



TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Volume 14, Issue 7

October 2011

The Good Shepherd

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Psalm 22 (23)



One has the strong impression that in the Orthodox Church, after Psalm 50, it is the “Good Shepherd Psalm” that is the best-known, most beloved and memorized psalm of the Bible. This psalm, traditionally Psalm 22 from its numbering in the Septuagint and Vulgate, but now popularly known as the Twenty-third Psalm from its numbering in the Masoretic Hebrew text is particularly popular in the King James version. The popularity of this psalm is doubtless related to the traditional attraction of the image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd, who leads us through the valleys of our lives, bringing us into the respite of His Church. Our souls spiritually rest upon **green pastures** listening to Him, through the Epistle and Gospel readings, followed by the sermon. **He leads us beside still waters** and **restores our souls**, through Holy Baptism, and walks with us on **the paths of righteousness**, as we wear (and carry) our Cross. He anoints our head, with Holy

Chrismation. **He prepares a table**, the Holy Altar Table, laden to satisfy our deepest hunger and thirst, by offering us His Very Body and Blood. **The cup** of our souls **runneth over**, with the Love of God poured into our hearts, and the communion we experience with God and each other within the Church.

In the Gospel according to St. Matthew, we see the Good Shepherd filled with the understanding of our weariness in this world, and the compassion to gather us safely into a unified fold: **But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.** (Mt. 9:36).

This emphasis is consonant with the parable of the Shepherd’s searching for the lost sheep, preserved in Mathew 18:12-14. **What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it**

Transfiguration of Our Lord Greek Orthodox Church

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Parish Council

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Peter Kangos - V.P.

Sophia Khan - Sec.

John Chronis- Treas.

Marko Bjeletich

Shelley Ebeling

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Michael Glaros

Nick Spiropoulos

Stuart Yoder

Please enjoy this beautiful and informative paper offered by one of our own. During our Dome Iconography Project Campaign, we will continue to offer such opportunities for growing in the knowledge of God through iconography.

BYZANTINE ICONOLOGY:

The Pantocrator's position in the Byzantine temple; and the hermeneutics of the multicolor circle around it.

by Irene Perez-Omer

The icon of Christ Pantocrator, the Almighty or Ruler of All, is the most common representation of Christ that we find in the Orthodox Church. There are variations on this type of icon of Christ depending on where it is placed within the Church building. In the Narthex, which represents the unredeemed part of the world, the Christ Pantocrator is called "the Door" or "the Teacher." The Pantocrator on the iconostas between the Nave and the Sanctuary is usually a half-figure which allows for a larger face, and his expression is merciful, as the faithful approach for Holy Communion. The monumental representation of the Pantocrator, is by far the most imposing in the entire Church, not just by its size, but because it occupies the highest place of honor and the highest point within the architecture of the Church--the dome in the center of the Nave. The Nave is the place within the Church where the faithful or enlightened people stand during the celebration of the Liturgy; it represents the Kingdom of God--the new heaven and the new earth sanctified. (Ouspensky, *Theology of the Icon*, pp.26-28.)

In the traditional representation of the Pantocrator, Christ is represented half-length in the center of the dome. Christ's right hand is blessing; his fingers arranged in the position of the letters for his monogram in Greek, IC XC, which is the traditional Byzantine form of blessing used by priests in the Orthodox Church. This same monogram is also written next to Christ's halo on the background of the dome. His left hand holds a closed book of the Gospels. His halo has a cross inscribed on it. On the arms of the cross are written the Greek letters 'ὁ ὄν', which mean "I AM the Existing One" (Ex. 3:14) He has an red inner robe or chiton and a dark blue outer robe which symbolize His two natures--Divine and human. (M. Quenot, *The Icon*, p. 127.) The human features of the incarnate Word of God reveal His Divine Majesty as well. His gaze is intense, at once both severe and merciful and rests down on the faithful assembled for the Liturgy. It represents Christ coming to judge the living and the dead. (Ouspensky & Lossky, *The Meaning of Icons*, p.73.) The walls of the dome bend downward representing the bowing of the heavens as Christ approaches at the second coming. The position of Christ's head in the circle of the dome is to the West, as if He was rising from the East to the West; perhaps it is an allusion to the Sun of Righteousness.

The whole bust of Christ is finally contained within a multicolor circle. In light of the eschatological character of the image watching the faithful from above and bowing the heavens in anticipation of the second coming, we must examine the significance of the multicolor circle in connection with the book of Revelation. In his vision, John the Evangelist says that he saw a door open in heaven and a voice like a trumpet said to him to come "up here" so I can show you things which will take place. John then finds himself beholding a throne in heaven, "and One sat on the throne. [...] and there was a rainbow around the throne, in appearance like an emerald." Rev. (4:1-3) Therefore, the multicolor circle around the Pantocrator image, represents the rainbow around the throne of God in heaven at the end of times. Furthermore, at the beginning of the same book, the Lord says, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, [...] who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."--the Pantocrator. (Rev. 1:8.) (C. Cavarnos, *Guide to Byzantine Iconography*, pp. 75-80)

However, there is also another connection with a different rainbow in Scripture which is the old covenant of God with Noah. In the book of Genesis, God promises Noah He will never again destroy the earth and people by a flood; and as a sign of His promise, He tells Noah that He will set a rainbow in the cloud. (Gen. 9:12-17) This is a promise not to judge man again as harshly as He did with the flood; it is a promise that mercy will override judgement in the final days. As Christ quotes from the prophet Hosea in the Gospel, "I desire mercy and not sacrifice." Christ tells the people to go and figure out the meaning of the saying.(Mt. 9:13.) In fact, the sentence continues, "and the knowledge of God more than whole burnt offerings." (Hos 6:6.) This passage is similar as well to one found in the Psalter, "For if You desire sacrifice, I would give it; You will not be pleased with whole burnt offerings. A sacrifice to God is a broken spirit, a broken and humbled heart God will not despise." (Ps. 50:18-19.)

