



The Triodion & Stewardship – Part 2

By Father Michael Stearns

We as human beings (unlike machines), need to periodically refocus, rededicate, and redouble our efforts in order to successfully accomplish our goals in life and our heart's desire. This is precisely the opportunity that the Church provides us with in the Triodion. We are not called to "give something up" for Lent, as our Western Christian brethren proclaim. On the contrary, as Orthodox Christians, we are offered the opportunity to regain what may have been lost, set aside, or ignored over the past year – namely, the very presence of Christ, and His Coming Kingdom!

The Fathers of the Church have provided us with Three Great Pillars of Lent, to be erected on the foundation of Jesus Christ, in order to construct our own glorious Temple dedicated to God. These Pillars of Prayer, Fasting, and Works of Charity are neither ends in themselves, nor solely sacrificial in nature. They are not items to be checked off a list, as if their accomplishment (in whatever form) makes us "perfect Orthodox Christians." They are however, tools that can assist us in getting back on track spiritually. They also have a direct connection to our Stewardship, in that they represent a purposeful and productive adjustment in how we use our Time, Talent, and Treasure.

Time is, as we know, the most precious resource that we possess. When we choose to spend our Time developing a deeper relationship with Christ through prayer (both personal and corporate), we in effect, strengthen our Stewardship. When we choose to use our Talents in various means of Fasting, we can't help but deepen our Stewardship. When we choose to designate an increasing portion of our Treasure for Works of Charity within the Church, we make great spiritual strides forward in terms of our calling to be good Stewards. When we choose to follow the Church's guidance, and combine all three in a concerted way during the Triodion, the spiritual results and rewards become truly exponential!

The Church, in her infinite wisdom, great pastoral care, and exceeding loving-kindness toward us, does not expect us to make these spiritual adjustments overnight. Rather, our Holy Mother Church draws us steadily closer into her sweet and loving embrace, until she deposits us into the very outstretched arms of our Savior Himself. This steady increase is exemplified in not only the escalating Fasting regimen that we spoke about last time, but especially in the Gospel Passages of the first three Sundays, and how they connect directly to our Stewardship. The first Sunday presents us with the Pharisee, who although was tithing (giving 10%) of everything he received, missed out on the blessings of his actions because of his hardness of heart. The second Gospel tells how the loving father gave half (50%) of his wealth to his son, and then received him back again, even after he squandered it. The third Sunday describes how we are all to be held accountable before the Judgment Seat of Christ by providing (or not) for the needs (100%) of our fellow pilgrims. The Church reminds us through these Sacred Passages, the three Pillars of Lent, and their connection to the expressions of our Christian Stewardship (Time, Talent, and Treasure), that everything belongs to God, and we have been given the great blessing of participating in His Grace, through this magnificent period, called the Triodion!

March

- Tues 5th: Prime Timers Lunch 12:30 pm
- Wed 6th: Greek School 4:30 pm
- Thurs 7: Ladies Bunko 6:00 pm ~ Kaffen home
- Sat 9th: Liturgy ~ Sat of the Souls 9:30 am
- Sun 10: Basketball at Pasadena (St. Anthony)
- Tues 12th: Bible Study 7:15 pm
- Wed 13th: Greek School 4:30 pm
- Sat 16th: Apokreas / Mardi Gras 6:00 pm
- Sun 17th: Cheesefare Sunday ~ Lent Begins
Goya Lunch & Meeting 12 - 2:00 pm
- Mon 18th: Clean Monday Services 10:15 am
- Wed 20th: Greek School 4:30 pm
Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 7:30 pm
- Fri 22nd: Salutations to Theotokos 7:30 pm
- Sat 23rd: Sat of Souls Liturgy 9:30 am
AHEPA Video presentation 6:00 pm
- Sun 24th: Sunday of Orthodoxy
Basketball vs. St. Katherine
- Mon 25th: Liturgy 9:30 am Annunciation
- Wed 27th: Greek School 4:30 pm
Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 7:30pm
- Fri 29th: Salutations to Theotokos 7:30 pm
- Sat 30th: Basketball vs. St. Sophia 2:00 pm
- Sun 31: Greek Ind. Day Program (Grk Schl)



Prime Timers ~ March 5: The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, Mar. 5th at 12:30 at The Olive Branch. In Marbella Shopping Center; 31105 Rancho Viejo Rd, SJC (949) 737—5633. Contact Bert (949) 412 - 9169.

Ladies' Bunko Night ~ March 7th at 6:00 pm: Join us at the home of Melissa Kaffen. Refreshments begin at 6:00 pm & bunko begins at 7:00 pm \$20 per person. \$5 donated to church candles. RSVP: mkaffen@cox.net
A~L: Appetizers, M~Z Desserts

Bible Study ~ Tues, March 12th: Please join us for study of scripture & church tradition on Tuesday, March 12th at 7:15 p.m. upstairs in the Church hall. Refreshments will be served. For more info, please email frbill@stbasiloc.org If anyone would like to bring refreshments, please contact Fr. Bill.

