



THE ANNUNCIATION OBSERVER



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GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH ANNUNCIATION SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

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COMMUNITY UPDATE

We pray for the servants of God, who departed this life:

Ourania Theodor
Elaine Mackis
James Poulos
George Tzikas

PASTORAL MESSAGE

Fear in the Time of Virus

Χριστός Ανέστη! Christ is Risen!

What a strange Holy Week this was. A small group of us, Fr. James and myself, a couple of chanters led by our Pastoral Assistant, Yianni Magoulas, an acolyte or two, and a Parish Council member or two did the services of Christ's Passion and His glorious Resurrection and streamed those services and our homilies out to you while all of you were effectively locked out of the Church! How could this happen? How could a tiny virus, an encapsulated strand of RNA, stop attendance at our services? How could this virus stop the world? How could it kill thousands of people? How do we think about these unprecedented events? How are we going to recover from this pandemic?



First, we should remember that humanity has been fighting an on-going battle with microbes for thousands and thousands of years. History is full of horrendous pandemics that killed off significant portions of especially urban populations, and our predecessors had no idea what caused these events. They speculated and they prayed. A first occurrence of Bubonic Plague in the West between 541 and 542 during the reign of Justinian the Great carried off around 40% of the 500k population of Constantinople! Can you imagine? We are just beginning to understand the intricacies of microbes. Most microbes, bacteria and viruses, are not harmful at all. Some are enormously beneficial to us. But a few are harmful and even deadly.

Second, should we think that the pandemic we are experiencing is God's judgment on us? In our theology, we believe that all evils, including disease and death, are ultimately a consequence of volitional failure, sin, separation from God. We live in a "fallen" world that started out completely good but now is infected with danger and death because of sin. If God wanted to judge, there is a lot of evil to judge: injustice, addiction, violence, war, abuse, abortion, corruption, and on and on. And sometimes we do suffer for our sins. But please remember that in pandemics both the good and the evil get sick and die. Children die. Our own suffering, our sickness, and the suffering brought on by a pandemic do not come with explanations. What do we expect? God has not promised us a comfortable life. He has promised us the way of the Cross. Suffering should lead us to God. Not to question "why?" necessarily, but to bow before Him in humility and repentance. Our response to a pandemic should not be "Well, it is about time. God is really giving it to those evil people." Our awareness of evil should start with us. We should look into our own hearts and pray for forgiveness. Is this virus a sign of the end of time? Is Christ coming back soon? Yes, Christ is coming back, but no one knows when.

Third, we are living through a traumatic time. Joshua Gordon, director of the National Institute of Mental Health, writes: "It's not just anxiety about contracting the coronavirus, it's also fear and anxiety about what's happening to society, what's happening to our economy, what's happening to our friends and relatives. And then there is tremendous grief. We've acknowledged that we've all lost something already." *What are you doing to help yourself get through this?* A very talented friend of ours wrote and performed a song on Facebook about "shelter in place." For her, the answer is Trader Joe's! Shopping for food and eating (at home, of course). Not so bad as therapy goes. What about you? Having your familiar schedule rearranged or even canceled is extremely unsettling. Having your business threatened or losing your job is traumatic! Humans are built to connect with each other, and this pandemic has made those beneficial connections difficult. Hopefully, you are not just binge watching TV shows or, worse, watching the news hour after hour. Think about this: The news is to your mind what sugar is to your body. (Pause for thought.) Sometimes the media is here to inform us. We need some information about the virus. But sometimes the media is here to boost viewership and stoke our fears. The fact that we have little connected computers in our pockets and purses, our phones, that constantly try to "update" us on things all day long does not help us at all. We can only process a certain amount information.

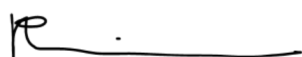
Do you pray? If you are not praying every day, then you need to start right now. If you are not praying every day for the world and for an end to this pandemic, what is wrong with you? Not to be trite or clichéd, but we are all in this together. Russian Bishop Irenei writes: “Prayer is the cure for a diseased mind. The intellect that believes it can gain the Kingdom by rational power has only this cure—that is, prayer—as sufficient for its ailment.” (*The Beginnings of a Life of Prayer*, p.82.) Are you spending time with friends and family? Maybe you can’t be with them physically, but you can call. You can Zoom or Hangout. Listen to music. Get outside. Exercise. Read. Read spiritual books. Feed your soul. Do something for someone else. Send someone a card or letter. *Do not allow yourself to become depressed!* If you need help or encouragement, reach out. Be honest. There is no shame in saying that you are struggling. We are all struggling right now! Call a friend. Call a professional. Call us. We are not in the office every day, but we monitor our voicemail. We pick up our email every day. We would be very happy to talk to you. If you need help, the Church is here for you. Volunteers are keeping in touch with our most vulnerable members, and a number of our members have stepped forward to offer help.