From these two different interpretations of the rainbow around the Pantocrator, we can attribute two aspects to this image. If we understand the Pantocrator in the context of the book of Revelation, we see the rainbow around the throne of

TRANSFIGURATION DOME ICONOGRAPHY PROJECT

I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one cried to another and said:

*“Holy, holy, holy LORD of Sabaoth;
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory!”*

And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of Him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke.

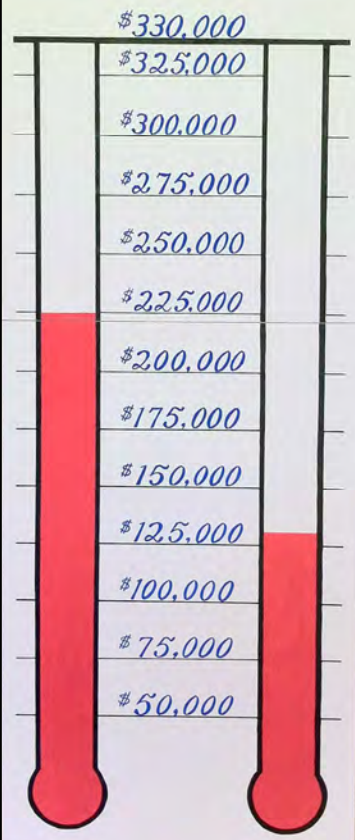
(Isaiah 6: 1-4)



Dome Iconography Project

Deadline December 31, 2012

PLEGDED RECEIVED



2011 DOME ICONOGRAPHY CAMPAIGN as of 09/20/2011

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <p>Fr. Vasileios & Prsv. Stella Flegas</p> <p>Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Ackerman</p> <p>Dr. & Mrs. Jacob Angelo</p> <p>Dr. & Mrs. Lou Apostolakis</p> <p>Mr. & Mrs. Michalis Bakiris</p> <p>Mrs. Kiki Benson</p> <p>Dcn. George & Prsv. Ria Bithos</p> <p>Mr. & Mrs. Marko Bjeletich</p> <p>Mr. William Chriss</p> <p>Mr. & Mrs. John Chronis</p> <p>Mr. & Mrs. Betty Ann Courtney</p> <p>Mr. & Mrs. Michael Daskalantonakis</p> <p>Mr. & Mrs. R. Dean Davenport</p> <p>Mr. & Mrs. Alex Demetriadis</p> <p>Mr. & Mrs. Joseph DeRossi</p> <p>Mr. & Mrs. John Dracopoulos</p> <p>Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Draina</p> <p>Mr. & Mrs. Michael Ebeling</p> <p>Mr. Richard Edgell</p> <p>Mr. & Mrs. John Esper</p> <p>Mrs. Beatrice Ferris</p> <p>Mr. Ilias Georgakopoulos</p> | <p>Mr. & Mrs. Anthony George</p> <p>Mr. & Mrs. James George</p> <p>Mr. & Mrs. George Gianakopoulos</p> <p>Mr. & Mrs. Michael Glaros</p> <p>Mr. & Mrs. Chris Harris</p> <p>Dr. James Hitt</p> <p>Mr. & Mrs. David Horwedel</p> <p>Ms. Eleni Hrissikopoulos</p> <p>Ms. Gwen Elizabeth Jerome</p> <p>Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Jones</p> <p>Mr. & Mrs. Johnny Justice</p> <p>Mr. Ted Kalenterides</p> <p>Dr. James Kalpaxis</p> <p>Dr. & Mrs. Pete Kangos</p> <p>Mr. & Mrs. George Karides</p> <p>Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Koriath</p> <p>Mrs. Judith Kountoupis (in memory of Dr. James Kountoupis)</p> <p>Mr. William Leara</p> <p>Mr. Steve Levendakes</p> <p>Mr. & Mrs. Archie Meador</p> <p>Ms. Olena Nakonechna</p> <p>Mr. & Mrs. Jim Norman</p> <p>Mr. & Mrs. Shawn O'Brien</p> <p>Ms. Valli Pappas</p> <p>Mrs. Sophie Paulos</p> | <p>Mr. & Mrs. John Peet</p> <p>Mr. & Mrs. Chris Petropoulos</p> <p>Mr. & Mrs. Austin Phelps</p> <p>Mr. & Mrs. Dionissios Phocas</p> <p>Mr. & Mrs. Ken Pon</p> <p>Fr. Drago & Pr. Milena Popovich</p> <p>Ms. Jennifer Poulakidas</p> <p>Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Read</p> <p>Mr. & Mrs. Shane Sewell</p> <p>Mr. & Mrs. George Simbles</p> <p>Mr. & Mrs. John Sofyanos</p> <p>Mr. & Mrs. Harry Stamatis</p> <p>Mr. & Mrs. Michael Strong</p> <p>Dr. & Mrs. Brandon Suehs</p> <p>Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Suehs</p> <p>Mr. & Mrs. Allen Wynn</p> <p>Mr. & Mrs. Stuart Yoder</p> <p>Mr. & Mrs. Elias Zachos</p> |
|--|--|--|

judgment and Christ looking down upon His people. This view corresponds to the severe look we sometimes find in the Pantocrator icons. However, if we look at the rainbow within the context of the covenant God made with Noah, combined with Christ's message in the passage from the Gospel of Matthew, and the beautiful penitential psalm of King David, both quoted above, we understand that Christ Pantocrator is looking down from the throne of judgment with mercy as well.

