anna, Daughter of Peter & Paula Rogus. Sponsor: Chris Argires 08/29/04 Theodore, Son of Christopher & Demitra Foufas. Sponsor: Timothy Foufas 09/26/04 Panagiota (Naya), Daughter of Peter & Maria Vlahos. Sponsor: Renee and Sam Trakas 10/09/04 Anthony Christopher, Son of Melissa Burke. Sponsors: Joan & Nicholas Treantafeles 10/09/04 Justin Phillip, Son of Michael & Annette Sutherland. Sponsors: Laura & Ernest Bakakos 11/06/04 Peter Edward, Son of Irene & Mark Curran. Sponsor: Cathy Waldeck 11/06/04 Matthew Thomas, Son of Niki & John Witt. Sponsor: Christine Greco 12/04/04 Konstantinos, Son of Anastasia & Kurt Wilcox. Sponsor: Patricia Valassis 12/04/04 Jordan, Son of Sophia and Brian Schneckloth Sponsor: Dina Stamatoukos 12/19/04 Angelo, Son of Bridget & Georg Christopher Sponsor: Francesca Calzante</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>WEDDINGS</u></p> <p>09/19/04 James & Angela (Mitsakopoulos) Korompilas. Sponsor: James Sellis</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>FUNERALS</u></p> <p>08/26/04 Kanella Sakelson.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>MEMORIALS</u></p> <p>09/12/04 Charles (Gregory) Anagnos (45 years) 09/26/04 Jim James (7 years) 10/03/04 Kanella Sakelson (40 days) 10/17/04 Helen Panson (1 year) 10/31/04 Georgia Kallergis (1 year) 11/14/04 Thomas Mantes (40 days) " Christ Sampras (4 years) " Michael Krallis (12 years) " Fotios Dionesopoulos (22 years) " George Dionesopoulos (38 years) " Georgia Dionesopoulos (49 years) 12/12/04 Ariadne Mefsout (6 years)</p>												
<div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p><u>ASCENSION OF OUR LORD BOOKSTORE</u></p> <p>Stop by and browse our growing collection of books, icons, and religious items available at our bookstore. <i>Staffed by our Senior Synaxis on Sundays and by the office staff Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.</i></p> <table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <td>+ Icons of Christ, Feasts of the Lord, Virgin Mary and Various Saints</td> <td style="text-align: right;"><i>(regular size)</i></td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 22.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>+ <u>Orthodox Study Bible</u></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><i>(soft-cover)</i></td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 20.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><i>(hard-cover)</i></td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 30.00</td> </tr> </table> <p>+ <u>Ecclesia: Greek Orthodox Churches of the Chicago Metropolis</u> -by Panos Fiorentinos</p> <p><i>"A photographic journey through the entire Metropolis, encompassing six states and containing 59 churches. Based on personal interviews of dozens of priests and parishioners, Fiorentinos chronicles the establishment and growth of these churches for the first time in one place." Features our Ascension Parish. Retails for \$ 79.95.</i></p> <table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><i>(special price)</i></td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 55.00</td> </tr> </table> </div>	+ Icons of Christ, Feasts of the Lord, Virgin Mary and Various Saints	<i>(regular size)</i>	\$ 22.00	+ <u>Orthodox Study Bible</u>	<i>(soft-cover)</i>	\$ 20.00		<i>(hard-cover)</i>	\$ 30.00		<i>(special price)</i>	\$ 55.00	
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Parish News

- + **MORTGAGE RETIREMENT** - Thanks to all the stewards of our Church and to the generosity of one of our parishioners who wishes to remain anonymous and who matched dollar-for-dollar, we have accomplished retiring the mortgage of our property. Our checks have been sent to the Bank and we are now debt-free. May God be with you and your families.
- + **TSUNAMI VICTIMS** - The horrific tragedies of the Tsunami incident in Southeast Asia, touched the hearts of our stewards who immediately contributed money towards the relief of our brothers and sisters less fortunate than us. The outstanding amount of \$10,250.00 was collected, which was again matched dollar-for-dollar, making the grand total \$20,500.00. This money was sent to Metropolitan Nikitas of Hong Kong and South East Asia for distribution to wherever it is most needed. Once again **thank you to all of you who so generously gave to those in need.** May God grant you many years for your love and support of His children.
- + **ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY SIX (136) 2005 STEWARDSHIP CARDS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED TO DATE!** **Total Pledges received** (as of 2-08-05) **are \$164,430.00.** With **\$136,330.00 remaining to be pledged,** we are more than half way toward our projected **Stewardship Budget Goal of \$300,760.00!** We thank our most faithful parishioners who have sent in their Pledges for the coming year and appreciate your prompt response to our current Stewardship campaign for 2005. Have you made your 2005 Stewardship Pledge yet? After you have prayerfully made out your financial pledge, please make sure to fill out the TIME and TALENTS portion of the Stewardship Card as well. Your gifts of time and talent are equally important to the spiritual growth and life of the Church. May God bless you throughout the year and thank you again for your commitment to Christ and the Ascension of Our Lord Greek Orthodox Church.
- + **HAVE YOU COMPLETED YOUR 2004 STEWARDSHIP GIFT TO THE ASCENSION?** The Church would like to be able to close the books for 2004 and receive all monies pledged for 2004 as soon as possible. If you have a problem meeting your Pledge for 2004, please contact Fr. Jim and speak to him confidentially. If you have a question regarding the most recent statement sent to your home, call the Church Office and speak to Kay James, our Church Secretary.

