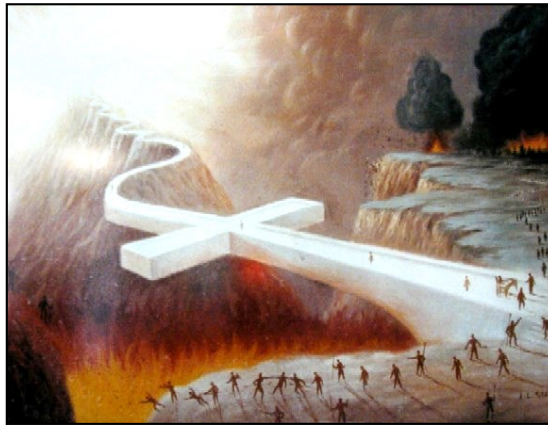


THE FORERUNNER

VOLUME XXX NUMBER 2 FEBRUARY 2014

THE TAO OF “WHATEVER” AND THE ABOLITION OF MAN

Living in a multi-cultural, post-modern world brought to us by the new era of rapid communication we are more and more exposed to cultures that are, or at least seem to be, very remote from our own. Although many of them are in fact foreign there are times when we find in them something that strikes a sensitive chord with us. Take for instance the concept of “Tao”, found in the homonym religious movement, Taoism, but also in Buddhism, Confucianism and even in eastern martial arts.



An easy explanation of Tao would be a path or way of life. [James Legge](#), a famous researcher of Chinese culture, described Taoism as “*the exhibition of a way or method of living, which men should cultivate as the highest and purest development of their nature.*” Tao is a way in which one should conduct oneself in order to fulfill their highest potential, make the best out of their existence.

I am not going to examine what this path really is in the context of far eastern thinking, but would like to stop and reflect on the very proposal of following a path in life in our contemporary social context.

Nowadays we live in a postmodern world, a movement that was very simply and accurately defined by [Jean Francois Lyotard](#) as “*incredulity towards metanarratives*”. I know these are some big words so let me put it into simpler terms: it is a general mistrust in all the big

(Continued on page 3)

COUNCIL CAPSULE

I would like to start by offering my sincere appreciation for all of the support and well wishes that I and the rest of the 2014 Parish Council have received in the last couple of weeks.

During the initial meeting on January 5th, an election was held for the executive leadership. Your Parish Council officers are as follow: Jeremy Ellis – President, Harry Karegeames – Vice President, Nicholas Stanosheck – Treasure, and Olympia Genovezos – Secretary.

(Continued on page 2)

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *The Tao Of “Whatever” And The Abolition Of Man.*
- *New Stewardship page*
- *The Feast of the Meeting of the Lord—Fr. Thomas Hopko*
- *The Stewardship program 2014 needs your attention*

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COUNCIL'S CAPSULE



(Continued from page 1)

The Council met again on January 16th to conduct our normal business. We again committed ourselves to serving the parishioners and ministries of St. John the Baptist GOC to the best of our abilities.

As such, we have agreed that many of the traditional efforts that members of the council have led in the past shall be refashioned into true committees—lead by members of the Parish Council and populated by parishioners. In this way we can better scale our efforts to serve our ever-growing parish and properly address all of the issues that require the council's attention while helping to engage a wider percentage of our community in parish life. This effort will

naturally require your support, cooperation, and willingness to serve.

In the near future you might be approached to help in this effort; please be open toward serving on one of these committees. Of course if you would like to proactively volunteer, we will be publishing a list of committee leaders soon.

The committees that the Council will be looking to populate are: Ecclesiastical, Cooking, Fundraising, Grounds & Maintenance, Hospitality, Site Security, and Stewardship. Additionally, we agree that communication between the various ministries and the Parish Council would be better facilitated by having a specific Parish Council member identified as a liaison to each ministry. In

this way each ministry has a "go to" person to speak with who in turn can bring each ministry's questions and concerns back to the Council. This list will also be published soon.

There is a lot of work to be done this year, so please be available to lend more than just moral support to your Parish and Council this year; be willing to join us by rolling up your sleeves and serving when called upon. I know that by working together we can achieve great things and turn our already wonderful parish into a shining example of community to the rest of the Metropolis.

