



Northern Lights

Worship Schedule

Great Vespers

Saturday Evenings, 6:00 PM
Confessions after Vespers
or by appt.

~ See calendar for cancellations ~

Matins

Sunday Mornings, 8:45 AM

~ See calendar for cancellations ~

Divine Liturgy

Sunday Mornings, 10:00 AM

followed by a 15 minute
Adult Orthodox Lesson

~ See calendar for ~
~ feast day services ~

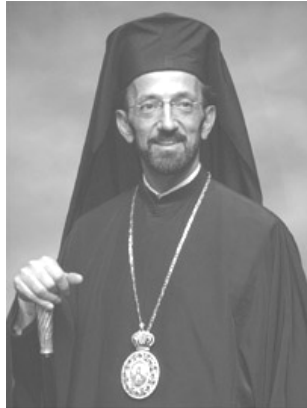


Unless noted
Services and Classes
are held at:
Our Lady of
Guadalupe Church
224 S. Kendrick Street

Directions from
Interstate Highways:
From I-17N proceed
into Flagstaff. From I-
40, take Exit 195 into
Flagstaff. Once in
Flagstaff, continue
north on Milton Rd.
Pass through five
lights. The sixth light
will be at Butler Av.
Turn right onto Butler
Av. Go one (short)
block and turn left
onto Kendrick Street.
Our Lady of
Guadalupe will be
on your right.

Our New Shepherd

Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco



Metropolitan Gerasimos was born in Kalamata, Greece to Nicholas and Anastasia Michaleas. Upon successful completion of his elementary and secondary school education in Greece, he immigrated to the United States. In 1970, he enrolled at Hellenic College in Brookline, Massachusetts, where he received his B.A. with High Honors in 1973. That same year, he was admitted to Holy Cross School of Theology, where he completed his M.Div. Degree in 1976 with High Honors.

In 1977 he joined the administration of Hellenic College/Holy Cross, serving as Registrar until 1979. He was ordained to the diaconate in 1979 and was called to serve as Archdeacon to His Eminence Archbishop Iakovos, a position he held until 1996. Concurrently, he was appointed Dean of Students at Hellenic College/Holy Cross from 1980 until 1999. As Dean, he created the first Archdiocesan telephone ministry directed towards those who do not have substantive ties to the Church. Also during his tenure, he became centrally involved in the success of various programs benefiting future priests of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America and their families.

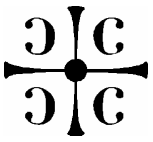
In 1984 he enrolled in the Master's Degree Program in Counseling and School Psychology at Boston College. After receiving his degree in 1986, he entered the doctoral program. He received his Doctorate in Counseling and School Psychology in 1993. His doctoral dissertation is titled, "Intellectual Deficiencies in a Substance Abuse Population." While maintaining his position as Archdeacon and Dean of Students, he was appointed a member of the staff of the Outpatient Clinic of the V.A. Medical Center in Boston, a post he held until 1996.

In December of 2001 he was elected Bishop of Krataia by the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and was appointed by His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios as Chief Secretary of the Holy Eparchial Synod of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. On February 22, 2005, the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate selected him to be the new Metropolitan of San Francisco. On April 2, 2005, His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America presided over the Enthronement Ceremony at the Ascension Cathedral, in Oakland, California. Metropolitan Gerasimos celebrated his first Divine Liturgy the following day, April 3, 2005, at the Annunciation Cathedral, in San Francisco.

On May 23, 2005 His Eminence addressed his flock at his first Clergy Laity Assembly as the new Metropolitan of San Francisco. There he presented his vision in two parts. First he mapped out the importance of strengthening the families of the lay people and the clergy. He stated, "it does not take a psychologist to discern the fact that the family is in a state of crisis today. ... The challenges confronting the family are great, and they will not be solved by any one person. But I am convinced that, in a spirit of Christian cooperation, we can discuss and develop approaches together, and make progress on this vital issue of our times."

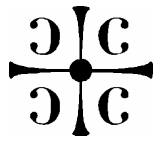
Secondly His Eminence called his flock to a "renewed sense of mission and outreach". He proclaimed "We can take inspiration from St. Basil's model of the *Vasiliada*, an integrated approach to outreach which backed up the preaching of the Gospel with ministries to the hungry and homeless, orphans and widows, and all those on the margins of society. ... Orthodoxy is the faith for all. ... It is a faith community with self-esteem and esteem for others, a message and a mandate that is rooted in Scripture and tradition, with prayer as its mode of life, its breath."