Thus, the Pantocrator looks severe and angry to those who judge others in their minds and hearts; and merciful to those who are humble and only judge themselves. (C. Cavarinos, Guide to Byzantine Iconography, p. 75.)

(Excerpts from the Old and New Testaments were taken from The Orthodox Study Bible.)

PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF VENUE FOR THE
GOLF TOURNAMENT



WHEN

Monday, October 10th, 2011

TIME

12:30 pm Shotgun Start

WHERE

Live Oak Golf Course

PRESENTED BY THE TRANSFIGURATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
The Transfiguration Greek Church of Austin is a registered 501(c)3 organization.



\$130 PER PLAYER INCLUDES

Lunch by Arby's

Dinner by Carino's Italian

Homemade Greek Desserts/Pastries

Full Round of Golf - Scramble Format

Range Balls before Round

**REGISTER & PAY AT
GREEKGOLFDAY.COM**

GOLF COMMITTEE

Marko Bjeletich • 394-9661 Bill Colovas • 261-8251
Creed Ford IV • 565-9923 Cassle Ford • 947-2553
Myron Klement • 656-8578 Stuart Yoder • 733-5640
Nick Spiropoulos • 261-8746

WANNA HELP MORE? SPONSOR A HOLE!

Help support Greek Golf Day by sponsor a hole
Hole Sponsorships Start at \$200

Email INFO@GREEKGOLFDAY.COM for More Info
Or Call Cassle Ford at 512.947.2553

TGOC | 414 St. Stephens School Road | Austin, TX 78746 | <http://transfiguration.org>

Fellow Parishioners,

As many of you already know, there are a number of important events coming up on the Parish Calendar this fall. On October 10th we will have our Annual Greek Golf Tournament to be held at Live Oak Golf Course in Lakeway. Thank you to all of the Golf Committee members for their hard work keeping the golf event on track, and making it highly successful. If you have not already taken the opportunity, please talk with one of our Golf Committee members about being a sponsor of this event.

In addition to the Golf Tournament, plans are well underway for our 26th Anniversary Gala. Shelley Ebeling, Georgia Karides, and Sophia Khan have worked very hard to make everything come together for a nice evening of celebration and fellowship. We are fortunate to have his Eminence Metropolitan Isaiah join us for our celebration this year, and we owe a special thanks to all of the parishioners who have helped to coordinate the many preparations for his visit. Gala tickets are currently available by contacting Shelley, Georgia, or Sophia. Please set aside November 5th on your calendar for the Gala. On November 6th we will have a Hierarchical Divine Liturgy, followed by a reception luncheon for Metropolitan Isaiah hosted by our Philoptochos.

Finally, we have our last Parish Assembly of the year also coming up on October 9th. This is a very important meeting where we will set the budget priorities for 2012. The Finance Committee has worked very hard to put forward a 2012 budget that builds upon the current year, further increasing the level of support the Parish provides for all of our ministry groups and especially our youth ministries. These are among the most important investments that we can make in the future of our local Parish and our Orthodox Church, and these investments are only made possible by your continued stewardship and generosity of parishioners. In addition, we will receive nominations for the 2011 Parish Council elections, and the Assembly will choose the members of the Board of Elections and the Board of Auditors.

Please make plans to attend this important meeting.

In service to His Church,

Brandon Suehs - Parish Council President

**Transfiguration Greek Orthodox Church
Parish Assembly Agenda
October 9th, 2011 - 12:30 PM**

Time	Item	Owner
12:30	Call to order	Suehs
12:30-12:35	Opening prayer	Fr. Flegas
12:35-12:40	Election of Assembly Chairperson	
12:40-12:45	Approval of meeting agenda	
12:45-12:50	Approval of minutes from September 2011 Assembly	
1:00-1:15	Proistamenos' Report	Fr. Flegas
1:15-1:30	President's Report	Suehs
1:30-1:45	Treasurer's Report 2012 Budget	Chronis
1:45-2:00	Stewardship Report	Bjeletich
2:00-2:15	Ministry and Committee Reports	
2:15-2:30	New Business PC, BoE, Audit Board Nominations Election of Board of Elections Election of Audit Board 2010 Audit Summary	Nominating Committee Audit Committee
2:30	Prayer and Adjournment	Fr. Flegas

Passions and Virtues - Chapter Two by Elder Paisios



--How, Geronda, will I overcome self-love (self-centeredness/selfishness)? My bodily strengths are few and self-denial and sacrifice are difficult for me.

--“A sacrifice unto God is a broken spirit. A heart that is broken and humbled, God will not despise.” (Psalm 50:19) You will not overcome your self-love (selfishness) by lifting up the heavy sack of another--God will not require this of you as you do not have bodily strength—but by humbling yourself and taking a (negative) comment from someone, an injustice. And if a little bodily toil is put forth out of love and charity, do you know how much God will then help?

--Geronda, what relationship do toil and asceticism have with the cutting off of the passions?

--Bodily toil submits the body to the spirit. And fasting and vigilance and every ascetic practice, when done for the love of Christ, along with the struggle to cut off the spiritual passions, help as well. Because, if one does not struggle to uproot the spiritual passions, pride, envy, anger, and does only a dead (barren, dry) bodily asceticism, he will feed his passions with pride. Our spiritual passions do more harm than fat does to the body. Bodily fat is a benign tumor, but spiritual passions are malignant tumors. I don't want for someone to not do ascetic practices, but to enter into the meaning of the asceticism which has as its purpose the throwing off of the former (sinful) self.