Jeremy Ellis,

Parish Council President

THERE IS A LOT OF WORK TO BE DONE THIS YEAR, SO PLEASE BE AVAILABLE TO LEND MORE THAN JUST MORAL SUPPORT TO YOUR PARISH AND COUNCIL THIS YEAR

THE FEAST OF THE MEETING OF THE LORD

Forty days after Christ was born he was presented to God in the Jerusalem Temple according to the Mosaic Law. At this time as well his mother Mary underwent the ritual purification and offered the sacrifices as prescribed in the Law. Thus, forty days after Christmas, on the second of February, the Church celebrates the feast of the presentation called the Meeting (or Presentation or Reception) of the Lord.

The meeting of Christ by the elder Simeon and the prophetess Anna (Lk 2:22-36) is the main event of the feast of Christ's presentation in the Temple. It was "revealed to Simeon by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ" (Lk 2:26) and, inspired by the same Spirit, he came to the Temple where he met the new-born Messiah, took him in his arms and said the words which are now

chanted each evening at the end of the Orthodox Vesper service:

Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word; for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation which Thou hast prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for the revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to Thy people Israel (Lk 2:29-32).

(Continued on page 9)

THE TAO OF “WHATEVER” AND THE ABOLITION OF MAN.

(Continued from page 1)

stories of religions, all the empty promises of a better world through science that modernity has yet to deliver, all the hollow assurances of utopic societies like communism, socialism, capitalism and all the other “isms” out there. The postmodern man does not believe in the existence of a well-defined path in life anymore. The disheartened postmodern man lives an existence that is pathless; he seizes the moment based on ephemeral feelings without thinking so much about the connections between yesterday and tomorrow.

Ask a teenager to conform to your moral principles, religious or any other kind, and you will get back a single world answer: **“whatever!”** This simple world expresses his attitude of life; he does not care if your principles are good, or based on science, or faith or anything else. All he cares about is what he feels about that particular thing in that very moment. No structure, no eternal moral values, no universal truth, just the whiff of the moment guides him. A [recent study](#) looking at how young college student make moral choices revealed the following quintessential commentary: *“I mean, I guess what makes something right is how I feel about it. But different people feel different ways, so I couldn’t speak on behalf of anyone else as to what’s right and wrong.”* Basically, as the study

concludes, moral choices nowadays are just a matter of individual taste.

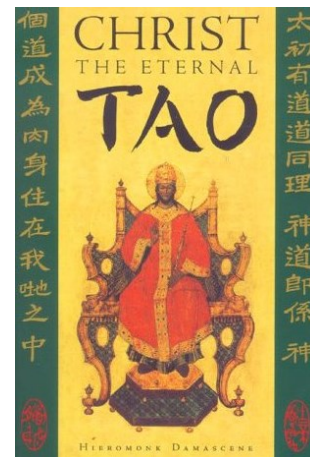
CS Lewis foresaw this trend longtime ago in a little known study called [“The Abolition of Man”](#). Talking about the modern education of his times he reflects with sadness: *“we make men without chests and expect from them virtue and enterprise. We laugh at honor and are shocked to find traitors in our midst.”* He goes on to say that there are certain core values that are shared, with minor variations, by all the major religions of the world; he calls this common trunk the “Tao”. Without this common Tao, he resolves that man cannot make any solid moral judgments but is condemned to reach the wrong conclusions because his rationality is not based on anything stable. *“The rebellion of new ideologies against the Tao is a rebellion of the branches against the tree: if the rebels could succeed they would find that they had destroyed themselves.”*

Now, I don’t want to sound like I agree that all religions are the same, I know it is not true; I agree however that one should have a path in life that is based on core, unyielding values. A pathless life does not lead anywhere; it only moves you round in circles, an existence without a goal, empty of meaning, consumed in the satisfactions of the moment. This is the “Tao of whatever”, a world of men without chests, that live only

for themselves and could care less if their full potential as human beings has been fulfilled or not as long as they are gratified.