Fourth, are you anxious and fearful? Life is dangerous. A pandemic drives this home. I am waiting for someone on TV to say: “I just can’t wait for us to go back to dying from the stuff we used to die from before this corona virus!” California is thankfully not experiencing the same crisis as New York, but COVID-19 is dangerous, and it joins a host of threats in our world. The winter flu season of 2017-18 claimed 80,000 lives here in America! If you want to worry about getting sick, there is plenty to worry about now, and there will be more to worry about tomorrow. But what does worry do for you? It is a complete waste of time. It makes you sick and drives you crazy. Worry and faith are mutually exclusive. God assures us that He is in control. If I trust God, then I do not have to worry. Again, God does not promise us that we will not suffer. On the contrary. But He does promise us that even if we die, we will survive. The Apostle Paul writes: “Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:6-7) The Apostle Peter writes: “Cast all your worries upon him because he cares for you.” (1 Peter 5:7) Read Matthew chapters 5 through 7 and the parallel passage in Luke, chapter 12. God knows our needs. It is right to pray for God’s protection and to pray for healing. Nevertheless, we do suffer in this life, and, no spoiler alert, we all die. It is not God’s will right now to recreate a paradisiacal world where we cannot suffer and people cannot exercise their wills to do evil. Not now. This present life is a time of testing. God’s Kingdom will be a sinless and harmless creation. Right now God will bring us through our trials. He will give us strength. He will preserve our souls and grant us resurrection and a place in His Kingdom. If you are anxious, turn to God! God will help you.

Last, we are not through this pandemic yet, but the end will come, hopefully soon. What will “getting back to normal” look like? When is the last time you shook hands with someone? Hugged someone? (Not your wife or husband—that doesn’t count.) What will public assemblies look like? When will we feel comfortable getting close to people? Will our economy recover? Good questions. I do not know the answers. I do know that God will help us get through this. I do not know if the world economy or the United States of America will survive, but I know that the Church will endure. I am confident that our Parish will survive. We will, by God’s grace, continue worshipping Him and serving Him and preaching and teaching and baptizing and offering the life-giving Body and Blood of our Savior in the Divine Liturgy. We will continue being the Church, the community of believers in Jesus Christ.

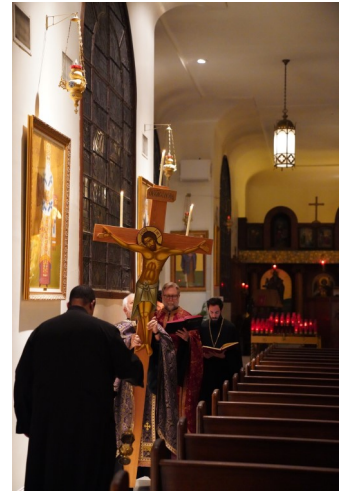
I cannot tell you how much we miss seeing you all in Church! I have heard from a number of you that you cannot wait to come back. One person told me, “I can’t believe how much I took it for granted.” Until we meet again, be patient. Be careful. Wash your hands! Pray. Stay connected as best you can. Fr. James and I are praying for you. Pray for each other. We love you. Let us pray for the world.

Love in the Risen Lord,



Fr. Timothy

PICTURES FROM HOLY WEEK & PASCHA



LETTER FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

Dear Fellow Parishioners: Christos Anesti! Christ is Risen!

The glorious resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ has never meant more to us than this year. No one several months ago could have predicted the wicked Coronavirus pandemic and its impact thus far on our lives. Personal sacrifice, through the “stay at home” orders has no doubt curbed the spread of the disease. We still do not know when those measures will be relaxed or lifted. We stay the course, however, and remain hopeful for the day we are allowed to once again physically worship together in our church.

The live streaming of services, especially during Holy Week, has been a blessing for not only our parish, but for countless others who desire to worship virtually. *“For where two or three gather together in my name, there am I with them.”* - Matthew 18:15-20. Our sincere gratitude to our pastoral assistant, Yianni Efstratios Magoulas, for coordinating the technical aspects of the opportunity to stay virtually connected with one another during this unprecedented time.

In the upcoming weeks and months ahead, many decisions will have to be made by the Parish Council, which will affect all ministries of our church. Many will be financial, some logistical, and others still unknown. For example, what kind of Greek Festival will we host in October? Will it be significantly downsized and physically altered? How much food should be prepared? What expenses should be reduced? All good questions that are worth discussing.