We here at the Greek Orthodox Mission of Northern Arizona are honored to have such a loving and God inspired hierarch as our chief shepherd. We pray for your ministry constantly and we proclaim in unison AXIOS!!!



All who believe are welcome to Communion

Fr. Nicholas Andruchow



In the Orthodox Christian Faith Holy Communion is only given to those who have formally associated themselves with the one true Church of Christ. This is often seen as an exclusive act but in reality it is affirming the openness of Christ's saving Gift and how in modern society the interpretation of that Gift varies significantly, which has caused divisions and separations. Therefore the purpose of this month's pastoral message is to clarify what exactly is Holy Communion and affirm how it is truly open to all.

The blessing of Christianity is that it does not discriminate between ethnic origin, gender, social or economic status. (Gal. 3:28) The way to eternal peace is open to all who believe in Christ. Christ desired all to be in union with one another and God. (John 17:21) He did not say only Jews should receive the Good News but all nations. (Matt.28:19) This type of open religious accessibility was radical thinking for the society in which Christ ministered. In ancient times Greeks considered all men divided into two groups, Greeks and barbarians. In Judaism proselytes who converted to Judaism, and were not of the blood descendants of Abraham, were seen as inferior. In addition Jews considered wives as property of their husbands and ranked them as unequal, putting them in the same status with slaves and children. Therefore this inequality was directly projected onto religious worship which prevented a significant part of the population from fully participating in the formal ritual of experiencing God. Christ abolished these types of segregations as explained by St. Paul to the Corinthians (1 Cor. 12:13) and Colossians (Col. 3:11). Following Scriptural Tradition, Orthodox Christianity is open to all people, Greeks, Russians, Mexicans,

Germans, women, men, elderly, children, rich and poor. But why then does Father Nicholas withhold communion from those who are not Orthodox, if it is open to all? To answer this question we need to look at what Holy Communion is?

Holy Communion is exactly what it says. It is unity with God, and it is a unity that comes from God. It is the ultimate divine binding opportunity for all humanity. And this unity with God and one another is found in Christ (John 17:21-22) through His flesh and blood. (John 6:56) Christ compels us to drink His blood and eat His flesh so that we can have eternal life. (John 6:54) Imagine if all humanity were united in God and there were no divisions, no separations, no conflicts. How the world would be a different place. How much less loneliness, despair, anger, violence, resentment, and war there would be. This unity has been revealed to us in the Holy Bible and has been maintained through the centuries by the early Christians, (The Letter of St. Ignatius to the Philadelphians Chapter 4., 1st Apology of St. Justin, Ch. 66., St Irenaeus Against Heresies, Book 4.) and up to present time in the Holy Christian Orthodox Church. (Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom) But still why not allow all to receive this unifying gift from God? We need to remember that Christ prayed for union and life for those who believed in Him therefore it would make no sense for those who believe something else to draw near and partake of the flesh and blood of Christ. Why would a Jewish person or a Moslem, who does not believe that Jesus is the Son of God and came to save us, receive Holy Communion which is His actual Body and Blood. Then you might say "that makes sense for non-Christians but why not allow Protestants and

Catholics to receive Communion in the Orthodox Church?" The answer to this is in the very word "communion".

Communion assumes that there is unity with one another. The faithful who belong to Protestant denominations or the Catholic Church are considered believers in Christ but there are significant differences in their teachings that clearly separate us from one another. For example, many Protestant faiths view communion as not the actual Body and Blood of Christ but rather representations of His flesh and blood. In addition most Western Christian churches use a version of the Creed which is not consistent with the Creed that was used during the first 1,000 years of Christianity to which the Orthodox still hold. There are other teachings in the Roman Catholic Church, such as the role of the Pope and the understanding of the Immaculate Conception, which differ from the Orthodox Christian's understanding. When we partake of Holy Communion we unite through Christ to God and to one another, and we affirm the bonds of community that we have. If there are fundamental differences in our beliefs, for example in the Creed or how we view Holy Communion, then true union is lacking, which is sad, but a reality. This is not to say who will be saved, or who the true believers are but historically there are fundamental teachings that separate us from others and to pretend they do not exist would be untruthful and wrong. God is the one who judges. We, although are called to interpret and receive the profound Holy Tradition of Scripture that has been given to us so that we may have everlasting life in the union with the Lord which is extended to all who believe.