As Christians we are not to follow this path but we are to base our life’s journey on the unmovable Truth that is the incarnate Logos, Jesus Christ. He is *“the Truth the Way and the Life”* (John 14:6). He is the One that by His Incarnation, Passions and Resurrection exemplified for us humility, bravery and sacrifice and affirmed the beauty of a life dedicated in serving the others. He opened our eyes to see that we should embrace our enemies as brothers and turn the other cheek to fulfill the commandment of love. He is the only One that can give meaning and true value to our existence.

A life spent in imitating Christ is the only Tao leading to eternal life. He is the only assurance that man’s highest potential can be achieved. He is the new Adam that shows us what we can be if we choose to follow in His footsteps. Choosing any other path, or choosing no path is a waste of one’s existence. We should live not randomly but wisely, trying to stay on the path that leads, through Christ, to our fulfillment as human beings. Otherwise, I am afraid that CS Lewis is right and we are heading towards the abolition of man.



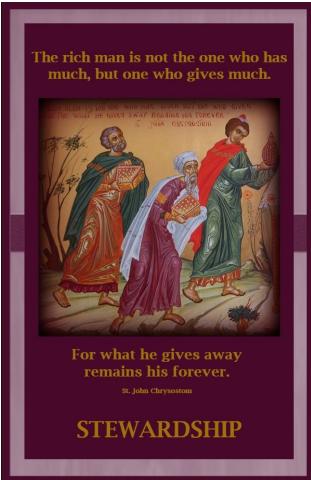
Christ the eternal Tao
Book by Hieromonk Damascene

“WE MAKE MEN
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AND
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TO FIND
TRAITORS IN
OUR MIDST.”

C.S. LEWIS



C. S. Lewis



2014 STEWARDSHIP - THE EXAMPLE OF THE MAGI

Welcome new and returning Stewards! We are off to a blessed new year as our Stewardship pledges continue to grow. To date we have 75 Stewards and \$137,824 pledged toward our goal of \$276,000. With prayer and dedication the Stewardship team is certain we will reach our goal.

To be an active member of the parish Stewardship cards must be completed. There are many ways to do this – by mail, on-line or simply handing your card to one of the Parish Council members after Liturgy. We can answer any questions and assist with ensuring that whatever your donation – time, talent or treasure – is welcomed and appreciated. At the start of the year I always reflect on what the Scriptures say about Stewardship and giving.

First Fruits

The Bible speaks of offering back to God the "first fruits" of our possessions, thus recognizing Him as the provider

of all we are and all we have. Stewardship is making Christ the first priority in the use of the time, talents and treasures with which He has blessed us.

Return to God His Own Gifts

King David said, "All things come from You, and of Your own we have given You" (Chronicles 29:14). Our money and possessions are not ours, but on loan from God. When we give to the Church, we return to God, the Owner, His rightful portion.

Proportionate Giving

The Old Testament laid down the standard of the tithe or 10 percent of one's income. This provides us with the principle that giving should be a proportion of our income. Stewardship is giving back to God in proportion to the resources He has given to us. The more we are given, the more is expected of us. "Everyone to whom much is given, from him will much be required." (Luke 12:48) Each

Steward should determine what percentage of his or her income will be committed to Christ and the Church each year.

Cheerful Giving

"Each person should give what he had decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful (willing) giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7). How do you compare your expenditure on personal entertainment to your giving for God's work? Our Stewardship giving reflects our commitment to Christ and His Church. On the first day of every week (Sunday), each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income" (1 Corinthians 16:2).

"A Rich Man is not one who has much but one who gives much. For what he gives away remains his forever: (St. John Chrysostom).

Stewardship Ministry – Hope File and Tim Cline

**HOW CAN I
THANK GOD
FOR MY MANY
BLESSINGS?"**

**JOIN US
TODAY IN
GIVING
THANKS FOR
THE BLESSINGS
WE HAVE
RECEIVED !**

STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM 2014

We encourage you all to actively participate in our Stewardship Program in 2014 by prayerfully considering your contribution in our 2014 stewardship program and beyond.

