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Members of St. Katherine's Church in Redondo Beach with Archbishop Demetrios and Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco at the community's anniversary celebration.

## California Church Celebrates 50 Years

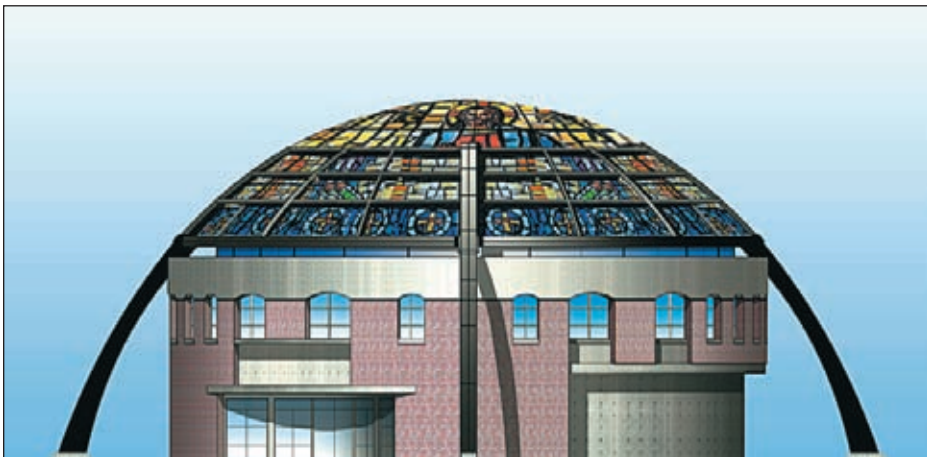
REDONDO BEACH, Calif. – St. Katherine Church in Redondo Beach held its 50th anniversary celebration Nov. 10-11 with Archbishop Demetrios and Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco attending.

Events included a banquet, Hierarchical Divine Liturgy and a presentation of a historic video of the church.

From its small beginnings, the com-

munity now has more than 600 members. Fr. Michael Courey, pastor at St. Katherine for 10 years, recently produced a six-piece DVD titled "Introduction to Orthodox Christianity, based on Timothy Ware's (Metropolitan Kalistos of Diokleia) book The Orthodox Church.

Women of the parish have published "A Woman's Wisdom," a collection of essays to inspire the lives its readers.



## Jacksonville Chapel Wins Design Award

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. – A one of a kind chapel design by Papadatos Partnership, LLP was awarded for Design Excellence by the Society of American Registered Architects. This chapel is part of a proposed 20-acre master plan for St. John the Divine Church.

Although the chapel has been designed in modern form, the basic shape is derived from traditional Byzantine style architecture and includes elements of historic significance from St. Stefano Rotondo in the outskirts of Rome and the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem which remains the oldest remaining example of a circular-styled church.

This design structure is approximately 10 times stronger than that of a conventional church configuration and the circular foot print provides 25 percent more square footage than a square or cruciform design.

The nave seating was designed in a modified amphitheatre style, providing the faithful with a more intimate visual contact with the Solea.

By eliminating the use of columns, the entire 60 foot diameter dome is self supporting, offering unobstructed view during services.

The entire dome will be constructed of

stained glass with the traditional Pantocrator located in the center. Since the dome in Orthodox tradition represents the heavens, stained glass will allow awesome hues of light and color to radiate from the heavens throughout the entire chapel.

The arches supporting the dome and spanning the entire diameter will be made of pre-stressed concrete. The will be protected with safety glass on the exterior for hurricanes and other weather related conditions.

The architect selected a traditional brick for the exterior with colored mortar matching the masonry of other structures in the master plan.

The interior chapel wall finish will be perforated horizontal wood planks to absorb the sound reverberations caused by the hard surfaces of the glass dome surface and stone flooring.

Architect Steven Papadatos is quite enthusiastic with the stained glass dome. "It will permit the rays of the sun to enter the chapel offering a richness of colors and shapes."

He said. "Throughout the day, the sun and its movements will create a mystical energy through expressions of light and color that creates a bond between earthly architecture and our heavenly God."



D. PANAGOS

Archbishop Demetrios with great benefactor Greg Michelis and his grandchildren cut the ribbon at the opening of the new community center at St. Nicholas Church in Flushing. At right is head priest Fr. Paul Palesty.



Fr. Palesty with building committee members in front of the new center (from left) Jim Mihalios, Costa Mallios, great benefactor Gregory Michelis and Efstathis Michelis and Larry Hatzoglou, parish council president.

## Flushing Church Opens Community Center

FLUSHING, N.Y. – St. Nicholas parish recently completed the latest addition to its large complex on Northern Boulevard in Flushing-Bayside, a four story brick community center built at a cost of more than \$8 million.

The dedication took place Dec. 2

with Archbishop Demetrios participating. The center includes a large banquet hall, meeting rooms, a library, a new wing of classrooms, full-size gymnasium and a youth loft for GOYA activities.

Construction took place over a three-year period.

## New Jersey Church Consecrated

HOLMDEL, N.J. – Kimisis Tis Theotokou parish recently held its church consecration with Metropolitan Evangelos of New Jersey officiating, assisted by Fr. George H. Dounelis. The community, formed in 1976, has grown to 425 fami-

lies in the bayshore area of Monmouth County. Construction on the community center began in 1997 and was completed in 1999. The church was built in 1988. Gregory Ploussis served as chairman of the Consecration Committee.

## Holiday Season Special at Southampton Church

Global assimilation and a discarding of religious and ethnic traditions marked 2007. Christmas and after Christmas shopping with discounts lures persons into shopping areas and away from traditional family settings. "Our young will be with us," said Fr. Alexander Karloutsos at the Christmas Nativity Program of the Kimisis Tis Theotokou Church of the Hamptons on Dec. 23.

by Catherine Tsounis

"We are wise men and women today, because Christ is not in the malls and Christmas shopping," he said. "Christ makes us Christians. Our young people did a great job with the Nativity Program. What beautiful angels we have."

A packed rural church with young people listening attentively to Orthodox teachings in a bilingual Greek/English liturgy made an impression on this on-looker. Youth is the key to our survival. Father Alex and his community emphasized youth in an old fashion program that touched everyone's heart.

"We are blessed to have outstanding members who help us in beautifying the Church and our Festival," continued Father Alex, with the assistance of Fr. Constantine Lazerakis. Parish Council President Demetrios Hatgistavrou presented awards for outstanding service to Tess Zacharia, Perry Bakas, Dimitri Spinaris, Maria Vlahadamas and Jagannath Jayaswal. A holiday coffee hour followed in the church hall