Is it time for us to change course regarding historical reliance on the Festival to pay the parish expenses? Should we begin to expect that our stewardship gifts alone will care for our church instead? I believe this is the discussion we should be having with our parishioners and leadership. I will leave you with a few thoughts to consider in terms of stewardship: (1) “transactional vs. transformative giving;” (2) “stewardship as discipleship;” (3) and “the needs of the giver to give outweighs the needs of the church to receive.”

This moment in time is surely testing our faith, but I truly believe we will persevere through this as one church family more resolved in our faith and in our Lord’s resurrection. On behalf of the Parish Council, thank you for your generous support and continued prayers.

In Christ,

George Dariotis

Annunciation Parish Council 2nd Vice President

STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE

Dear Annunciation family, Christos Anesti!

I hope you are well in these unique challenging times. This is indeed a time that has challenged us as individuals, a nation and our faith.

As a healthcare provider, I find myself learning as much as I can about this virus, educating myself with webinars and chat groups with clinicians from all over the world. There are literally hundreds of messages on my phone from colleagues daily with updates and personal experiences. Information about the best masks, face shields and protocols for our offices.

We all know that knowledge is power, but knowledge is also humbling because the truth is we are nothing without God's grace.

Everything can change in a moment. Our faith is what sustains us.

By the grace of God, we were able to view and participate in Holy Week services albeit online. I am so grateful for Father James, Father Tim, our pastoral assistant Yianni Magoulas, our chanters and altar servers. It is because of your dedication that we were able to participate in services as well.

My hope is that we will be able to proclaim "Christos Anesti," next year together.

Let us continue to support our church and her ministries. Now more than ever we must be united in our love of God and our faith.

In Christ,

Stella Dariotis
Stewardship Chair

OPERATING FUND

| Income | 1/1/20 - 03/31/20 | 2020 Budget YTD |
|--|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Pledges | \$174,213 | \$131,000 |
| All Other Revenue | \$92,859 | \$69,717 |
| Total Revenue | \$267,072 | \$200,717 |
| Expenses | | |
| Total Staff Exp. | \$155,079 | \$144,747 |
| Program Services | \$7,300 | \$6,867 |
| Other Oper. Exp. | \$103,887 | \$86,966 |
| Archdiocese National Ministries | \$11,250 | \$33,750 |
| Total Expense | \$277,516 | \$272,330 |
| Balance as of 3/31/20 | -\$10,444 | |
| 2020 Pledges as of April 27, 2020 | | |
| Stewardship Budget | \$540,000 | |
| Pledged to Date | \$344,573 | |
| Total Amount Received | \$223,462 | |
| Total Members Pledged | 308 | |

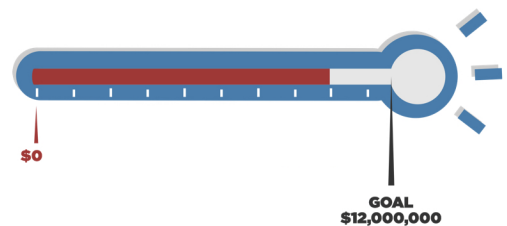
AN UPDATE ON THE BUILD

Construction of "The Build" has been completed and the facilities have been utilized by our parish for almost 3 years.

Building Loan Balance as of 4/9/20: \$2,480,489.04 at 4.19% interest

Interest paid from 2017-2020: \$650,620.00

This \$650,620 in interest could have been used for our programs, groups, ministries and the parish in general.



If you have not given—now is the time!

We are all benefitting from a long-term vision and wish of our parish for many years. All we ask is 100% participation and your best gift. Please help us get debt free.

PASTORAL MESSAGE REGARDING COVID



METROPOLIS OF
SAN FRANCISCO

ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

FR. JAMES RETELAS, PRESIDING PRIEST

Beloved Stewards of Annunciation,

Regarding the pandemic, His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew reminds us, "That which is at stake is not our faith – it is the faithful. It is not Christ – it is our Christians. It is not the divine-man – but human beings."

As we struggle with this global crisis, it is the local Church that is on the frontline to meet the spiritual needs of the faithful. We the faithful of Annunciation comprise the fullness of the Church in Sacramento but let us remember who the Head of our Church is. He is the God-man Himself, Crucified in the flesh and Risen from the dead. As we struggle day after day being confined, let us look forward to the new day He promises:

He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away. Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new. (Revelation 21:3-5)

You recently received an update from the Parish Council evaluating the significant financial impact of the COVID-19 crisis. It was a review of our current financial status but what I found most inspiring was, and I quote: "we ask you to prayerfully consider how you can help to sustain the life-giving work of our Church and its ministries."