Clean Monday Services & Lenten Potluck ~ March 18th: Please join us for Clean Monday prayer Services at 10:15 a.m. at Church. Immediately following we will have a Lenten pot luck lunch. Please RSVP so we know how many to expect for lunch. Please let us know what you can bring as well. Contact Ann Rhodes for reservations and details: office@stbasiloc.org or (949) 542 - 3445.

AHEPA "Festival of Lights" Video Presentation ~ Saturday, March 23 at 6:00 pm Ahepa local chapter will present a wonderful Short Film about the history of a Greek-American community, Orthodoxy and their relationship with the local town and people. **Admission is free.** Bring your **family and friends.** Ahepa will provide appetizers, wine, soft drinks. At our Church Hall. Info, contact Michael Antzoulatos: mpa@centerpointinsurance.com

GOYA Calendar - March 2013

Goya Lunch & Meeting ~ Sun, March 17:

12:00 to 2:00 p.m. in the hall upstairs We will eat lunch, have a meeting and talk with Fr. Bill. Contact Sandy sandy rains1@gmail.com or 951-972-0719

Check out our Facebook page at: St. Basil Goya



MINISTRY CONTACTS

- Parish Council:** Reggie Sellas: rsellas@aol.com
- Sunday School:** Anna-Nicole: annanicole777@gmail.com
- Greek School:** Tessy: tessyjoy7@gmail.com
- GOYA:** Sandy Rains: sandy rains1@gmail.com
- Greek Dance:** Lia Vardakostas: lia1@cox.net
- Altar Boys:** Fr. Bill: frbill@stbasiloc.org
- Stewardship:** Katie Van Harten: vanhartenk@msn.com
- Ladies' Aux:** Fran Karnazes: yiayiafran@yahoo.com
- AHEPA:** Mike A: mpa@centerpointinsurance.com
- Prime Timers:** Bert Dumais: bert.dumais@cox.net
- Chanting:** Bert Dumais: bert.dumais@cox.net
- Vacation Church School:** Pres. Mia: presmia@yahoo.com
- Apokries:** Steve Dafnis: steved@quizglass.com
- 4th of July:** Sam Konugres: sam.konugres@sbcglobal.net
- Parish Directory (2012):** Sally: meyerhofer@cox.net
- Basketball:** Sam Konugres: sam.konugres@sbcglobal.net
- Greek Festival:** Sam Konugres: sam.konugres@sbcglobal.net

Coming Soon !

Teaching in the Faith

4 Sundays in a row

During Great Lent

9:30 - 10 am in Church

March 24 - April 14

Come a bit early to Church and hear a short presentation **The Bible, Tradition & Lent**

2013 Stewardship Update

Annual Operating Budget	\$350,000
Amount Pledged	\$107,420
% of budget pledged	30%
Amount Received	\$28,330
% of budget received	8%
2013 Stewards	70

To receive a pledge card, please contact Ann Rhodes in the Church office.

March 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<u>Greek School</u>		1	2 <u>GOYA Bball vs. St. George</u> 2:00 pm <u>GOYA Rummage Sale</u>
3 <u>Orthros: 9 am</u> <u>Liturgy: 10 am</u> <u>Bball vs Anaheim</u> 2:00 pm	4	5 <u>Prime Timers 12:30</u> <u>Board Meeting</u> 7:00 pm	6 <u>Greek School</u>	7 <u>Ladies' Fellowship</u> Bunko Night 6:00 pm	8	9 <u>Saturday of Souls</u> <u>Liturgy - 9:30 am</u>
10 <u>Meatfare Sunday</u> <u>Liturgy: 10 am</u> <u>Bball @ Pasadena</u> 2:00 pm	11	12 <u>Bible Study</u> <u>7:15 pm</u>	13 <u>Greek School</u>	14	15	16 <u>Apokries / Mardi Gras</u> 6:00 pm
17 <u>Cheesefare Sun</u> <u>Lent begins in evening</u> <u>Liturgy: 10 am</u> <u>Goya Lunch & Mtng</u> 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.	18 <u>Clean Monday</u> 10:15 am <u>Lenten Pot Luck</u> 11:45 a.m.	19	20 <u>Greek School</u> <u>Pre-Sanctified</u> <u>Liturgy: 7:30 pm</u>	21	22 <u>Salutations</u> 7:30 pm	23 <u>Saturday of Souls</u> <u>Liturgy - 9:30 am</u> <u>AHEPA "Festival of Lights"</u> Appetizers & Video 6:00 pm
24 <u>Orthros: 8:45 am</u> <u>Teaching Faith 9:30</u> <u>Liturgy: 10 am</u> <u>Bball vs. Redondo Bch.</u> 2:00 p.m.	25 <u>Annunciation</u> <u>Liturgy - 9:30 am</u>	26	27 <u>Greek School</u> <u>Pre-Sanctified</u> <u>Liturgy: 7:30 pm</u>	28	29 <u>Salutations</u> 7:30 pm	30 <u>Bball vs. St. Sophia L.A.</u> 2:00 pm
31 <u>Orthros: 8:45</u> <u>Teaching Faith 9:30</u> <u>Liturgy: 10 am</u> <u>Grk Ind Day Program</u> <u>Bball/Long Beach 2:00</u>						