

The Saint Andrew News

St. Andrew Orthodox Church - Riverside, CA

Dear Parishioners of St. Andrew Church,

The Lord's blessings be with you during these early day of the Great Fast.

I have found myself short of breath all week long, not just because of the hundreds of prostrations that are done in the rich services of the 1st week of Great Lent- ooof!, especially Great Compline and the Canon of St. Andrew, but also because every time I drive into the driveway of the church I see our beautiful new domes towering so high in the sky and shining with such brilliance. Truly breath-taking.

The Blessings of the Crosses and the elevation of the domes that took place last Friday (Feb. 12th) was one of the proudest moments in my pastorate here at St. Andrew. I was deeply moved by the reverence of the many parishioners who came out at different times of the day, and considered it a great honor to kiss the Precious Cross and to chant and sing "O Lord save Thy people, and bless Thine inheritance, granting to Thy people victory over all adversaries, and by the power of Thy Cross preserving Thine estate" as the crosses were being lifted up to a height of more than six stories.

The Precious Cross, which is our boast, towers over our church. We can look from our hill across the City of Riverside and see Mt. Rubidoux with its 40 foot cross adorning its peak. I imagine that our Crosses and the Mt. Rubidoux Cross form a boundary of sanctity around Riverside. For the first half of the day the shadow of our crosses is cast upon the city, and as the sun sets the shadow of the Mt. Rubidoux cross does the same. It gives me great comfort to know that so many of our parishioners are always within sight of the Precious Cross.

In the prayer for the blessing of the Cross we said, "Send Thy heavenly blessing and bless this cross, and bestow unto it the power of the cross upon which was shed the blood of Thy beloved Son, that it may be a mighty help and a constant protection unto this temple which has been erected in Thy name, a deliverance from all evil and harm, a brilliant adornment and a fearful emblem unto its enemies, both

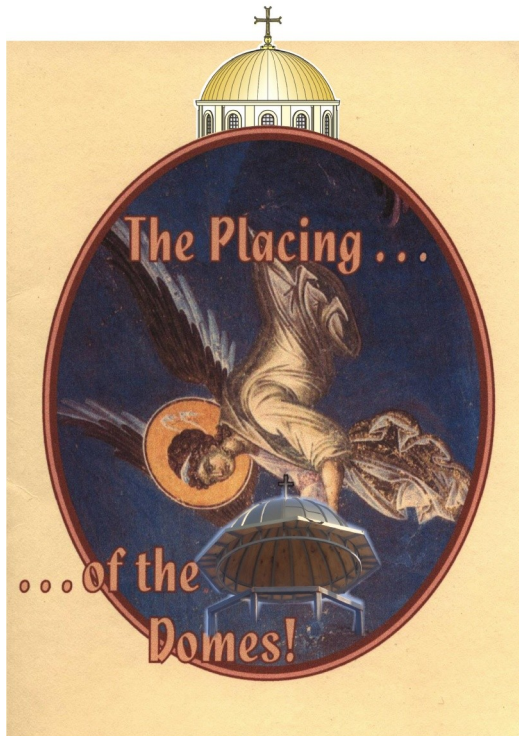
visible and invisible. By the power of the cross, bless and preserve from every harm all who enter this temple with faith and who look upon this cross and worship Thy beloved Son."

"May I never boast except in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ through which the world has been crucified to me and I to the world." St. Paul to the Galatians (6:14).

The beauty of the Church. The might of kings and rulers. The constancy of believers. The boast of St. Paul. The wounder of Satan.

Glory to Thy Precious Cross O Lord!

Fr Josiah



The original icon is from an ancient fresco in Gracanica Monastery in Kosovo, but the angel there is actually holding a crown with which to crown King Milutin. The crowns have been replaced here with one of our St. Andrew small domes as it was being placed atop the new church. The idea was first used by Sr. Xenia of St. Paisius monastery in Safford, AZ, who designed the invitation to the placing of the domes on their new church in November, 2008 with an image of their new dome.



Volume 19 Issue 2/3

February/March 2010
Published Monthly

St. Andrew Orthodox Church of Riverside is a parish of the Self-ruled Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America, Diocese of Los Angeles and the West, the See of the Right Reverend Bishop JOSEPH.