Our intent is to develop a culture at St. John's that emulates the Kingdom of God, here and now. We want it to be a place populated with

dedicated people, overflowing with joy, peace and love in the Lord, a place where everyone is welcomed. We want everyone to start living now as responsible citizens of the Kingdom; we want you to become active members at St. John's.

The Commitment Card you are asked to bring is a visible sign of the beginning of your involvement. Before complet-

ing it, please give prayerful consideration to the commitment you are making. Giving is not a substitute for commitment - it is an expression of your commitment. The question is not, "How much do I give to say that I am a Steward?" but "*How can I thank God for my many blessings?*"



THE FATHERS OF THE CHURCH ON ALMSGIVING

Here are some quotes from the Church Fathers and from some teachings regarding almsgiving.

To do alms is a work greater than miracles. . . . To feed the hungry in the name of Christ is a work greater than raising the dead in Christ's name. . . . When thou work miracles, you are God's debtor; when you give alms, God is your debtor." *St. John Chrysostom*

God sells righteousness at a very low price to those who wish to buy it: a little piece of bread, a cloak of no value, a cup of cold water, a mite. *Abba Ephrem*

Through the cheap price of doing good to men, we can acquire the priceless Kingdom

of God. *Philaret, Metropolitan of Moscow.*

The bread you do not use is the bread of the hungry. The garment hanging in your wardrobe is the garment of the person who is naked. The shoes you do not wear are the shoes of the one who is bare-foot. The money you keep locked away is the money of the poor. The acts of charity you do not perform are the injustices you commit. *St. Basil the Great*

St. Lawrence was questioned by a pagan governor who had heard that the Church had a large storehouse of riches and wanted *St. Lawrence* to give them over to the governor. *St. Lawrence* told the governor he would show him the storehouse of riches. He took

the governor to the slums and pointed to the poor, the lame and the ill and said, "These are the treasures of the Church."

"If you help a poor person in the name of the Lord, you are making a gift and at the same time granting a loan. You are making a gift because you have no expectation of being reimbursed by that poor person. You are granting a loan because the Lord will settle the account. It is not much that the Lord receives by means of the poor, but He will pay a great deal on their behalf. 'They who are kind to the poor lend to the Lord' [Prov. 19:17]" *St. Basil the Great.*



TO FEED THE HUNGRY IN THE NAME OF CHRIST IS A WORK GREATER THAN RAISING THE DEAD IN CHRIST'S NAME.

ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

WHAT IS CRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

Christian Stewardship is...

...learning how to be a responsible and concerned caretaker of Christ's Church; it is learning how to enjoy Church life and be happy in Church work., for in Her dwells the fullness of the Spirit of God.

...our active commitment to use all our time, talent and treasure for the benefit of

humankind in grateful acknowledgment of Christ's redeeming love.

...caring for the needs of others.

...offering one's self to God as He offered Himself to us.

...what a person does after saying "I believe...", as proof of that belief.

...devotion and service to God and His Church as persons, as families, as diocese/ metropolis, as national Church and as Church universal.

Williams & McKibben in Oriented Leadership





YOUTH MINISTRIES NEWS

Youth Ministries congratulates the GOYANs on another successful Basketball Tournament. We had 20 participants including: Katerina and Alex Genovezos, Nicole Henry, Abbie and John Molhoek, Demi and Peter Pursley, Vassi and Timmy Gianitsos, Zoe and Calvin Crawford, Elizabeth Seals, Maria and Luca Tudora, Athena Adaska, Alex Shah, Ian Rehmet, Katie Moutafis and Savva, Christaki and Sandro Zingas. Thank you to our advisors for chaperoning: Michael Poriotis, Gina Poulakos, Elena Bouras and

Niko Pagoulatos - we couldn't do this without you! Thanks, too, to all the parents and parishioners who came to cheer them on. Please see the wonderful photograph we took with His Eminence, Metropolitan Isaiah, which has been posted to Facebook.

