



ALOFT

“...not just singers; worshippers who sing”

Volume 2, Issue 3

♪ Notes from the Director ♪

My Friends,

How 'bout them Angels?!

We have a wonderful local baseball team here in Orange County about whom we are very passionate! They are winners! They are well worth the effort to watch; their progress throughout the year is uplifting.

Oh, for a little of that passion in other areas of our lives as well!

On Sunday, November 8th, we will observe the Commemoration (Synaxis) of the Archangel Michael and other Bodiless Powers including the Archangels Gabriel, Raphael, Uriel, Salaphiel, Jegudiel, and Barachiel. These angels are not of this world, and it is good for us to remember them in prayers and hymns on this day.

I don't know how much thought we give to the real angels, the Heavenly Hosts, anymore. A few years ago, for some unknown reason, there was great enthusiasm for all things angelic. Pictures of cute little cherubs adorned almost everything being made commercially then. It was all the rage, and so like everything thing that is commercialized, the marketplace missed the point (Christmas and Pascha are similarly distorted by commercialism). The real angels are ministers, messengers, and protectors. It is our responsibility

to listen to the message.

I believe that the Heavenly Hosts exist and that they minister to God and that they are present with us as are the Saints. They are as real as anything that we can touch and see.

His Grace Bishop Basil has written in his *The Ministry of Church Singers*: “We've been told that singers should listen to each other for a good blend. The tenors should listen to each other, and then the tenors should listen to the sopranos. The sopranos ought to listen to the altos, etc., etc. That's fine for the street. For the church singer it is not the tenor, alto, or soprano who stands next to you we need to listen to, but the angels who lead us in our singing. Those are the voices we need to hear and with which we blend our voices. What can sound beautiful to us can sound like cacophony at the throne of God, if we are not singing with the angels.”

Singing in church, while you are doing it personally, does not belong to you. It is a ministry of the church and you respond to the call of this ministry with your own gifts of music and thus lose yourself in and, in some sense, become one with the great holiness of God, an incalculable blessing.

Robert Paul



REV. STEVEN TSICHLIS
Pastor

REV. STEPHEN KARCHER
Assistant Pastor

ROBERT A. HENNING
Choir Director

ROLAND JENSTER
Organist

CHOIR OFFICERS

DR. JIM MANOS
President

JIM MANTRAS
Vice President

ANNE MANTRAS
Secretary

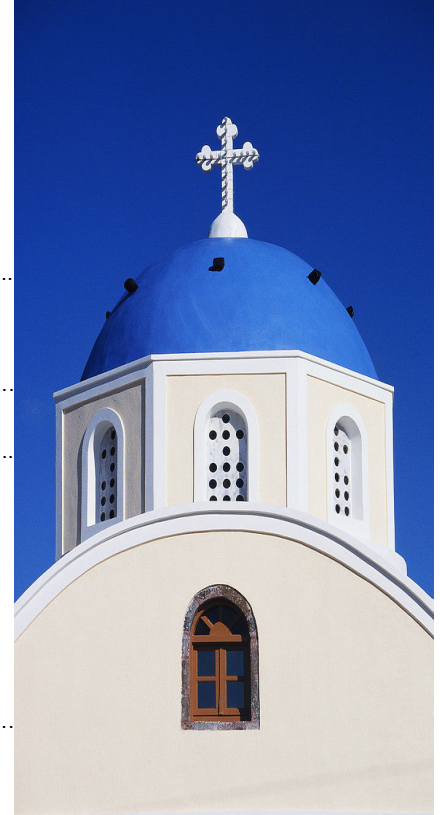
JOHN SMITH
Treasurer

Mission Statement

“To Provide a Music Ministry worthy of the Worship of the One, True God, our Lord Jesus Christ and Support the Goals and Mission of St. Paul's Greek Orthodox Church in the Community and Abroad to the best of our abilities”

Universal Celebration of the Elevation of the Sacred and Life-Giving Cross

September 20th	2nd Plagal Tone Apol. Apol.	Ἀγγελικάί δυνάμεις: When the angelic powers... Σώσον, Κύριε Save O Lord, Your people... Οἱ μάρτυρές Σου, Κύριε Your martyrs, Lord...
September 27th	3rd Plagal Tone Apol.	Κατέλυσας τῷ Στάυρῳ: O Lord by Your sacred Cross... Οἱ μάρτυρές Σου, Κύριε Your martyrs, Lord...
National Church Music Sunday		
October 4th	4th Plagal Tone	Ἐξ ὕψους κατήλθες: From on high did You...
October 11th	1st Tone Apol.	Του λίθου σφράγισθέντος: The stone that had been... Υπέρδεδξάσμενος εἰ, Χριστέ: Unending glory be Yours, O Christ...
October 18th	2nd Tone Koin.	Οτε κατήλθες: When You descended to the realm of death... Εἰς πάσαν τήν γήν Their proclamation has gone out...
October 25th	3rd Tone Apol.	Εὐφραινέσθω τά οὐράνια: Let all things above in heaven rejoice... Οἱ μάρτυρές Σου, Κύριε Your martyrs, Lord...
November 1st	4th Tone	Το φαῖδρόν: When the tidings of the resurrection from the angel....
November 8th	1st Plagal Tone Kont. Koin.	Τον συνάρχον Λόγον: Eternal with the Father... Ὁ καθαρῶτατος Ναός Behold the temple of the Savior Ὁ ποιῶν τούς Ἀγγέλους He makes the winds His messengers...
November 15th	2nd Plagal Tone Kont.	Ἀγγελικάί δυνάμεις: When the angelic powers... Ὁ καθαρῶτατος Ναός Behold the temple of the Savior...
Presentation of the All Holy Theotokos in the Temple		
November 22nd	3rd Plagal Tone Apol. Kont.	Κατέλυσας τῷ Στάυρῳ: O Lord by Your sacred Cross... Σήμερον τῆς εὐδοκίας Today is the prelude of God's generosity... Ὁ καθαρῶτατος Ναός Behold the temple of the Savior...
November 29th	4th Plagal Tone Kont.	Ἐξ ὕψους κατήλθες: From on high did You... Ἡ Παρθένος σήμερον Today the Virgin...