**Saturdays:
Great Vespers, 5:30 p.m.**

**Sundays:
Matins, 9 a.m.
Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.**

**Feast Days:
Liturgy, 6 p.m.
On Eve of Feast**

**Church School follows
The Divine Liturgy**

For additional services and events, and for the latest updates, go to www.saintandrew.net

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Submit articles to the editor at lucy.hanna@sbcglobal.net

Seven-domed Orthodox Church rising in Riverside

The Following Article was posted by David Olson , **The Press-Enterprise** on Saturday, February 13, 2010.

A 14th century-style church is rising over Riverside.

Three of the seven domes of the new church of St. Andrew Orthodox Christian Church near UC Riverside were placed onto the steel skeleton of the building Friday. The other four domes are expected to arrive in the next few weeks.

Several dozen parishioners gathered at twilight Friday as the church's pastor, the Rev. Josiah Trenham, and two other Orthodox priests each sprinkled holy water onto an 8-foot aluminum cross and the gold-colored steel central dome, which was spread over two flatbed trucks.

Julia Casillas, of Perris, is among the St. Andrew congregants who kissed the cross before it was placed atop the dome. The dome then went skyward to a chorus of cheers. The church could open by August.

"This image of the cross is blessed and sanctified by the grace of the holy spirit," the black-robed Trenham said over the sound of a gigantic crane's engine.

Moments later, each congregant approached the four-sided cross to kiss it. The crane then lifted the cross into the air, placed it atop the dome and, amid the cheers of the crowd, hoisted the dome skyward.

The church is roughly modeled after a 14th century church in Thessaloniki, Greece. Its \$4 million cost reflects the attention to detail and authenticity, Trenham said. The altar and its front partition are being made in Syria of mahogany and marble.

The 12-foot-high oak front doors are being carved in Turkey. The marble floor pieces will likely be crafted in Lebanon. Some of the pictures will be painted by an Orthodox monk from Colorado.

St. Andrew has been housed since 2002 in a 5,000-square-foot white-washed building on Canyon Crest Drive while the congregation raised money for its new 9,400-square-foot church, which will have a terracotta-tile roof, off-white stucco walls and a stone base, Trenham said. The old building will become a fellowship hall when the new church opens, which may be as early as August.

The new church fulfills a dream that Inland Orthodox Christians have had since about a dozen people began attending services in a California Baptist University meeting room in 1992. The congregation later moved to a strip mall and then a warehouse before the current building opened.

About 300 people attend services each Sunday. Many are immigrants from countries with large Eastern Orthodox populations, including Greece, Lebanon, Syria, Romania, Russia and Serbia.

The elaborate design of the new church reflects those immigrants' desire for a traditional building, said Saba A. Saba, who grew up in Palestine -- now Israel -- and attended a 4th-century Orthodox church in his hometown of Lydda.

"They wanted to duplicate what they're used to in the country where they are from," said Saba, 79, a parishioner from Temecula who headed the church building committee. "They don't know anything else."

There are several other Eastern Orthodox churches in the Inland area but some, including the Temecula Greek Orthodox church that Saba formerly attended, have portions of their services in Greek, Romanian or other languages that many parishioners do not understand. St. Andrew's services are almost entirely in English, with a few Arabic and Greek words.

The Eastern Orthodox branch of Christianity - which includes the Greek and Russian Orthodox churches, as well as the Antiochian Orthodox church that St. Andrew belongs to - observes ancient rites and views itself as the direct descendant of the early Christian church. The theology of Eastern Orthodox churches is identical.

The multiple domes and the barreled and arched ceilings make the building one of the most complex non-residential structures that project manager David Mouck has been involved with in his 34 years in the construction business.

100-plus columns

There are more than 100 columns to support the building, said Mouck, a partner in the Temecula-based Gill Company. The top of the central dome's cross is 63 feet above the ground. Inside the dome, a painting of Jesus will look down on parishioners, as is traditional in Orthodox churches.

Icons -- which include paintings, frescoes, wood panels and other images of Jesus and the saints -- are an integral



element of Orthodox Christianity, Trenham said. Icons of Christ illustrate the miracle of how God came to Earth as a man, and bear witness to how God is always among people, Trenham said.

The current church has some icons, but most of the space on the side walls is white.

Eventually, the new church will be covered in icons, as most Orthodox churches are, Trenham said.

The icons are part of what attracted Kent Joris, of the high-desert town of Phelan, to Orthodox Christianity. Like about half the congregation, Joris, 47, his wife and three children are converts, in his case from a Baptist denomination. He

likes the ancient Orthodox rites and their roots in the early Christian church.