The Middle School and High School students are working on their essays for the 2014 Oratorical Festival. We have asked all the kids to write something. We understand that not everyone will be interested in presenting. BUT If

your child does want to present their essay to the parish, please inform me and/or Anca Morcovescu or Presbytera Mirela. The kids will be assisted this year by our veteran team of coaches: Athena Pachares and Connie Rafealedes. ***The Oratorical Festival at St. John's will be held Sunday, March 2.*** The winners of the junior and senior divisions will advance to the Metropolitan Festival which will be held March 28-30 at St. Catherine's in Greenwood Village,

(Continued on page 7)

PARENTS:

PLEASE KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR EMAILS REGARDING OPPORTUNITIES TO TAKE PART IN OUR **LENTEN PASSPORT PROGRAM.**

CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

We have enjoyed a wonderful beginning to our New Year! Several new families have joined us and we are happy to have them. Welcome!!!

The Great Lent is quickly approaching. Please keep an eye out for emails regarding opportunities to take part in our Lenten Passport Program. Father Vasile introduced this Program last year and it was a terrific opportunity to learn more about the season of Lent and all of the beautiful services and traditions that surround the mystery and beauty of Pascha.

Here are some upcoming important dates to mark on your calendar:

March 9 --- Sunday of Orthodoxy--- Procession of Icons

March 16--- No Church School--- Spring Break

April 12--- Saturday--- Lenten Retreat

April 20--- No Church School --- Great and Holy Pascha

Thank you to the Korzun, Geil, and Eftimie families for hosting Coffee Hour on behalf of Church School in January.

Upcoming Coffee Hour Hosts:

February 2nd---Andrew and Amanda Bilbo, Chad and Suzanne Lindt, Dean and Antoinette Hodges

March 2nd---David and Corey Ellis, Stacey and Ivo Ivanov, Melissa and Jeremy Ellis

April 6th---The Arapis family, Aimee and Thomas Fox, John and Maria Panagopoulos

May 4th ---Maretta and Mitch Chokas and the Maayeh family

Thank you to all of the families who have volunteered to host Coffee Hour on the behalf of Church School. We appreciate your kindness.

If you are currently visiting or spend time with us occasionally, please fill out a registration form and allow your child to have some time to have fellowship with other children their age and to be exposed to the teaching of our Orthodox faith. We are happy to have children join us, if only for a short time.

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions, you can contact me any time at veronicafisherps50@gmail.com

Thanks again for joining us this year for Church School.

Veronica Fisher

Church School Coordinator



PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

Dear Parish Family,

As we move out of the season of Texas winter, lots of events are *springing* up for Philoptochos!

Philoptochos is hosting the Festival of Tables **February 22, 2014** at the Marriott hotel, 4151 Centreport Dr., Fort Worth. If you would like to sponsor a table please contact us. If you would like to be a guest, the cost of the tickets are \$35.00. All money raised is used for scholarships, youth programs and other projects within our church. Get your creative hats on and join the fun.

Kathy Fox 817-975-2095

Connie Rafiledes 817-295-0167

The **Festival of Tables on Feb. 22** partially supports the **scholarship** we present each year to one of our graduating high school seniors. The application form will be available in hard copy on Feb. 1. The eligibility requirements are as follows:

At least one parent of the application:

Meets stewardship requirements of St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church for the previous and current calendar year, or

Was an active member in another Orthodox parish and then became a steward of St. John's during the above-mentioned time frame.

The applicant must be an Orthodox Christian.

The applicant must be a high school senior, graduating in the current academic year (i.e., August – July), entering higher education (2 year, 4 year, or trade school), as a full time student.

Please see Gail Poriotis or Joanie Ruppel for a form.

Thank you for supporting the coffee hour last September in which we donated \$200 for the **2nd Aid to Greece** campaign. Our national organization thanked us and sent an additional \$11,500 to Greece. With **YOUR** generosity, this was made possible.

All of our **Christmas projects** were successful, especially the Christmas Providers program in which, again, your generosity enabled us to help 2 additional families with gift cards. In total, 5 families were supported by the parishioners of St. John the Baptist.

We will be reorganizing the "old church office" with the help of

Ted & Connie Sarros. It will become a storage center for Philoptochos items that frequently get used by us and other groups of the parish. Thank you, Ted & Connie, for your time and talent!