Philoptochos News

THAT WAS THEN...

At our previous meetings we have had speakers come to enlighten us about new organizations to assist our fellow Orthodox and to learn more about Orthodoxy.

OCT: Pam Paziotopoulos, J.D. spoke to us about the Paziotopoulos Group, Ltd. It is a full-service provider of workplace and domestic violence prevention programs.

NOV: Ary Christofidis, Ph.D. spoke to us about OCCI. The Orthodox Christian Counseling Institute serves as a resource network for the Orthodox Christian community in the greater Chicagoland area, accessible to all who find themselves in need of assistance: offering outpatient therapy and consultation, as well as workshops and lectures that are consistent with Orthodox theology.

JAN: Mel DeFotis spoke to us about iconography and women saints.

THIS IS NOW...

*Valentine's Day too crowded for you?
Want an enjoyable night out?*

We invite you to share in the:
"Fruits of our Labor of Love" for the Lord at
our **WINE TASTING, Friday, February 25th**

Not just any wine tasting. This is a rare opportunity. Apollo 13 astronaut James Lovell is part owner with his son Jay (Ascension parishioner), the chef. The elegant surroundings will serve up delectable appetizers and finger desserts to be complimented by wines from around the world which will be presented to us by 16 vendors. There are only a limited amount of tickets available for our event at:

Lovell's of Lake Forest, 915 S. Waukegan Rd, Lake Forest.

Donations are \$70.

Reservations can be made at the church office 847.482.1200.

You can't attend, but want to help? Are you interested in making this year's wine tasting a success? Please donate your time or a wine basket from your favorite country. Contact Patty Metropoulos at 847.272.0256



Youth News

JOY, Jr. GOYA, & GOYA Bowling Night

Monday, February 14, 2005

at Hawthorn Lanes

316 Center Drive, Vernon Hills
(off Rt. 60 behind Hawthorn Mall)

JOY & Jr. GOYA – 5:45 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
GOYA – 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

\$ 8.00 per person
(for shoes & 2 games)

Dinner and snacks available at snack shop.

Metropolis of Chicago

WINTER CAMP 2005

"INTEGRITY: Who I am when no one else is around"

March 18-20: "Great Escapes" High School Winter Camp

April 1-3: "New Frontiers" Junior High Winter Camp

To be held at Conference Point Retreat Center, William Bay, WI

Space is limited, so register early. For more information or application, please speak with Alex Magdalinos.

THANK YOU...

to all who attended and participated in Youth Sunday 2005.

Congratulations to our Youth for their participation and for hosting the Cubby Bear Brunch. The Brunch was attended by over 150 parishioners and friends.

We also thank the Cubby Bear for their continuous support of our event.

Worship Services	Parish Information	
<p>Sunday Orthros: 8:15 a.m. Sunday Church School: 9:15 a.m. Sunday Divine Liturgy: 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>Weekday Orthros: 8:00 a.m. Weekday Divine Liturgy: 9:00 a.m.</p> <p>*****</p> <p>Look here in future issues for all our Weekday Church Services.</p> <p>*****</p>	<p>Ascension of Our Lord Greek Orthodox Church</p> <p>1207 Riverwoods Road Lincolnshire, IL 60069 Phone: (847) 482-1200 Fax: (847) 482-9566 Website: www.ascensiongoc.com</p> <p><i>Fr. James Gordon, Protopresbyter</i></p> <p>Church Office Hours: Monday- Friday 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.</p>	
	Dates to Remember...	
<th data-bbox="142 682 808 730">Analypsis Newsletter Deadlines</th> <td data-bbox="815 625 1482 1024"> <p><u>February 14th</u> Annual Bowling Night for JOY, Jr. GOYA, and GOYA</p> <p><u>February 17th</u> Philoptochos General Meeting</p> <p><u>February 18th-21st</u> Y.A.L. Conference at O'Hare Westin, Rosemont, IL</p> <p><u>February 25th</u> Philoptochos Wine-Tasting at Lovell's</p> </td>	Analypsis Newsletter Deadlines	<p><u>February 14th</u> Annual Bowling Night for JOY, Jr. GOYA, and GOYA</p> <p><u>February 17th</u> Philoptochos General Meeting</p> <p><u>February 18th-21st</u> Y.A.L. Conference at O'Hare Westin, Rosemont, IL</p> <p><u>February 25th</u> Philoptochos Wine-Tasting at Lovell's</p>
<p>Deadline for March/April 2005 Newsletter: February 25</p> <p>Please submit all information to Kay James in the Church Office or e-mail them to kay.james@sbcglobal.net.</p> <p>Interested in volunteering for our Newsletter Staff to help with final production and mailing? If so, please contact the Church Office.</p>		

Ascension of Our Lord Greek Orthodox Church
1207 Riverwoods Road
Lincolnshire, IL 60069