We have rented a space for a church office located in the heart of downtown Flagstaff at **3 N. Leroux St., Suite 212**. We had been praying about a church office for some time, and we were blessed by a generous donation that helped us really make our prayers become answered.

We are now moved into the new office. Thanks to everyone who offered their time and resources to allow this move to happen so smoothly. Father's office hours will be announced shortly once the office is fully operational.



Rummage Sale a Success

Thanks to Everyone!

We held our second garage sale on June 17 & 18. For this second time around, we raise twice as much money as last year for God's church! In addition to all our merchandise, we also sold Greek pastries that were a big hit! Thank you to everyone for your donations of valuables and time to help with pricing, selling and transportation of goods! A special thanks to **Eugenia Karantinos** for baking and donating galatoboureko & baklava. And to Elena Theros and Tammy Kretsedemas for organizing this year's event!



Church Picnic August 21

Save the date! Our sixth annual picnic will be Sunday, August 21st at **Foxglenn Park**. Please look to the flyer in this newsletter for details!



Third Annual Glendi "Taste Of Greece" September 10

We now have a date for this year's Greek Glendi (party)! It is September 10th, and this year's theme is a "Taste of Greece". Please watch for upcoming details and requests for volunteers! OPA!



Nursing Home Ministry

Visit and minister to the sick and lonely!

We will be visiting the residents of Infinita Nursing Home on July 23, **meeting at church at 9:00 AM.**

This is a much needed ministry to those who are forgotten and lonely, and truly an opportunity to make a difference in their lives.



Collection for the Homeless

On Sunday July 31, we will pass a second basket for an offering for the homeless. Please plan accordingly. The next collection is scheduled for October 30.



Flowers in Bloom!

On Saturday, May 7th, our Church School children and adult volunteers planted flowers on the grounds at our Lady of Guadalupe Church. The flowers along the stairs and ramp leading to the Church doors do not have a sprinkling system, so please consider bringing a bottle of water with you to Church on Sundays and water the flowers! Much thanks and appreciation goes to Lou McCormick for organizing this endeavor!

We might plant bulbs in the fall, so watch for details to come...



PROJECT MEXICO JULY 13-19

The following seven individuals from our community will be going to Project Mexico to build a home for the young adults living at St. Innocent's Orphanage from July 13th thru 19th.

- o Fr. Nicholas
- o George Howington
- o **Jessica Sorren**
- o Julie McCormick
- o Randy & Nicholas Schulz
- o Sandy Boyce
- o **George Buffard**

Please keep them in your prayers as they prepare for their mission trip.



Book Store & Library

Hello again!! The bookstore is still open "at the same place, at the same time." The only thing that does not stay the same are the books offered! Some new books now available include "The Adams Complex" – recommended by Mother Ines, and "Thirsting for God in a Land of Shallow Wells" autographed by the book's author, Matthew Gallatin. We were blessed to have Matthew Gallatin visit our Mission on June 5 and give us a moving and inspiring testimonial to his experiences in finding Orthodoxy.

I appreciate your patronage!
Love you, *Toula*

!!! THANK YOU !!!

GOMONA Parishioners,

Please join me in thanking Angelo Pappas, George Howington, and Toula Howington for so generously giving their time and talent during Holy Week. They continue to be blessed examples of the grace and humility associated with our Holy Orthodox Faith.

Please also join me in thanking Jessica Sorren, for helping Father find a wonderful new office in downtown Flagstaff. Her cheerful and positive attitude is truly a blessing.

In Christ,
Randy Schulz
Parish Council President

Thank you for the Flowers!

Pascha has come and gone, and we have celebrated Pentecost. It was a very blessed and pious **Pascha** season. Our hearts and minds are filled with the feelings and pictures of the celebrations. Beautiful and plentiful flowers filled our Church, decorated our Kouvouklion, Cross and Bridegroom, and were laid on our Epitaphios! Our hearts are filled with humble thankfulness for everyone's donations.

Thank you to Lisa Brolinni, Ted & Bessie Demos, Abbie Denton, Mary Grove, Angela Hapgood, Toula Howington, Kraus family, Tammy & Pete Kretsedemas, Sabrina & Christopher Polites, and Randy & Helen Schulz.