In the current building, Joris tries to look straight ahead during worship services, toward the altar and the icons on the altar wall, and not at the mostly white side walls. "In a sense, you need to block out your peripheral vision," he said. Joris is anxious for the day when the entirety of the new church is covered in icons, which he said will intensify the connection he feels with early Christians.

"You will have a sense of worshipping not just among the people around you, but among generations of people," Joris said.

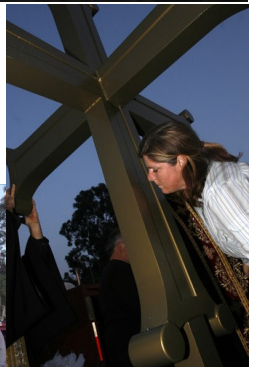
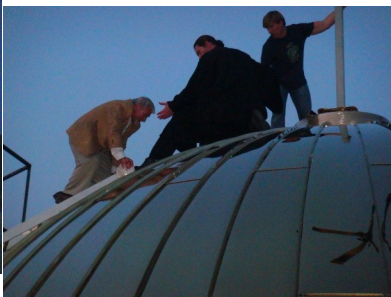
FEBRUARY 12, 2010 - A DAY TO REMEMBER AT ST. ANDREW CHURCH



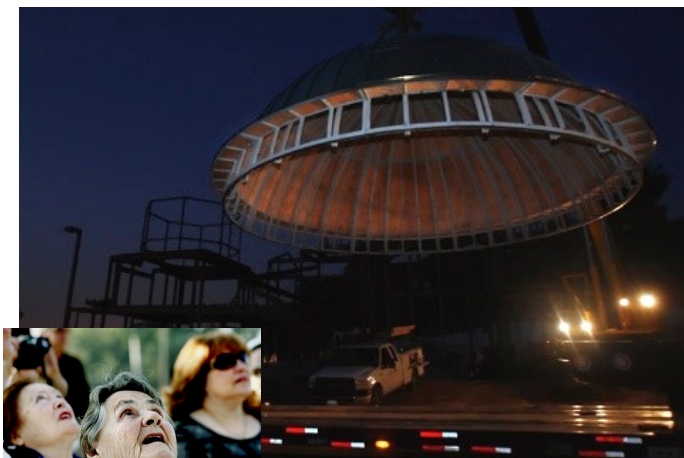
Left: What a wonderful sight it was to watch the main dome arrive on 2 flatbeds.



Right: Carefully, the Dome maker, Phil Liptak of Riverside and his crew attach the 2 sections after which Fr. Josiah, Fr. Timothy Pavlatos, pastor of Prophet Elias Greek Orthodox Church in San Bernardino and Fr. David Kruse, pastor of St. Raphael Mission in Palm Springs, bless the Dome and Cross with the congregation singing the responses and then filing up to kiss the cross before it is lifted to the top of the dome.



Fr. Josiah, Dn. Elie and Building Committee Chairman, Saba Saba, climb to the top of the main dome to guide the cross in place before lift off!!



Like a flying saucer in the night, the main dome was raised and set in place - a spectacular sight that the many parishioners of St. Andrew church who witnessed the event will not soon forget.

A Season of Bright Sadness...

By Aaron Taylor

This article appeared in the main section of "The Guardian" on Saturday, February 13, 2010.

Many Christians in the west, Catholic and Protestant, are familiar with the penitential season preceding Easter that is known as Lent. But the observance of this season is unusually elaborate among the - Orthodox Christians of the east, and unfamiliar to most outsiders.

In the Orthodox Church, Lent is first and foremost a liturgical period. In other words, its most important components are the liturgical texts and services that are sung throughout the season. The collection of Lenten liturgical material is known as the Triodion, and it is actually first brought out and used three weeks prior to Lent proper.

Having completed these three weeks of preparation, Orthodox Lent begins not on Ash Wednesday but on Clean Monday. On this day, observant - Orthodox Christians begin the most obvious part of the Lenten season - - fasting. An Orthodox fast consists of abstinence from meat, eggs, dairy - products, fish, wine and oil. It is a diet that the Orthodox should be accustomed to, as it is also kept on most Wednesdays and Fridays throughout the year, and during Advent and other liturgical seasons.

The Lenten fast, however, must never become a source of pride on the one hand, or something oppressive on the other. It is a measuring stick for our individual practice. If we keep it faithfully, we must say: "We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do" (Luke 17:10). If we fall short of the standard for any reason, we must reproach ourselves and try to do better. Fasting is primarily about obedience, and thus humility. But it also creates a sense of need and sobriety. It teaches us to seek our consolation in things of the spirit rather than of the flesh.