--How, Geronda, should one struggle to have temperance?

--The struggle must occur as follows: whatever the body has need of should be given to it—sleep, food, etc. Then one will have the aim of cutting the spiritual passions—his desires, his egotism, his envy, etc. Then one should practice temperance in food, sleep. Thus, the bodily asceticism will have meaning.

--Geronda, how can one discern the boundary between his own endurance and the beginning of his self-love (selfishness)?

--One must follow himself closely and examine himself. This self-examination will help him find his measure. And the grocer, in the beginning, when he is inexperienced, when he weighs something, sometimes he puts too much and sometimes too little. After he acquires experience, he puts that which is necessary. Anyway, whenever one is young, he is able to practice more asceticism. As he becomes older, his strengths lessen and he is not able to force himself as much. If he forces himself beyond what he is able to do, he may harm his health. Because of this, he must do a review of his strength and adjust correspondingly to his new state.

--Sometimes, Geronda, whenever I feel exhausted, timidity (cowardice) overcomes me and I feel I cannot do anything. Perhaps this is self-love (selfishness)?

--Whenever you feel exhausted, ask yourself if you are ill. If you are not ill, perhaps you are lacking sleep, or perhaps you need to eat or rest a little more. If nothing like this is happening, then it is a temptation. Rise up, begin your work, and overcome the temptation.

--How much should I persist, Geronda, in the toil? Perhaps if I accommodate myself, I will cast away the Grace of God?

--No, my blessed one! You should take care and stop before you become unable (to do anymore).

--However, Geronda, I feel I never apply that which the Fathers say, “Give blood so that you can receive spirit.”

--What blood can you give, since you are lacking in blood? You have need for others to give you blood....but be careful of the *spiritual* passions.

(continued in next month's issue)



BABY BOOMERS

Thank you to Mary Katherine Bakiris for organizing our event on Saturday night, Sept. 24. We all had a wonderful evening at The Beacon enjoying the music, food, and fellowship!

For our next event, We will be gathering at the home of Mary Katherine and Michalis Bakiris

Date: Sunday October 30

Time: 6pm

**Address: 2210 London Lane,
Cedar Park TX 78613**

Theme: *Fondue!*

Discussion Topic: Church Feast Days

Vote: will be taken for the name of this group

RSVP: Mary Katherine 412-2548 or mbakiris@hotmail.com

Questions: Linda Robertson 261-3934 or Christine Suehs 236-1920





*An Afternoon
with His Eminence,
Metropolitan Isaiah of Denver*

This is a blessed opportunity for the entire community to spend some quality-time with its Shepherd.

We will begin with brunch at 10:30 am, followed by a performance by the Agape Choir at 11:30 am, and a blessing for all children by His Eminence at 12:00 pm

We will conclude with a conversation-style forum with His Eminence in the Sanctuary at 12:30 pm, where everyone—the youth and adults—will be able to listen to His Eminence answer all those burning questions we might have about the faith and our spiritual life.

*Saturday, November 5th
At Transfiguration*

Please make plans to attend this very special occasion!



TRANSFIGURATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
REQUESTS THE HONOR OF YOUR COMPANY
IN CELEBRATION OF OUR 26TH ANNIVERSARY
WITH HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN ISAIAH OF DENVER

SATURDAY, THE FIFTH OF NOVEMBER,
TWO THOUSAND ELEVEN

HYATT REGENCY AUSTIN
208 BARTON SPRINGS RD. AUSTIN, TX 78704

COCKTAILS (CASH BAR) 6:00 PM
DINNER: 7:00 PM
SILENT AUCTION

\$100 PER PERSON
EVENING ATTIRE

FOR TICKETS CONTACT:

SOPHIA KHAN (512- 402-9868), OR THE CHURCH OFFICE (512-329-6363)



HIERARCHICAL DIVINE LITURGY
WITH HIS EMINENCE, METROPOLITAN ISAAH OF DENVER

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6

ORTHROS AT 8:45 AM

DIVINE LITURGY AT 10:00 AM

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL LUNCHEON IN HONOR OF HIS EMINENCE
FOLLOWING THE LITURGY

**Transfiguration Greek Orthodox Church
26th Anniversary Gala
November 5, 2011**

Program Booklet Ad Order Form

Support Transfiguration Greek Orthodox Church by sponsoring an ad in our anniversary gala program booklet. Options are available for personal and business ads.

Deadline for submitting your paid in full order is October 20!

Return this order form (plus payment) with your sponsorship preferences. You will be contacted regarding your ad copy and payment information. You may also contact Vana Kersch at (512)786-5096 (vanaki56@hotmail.com) or Shelley Ebeling at (512) 299-2108 (ebelingshelley@yahoo.com).

