

The Saint Andrew Bugle

VOLUME 24 ISSUE 7 & 8
JULY/AUGUST 2015

A Publication of St. Andrew Orthodox Church
4700 Canyon Crest Drive, Riverside, California 92507

Dear Ones,

Blessings. As we course through this beautiful month of August- almost entirely devoted to the Dormition of the Most Pure Mother of God - I wish you all a restful end to the summer.

I take this time to call your attention to the wonderful opportunity our parish has at the moment to make some tremendous improvements to our church campus- some of which we have been hoping to execute for several years.

We all know that with 200 children under the age of 18 we have had until now truly dismal facilities for our children to run and play. Thanks to a very generous and anonymous matching grant of \$100,000 to our parish we are in the process of building two major projects that will benefit our children.

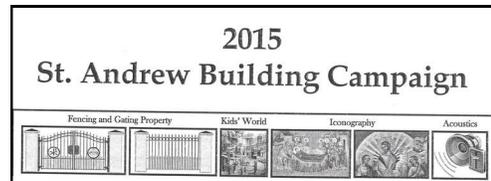
1. A magnificent new playground just east of the church temple - St. Andrew Kids' World. It is designed after the Kids' World in downtown Santa Barbara where we have taken our youth often during our annual summer teen camp outs over the last 15 years. In fact, we hired the very same designers. We hope to begin the construction of the playground soon after our Greekfest.

2. A wonderful fence and gates around the property. This project, long anticipated, is underway as I write and will provide much needed security to our church property.

Besides these two projects we also are poised to commission our acoustical engineer to fix our acoustical problems in the church temple, as well as adding some additional iconography - the Dormition of the Theotokos on the west wall of the church temple.

These projects constitute our 2015 Campaign. I am very pleased to announce here that we cleared \$25,000 in the process of hosting the 2015 Parish Life Conference. What remains?

Now we must, as the Lord guides, match the \$100,000 that was gifted to us. I trust that each family has received via post or by hand at church the 2015 Building Campaign packet.



Please fill out and return the pledge form inside the packet at your earliest convenience, and help us get these wonderful projects done for our children. Each week you can see how we are progressing on our 2015 Campaign thermometer in the hall and the narthex of the church. May God bless it!

Fr Josiah

In giving birth thou didst preserve virginity, and in thy dormition, thou didst not forsake the world, O Theotokos; for thou wast translated unto life, for thou art the Mother of Life. By thine intercession, deliver our souls from death. Troparion of the Dormition



2015 St. Andrew Building Campaign

Beloved Parishioners,

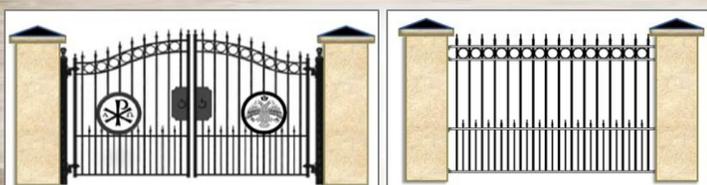
The Lord's blessing be with each of you, and with our parish as we launch our 2015 St. Andrew Building Campaign. This year the parish council and I are focused on four major projects. The total cost for our 2015 Building Campaign Projects is \$250,000.

I am very thankful to God to announce to you that we have received a \$100,000 matching grant from one of our parish families. This means that we are already half the way toward fully funding our 2015 campaign. We must now raise the \$100,000 match for these funds. This match, together with the funds we have raised by hosting the Parish Life Conference, and the funds we anticipate raising at our annual Greek Fest and St. Andrew Patronal Dinner will enable us to fully pay for these wonderful projects which will benefit us all.

Please prayerfully consider how you can participate in this year's building project, and help our parish family bring to completion these major endeavors by making your contribution to the St. Andrew 2015 Building Campaign.

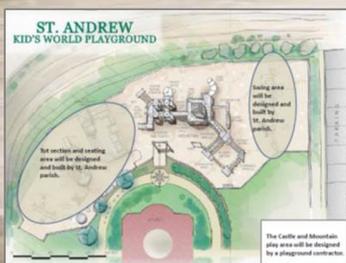
With love,

Father Josiah



Project One *Fencing and Gating the Property*

This project has been years in preparation. Our first step was to obtain a mini-revision to our Conditional Use Permit, and to pass design review with the City of Riverside. Having obtained city permission, we successfully bid and contracted the project, and construction is currently underway. Estimated cost: \$50,000.