For fasting, even undertaken in the right spirit of humility, is merely a physical accompaniment to the real heart and joy of Lent: the prayer and worship that are intensified during this season, with some churches holding several services throughout the week. The centuries-old texts of the Triodion, full of poetry, meditation, and profound truth, are among the greatest treasures of the Orthodox church. It is here that we encounter what the influential theologian Fr Alexander Schmemmann has called the "atmosphere", the "state of mind, soul, and spirit" which is to permeate our lives and which he calls "bright sadness" - a poetic translation of the "joy -making mourning" recommended by Saint John Climacus in his Ladder of Divine Ascent.

"For Orthodox Christians, the penitential season of Lent means much more than fasting".

The Triodion reminds us that we have fallen short, that we are not the people we should be, that we have become entirely focused on aggrandizing and sating ourselves, and as a result these ancient services engender a sense of sorrow. But the sense of freedom we experience as we relinquish this terrible self-centeredness produces joy in our hearts. If we do not to some extent attain to this joy-through-mourning, we have entirely missed the point of Lent.

The Orthodox have not only this truth to offer their fellow men, but a concrete - indeed a beautiful - means of actualizing it in our lives. But even if not all are able to come and participate in the enacting of the "bright sadness" of Orthodox Lent, it's still possible for others to ponder its wisdom. As long as there is evil in the world, we can be sure that some of it still lies hidden in our hearts. And as long as we are able to shed tears over our condition, there remains hope that we will one day see the glorious day of resurrection.

Shirley and Marcy...

A mom was concerned about her kindergarten son walking to school. He didn't want his mother to walk with him. She wanted to give him the feeling that he had some independence but yet know that he was safe.

So she had an idea of how to handle it. She asked a neighbor if she would please follow him to school in the mornings, staying at a distance, so he probably wouldn't notice her.

She said that since she was up early with her toddler anyway, it would be a good way for them to get some exercise as well. So the neighbor agreed.

The next school day, the neighbor and her little girl set out following behind Timmy as he walked to school with another neighbor girl he knew. She did this for a whole week.

As the two walked and chatted, kicking stones and twigs, Timmy's little friend noticed the same lady was following them as she seemed to do every day all week. Finally she said to Timmy, "Have you noticed that lady following us to school all week? Do you know her?"



Timmy nonchalantly replied, "Yeah, I know who she is".

The little girl said, "Well, who is she".

"That's just Shirley Goodnest", Timmy replied, "and her daughter Marcy".

"Shirley Goodnest? Who the heck is she and why is she following us?"

"Well", Timmy explained, "every night my Mom makes me say the 23rd Psalm with my prayers, 'cuz she worries about me so much. And in the Psalm, it says, 'Shirley Goodnest and Marcy shall follow me all the days of my life', so I guess I'll just have to get used to it!"

"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you; the Lord lift His countenance upon you, and give you peace".

"May Shirley Goodnest and Marcy be with you today and always".

BISHOP JOSEPH'S THOUGHT OF THE DAY

"Building up a parish is one of the hardest challenges Christians can face. It involves cooperation with others, love, patience, perseverance, and sacrifice of our own desires and total commitment to God's will".

St. Andrew Monthly Income and Expense Report for December 2009

<u>General Fund</u>		<u>Building Fund</u>	
Income	\$33,764.00	Income	\$203,281.00
Expense	\$25,626.08	Expense	\$165,626.22

St. Andrew Community News, January and February 2010...

Father Josiah Returns from his Pilgrimage to England, Syria and Turkey...

With great thanksgiving to God and appreciation for the prayers of the parish, Father Josiah who accompanied His Grace Bishop BASIL on this pilgrimage, returned home safely late Saturday night, January 23rd. He reports that the days were so filled with eventful happenings that he will not be able to summarize the trip in a one-hour slideshow. Hence, he has broken the trip into 4 parts, showing a different part of the trip after each of the first four Friday Akathists of Great Lent.

The first slideshow and commentary was Friday night, February 19 which covered the Patriarchate itself on the street called "Straight" and the Archdiocese of Damascus, including visits to Saydnaya Convent and Maaloula (where the relics of St. Thekla are kept).