Name: _____

Business name: _____

Phone number: _____

Email address: _____

Full Page Personal Ad: \$50

Full Page Business Ad: \$100

Half-Page Business Card Blowup: \$50

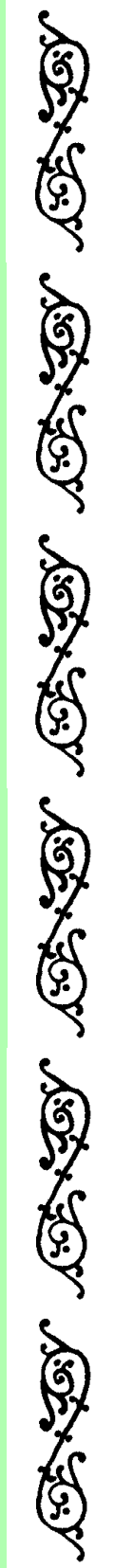
Business Ad: Center Spread, \$200 per page

Business Ad: Back Page, full color, \$500

Business Ad: Inside Back Cover and Inside Front Cover (full color - \$500)

Additional fee for color ads inside book, \$50 per page (personal or business)

TRANSFIGURATION
FIRST DAY OF SUNDAY SCHOOL
AND THE PROCESSION OF THE HOLY CROSS



more than over *the ninety-nine that never went astray. So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.*

In the Holy Gospel according to St. John, Chapter 10, we read about the sensitivity of the sheep to hear and know the Shepherd's voice: ***The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out*** (vv. 3-5, 8, 14, 16, 27). The Lord as our Good Shepherd knows you and me, not only by name, but is able to fully reveal our true identity, fulfilling our true desire and potential from within us. His love in creating us is without limits, and will not stop ***doing everything to bring us into heaven*** (the Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom). This love is the love of the Good Shepherd who lays down His very life for His sheep, and who goes out to find all of us, uniting us into one flock, one Church community and believing faith. ***I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep.*** (vv. 14, 15).

Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, before ascending into the heavens, breathed His Holy Spirit upon His disciples, ordaining them to go into the world, to become shepherds for His flock. (cf Jn 20:21-23) In the Holy Gospel according to St. John, our Lord asks St. Peter to feed and tend His sheep, as a testimony of loving Him.

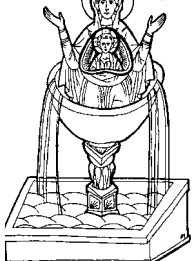
We are blessed in our metropolis to have such a Shepherd, His Eminence Metropolitan Isaiah of Denver, who will be visiting us the weekend of November 4-6. His Eminence is our shepherd on earth, continuing in the spirit of the apostles, to tend and feed his sheep in this pastoral visit to us. A beautiful weekend of events has been planned, affording EVERYONE an opportunity to spend quality time with our good shepherd. I pray that all of you make every effort to come and attend.

St. Ignatius of Antioch also known as Theophorus from the Greek Θεοφόρος "God-bearer"(ca. 35 or 50-between 98 and 117) was among the Apostolic Fathers, the third Bishop of Antioch, and a student of St. John the Beloved Apostle. En route to his martyrdom in Rome, Ignatius wrote a series of letters which have been preserved as an example of very early Christian theology and Church practice. In his Epistle to the Smyrnaeans, Chapter 8, he states: ***See that you all follow the bishop, even as Jesus Christ does the Father, and the presbytery as you would the apostles; and reverence the deacons, as being the institution of God. Let no man do anything connected with the Church without the bishop. Let that be deemed a proper Eucharist, which is [administered] either by the bishop, or by one to whom he has entrusted it. Wherever the bishop shall appear, there let the multitude [of the people] also be; even as, wherever Jesus Christ is, there is the catholic (fullness and universality) of the Church. It is not lawful without the bishop either to baptize or to celebrate a love-feast; but whatsoever he shall approve of, that is also pleasing to God, so that everything that is done may be secure and valid.***

In the Love of the Shepherd,



∴ SOURCE OF LIFE ∴



Wednesday Evenings in October

Beginning on October 5th, Transfiguration will have busy, educational and fun Wednesday evenings!

The evening will begin with **Paraklesis at 6:00pm**

Afterward, we will all share a **Pot-Luck dinner and fellowship** (approximately 7:00 - 7:30)

Followed by a **“Orthodoxy 101”** class (approximately 7:30 to 9:00)

The **Men's Bible Study** will begin on **October 12th**, meeting every-other week.

They will be studying a book by David Bentley titled [Atheist Delusions](#). This book is considered to be the best Christian apology to be found right now.

Please clear your Wednesday evenings and plan to attend!

SUNDAY SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our Sunday School year is off to a great start!

We have welcomed several new families and enjoyed reconnecting with our returning families!

Philoptochos will be hosting a Cake Walk to raise money for our Sunday School Ministry on October 2nd.

Students and their families are asked to bake some delicious cakes, and everyone is invited to compete for these yummy desserts. Many thanks to Philoptochos for organizing this fundraiser!

The St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival is coming up!

We have moved our Parish Festival to the Fall, so that students can take advantage of their back-to-school momentum and give some amazing speeches! Encourage your middle and high school students to participate -- we want to hear their voices!

We'll have two group events to help students prepare on October 1st and 30th, and we'll hold the **Festival itself on November 13th.**

The winner of the Senior Division will receive a 100% tuition scholarship at Hellenic College, so get your students signed up today!

Registration, topics and information are available online:
oratorical.transfiguration.org

Parents who did not receive a Parent's Sunday School Handbook should pick one up in the Hall.

Let us raise our children in such a way that they can face any trouble, and not be surprised when difficulties come; let us bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord... When we teach our children to be good, to be gentle, to be forgiving, to be generous, to love their fellow men, to regard this present age as nothing, we instill virtue in their souls, and reveal the image of God within them. This, then, is our first task to educate both ourselves and our children in godliness; otherwise what answer will we have before Christ's judgment seat? St. John Chrysostom

Agape Choir

Agape Choir will participate in the Liturgy on October 2nd.