A Blessed All Night Vigil

The all night vigil Holy Friday night into Holy Saturday morning was a relaxing and enjoyable time to spend in the Church. The hour each person came in to read went by very quickly as the next one entered to take over the reading.

Thank you to all who made this possible.
Dave Park

Stewardship 2005 Status Report

As of May 31st, we have 43 stewards pledging a total of \$48,154.40 for the year 2005! Being a steward is a blessing from God and allows us the privilege to enjoy all the Holy Sacraments of our Church, plus it is also a joy to be part of building a thriving Church through our support and good works.

For the privilege of becoming a committed steward, PLEASE cut out the form at the bottom of this page and mail it in. Or when you are at church, fill out one of the pledge forms located on the entry table with the prayer books. *Please remember it is never too late to become a steward.*

With God's Love,
Fr. Nicholas and Tola Howington



Thank you to our stewards

Fr. Nicholas and Pres. Merilynn Andruchow
Phil & Helen Blommendahl
Paul & Sandy Boyce
Tess Konomos & Paul Brinkmann
Lisa Brollini
Gary & Althea Conrad
Kristen Coor & Warren Sanford
Margaret Dellas
Constantine & Ellen Dillon
Deacon Seraphim & Mary Grove
Angela Hapgood
Toula & James Howington
Jody Gilson & James Howington
George A. Howington

Karen and Mike Jankowski
Kathy Lampros & Richard Jackson
Pauline Kefalas
Dale & Elpitha Kraus
Pete & Tammy Kretsedemas
Nick & Marina Kretsedemas
Demetrios & Katherine Kretsedemas
John & Abbie Lander
Harry and Mara Lampros
James and Tracy MacInnis
Lewis & Julie McCormick
William & Jean Miller
Jan Morin
Daniel & Susan Neimy

Rev. Fr. Timothy & Pres. Vicki Pavlatos
Angelo & Potoula Pappas
David & Kathleen Park
Panos & Dionysia Paramithas
Maria Schulz
Randy & Helen Schulz
Jessica & Joe Sorren
Maria & Pete Stathopoulos
Litsa St. Amand
Teri & Wayne Talent
Dean & Nickoleta Tavlarides
Deacon John & Mary Thrasher
Alex & Diane Tkatchov
Bill Wilson
John & Betty Wilson

**** If you have returned a pledge prior to May 31, and your name is not on this list, please call 928-774-8279 to correct our records ****

Stewardship 2005 Pledge Distribution

| Pledge Amount | # Stewards | Pledge Amount | # Stewards | Pledge Amount | # Stewards |
|-----------------------|------------|------------------------|------------|--------------------|------------|
| \$4,000+..... | 2 | \$2,000 - \$2,999..... | 6 | \$500 - \$999..... | 11 |
| \$3,000 - \$3999..... | 1 | \$1000 - \$1,999..... | 8 | \$300 - \$499..... | 9 |
| | | | | \$299 & Below..... | 6 |



GREEK ORTHODOX MISSION OF NORTHERN ARIZONA STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE: JANUARY, 2005 – DECEMBER, 2005

Name _____ Spouse _____
 Children, names and ages _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone Home _____ Work _____
 Signature _____ Date _____

Treasure

I/We joyfully pledge this amount to support the needs of the Greek Orthodox Mission of Northern Arizona.

\$ _____

Weekly Monthly
 Quarterly Annually

Time and Talent: I/We pledge to volunteer my time and talent to the Greek Orthodox Mission of Northern Arizona in the following areas:

Outreach Construction Coffee Hour Baking Greeters Parish Council Fund raising
 Sunday School Philanthropy Divine Liturgy/Vespers, set up and take down Other _____

Please mail to: Greek Orthodox Mission of Northern Arizona • P.O. Box 2164 • Flagstaff, Arizona 86003-2164

Healing Through Christ Retreat Shows Its Blessings!