Project Two *St. Andrew Kids' World*

This project to build a custom playground behind the church temple for our hundreds of parish children under the age of 18 has been in preparation for 6 months. We have hosted on-site our designer Leathers and Associates and approved a design plan. This will involve leveling the dirt expanse just east of the temple, pouring 18" of proper mulch-like foundation, and building a magnificent playground for the children that will be used not only for our children and grandchildren, but also for the children who will attend St. Andrew School in the future, God willing. Estimated cost: \$100,000.

Project Three *Iconography*



The 2015 installment of iconography in the church temple will be the Icon of the Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokos which will adorn the large rear western wall of the church temple - below and on each side of our triple-arched rear windows. Estimated cost: \$25,000.

Besides the large icon of the Dormition, currently there are three individual saints being commissioned by parishioners: Ss. Elizabeth the New Martyr, Julian of Tarsus, and Paisios the New of Mt. Athos. Should you wish to commission a particular saint please notify Father Josiah.



Project Four *Improved Acoustics*

During the last six months we have solicited the services of professional acoustical engineers to diagnose our very serious acoustical problems in the church temple and to present to us a healing audio remedy. This involves altering our speaker, wifi and microphone systems, replacing our audio "brains" with a higher grade system, repositioning speakers, sound catching, tuning, and more with the goal being to greatly improve intelligibility. It is time for us to jettison our very poor system for a system that resonates with the architectural quality of the temple itself. Estimated cost: \$70,000.



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If you would like to contribute to this year's campaign, make out your check to St. Andrew Orthodox Church, with memo: 2015 Building Campaign. Of desired, you can indicate which project(s) you are interested in supporting.

Dear Parishioners,

Attached separately with this newsletter is a Building Campaign Letter from Father Josiah with a form to fill out and either bring to church or mail to:

St. Andrew Orthodox Christian Church - 4700 Canyon Crest Drive, Riverside, CA 92507.

Memories from the 2015 Parish Life Conference...

July 1 - 5, 2015

100th anniversary of the falling asleep of St. Raphael



Axios to our new Deacon Thomas who was ordained to the diaconate by the laying of the hands of His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH at the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy on Sunday, July 5th. God grant him many years!
 During the conference, Kent Sammons was tonsured to become Subdeacon Raphael. God grant him many years!

Congratulations to the Junior AND Senior Bible Bowl teams who placed first in both divisions. The teams included: Juniors: Mark Rhahal, Gaby Alexandrescu & Anna Rahal. Seniors: Maryam Fleming, Lauren Pla, Rob Younes and Jad Saïid. The Seniors went on to represent us at the Archdiocese Convention. Special thanks to their coach, George Rahal.



Senior Division members with His Eminence. Jad is holding the plaque which will be displayed at St. Andrew until next year.



The PLC began with the clergy meeting & tour of St. Andrew Temple and ended with the hierarchical D.L. & installation of new members of the Order of St. Ignatius including 8 from our parish pictured below



with their sponsors. New members are: David Romano, Chris Kassaseya, Zaid Araya, Mary Claypool, Zana Devito, Cindy Khoury, Loni Ounanian and Christina Younes.





Inside and Outside the Boat

By Metropolitan George Khodr of Byblos & Botris (Mount Lebanon)

...When evening came, He was there alone, but the Disciples' boat by this time was many furlongs distant from the land, beaten by the waves; for the wind was against them. And in the fourth watch of the night He came to them, walking on the sea. But when the Disciples saw Jesus walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear. But immediately He spoke to them, saying, "Take heart, it is I' have no fear." And Peter answered Him, Lord, if it is Thee, bid me come to Thee on the water." Jesus said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus; but when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink, he cried, "Lord, save me!" Jesus immediately reached out His hand and caught him, saying to him, "O man of little faith, why did you doubt?" And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased and those in the boat worshipped Him, saying, "Truly, Thou art the Son of God."