For rehearsal information please contact

Lainie Horwedel: mymommysings@gmail.com"

Greek School News

The Greek school would like to thank all of you who help us continue our work.

For the month of October the school will have the OXI Day celebration on the 30th.

The students will recite poems for this special day during our coffee hour!



Holy House

TGOC GOYANS Present the 2nd Annual HOPE/JOY HOLY HOUSE

Please join us for the 5:00pm Great Vespers

Followed by our

"HOLY HOUSE" ADVENTURE!

Saturday, October 29, 2011

Dress as your favorite Saint or superhero or other positive themed character and get a treat.

There will be pizza and soda and an after party for the GOYANs who help out.

GOYA

Our teens will be meeting on October 1st at 2PM at the Benson Home (4929 Pyrenees Pass)

To discuss ideas for Holy House and Oratorical Topics.

At 4PM they will be heading to Hamilton Pool for some hiking!

They are also hosting a luncheon to raise funds for the basketball tournament on Oct 9th.

They would very much appreciate some volunteers for this!

"Ellinakia"

Greek Dancing for 2nd-5th grade practice is starting up!

Practice for their performance at St. Elias' Mediterranean Festival in October is happening now!

Anyone interested in having your children join Ellinakia can contact Eleni Ackerman at (512) 560.2063.

First Day of Sunday School Skate Party!



It was a whole lot of fun!
Were you there? And your photo
is not in here? Shame!

**SEND US YOUR PHOTOS OF
TGOC'S MANY EVENTS!**

Congratulations
to Amy and
Gregg Bell!



Willow Elizabeth Bell
was born on
September 26th at 9:19pm

Here are her stats!
7 lbs & 3 oz.
20.5 inches

God grant you many years!

Men's Fellowship Group

Transfiguration Men's Fellowship lunch will meet
on **October 20** at **11:45**
at El Greco- 3016 Guadalupe St. Ste C200.

New Men's Study Group!

The TGOC Mens Fellowship Book Study will begin
October 12!

We will meet every other Wednesday after
Paraklesis, with a potluck, and at the same time as
Orthodoxy 101.

We will be reading *Atheist Delusions*, written by an
orthodox Christian, and considered the best Christian
apology right now.

OCF

(Orthodox College Fellowship)

All college and university students are invited to join OCF for great study and fellowship.

We meet every other Tuesday on campus at the UT Episcopal Student Center -

209 W. 27th Street (Enter the Center at University Ave.);

and the opposite weeks' Thursdays at Cafe Medici at the intersection of 22nd and Guadalupe, **6:30 pm.**

Contact Blagoje Djordjevic- bzdjordje@gmail.com for more information



OCF Fall Retreat

Attention all college and university students! Plan to join us for this get-away!

Friday, October 14th - Sunday, October 16th

Camp Allen Conference & Retreat Center, 18800 FM 362, Navasota, TX

Mark your calendars and prepare to join the Orthodox Christian Fellowship group from Southern Methodist University as we host this year's annual OCF Retreat for the Texas/Oklahoma and surrounding areas!

Please invite all OCF members from your school!

Registration Deadline is October 1

Price: \$50 per person

You must be 18 or older to attend.

For questions and the forms contact Luciana Prifti at lprifti@smu.edu

Philoptochos News

- ◆ September was the kickoff for our membership drive for 2011-2012. Our Membership Tea at the Apostolakis' home was wonderful and we thank everyone involved. If you have not completed your membership form for the coming year, please do so as we will be purchasing an ad in the Gala Program listing all members and would love to have all of your names included.
- ◆ On Sunday, October 2, we will be assisting the Sunday School in a fund-raiser. This year we will have a "Cake Walk" along with a small cake auction. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend and support your Sunday School at Transfiguration!
- ◆ November 6th is Philoptochos Sunday and also Transfiguration Church will have His Eminence Metropolitan Isaiah as their guest for the luncheon after Liturgy. We will need to hear from each of you if you plan to attend the luncheon. Please RSVP as soon as you know to the church office: office@transfiguration.org or call 512-329-6363. We thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Happy Birthday to our October Birthday Ladies!

Ellen Apostolakis - October 1

Cynthia Zachos - October 20

Teresa Skevofilax - October 30

Dina Meador - October 16

Nicki Leatherwood - October 22

AUGUST 2011 STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

For those of you who aren't aware, stewardship (the practice of making annual pledges of our time, talent and treasure to support the parish) is the primary funding source for TGOC's operating budget. Not only does it pay the bills (lights, water, mortgage, etc.) but stewardship is an important part of our life in the Church. We are called to stewardship as to prayer and fasting, as a tool for spiritual growth. We are called to give back the first fruits of our harvest of God's bounty; He does not ask for our cast-off surplus or for what is left over after we've had our fill.

So far, 2011 has been an excellent year for Transfiguration's Stewardship Program. As you can see from these graphs, as of the end of August, our pledge total is \$35,000 greater than the total we had reached by the same date in 2010. Notably, the number of pledging families has not increased; in fact, by this date in 2010, 146 families had pledged vs. 143 families this year. While fewer pledges is not desirable, the good news is that the average pledge has increased by about \$300 this year, creating growth in the total 2011 pledges. This is exactly the kind of growth that will ensure our parish a bright future. Thank you to those families who have sacrificed to make this happen.