Indeed, the life-saving work of our Church continues. At every Divine Liturgy, Father Timothy and I pray for you by name. We are being creative in connecting online but also focusing on calling you personally. The Philoptochos has recruited letter writers to send "thinking of you" notes to our homebound parishioners. No doubt in the days ahead you the faithful will discover new and creative ways to connect with each other. Please don't hesitate to share those ideas. Continue to worship at home together via live-stream, and please continue praying for God's mercy and healing of our world.

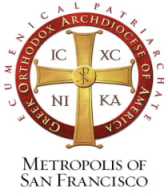
Together, we will navigate this crisis. Together, we will overcome any financial challenges and, by God's grace, continue to thrive and grow. Finally, may our gifts in support of the God-saving message of the Gospel be offered not out of any sense of obligation but as a privilege (philotimo). It is an honor to bear the name of Christ. May we all prove worthy to be called "Christ-bearers" (Χριστοφόροι).

With love in the Risen Lord,

Father James Retelas

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OPEN LETTER REGARDING COVID-19



ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

OPEN LETTER TO OUR PARISH REGARDING THE IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 CRISIS

April 6, 2020

Dear Fellow Parishioners at Annunciation,

Καλή Ανάσταση (Kali Anastasi)! We hope that this message finds you and your family safe and in good spirits during these trying and unprecedented times. As we all try to navigate our lives through this time, our Parish is continuing to do its best to adapt by offering online ministries and live-streaming Church services. Even though the office is closed, our office staff is still working and conducting business either by coming in to open mail and to process deposits and invoices or by working remotely. Our youth ministries have continued meeting and holding discussions providing a positive outlet for them to voice their concerns, get questions answered and to continue their spiritual growth. In addition, the Greek School has transitioned to an online teaching program and has provided uninterrupted education services to the students. The popularity of live streaming services has been encouraging and is giving us hope, strengthening our resolve.

Needless to say, we are only beginning to understand the financial impacts to individuals in our Annunciation community, the Sacramento region and our country. The Parish Council has been closely evaluating the significant financial impact of the COVID-19 crisis. This letter will review the status of the main Funds of the Parish and summarize the financial impacts for the currently foreseeable future. A lot of information is included here, so please set aside some time, if you are able, to educate yourself regarding our Parish's finances. During this unimaginable time, we ask you to prayerfully consider how you can help to sustain the life-giving work of our Church and its ministries.

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+he Build Capital Campaign / Debt Reduction

Currently, the balance of our loan with American River Bank is \$2.49M as of March 2020. Our Capital Campaign account currently has just over \$194,000 in cash. Our current monthly loan payment is \$14,127.59 per month; therefore, we are in a position to cover our loan payments for the remainder of this calendar year.

General Fund

On a positive note, we have started the year on solid ground which allowed us to pay our bills and have little to no backlog of our accounts payable. However, impact to our Parish's sources of revenue will be significant and severe.

- The donations during the Holy Week and Pascha period (including candles) usually bring in approximately \$20,000 (net of any Pascha expenses).
- The Annunciation Hellenic Center has been a great asset for us and the community which has resulted in an almost full hall rental schedule for the remainder of the year. However, a large number of rentals have been canceled and others continue to be scheduled in the medium term, but with the uncertain days ahead of us, those deposits may have to be returned to those canceling reservations. Currently, these deposits total \$7,200.
- By far, the most significant financial impact to the Parish could be the potential postponement or cancellation of the annual Annunciation Greek Festival which provides for approximately \$150,000 to \$175,000 to the General Fund each year. While it is too early to tell, it is reasonable to assume that even if the Festival is held this year, the past financial success will not be matched.
- Arista Pre-School, a valued tenant of our facility, has also been significantly affected. At this time, the pre-school is closed but all indications are that they are ready to open as soon as health guidance allows. Under the current lease terms, Arista rent and common area maintenance reimbursements are approximately \$8,000 per month. We expect that this amount may have to be adjusted depending on the length of the current social distancing guidelines, i.e., we may not receive timely payment of Arista's rent and related common area expenses.

CALL TO ACTION – STEWARDSHIP

With regard to stewardship, our normal monthly average for April through August is around \$30,000 per month. The Parish Council believes that our stewardship levels could be reduced to an amount as low as \$15,000/month given (i) the economic downturn impacting the income of our stewards and (ii) the lack of parishioners present at Church to submit their in-person stewardship payments. Again, it is just too early to tell what the precise impacts to stewardship will be, but we cannot sit idly by; we have to plan for the financial well-being of our Church.