The above Gospel reading gives us an image of our constant relationship to the Savior. The storm in Lake Tiberias is like the storm in every place, the storm of life. In our life, the Lord walks on water. That is, He transcends our difficulties, dispels from us the nightmare of evil and causes us to be saved in the boat of the Holy Church, which crosses this life alive in our Lord who dwells within her.

We may wonder why Jesus caused his disciples to head across the lake. Is it perhaps because He wanted to test their faith the next day or that night, during the last watch? Is it perhaps because He wanted to receive them into the secret of His divinity or because He needed this prayer that He made during the night with the Father in order to receive into His humanity all the power from His father? Or is it perhaps because He longed for this conversation with God?

After praying intensely on the hills of Capernaum, He walked on the surface of the water until He reached the disciples' boat. He appeared to them in the fog, when the night had not yet ended. It was as though there was a ghost and they were afraid. If a person is surrounded by the fog of his sins or if the world is blackened in his eyes, he can neither see God as being full of light nor can he see simple things. God must take the initiative and scatter the clouds in the soul and remove all the darkness and mist from our eyes. The Lord Himself is the one who takes the initiative because He is the one who loves.

When Jesus encouraged the disciples saying, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid," Peter became excited to go out to the Teacher because he could not stand to wait. He wanted to cleave to the Lord directly and so he

said, "Lord, command me to come to you." Peter was an obedient disciple and he did not want to charge out on his own. He wanted to be invited. So the Lord permitted him this.

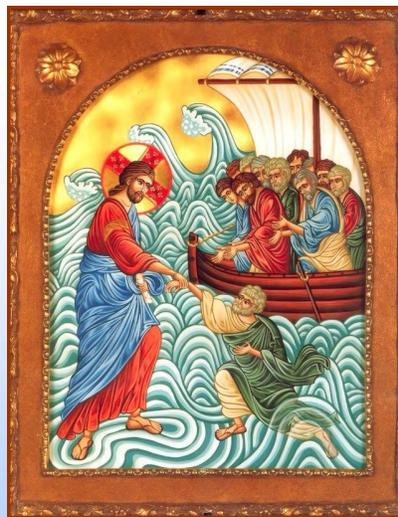
As long as Peter's gaze was set on the gaze of the Teacher, he walked lightly on the water because he was living through the One who was coming to him. He was

strengthened along his way. But when he saw the wind, he started to slip. He had to not see the wind, to transcend every earthly sense that caused him to be bound to the earth, a prisoner of this world. Peter returned to being a prisoner of his troubles. He returned to his doubts and so the world once more appeared overwhelming and powerful. It was only for a few moments that he could see Christ conquering nature, after which he started to sink.

We are all in this state: our lusts and interests dominate us and Christ appears to us like a phantasm-- that is,

like He is nothing-- while we claim that we are Christians and have this written on paper. But everything we say and do and the basis for our behavior demonstrates that Christ has not become real in our hearts, that He is still a phantasm.

However, if we are able to walk on water in Jesus' gentle breeze-- that is, if we overcome the storm and separate ourselves from people's concerns and we cease being captive to anyone, if we submit to the Lord, then He extends His hand to us and keeps us before His face. He brings us into the boat, into the Church of salvation, where we all say to Him, "You are the Son of God." That is, "You are the only king we desire as Lord over hearts that are purified and wills that are strengthened."



ST. ANDREW COMMUNITY NEWS...



Congratulations and many years to our Proto-Deacon Elie and his beautiful wife, Diakonissa Anna (Cindy) on 40 years of marriage. May God grant you many more happy and healthy years!

Another son of St. Andrew Church going off to Seminary!

Having received the blessing from Metropolitan JOSEPH, Reader Jeremy Phillips will begin his Master of Divinity studies at St. Vladimir Seminary in New York this Fall.

On Sunday, July 26, St. Andrew parishioners gathered in the parish hall following the Divine Liturgy to celebrate this happy occasion and to bid them adieu and to wish them safe travels.

Reader Jeremy, his beautiful wife Katie and son Symeon began their drive to New York on Thursday, August 6. May the Holy Spirit accompany them every step of the way.