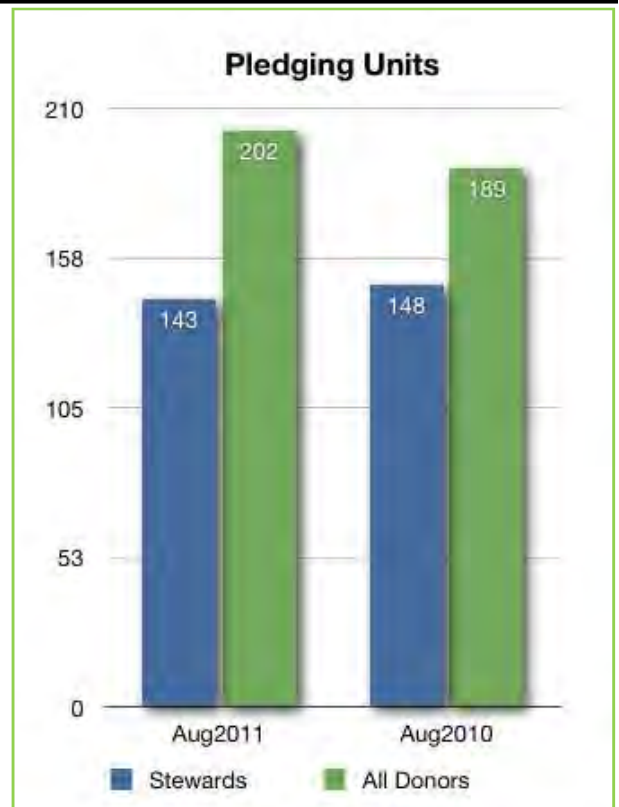
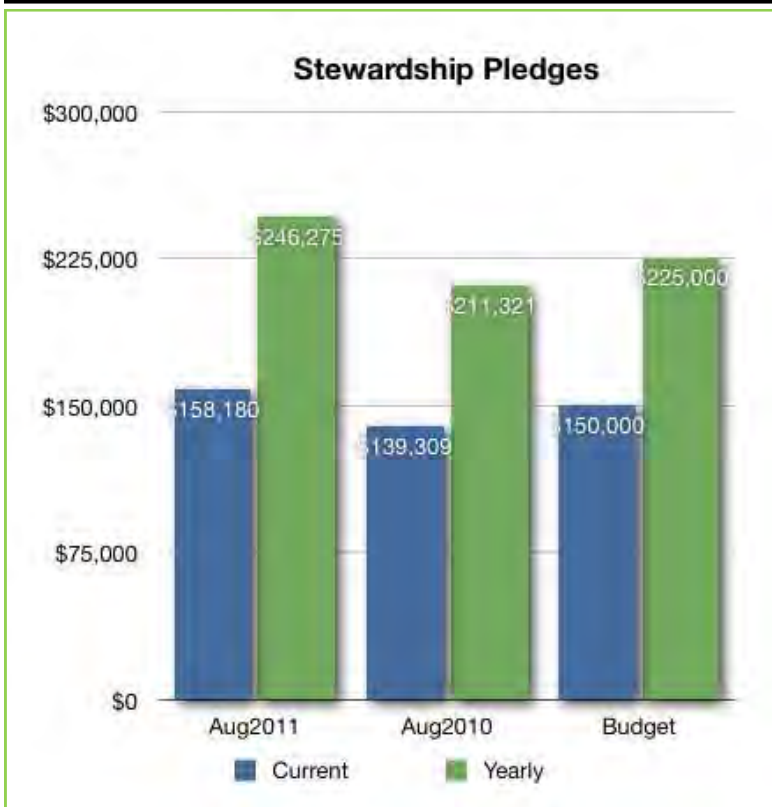
If you have not yet signed up to be a steward for 2011, please do so now. It is never too late to fill out a pledge card. Any gifts you've given this year will be applied toward your pledged contribution. You can find stewardship cards in the Hall foyer, or please feel free to contact me directly.

We have some big plans for 2012, and the only way we'll accomplish them is by continuing to grow and improve our stewardship to support the needs of this growing parish. Look for more information about this at the coming Parish Assembly on October 9, and for the kickoff of the 2012 Stewardship Campaign on Stewardship Sunday, December 11.