By Jessica Sorren

The Greek Orthodox Mission of Northern Arizona's 2nd annual retreat was a blessing indeed. Our guest speaker this year was Mother Ines, an Orthodox nun from Guatemala. Mother Ines is the founder and Abbess of the Hogar Rafael Orthodox orphanage in Guatemala City, Guatemala. She came to Flagstaff to speak to us about her incredible work at the orphanage and share with us the stories of the children that come to live there. Before these children come to her they are living on the streets of the city. Many years of civil war in her country have left these children abandoned and alone to live in these streets among drug dealings, prostitution and crime. Mother Ines shared with us the healing that takes place in these children after they come to live with her at the orphanage. Because she exposes them to the teachings of Orthodoxy and Christ's love, they are transformed, and slowly the healing process can begin. Her talk focused on examining our own lives and how our pain can be similar to those of these children. We too can feel abandoned and alone. But, there is hope. Through the teachings of Christ's love and the teachings of Orthodoxy we can begin the healing process as well and become transformed. Thank God!

This year we had a total of 37 people who attended the retreat. 22 were from our mission, 9 came from some of the Orthodox churches in Phoenix, 6 were from the Flagstaff community and Julie McCormick's mom drove all the way from California to attend. After paying our expenses we made almost \$500 from the two day event, of which all was donated to the Hogar Rafael Orphanage.

To give you an idea of how the retreat went, I thought I would let the words of those who attended speak for themselves. We passed out a survey at the end to all in attendance to get the responses of what they thought of the weekend. We asked three questions: What was your favorite part of the retreat, your least favorite part and what topics would you like to see for future events.

Here are a few of the responses:

"Mother Ines, thank you for doing God's work for these children."

"I like that we came together as a community."

"Extremely spiritual, this reinforced my beliefs and strengthened me."

"Meeting Mother Ines was wonderful."

"Your church's hospitality was enormous."

"I can't believe Mother Ines traveled so far to speak to our little mission."

"I liked that this retreat was open to the public."

"My favorite part of the retreat was hearing Mother Ines talk. My least favorite part was when she stopped talking."

"Good job for a mission church and that you brought this opportunity to the faithful."

"My least favorite part were the gnats in the courtyard during lunch."

...and when we asked what topics you would like to be considered for future events these were some of the responses:

Teachings of the Church Fathers

Orthodoxy in the home

Prayer in our lives

Liturgical Music

Monasticism

The Psalms

Living in today's world, and how to respond to current events

The process of Illumination

The Jesus Prayer

Differences between Orthodoxy and Catholicism

Preparation for Holy Communion

After reading these responses you get a feeling of the blessings we all received. For those of you who could not attend this year, after reading this, I hope you will join us next year. Now that we have a great supply of topics to consider for future events things can only get better. How exciting this all is. I want everyone to know that I believe "The Healing through Christ Retreat" was a success because God always has a way of blessing the things we do when we come together to glorify His name. I also believe that it was a blessing to have the presence of Mother Ines as our guest speaker at this year's retreat. She showed us and reminded us all that we can continue glorifying Him. We can do this by healing ourselves through the love of Christ and the teachings of the Orthodox Church. And finally, I believe this retreat could not have been truly successful without everyone who was in attendance. Thank you to all who helped with organizing this retreat, in preparing food and being there to support our little mission church. I along with the Outreach Committee could not have pulled this off without all of you. Once again we have planted another seed here in Flagstaff and proved that together we can move mountains. What a blessing indeed.

CHRISTMAS ~ CHILDREN ~ AND TEDDY - BEARS



These words seem to garner up smiles and warm happy thoughts of our childhoods and how we joyously celebrate the nativity of our Lord, exchange gifts and thoughts of love for each other as He taught us, and share that love and the tokens of that love with those children less fortunate than us.

Those of us who were privileged to spend a special couple of days in May with Mother Ines know how much the children in Guatemala need our love. A promise was made that more soft, furry Teddy Bears would be sent from all of us here at our Mission in Flagstaff from Phil and Helen's collection and from any of you who have a bear you wish to share. For many decades the Teddy Bear has symbolized warmth and joy for children whose lives have been affected by unfortunate circumstances that include abuse and neglect on many levels.