WITH THE ABOVE IN MIND, WE CURRENTLY EXPECT TO HAVE A NEGATIVE CASH FLOW CLOSE TO \$40,000 PER MONTH DURING THE CLOSURE OF THE CHURCH AND THE ANNUNCIATION HELLENIC CENTER. This estimate includes certain reduced expenses due to lower utilization of our facilities (utilities, supplies, service contracts, and other miscellaneous expenses). As a potential worst-case scenario, if we assume our only revenue sources is the reduced stewardship and no rent from the pre-school is received between April and September 2020, we could see an operational loss of \$250,000 for this time period. Note that in this analysis, we assume suspension of our National Ministries Commitment of \$11,250 per month. This obligation would have to be paid at some later time.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

First and foremost, we appeal to our community, our parishioners of Annunciation, to assist in this time of need in order for us to fund the mission of the church, our clergy and our staff. **We do not intend to furlough or layoff any staff during this time.**

We need our parishioners to continue to do the great work they have been doing and contribute their stewardship. **We strongly urge that our stewards establish recurring donations, and consider increasing their commitments to our church, through the following available payment options:**

- **BluePay/CCB** – This system is linked to our donation database and allows for recurring or one-time donations from your credit card or checking account. Please visit this [link](#) for instructions to set up recurring donations. In addition, you can visit the Stewardship

page on our website (<http://www.annunciationsac.org/stewardship/>) where you view more details regarding stewardship the joy of giving!

- **Bill Pay through your Bank**
- **Check and Cash Donations** – Please do not mail any CASH to the Office.

Any of the payment options listed above will result in the crediting of your stewardship account and your quarterly/annual statements. Please consider making a donation today and setting up a recurring donation at this time. This is the most effective way to support the Parish in order to bridge us through this extremely challenging period and our traditionally lean summer months.

- **Stimulus Check.** Many qualify for and will be receiving a one-time stimulus check of \$1,200 per person or \$2,400 per married couple. In addition, families will be receiving \$500 for each dependent child as part of the government support program. As part of the recently enacted CARES Act, the legislation revised the charitable deduction limits to permit an allowance of \$300 “above the line” deduction for charitable contributions in 2020. This is a win-win as you get to deduct the donation and still take the full standard deduction on your taxes even if you don’t itemize. Please consider donating \$300 of your family stimulus check to Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church. We need your support now more than ever.

WHAT WE ARE DOING

With the assistance of the Parish Council, parishioners are reaching out to members of our Annunciation community by making phone calls that aim to provide comfort, hope and fellowship for the most vulnerable members of our Parish.

Lastly, the Parish Council is seeking to secure the potential benefits of recent disaster legislation at the Federal government level. The CARES Act was passed by Congress and signed into law by the President last week. There are some potentially significant benefits to houses of worship and non-profits that we are researching, as long as staffing levels are maintained or exceeded prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. We have already completed and submitted a loan application for consideration under this government program. We will communicate to the Parish any updates or progress related to this matter in the near future.

Above all, the Parish Council prays for you and your family's health and safety. We also pray for the health and safety of our community and our country. If you can support our Church, our beloved Annunciation, at this time, or if you can increase your support, we urge you to please do so.

If you have any questions, ideas, thoughts, or are willing to provide your support in your time, talent or treasures in other ways, please feel free to email one or all of us: Michael Dariotis, President (miked@osf.com), Demetri Romas, Treasurer (demetri@dsrcapitalinc.com), Stella Dariotis, Stewardship Chairperson (sjddd@sbcglobal.net) or Fr. James Retelas (frjames@annunciationsac.org).

In Christ,



Michael Dariotis
President, Parish Council



Demetri Romas
Treasurer, Parish Council



Stella Dariotis
Stewardship Chair

PHILOPTOCHOS

Χριστός Ανέστη! Christ is Risen!

I send you my best wishes for your health and happiness. May God have mercy on all of us during this most difficult time period.

We were able to conduct some of our regular Philoptochos activities during the past two months, but not many. We were so looking forward to baking for Easter, to hosting the Palm Sunday Luncheon, to providing baskets to our home-bound parishioners, and to generally engaging in Easter events. Personally, I was planning a barbecue at my house for current and future Philoptochos members. However, at this point in time, it's hard to predict what activities Philoptochos will be able to host in May or June, but we will pray for the best and know that the problems we are encountering will pass.



Thankfully, we've been able to view the Divine Liturgy and other services online. Our deep appreciation goes to Fr. James, Fr. Timothy, and Yianni Magoulas. An additional thank you goes to Domna and Jim Hebenstreit for coordinating a letter-writing campaign to our isolated parishioners and to Philoptochos members and others for volunteering to communicate weekly with these parishioners.