On **Feb. 9** you may see more red in the church than usual. In honor of the American Heart Association's Go Red for Women campaign, Philoptochos members will be wearing red. Stay heart healthy! Visit www.heart.org for more information.

Did you know we have an **out-reach committee**? Several people visit the sick or home-bound during the holidays. If you know of anyone who would like a visit, please contact Rena Poletes or Father Vasile. We will arrange for your loved one to be visited.

We will be announcing the **garage sale** date through the weekly bulletin, most likely it will be in March. Please continue to bring your sale items and put them in the "old church" for storage.

As always, we thank you for choosing to support our philanthropic endeavors.

Joanie Ruppel, President
St. Irene Philoptochos



THE FESTIVAL OF TABLES IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER.

FEBRUARY 22, 2014 AT THE MARRIOTT HOTEL ON CENTREPORT DR.

YOUTH MINISTRIES NEWS (CONT)

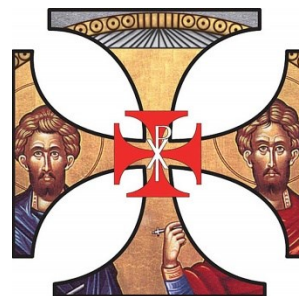
(Continued from page 6)

Co. (a suburb of Denver). The final round takes place June 13-15 at the Annunciation Church in Cleveland, Ohio
Hard copies of the Philopto-

chos Scholarship Application are available beginning this month. [Please see the link here.](#) All high school seniors are encouraged to apply. See Gail Poriotis or Joanie Ruppel for details. Applications are due the last Sunday in March.

Also, Youth Ministries will hold a Loukamades Valentine's Fundraiser on **Sunday, Feb. 9**. Please plan on joining us!

God bless,
Harriet Blake





St. Isaac the Syrian

MUSIC
MINISTRY,
CHOIR AND
CHANTERS
PAGE

CHOIR NOTES

In 988, when Great Prince Vladimir of Kiev sent emissaries to examine various religions in order to find one suitable for his people, the Rus, the emissaries included Hagia Sophia in Constantinople in their search. On their return, they told Vladimir that during the services there they could not tell if they were in heaven or on earth. One can imagine the vastness of Hagia Sophia, the richness of the mosaics, the fragrance of the incense, and the peaceful chanting. As a result of this report, Prince Vladimir ordered Orthodoxy be adopted as the religion of the Rus.

The services they heard were performed in the Greek

church language. The Greek chanting had already developed into eight different tones that varied over the church year. The chanting could be "plain," or, more rarely, "melodic." The chants and notes were recorded in these early days in a series of special symbols, of which there are records, but their meaning has been lost. These Greek services were adopted by the early Russian Church. Over the years, their church language gradually shifted to Slavic ones. By the 12th or 13th century, new musical symbols were defined, and chanting became stabilized.

Simple or plain chanting is common to all Orthodox

churches. Three to four hundred years ago, Russian church singing started to incorporate new musical ideas from Italian and later German composers. By the 18th and 19th centuries, choral singing during Divine Liturgy became frequent in Russia and gradually spread to other Orthodox countries. A typical example is the Cherubic hymn written by Bortniansky which we often sing at St. John's. When we participate in the choir on Sunday, we try to remember the words of the prince's emissaries to Constantinople. They were in "heaven on earth."

Written By - Walt & Dorothy Dempsey

BYZANTINE MUSIC NOTATION FOR THE BLIND

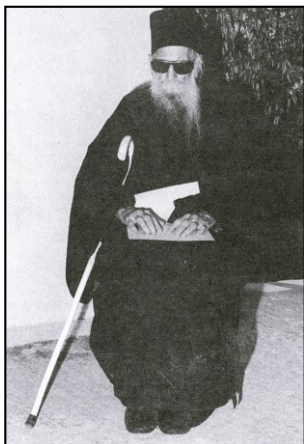
The braille version of Byzantine Music notation was devised by Father Dositheos (Paraskeviades). Father Dositheos was born in Asia Minor in 1912. At the age of five, he lost his vision due to meningitis. In 1922 he joined the House of the Blind in Kallithea, Athens, where he learned braille. Since he was musically gifted and extremely bright, he also learned Western European staff notation in braille. After graduating from the School of the Blind in 1928, he devoted himself to learning Byzantine music.