What we hope to do in the months to come is:

1. Collect as many Winnie the Pooh Bears as we can. Helen and Phil have six and we welcome more as Mother Ines indicated it is her favorite Bear and the children relate to Disney films and light stories. Phil and Helen will wash any bears donated. Any kind of bear is, of course, very welcome.
2. Sometime in early November a bear wrapping party will be held at the Blommendahl's with punch and light snacks for the kids. A card will be provided large enough to allow the children to sign a Christmas wish to the children in Guatemala. One card will be in English and one in Spanish. A letter will be written from the grown ups wishing Mother and all of her staff a Merry Christmas and will be signed by Father, Merilynn, Jessica Sorren, and Randy Schulz and Phil and Helen. Jessica did so much to put the program together and arrange for food, etc., and Randy is our council President. Everyone in our Mission is invited to plan ahead, and the date of the wrapping party and updates on how we are doing on the bear collecting will follow as the Holidays draw near.
3. The purpose for this is to allow our children to be a MAJOR part of sharing at one of the most special times of year when the sharing of love and of ourselves is so important. It is our prayer that we can embrace the love which comes from our Savior at His birth with children in another land far away so that those children may feel near to us and warm all of us with a special touch of that spirit we know as Christmas spirit. We ask for your love and support in this special effort. Call us anytime at 773-9507 with ideas or questions as the months move forward.

Thanks in His Name,
Phil & Helen Blommendahl

Church School 2004-2006 Enrollment

Church School Schedule:

- ❖ The first day of the 2005-2004 Church School year is Sunday, September 11th / 18th??.
- ❖ Times for lessons will be announced. (There will be changes to our Winter Liturgy Schedule)
- ❖ All classes meet at Our Lady of Guadalupe in the hall downstairs.

Enrollment Information:

To enroll your child(ren), and/or if you would like to teach or assist with Church School, *please cut-out this form and return the following information on or before September 4, 2005.* This form can be brought to church services, or mailed to: Greek Orthodox Mission of Northern Arizona, P.O. Box 2164, Flagstaff, AZ. 86003-2164.

We are also seeking a contribution of \$10 per child or \$20 per family to help cover the cost of the materials. Please put a notation on your check that the money is for Church School. Thank you.

Your name: _____

Would you be interested in teaching or assisting? _____

| Child's name | Age | Grade entering this fall | Child's name | Age | Grade entering this fall |
|--------------|-----|--------------------------|--------------|-----|--------------------------|
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |

Pascha Reflections

Christ is in our midst

This past Spring Nancy and I experienced our first Orthodox Pascha, thanks be to God. Coming from an Anglo-catholic background, we are used to intricate services, incense, chant, and a relatively heart-felt expression of thanks over the Resurrection of our Lord.

However, we were not fully prepared for the exuberance and joy of the Greek Orthodox Pascha. When Father Nicholas loudly proclaimed the rising of Christ and the people responded with equal force, my reaction was visceral. I felt the impact of the Resurrection in a way I had never done before. My heart was so full, I couldn't speak. Any Sacramental Church recognizes the close identification of body and spirit and the importance of the senses in the worship of God. The Orthodox Church, as represented by this Mission, takes the physical manifestations of Faith more seriously than I have yet seen.

Even though the tradition we came from involved the senses, the thrust of worship was primarily cerebral, inward, and individual. Pascha has these things but something more. We heard the glory of the Resurrection in a manner which could not be misinterpreted or ignored. We saw the Resurrection in images which truly made this blessed event present in our sight and hearing. We saw and we heard as a community.

Even before Pascha, the joy and anticipation leaked into the most solemn moments of Holy Week. It was as though we couldn't wait. It was as though God our Father loved us enough to let us peek at the Gift He would give us on Sunday. We saw Christ on the Cross. We took Him down, wrapped Him in linen and laid Him in a tomb - a tomb covered in flowers! Even the traditional Greek Holy Week greeting looks forward to the wonder to come: *Kali Anastasis!* Our former tradition plodded its way through Holy Week, with the beating of breasts, the absence of any sort of music, and speaking in hushed tones, truly the "hour of shadows". By the time Easter rolled around, everyone was so worn out and worn down, that the joy of Easter often was dulled.

Not so during the Orthodox Holy Week. We never lost sight of the true meaning of Holy Week as the necessary prelude to death's demise. As our Lord's example teaches us, we all must die before we can rise again, but rise again we will. Most Christian traditions know this intellectually, but do not express the reality of this truth as concretely as we experienced during Holy Week and Pascha.

Nancy and I are grateful and blessed to have shared this most Holy Day with you. We thank you all for taking us into your embrace and leading us lovingly into what we are coming to acknowledge as the True Faith. May God bless you!

In Christ!