What we are going through now reminds me of an experience I had as a child: Within two months of arriving in the United States, I caught a terrible case of whooping cough and my mother gave birth to my youngest brother. Since I had whooping cough, she couldn't come home and was quarantined at a very kind neighbor's house a half block away.

Being only five years old and a "sensitive cry-baby," I needed to see my mother every day. So, when I became well enough, my Thea Leni walked me to the neighbor's house daily, and I was able to wave to my mom through the window. In being able to do this, I felt both isolation and hope simultaneously. But, hope triumphed and, eventually, everything went back to normal as my mother came home.

I have felt a similar isolation and hope in this crisis, and I have faith that this will also pass. However, I don't expect or necessarily want everything to return to what it was; instead, because of this learning experience, I hope that the world will evolve into something better—a more humane and compassionate place. I eagerly await the day we can all meet, hug, kiss, pray together, and visit.

With love and warm wishes,

Helen Nickolson
Annunciation Philoptochos President

GREEK SCHOOL

Χριστός Ανέστη!

The spring months are typically joyous ones for the Greek School Program as we commemorate Greek independence in a performance following Divine Liturgy and begin preparing for our graduation ceremonies. This year, COVID-19 has prevented us from being together to celebrate this significant day in modern Greek history and has forced us to cancel all of our spring activities.

Since the outbreak of COVID-19, the directors of the Greek School Program made the difficult decision on March 12th to suspend all in-class lessons. The entire program has successfully transitioned to on-line instruction and the overwhelming majority of students have been able to participate in their weekly Zoom lessons. Our hope was to provide all students with a sense of continuity and connection.

Many of the classes have been broken into small groups and great care has been given to make sure that the lessons are engaging and productive. Students are completing their homework and will have finished all of the learning objectives assigned for the academic year. This is a tremendous accomplishment and a product of the teamwork involved by the parents, teachers, and students!



The Greek School Program will be completing the academic year in mid-May, as originally scheduled. No graduation ceremony will be held, but the *Ellinomatheia* testing has been postponed by the Ministry of Education until the fall. The new dates for the testing will be announced very soon.

We hope that all of the Greek school families have a safe and enjoyable summer. We pray that our medical and scientific communities develop solutions so that we may all return to some sort of normalcy. Greek school will resume in the fall and nothing will make us happier than to see our students back in their classrooms again.

UPDATE ON OUR MINISTRIES

Χριστός Ανέστη! Christ is Risen!

As instructed by our Archdiocese, all non-liturgical events and in-person ministries and meetings have been suspended given the COVID-19 pandemic. HOWEVER, many of our ministries are meeting virtually online!

Liturgical Schedule

Please see the included monthly calendar for the scheduled services for the months of May and June, and look for the Monday, *This Week at Annunciation* with links to the live stream and up-to-date information.

Orthodox Education

On Wednesday mornings, join Fr. Timothy for *Studies in the Faith* at 11:00 am!

On Wednesday evenings, join Fr. James for *Orthodoxy 101* at 7:00 pm!

Youth and Young Adult Ministries

Please follow our Parish Facebook and Instagram (@AnnunciationSac) for daily Lives of the Saints, Miracle Mondays, and weekly Ask Yianni segments!

Young Professionals *Wisdom & Wine* discussions are virtual as well!

Contact Yianni Magoulas for more information.

Greek School

Our Greek School has gone online! Please see their article in this issue of the Annunciation Observer or contact your Greek School teacher.

Summer Church Day Camp and More...

We are constantly brainstorming, planning, designing, and creating more ways to serve you! Please be on the look out for more virtual ministries and ways to connect with one another during this time.

Again, we are receiving new information regularly from our Archdiocese and the State of California. For the most updated information, please be sure to subscribe to our e-mails and follow us on social media.

Most importantly during this time, please be sure to check-in with your family, friends, and fellow parishioners! Social distancing is in place, but LIFE is not canceled! Now, more than ever, it is important to call, e-mail, or message those on your mind. And most importantly, pray! Pray for our doctors, nurses, first responders, essential workers, and one another! Join us virtually for the Divine Liturgies, Paraklesis, and other services of our Church.

In our Risen Lord,



Efstratios "Yianni" Magoulas

Pastoral Assistant

ANNUNCIATION ONLINE

As part of our outreach ministry, we are blessed to broadcast our services via Facebook Live. All services are broadcast live during their scheduled time and are available for playback after the service is over. Especially during these trying times, we invite you to join us digitally.