At that time, however, there was no way of writing Byzantine music notation (i.e., the

"New Method" of the "Three Teachers") in braille. To solve this problem, with the help of the protopsaltis Stavros Stavridis he devised a system of writing Byzantine notation. He then transcribed thousands of pages and many books of Byzantine music into braille using this notation. Furthermore, he also became the protopsaltis at the parish of St. Stephen in New Ionia in Athens. Afterwards, in 1931, he went to Katounakia on the Holy Mountain and became a monk, where he had the time to study the masters of Byzantine music. In 1939, he left the Holy Mountain in order to teach his system of Braille Byzantine notation to others.

Father Dositheos helped establish the Association of Blind Chanters in Athens. He also wrote hundreds of pages of his own compositions of Byzantine music, which were later transcribed into standard Byzantine notation for the sighted.

He passed away in 1991 at the age of 79. For more about the history of the formation of the Association of Blind Chanters, please read the web page entitled "[Writing Byzantine Music for the Blind and Father Dositheos.](#)" And for additional details about his life, you may read these "[Recollections of Father Dositheos.](#)"



THE FEAST OF THE MEETING OF THE LORD (CONT.)

(Continued from page 2)

At this time as well Simeon predicted that Jesus would be the “sign which is spoken against” and that he would cause “the fall and the rising of many in Israel.” He also foretold Mary’s sufferings because of her son (Luke 22:34-35). Anna also was present and, giving thanks to God “she spoke of Jesus to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem” (Lk 2:38).

In the service of the feast of the Meeting of the Lord, the fact emphasized is that Christ, the Son and Word of God through whom the world was created, now is held as an infant in Simeon’s hands; this same Son of God, the Giver of the Law, now himself fulfills the Law, carried in arms as a human child.

Receive him, O Simeon, whom Moses on Mount Sinai beheld in the darkness as the Giver of the Law. Receive him as a babe now obeying the Law. For he it is of whom the Law and the Prophets have spoken, incarnate for our sake and saving mankind. Come let us adore him!

Let the door of heaven open today, for the Eternal Word of the Father, without giving up his divinity, has been incarnate of the Virgin in time. And as a babe

of forty days he is voluntarily brought by his mother to the Temple, according to the Law. And the elder Simeon takes him in his arms and cries out: Lord now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, O Lord, who has come to save the human race—glory to Thee! (Vesper Verses of the Feast).

The Vespers and Matins of the feast of the Meeting of the Lord are filled with hymns on this theme. The Divine Liturgy is celebrated with the lines from the canticle of Mary forming the prokeimenon and the words of Simeon being the verses for the Alleluia. The gospel readings tell of the meeting, while the Old Testament readings at Vespers refer to the Law of the purification in Leviticus, the vision of Isaiah in the Temple of the Thrice-Holy Lord, and the gift of faith to the Egyptians prophesied by Isaiah when the light of the Lord shall be a “revelation to the Gentiles” (Lk 2:32).

The celebration of the Meeting of the Lord in the Church is not merely an historical commemoration. Inspired by the same Holy Spirit as Simeon, and led by the same Spirit into the Church of the Messiah, the members of the Church also can claim their own “meeting” with the Lord,

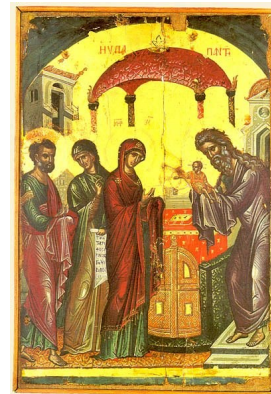
and so also can witness that they too can “depart in peace” since their eyes have seen the salvation of God in the person of his Christ.

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, Full of Grace! From you shone the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, enlightening those who sat in darkness! Rejoice and be glad, O righteous elder; you accepted in your arms the Redeemer of our souls who grants us the resurrection (Troparion).