George Bufford

MY POEM ABOUT BEING ORTHODOX

By Nicholas Schulz

Light a candle
Say a prayer
Helps God know
You are there

I give my talent,
treasure, and time
For God my light
Truly shines

I work real hard
As an Alter Boy
Because it always
Gives me great joy

I go to confession
Because I am a sinner
After I go
I feel like a winner

The body and blood
They make me strong
So my spirit
Can live forever long

Light a candle
Say a prayer
Helps God know
You are there

(On May 22, we held our Year End Youth Assembly where each Church School class did either group or individual presentations. Here we share a poem written by **eight** year old Nicholas Schulz.)

For The Record...

Wedding Blessing

April 12, 2005

Michael & Catherine Donovan

Baptism

April 30, 2005

Tracy Mathisrud:

Anastasia

Sponsor: Sandy Boyce

We welcome Tracy to our Orthodox Family!



New Arrivals!



Paraskevi Taxiarchia Sierra

Born April 10, 2005

9:47am

7 lbs 7oz

20 inches

Proud Parents:

Daniel and Jennifer Sierra



Sophia Eleni Padilla

Born May 26, 2005

12:37 p.m.

7 lbs. 10 oz.

19 inches

Proud Parents:

Darrell and Georgia Padilla

In Memory of Archbishop Iakovos



On April 10, 2005 Archbishop Iakovos at Stamford Hospital in Stamford CT, died, from a pulmonary ailment. Deeply respected by all religious leaders in the United States when he retired at the age of 85 on July 29, 1996, Archbishop Iakovos offered 37 years of service which were distinguished by his leadership in furthering religious unity, revitalizing Christian worship and championing human and civil rights.

Archbishop Iakovos was known throughout the world as a dynamic participant in the contemporary ecumenical movement for Christian Unity. In 1960 he was successful in promoting closer ties among Orthodox jurisdictions, he founded the Standing conference of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in the Americas (SCOBA). On March 26, 1965, being a champion of civil and human rights, he had the courage to walk hand in hand with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in Selma, AL, a historic moment for America, which was captured on the cover of LIFE Magazine. In his zeal he also vigorously supported the passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

In the international arena he spoke out forcefully against the violation of human rights and religious freedom and, in 1974, initiated a massive campaign to assist Greek Cypriot refugees following the invasion of Cyprus by Turkish armed forces. Friend to nine presidents, and religious and political leaders worldwide, Archbishop Iakovos was the recipient of honorary degrees from some 40 colleges and universities, he was cited in 1979 by both Houses of Congress and paid official tribute in the Congressional Record. He was the recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the Nation's highest civilian honor, bestowed by President Jimmy Carter on June 9, 1980. In 1986 he was awarded the Ellis Island Medal of Honor.

Born on the Island of Imvros, Turkey on July 29, 1911 to Maria and Athanasios Coucouzis, he came to America in the 1930's as the Archdeacon to the late Archbishop Athenagoras, the Primate of North and South America. In 1940 he was ordained to the priesthood in Lowell, MA, and he served at St. George Church, Hartford, CT. While ministering as a priest, he taught and served as assistant dean of the Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Theological School, then in Pomfret, CT and now in Brookline, MA.

A United States citizen since 1950, Archbishop Iakovos was an admirable role model for American Greek Orthodox Christians, thoroughly committed to the vital democracy of his adopted country without forfeiting the ageless values of Greek culture or abandoning Greek Orthodoxy's spiritual and ecclesiastical roots in the Church of Constantinople.

In 1954, he was ordained Bishop of Melita, by his spiritual father and mentor, Ecumenical Patriarch Athenagoras. On February 14, 1959, the Holy Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate elected Iakovos as successor to Archbishop Michael, who died July 15, 1958, as Primate of the Greek Orthodox Church in the Americas. He was enthroned April 1, 1959 at Holy Trinity Cathedral, assuming responsibility for what has grown to over 500 parishes in the United States.

Archbishop Iakovos improved parish organizations, upgraded roles of the Archdiocesan Council, the Biennial Clergy-Laity Congress, the Ladies Philoptochos Society and the Orthodox Observer; introduced new Archdiocesan departments and encouraged the expansion of St. Michael's Home for Aged, Saint Basil Academy and St. Photios Shrine. He founded a Major Gifts program for the Archdiocese, today entitled the Archbishop Iakovos Leadership 100 Endowment Fund. Most importantly, Archbishop Iakovos was a committed and caring pastor to a whole generation of Greek Americans whose hard work, determination and pride in their religious and cultural heritage he embodied.

May his memory be eternal!!!