Hymnographer Series

St. Cosmas
The Melodist
October 14th

Composed by St. Cosmas
the Melodist
*The shepherds keep their flocks
by night, the heaven glows out with
wondrous light; the glory of the
Lord is here, the Angel bands their
King declare; the watchers of the
night confessed, "God of our
Fathers! Thou are blest."* (#58,
St. Ambrose Hymnal)

Born around the year 700 in the holy city of Jerusalem, Cosmas was orphaned at an early age. He was rescued from a life in the streets by a government official, Sergius who took him in and adopted him and introduced him to his own son, John. They lived in Damascus. The boys were tutored by a certain Cosmas, a former slave bought by Sergius who was given his freedom. Both Cosmas and John, after the death of Sergius, entered a monastery and were subsequently ordained as priests. John became known later as St. John of Damascus and remained at St. Saba Monastery for the remainder of his life writing treatises and hymns. Cosmas was made Bishop of Maiuma in Gaza in 743. Even with the busy life of a hierarch, he continued to write hymns, perhaps being inspired by living so near to the events of our Lord's life. He died in 750.

Vocal Wisdom

Maxims of Giovanni Battista Lamperti

“The technical development of the voice is brought out by the double functioning of the lungs, which consists of: first, inhaling the breath noiselessly; and secondly, making use of the diaphragm to control the breath as economically as one pleases, in order to leave the vocal apparatus completely independent.”

(Lamperti, (1839-1910) has been described as “the last master of the old Italian manner of singing.” He was a teacher of the Bel Canto style of singing. We will be examining his maxims, from time to time, to apply them when possible to our choral singing.)

Christmas Concert Planned at St. Sophia Cathedral

If you are interested in singing in the annual Christmas Concert at our L. A. Cathedral, the performance is on Sunday, December 6 at 5:30 PM. Rehearsals are scheduled for Saturdays (9:30 AM—12:30 PM) on August 29, September 19, October 3, 17, and 31, November 14, and December 5 (10:00 AM-3:00 PM). Everyone has a great time participating in this annual event. Please consider lending your voice to this special and fun concert. You will be happy that you did!

“Cloud of Witnesses Wall”

“Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” Hebrews 12:1-2.

The goal that we have set for ourselves has been attained. The re-painting of the choir rehearsal room’s west wall has been completed and the major icons have been installed. The major icons include those of Christ, the Theotokos, St. Paul, and St. Romanos.

The Wall is intended to symbolize our choir’s kinship with the Saints, known and unknown, who have gone before us worshipping the One, True God. We are part of an extended family of those who worship the Holy Trinity in word and song which spans over two millennia .

The Wall is not complete, however, and may never be finished! This wall is intended to display icons of every size and description, donated by choir members and others, sometimes in remembrance of a loved one, always in honor of the respective saint or feast as a reminder to us that we are part of the 2,000+ year “cloud of witnesses” to whom St. Paul refers in his letter to the Hebrews.

We hope that many of you respond to the Wall and contribute an icon (or icons). Only icons of canonized Saints or representations of Holy Feasts are solicited. Duplicating icons is discouraged. Written commemorations on the reverse of the icon are encouraged as well as the donor’s name.

Please consider donating and spreading the word about this!



Coffee Hour

Choir Coffee Hour comes around on the first Sunday of every month. It is especially important for all of us to help with this effort so that the burden is not borne by the few. Please mark your calendars! Note: Sunday October 4th is National Church Music Sunday when we celebrate and honor our contributions as a choir. Please be prepared.

Choir Coffee Hour

Rehearsal Schedule



Tuesday, September 29th 7:30 PM

Tuesday, October 13th 7:30 PM

Tuesday, October 20th 7:30 PM



Tuesday, November 3rd 7:30 PM

Tuesday, November 17th 7:30 PM

Tuesday, December 1st 7:30 PM

Choir Annual Picture Day

The Choir’s Annual Picture will be taken on October 4th...the day that we celebrate this year the contribution of choirs to the Greek Orthodox Church. Please make sure that you are in attendance for this event. The picture will be used in the update of our church’s website and church directory when possible.

New Music

We will continue to gradually introduce the musical arrangement of the Divine Liturgy (in Greek and English) composed by Frank Desby. We will add the 1st and 2nd Antiphons through the Small Entrance in the next few months. While English will be the predominant language, some Greek will be used.

As is possible, we will be adding to our repertoire other sections of the Divine Liturgy as well as we proceed throughout the year.

New Members



The truth is that many people wait to be asked to help or join in a group. A select few will offer their services unbidden, but they are the exception. We need new choir members to continually grow musically and enhance our sound and repertoire. Chances are good that the only way these new members will come into our ranks is if you ask them! If you know of someone who has singing ability and a willingness to give time to choir, then please, by all means, ask them to come to a rehearsal and give it a try!



**Choir of St. Paul's Greek
Orthodox Church**
4949 Alton Parkway
Irvine, CA 92604-8606



METROPOLIS OF
SAN FRANCISCO