Sincerely,

Marko Bjeletich - stewardship@transfiguration.org

Stewardship Committee



2011 STEWARDSHIP *(Updated as of 08/14/2011)*



Fr. Vasileios & Prsv. Stella Flegas	Fr. David & Prsv. Vasiliki Eckley	Mr. & Mrs. Johnny Justice	Mr. & Mrs. Peter Price
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Ackerman	Mr. Richard Edgell	Mr. Theodore Kalenterides	Mr. & Mrs. Jamal Qatato
Mr. & Mrs. James Alfaro	Mr. & Mrs. Rich Edwards	Ms. Nici Kalogirou	Mr. & Mrs. Mark Randol
Mr. & Mrs. Rod Ambrose	Mr. John Esper	Dr. James Kalpaxis	Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Read
Dr. & Mrs. Jacob Angelo	Mr. & Mrs. Costas Evgenides	Dr. & Mrs. Peter Kangos	Mr. Tom Rigney
Dr. & Mrs. Louis Apostolakis	Mr. & Mrs. Jose Ferrua	Mr. & Mrs. George Karides	Mr. & Mrs. Jim Roberts
Mr. & Mrs. Dan Appling	Dr. & Mrs. Jason Foster	Ms. Elsie Karvelas	Mr. & Mrs. William Robertson
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Bakiris	Mr. & Mrs. Jason Garwood	Ms. Demetra Keah	Mr. Peter Romell
Ms. Tsambika Bakiris	Mr. & Mrs. Jason Garwood	Ms. Vana Kersch	Mr. & Mrs. Mihalis Salmatanis
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Benas	Mrs. Pat Gatlin	Mr. & Mrs. Tahseen Khan	Ms. Katherine Scattergood
Ms. Kristie Benner	Mr. Ilias Georgakopoulos	Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Koriath	Mr. & Mrs. Shane Sewell
Mrs. Kiki Benson	Ms. Mary Georgantonis	Mr. Stephan J. Kounelias	Mr. & Mrs. Michael Shannon
Dcn. George & Prsv. Ria Bithos	Mrs. Demetra Anna Georgantonis-Keah	Mr. Antonio Latto	Ms. Pat Shotwell
Mr. & Mrs. Marko Bjeletich	Mr. & Mrs. Anthony George	Mr. & Mrs. Trey Leonard	Mr. & Mrs. George Simbles
Mr. & Mrs. Ed Boudreau	Ms. Bess George	Mr. William Leara	Mr. & Mrs. George Skevofilax
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Bowles	Mr. & Mrs. James W. George	Mr. & Mrs. Lee Leatherwood	Mrs. Dorothy Smith
Ms. Maria Burke	Mr. & Mrs. Jean George	Ms. Nicki Leatherwood	Mr. Kostas Spanos
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Y. Burks	Mr. & Mrs. Dean Geuras	Mr. Steve Levendakes	Mr. & Mrs. Nicolaos Spiropoulos
Mrs. Arlena Carrozza	Mr. & Mrs. George Gianakopoulos	Ms. Jessica Makdsi	Mr. & Mrs. Karl Stahlke
Mrs. Despina Carter	Mrs. Stella Gianas	Mr. & Mrs. Archie Meador	Mr. & Mrs. Harry Stamatis
Mrs. Catherine Christ	Mr. Demetri Giannopoulos	Ms. Maria Miller	Ms. Susan Stevens
Mr. & Mrs. Gregory Chronis	Mrs. Kaliopi Gialusis	Mrs. Patricia Mitchell	Mr. Tim Strategakos
Mr. & Mrs. John Chronis	Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Gimenez	Mr. & Mrs. Ted Mitchell	Mr. & Mrs. Michael Strong
Mr. Constantine Chrysostomou	Ms. Christina Glarakis	Mr. & Mrs. Xenophon Nikas	Dr. & Mrs. Brandon T. Suehs
Ms. Marianne Clay	Mr. & Mrs. Michael Glaros	Mr. & Mrs. Jim Norman	Ms. Michelle Suehs
Dr. & Mrs. William C. Colovas	Mr. & Mrs. Tom Gouris	Mr. & Mrs. Shawn M. O'Brien	Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Suehs
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Courtney	Ms. Mary Beth Gradziel	Mr. & Mrs. David Omer	Mr. Nikolaos Tides
Mr. Constantin Craus	Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Harris	Mr. & Mrs. Ioannis Ousaklidis	Ms. Debbie Tindle
Mr. & Mrs. Brian Crenshaw	Ms. June Hartofilax	Mr. & Mrs. Pete Papachristou	Mr. & Mrs. Matt Tracey
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Daskalantonakis	Mr. & Mrs. Octavian Herescu	Mr. & Mrs. Themistoklis Papadatos	Mr. & Mrs. Joshua Trevino
Mr. & Mrs. R. Dean Davenport	Mrs. Vickie Hicks	Ms. Gretchen Papazis	Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Tsihlias
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph L. DeRossi	Dr. James A. Hitt	Ms. Valli Pappas	Mr. & Mrs. Judd Willmann
Mr. & Mrs. Chris Delvziz	Mrs. Virginia M. Hobbs	Mrs. Sophie Paulos	Mr. & Mrs. Allen Wynn
Mr. & Mrs. Alex Demetriadis	Mr. & Mrs. Erwin Hockens	Mr. Pete Pavlos	Mr. & Mrs. Stuart Yoder
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Dow	Mr. & Mrs. David Horwedel	Mr. & Mrs. John Peet	Mr. & Mrs. Elias Zachos
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Draina	Drs. Lucas & Jenny Jacomides	Drs. Nicholas & Lisa Peppas	Mr. & Mrs. Efstathios Zotis
Mrs. Judith Eagle	Mr. Ronald Jernigan	Mr. & Mrs. Chris Petropoulos	
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Ebeling	Ms. Gwen Jerome	Mr. & Mrs. Takis Petropoulos	
	Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Jones	Mr. Tony Petropoulos	
	Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Jones	Mr. & Mrs. Austin Phelps	
		Mr. & Mrs. Denis Phocas	
		Mr. & Mrs. Ken Pon	

But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.

As it is written: "He has dispersed abroad, He has given to the poor; His righteousness endures forever."

2 Corinthians 9: 6-9

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414 ST. STEPHENS SCHOOL ROAD
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*Transfiguration Greek Orthodox Church
October Newsletter*

Schedule of Services

SUNDAY SERVICE TIMES:

*ORTHROS - 8:45 AM
LITURGY - 10:00 AM*

SATURDAY GREAT VESPERS:

5:00PM

SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION

Call to schedule

MEMORIAL SERVICES & 40 DAY BLESSINGS

Please call the church office to schedule all memorial services and 40 day baby blessings.

The memorial services are normally read at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy.

The 40 day blessings are read after Orthros and before the Liturgy begins.

Feast Days

Feast of St. Luke - Tuesday, October 18

Orthros - 8:45 am; Liturgy - 9:30 am

Feast of St. Demetrios - Tuesday, October 25

A Teaching Liturgy.

Orthros - 5:00 pm; Liturgy - 6:00 pm

Paraklesis- Wednesday evenings at 6:00pm