Live Services are available on our [Annunciation Sacramento Facebook Page](#) via Facebook Live on your smart phone or tablet, or on your smart TV using the “Facebook Watch” app. Please see the monthly calendar or weekly e-mails for upcoming services

How to view on your smartphone or tablet:

Visit our parish Facebook Page during scheduled services. A Facebook account is NOT required!

www.Facebook.com/Annunciation.Sacramento

When looking for the current service, click on “POSTS”. A red “LIVE” image will be in the top-left corner. To view previously recorded services, click on “VIDEOS”

How to view on your Smart TV:

1. Download “Facebook Watch” on your Smart TV via the app menu
 2. Search Facebook Watch for “Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church”
 3. During services, you will see the live stream at the top of the page
- Previous services are also available for playback via the Facebook Watch app

Troubleshooting

Unfortunately, accidents happen; the wifi goes down, the camera disconnects, etc. If you are praying along with us from home and the stream unexpectedly goes down, please refresh the page and look for the new stream with the red “LIVE” image in the top-left corner. Please do not hesitate to contact us on Facebook, by e-mail, or by calling the Parish Office with questions or difficulties accessing our live stream.

LIGHT A CANDLE & TRAY OFFERING

“I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life” – John 8:12

Upon entering an Orthodox church, it is customary to light candles and offer prayers for one’s personal needs or that of a family member or friend. Candles are lit before icons as a sign of one’s faith and hope in God’s help that is always sent to all who turn to Him and His Saints with faith and prayers. By lighting a candle and offering a prayer, one enters into closer contact with the Church and her ministry to the faithful, invisibly warming the soul by the visible light of the candle.

Since we may not be physically able to enter our church for services given the restrictions placed upon us by the pandemic, we would still like to offer you the joy of being able to light a candle, and say a prayer, as you join us digitally for the Divine Liturgies and other services of our Church.

Father James, Father Timothy, or Yianni will light a candle on your behalf before the Divine Liturgy or other service begins.

To light your candle or leave an offering, simply click this link!

<https://annunciationsac.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/128/responses/new>

LOOKING TOWARDS OUR CENTENNIAL

A Myriad of Annunciation Memories

By Julie Mamalis

Little Juliette Marie (Marika) George arrived in Sacramento in 1945. Her family migrated to California from Oklahoma at the urging of an uncle who happened to be stationed at that time with the U.S. Navy at Treasure Island. He excitedly proclaimed to his sister, my mother, Hope/Despina, that California was the most beautiful place he had ever seen! He was successful in convincing us to move to his newly-found paradise, and, thus, our family history at Sacramento Annunciation took root.

“Little Juliette (Marika)”, of course, was me...Julie Mamalis. Family at that time consisted of my parents, my baby sister Helen, and my maternal grandparents, Yianni and Julia Smyrni (Smyrnioudis), immigrants of Chios, Greece, who lived with us. I’m not quite sure what drew us to Sacramento - my guess is that the large Cretan communities of nearby Lodi, Stockton and Modesto, where my paternal grandmother had distant Cretan relatives, was the reason. I can recall large, outdoor gatherings at the Dimotakis ranch in Lodi where we often joined those Cretans on special occasions. That paternal “Yiayia”, Maria Hatzegeorgiou, (my father Foteos’ mother) was a native of Chania, Crete, who often stayed with us, too....a common practice at that time, when grandparents lived with their children.

Life was pretty simple then.....work, school and church, with not many other distractions. Although I was very young, I can remember the old church at 620 N Street. An old, faded photo I treasure shows me in a grouping of little girls adorned in long white dresses and sporting “angel wings”, surrounding the altar of that long-ago church. I still recall the booming, chanting voice of Peter Mamalis, the “mainstay psalti” of Annunciation who faithfully served in that capacity for nearly 50 years. Little did I know at that time that he would become my father-in-law when I married his son, Jim, in 1961! Peter’s daughter, my sister-in-law Soteria, married John Mestakidis, the son of Fr. George Mestakidis, who was the priest at Annunciation during the 40’s. Fr. Mestakidis was a vegetarian, way before it was “trendy”, who would visit my grandfather’s farm in Carmichael to stock up on fresh vegetables.

Church picnics were the popular social gatherings of that era, where the immigrant parishioners shared their ethnic and religious customs. Live Greek music, lambs on the spit, religious services and us children frolicking together, leave treasured memories. We, the first and second generations of those steadfast immigrants, appreciate their contributions in providing us such lasting memories!

I lovingly remember my devout maternal grandfather who instilled in me the importance of Holy Communion. Before leaving for church and taking communion, he would say to me: “sihorese me ke o Theos tha se horesi” - “forgive me and God will forgive you”. He would then have me recite the same to him. That ritual made communion so meaningful and links me to him whenever I receive communion. He was left blind by Glaucoma at an early age (there was no cure in those years). I remember how he gently touched the faces of us grandchildren, to feel the outlines of our faces that he could not see.