If you missed the first night, you have missed an excellent presentation but don't despair, come to the next three. The order and titles of the next 3 presentations are as follows:



With His Beatitude, Patriarch Ignatius IV

- Friday, 2/26, 8pm -The Ancient City of Antioch and Its Orthodox Villages
- Friday, 3/5, 8pm -The Archdioceses of Lattakiya, Akkar, and Aleppo
- Friday, 3/12, 8pm - The Archdioceses of Hama, Homs, and Bosra-Hauran



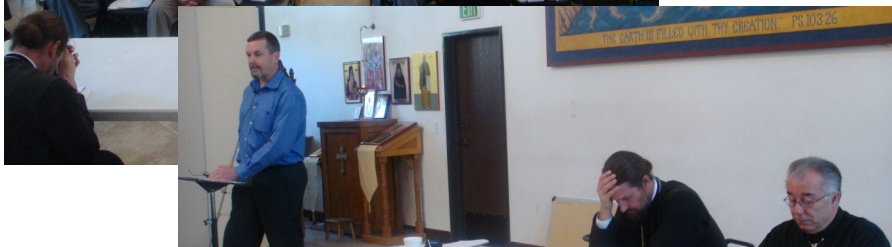
Chagoura shrine, inside Saydnaya Convent

Annual General Parish Meeting, January 24, 2010...



The meeting was called to order by Council Chairman Kent Joris and Fr. Josiah led the opening prayer. The minutes of the 2009 General Meeting were approved and the proposed 2010 budget was presented and approved.

Kent then thanked the outgoing council members, Joe Daruty, Jim Roum and Lucy Hanna for their dedicated service. Election of new members resulted in the election of Lucy Hanna, Tamela Yelland and appointment of Simon Saiid for a three-year term.



Building committee chairman, Saba Saba, updated the membership on the progress of the building project and reported that the placing of the Domes would occur within the next two weeks.

The meeting was adjourned with a closing prayer by Fr. Josiah at 1:17 p.m.

Most of you know our dear friends Subdeacon Christopher and Anastasia Payne who regretfully have moved away from California. They became grandparents twice in two days.



On January 6, 2010 Sarah Jocelyn Payne was born to Christian and Stephany Payne in Riverside, CA, weighing in at 5 lbs. 12 ozs. and measuring 16 1/2 inches long.



On January 7, 2010, Jazmine Marie Davies was born to William and Heather (Payne) Davies in Columbia, SC, weighing in at 7 lbs. 4.6 ozs. and measuring 19 inches long.

Grandma Anastasia, shown here holding Jazmine, had to do a lot of traveling!! May God grant many years to all the parents and grandparents.



Congratulations to Rdr. Patrick and Xenia Enke on the birth of their second child, Dmitri Levon. Little Dmitri was born on Feb 7, 2010 by C-Section, weighing 9 lbs 5 ozs. and measuring 20 1/2 inches long. Mother and child are doing well and so is Daddy and big sister Elena. Many Years!



Myrrhbearers of St. Andrew
12th Annual
Annunciation Tea



Saturday, March 21, 2010
12:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Registration begins on Sunday, February 21 at the Scrip Table

\$5.00 per person

Bring a Friend, a Lenten finger food
and a flower for our Lady

Look for more information in the weekly bulletin and
in the announcements following the Divine Liturgy

A Note from Kh. Catherine

The mothers at St. Andrew gathered together at Theodosia Sammons' house on January 29th to encourage one another in raising our children in the Church. Father Josiah met with us as we enjoyed a wonderful lunch and we were all inspired to make a regular date to get together. We will have our first get together at church the first Saturday of the month beginning in March following the Divine Liturgy. Look for details in the bulletin. All mothers (it doesn't matter what age your kids are) are welcome to come for our Mom-to-Mom get-togethers.

Diocese of Los Angeles and the West Antiochian Women's
31st Annual Spring Retreat

Camp St. Nicholas, Frazier Park, California

April 23 - 25, 2010

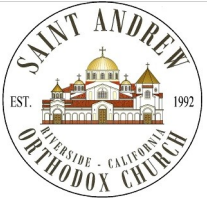
**Theme: "REDISCOVERING THE JOYFUL PATH:
Building an Orthodox Personal Life, Home and Parish"**

Speaker: Fr. David Hovik, Diocese of LA and West Antiochian Women Spiritual Advisor
And Pastor of St. Andrew Orthodox Church, Arlington, Washington

Registration Deadline: April 16, 2010

Early Bird Registration (April 5, 2010):	\$85.00
After April 5:	\$100.00
Saturday Only:	\$60.00

A limited number of Scholarships are available. Please see Lucy Hanna for details.



St. Andrew Orthodox Church

4700 Canyon Crest Drive
Riverside, CA 92507