By Thy nativity, Thou didst sanctify the Virgin’s womb. And didst bless Simeon’s hands, O Christ our God. Now Thou hast come and saved us through love. Grant peace to all Orthodox Christians, O only Lover of man (Kontakion).

It is customary in many churches to bless candles on the feast of the Meeting of the Lord.

Fr. Thomas Hopko



DURING THE FEAST OF THE MEETING OF THE LORD, INSPIRED BY THE SAME HOLY SPIRIT AS SIMEON, AND LED BY THE SAME SPIRIT INTO THE CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH, THE MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH ALSO CAN CLAIM THEIR OWN “MEETING” WITH THE LORD





SACRAMENTS IN THE PAST MONTH

Chrismations: Lee Everett, Sonya Shackelford

Memorials: Elizabeth and Peter Callas

CATECHISM CLASSES AND GLADSOME LIGHT DIALOGUES

A **New Catechism Semester** started on January 12th. **There is still time to join!**

The classes are held after Divine Liturgy on Sundays and will last about an hour.

Inquirers into the Orthodox faith as well as Orthodox people that would like to enrich their faith are welcome to attend.

Gladsome Light Dialogues will start with a new program led by Nick Stanosheck in February. Details to follow.

AGELESS WONDERS

The Ageless Wonders will meet on Tuesday, February 11, 2014 for Lunch and a Movie. Details will be forthcoming. Members will be called for reservations. Save the date and join us for a fun afternoon !! Don't forget to make reservations for Philoptochos "Festival of Tables" on Saturday, February 22 2014, This is a wonderful event that supports our community needs. Questions ??? Call me.....Margaret 817-354-7731

*A NEW
ORTHODOX
CATECHISM
SEMESTER
STARTS ON
JANUARY
12TH.*

USHER SCHEDULE

1st Sunday: Tim Cline, Jeremy Ellis

2nd Sunday: Hope File, Michael Eftimie

3rd Sunday: Chris Geil, Larry Leeders

4th Sunday: Nina Sullivan, Raj Shah

5th Sunday: Nancy Medvic, Barbara Vittas

Fill-in: Harry Karegeannes

ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

1st Sunday: Jackson Wright, Alex Genovezos, Caleb Ellis, Luca Tudora

2nd Sunday: Michael Beebe, John Molhoek, Alex Shah, Chris Eftimie, Joseph Berca

3rd Sunday: James Seals, Alex Genovezos, Caleb Ellis, Luca Tudora, Matei Tudora

4th Sunday: Michael Beebe, John Molhoek, Alex Shah, Chris Eftimie, George Manos

5th Sunday: Michael Beebe, James Seals, Alex Genovezos, Alex Shah, Luca Tudora

COFFEE HOUR HOST

1st Sun: Sunday School

2nd Sun: Parish Council

3rd Sun: GOYA

4th Sun: Philoptochos

5th Sun: Parish Council (if applicable)

COFFEE HOUR DUTIES

SETUP

Arrange pastries/food in a desirable manner on the appropriate tables in the parish hall.

You are responsible for making the coffee. Make two pots: one regular, one decaf. Plug in be-



fore going into church. The instructions are in the kitchen.

Prepare a tray with sugar, creamer, sugar substitute, mixing straws, a few spoons. Set with trash bucket.

Put donation basket out with appropriate sign.

CLEAN UP

Wash all dishes soiled, including coffee pots.

Return sugar tray to kitchen and replenish it.

Wash off hall tables and kitchen counters.

Thank-You



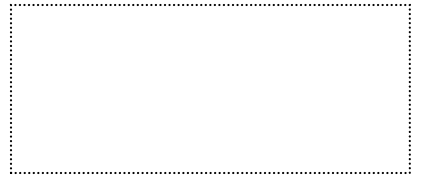
**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH**

303 Cullum Dr.
Euless, TX 76040
Tel 817 283-2291

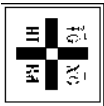
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THE FORERUNNER

Vol. XXX No. 2 February 2014



The Meeting of the Lord
February 2nd