Congratulations are also in order to Jeremy and Katie on baby number two who is on the way. Many years to all of you!



Can you guess what Symeon is trying to say? I am guessing: "Hold on Father, I have something to say first. I'm going to be a big brother!"

New Babies.....Welcome to the world



Congratulations to Joel and Taylor Schaefer on the birth of their firstborn. Taylor writes: “After a long journey of pregnancy and labor, we were finally blessed to meet our little BOY Thank you for all of your prayers!”

Christopher Julian Schaefer was born on 6/19/15 @ 2:30pm, 7lbs 10oz, 21inches.

God grant Christopher, his parents, grandparents, godparents and all the family many years.

ASSEMBLY OF BISHOPS ISSUES RELEASE IN RESPONSE TO SUPREME COURT DECISION

NEW YORK – The Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America, responding to the Supreme Court decision of June 26, *Obergefell v. Hodges* issued the following release:

Response of to Obergefell v Hodges

The Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America strongly disagrees with the United States Supreme Court decision of June 26, *Obergefell v. Hodges*, in which the Court invents a constitutional right for two members of the same sex to marry, and imposes upon all States the responsibility to license and recognize such “marriages.”

The Supreme Court, in the narrowest majority possible, has overstepped its purview by essentially re-defining marriage itself. It has attempted to settle a polarizing social and moral question through legislative fiat. It is immoral and unjust for our government to establish in law a “right” for two members of the same sex to wed. Such legislation harms society and especially threatens children who, where possible, deserve the loving care of both a father and a mother.

As Orthodox Christian bishops, charged by our Savior Jesus Christ to shepherd His flock, we will continue to uphold and proclaim the teaching of our Lord that marriage, from its inception, is the lifelong sacramental union of a man and a woman. We call upon all Orthodox Christians in our nation to remain firm in their Orthodox faith, and to renew their deep reverence for and commitment to marriage as taught by the Church. We also call upon our nation’s civic leaders to respect the law of Almighty God and uphold the deeply-rooted beliefs of millions of Americans.

2015 Teen Camping Trip...



On Friday, July 10 our teens along with their adult youth advisors met for prayers at St. Andrew then set off on their annual week-long summer campout. They headed to Santa Paula and spent two days at St. Barbara Monastery- working for the nuns. Our Father Chaplain Joseph Butts served the Liturgy there for the nuns and teens on Sunday morning. On Monday, July 13, Fr. Josiah joined them in Lake Tahoe where they spent the week at the campground and beach.



Talks at camp

Meals at camp



With Norma there, there was never a shortage of food!

And, just to be sure they are well-fed, Fr. Josiah and the other adult advisors saw to it that they ate it all!



The girls at work at St. Barbara Monastery. The boys, Oh yes, goofing off at the beach!!!

Well OK, the boys did do a lot of work at the Monastery as well!



2015 RIVERSIDE GREEK FEST



\$5 Daily Admission • \$2 UCR/RCC/CBU Students with ID • College Night Friday College Staff Free

OCTOBER 2-4

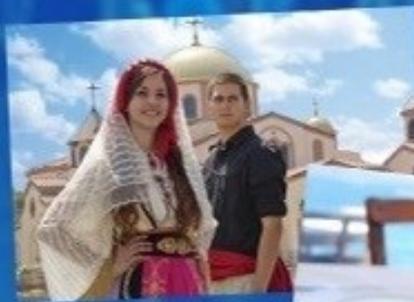
FRI 4-10PM • SAT 11-10PM • SUN 1-8PM
Parking and Shuttle at UCR Lot 30

Authentic Greek Food • Live Music
Art & Culture Exhibit • Church Tours
Traditional Folk Dance Groups

Live Music by Greek Band *Synthesi*



DON'T FORGET TO PURCHASE A
50/50 TREASURE CHEST RAFFLE TICKET
FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN!



www.riversidegreekfest.com

Hosted by St. Andrew Orthodox Church • 4700 Canyon Crest Drive • Riverside, CA 92507 • 951-369-0309

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 Most Reverend Metropolitan JOSEPH