Annunciation’s move to Alhambra Boulevard began a new era. There, we grew as a church community, where we created myriads of memories and lasting friendships. Although we went to public schools and developed friendships with “Americani”, our lives revolved mainly around “the church across the street from McKinley Park, with the beautiful stained glass windows”. Being a member of the church and belonging to both religious and fraternal organizations provided me with an abundance of nostalgia that I fondly cling to. My strict Greek father even approved of my participation in these church activities!

LOOKING TOWARDS OUR CENTENNIAL

In those early years, the church choir not only provided a service, but was also the major socializing channel for Greek youth and teenagers – GOYA came along later. Many lifelong friendships were formed through this affiliation. Our choir participated in a yearly “choir conference” that took us to other church communities throughout our diocese, and sometimes even other dioceses. The Annunciation Choir hosted several of those conferences. At the tender age of 12, I was “thrust” into the role of church organist, where I remained for the next 25 years, accompanying the choir and playing for innumerable weddings!

When GOYA was formed, a new era of youth involvement and activities emerged. Our aging scrapbooks, full of faded photos and lingering memories, provide a historical documentation of our youth in the early Annunciation years. Eventually, an even larger youth movement was formed when, in 1976, the San Francisco Diocese created FDF – the annual Greek Folk Dance Festival. With the guidance and leadership of Presvytera Ellie Dogias, Annunciation joined the movement in 1980, forming many award-winning dance groups that created a legacy in our church community. As many as six groups, boasting well over 100 dancers, have represented Annunciation every year since 1980!

Among my fondest memories are the beauty and reverence of our Annunciation Orthodox Easter services. Those passionate services left lasting images in my impressionable young mind. As the church was bedecked with palms, Palm Sunday services ushered in the beginning of Holy Week, as we anticipated the week that was to follow. I was in awe of the flower-bedecked “epitaphio” as we joined in the singing of the beautiful hymns of Good Friday, which left me both happy and sad. I felt so mature, holding a flickering candle as I processed around the block with my family and the congregation. As a young child, I was so excited to sing out Christos Anesti at the stroke of midnight of Anasti, while the church gradually became illuminated from the sharing of the altar candle! I still look forward to re-living the beautiful commemoration of Pascha, and, as an adult, I now participate in the meaningful 40 days leading to that great event!

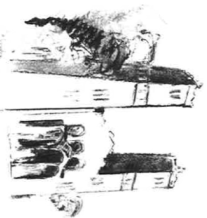
As we know, all good Greek children must attend Greek School. In my youth, the classes took place in the upstairs room of the old Hellenic Center, with the memorable “small-doored-projector-hole”, an opening where the old-time projector would transmit images down to a screen in the hall. The room’s back stairs allowed sometime-tardy students to sneak into the class unseen. My Greek School teacher was also a chanter.....an animated gentleman with a volatile personality! When the kindly Fr. Parthenios Kirmitsis was later assigned to Annunciation, he also became the Greek School teacher. Since he lived in my River Park neighborhood, he would drive my sister and I to class (mine was a working mom). That upstairs classroom transformed itself many times, it’s final life serving as the storage closet for hundreds of Greek dance costumes!

I fondly remember Solander’s....the “early mini-mart” owned by the Scandivian Solander family at the corner of Alhambra and F Streets (where the two-story office building now stands). As teenagers, it was our hangout where we could buy sodas and snacks and linger to be with our friends. Mr. and Mrs. Solander always greeted us Greek kids with a treat and a smile!

My children and grandchildren also grew up in this wonderful Annunciation church community. They created and treasure their own fond memories. I look forward to great grandchildren who will continue our lineage and have the opportunity to follow in their ancestors’ footsteps which were laid before them.









SIDE NOTE:

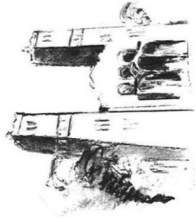
As I was writing this article, the beautiful (online) chanting of “Oti me thimon o Theos” appeared on my cell-phone. It was March 24, when we were all quarantined because of the Corona Virus.....the eve of our beloved Annunciation’s nameday. How fitting that I was able to “participate” in the beautiful service, mesmerized by hauntingly-beautiful chanting, as I continued with my loving recollections of Annunciation!



916-443-2033 | 600 ALHAMBRA BLVD | SACRAMENTO, CA
ANNUNCIATION
 GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

May 2020

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | |
|--|--|---|---|--|---|----------|----|
| | Χριστός Ανέστη! Christ is Risen!  |  Αληθώς Ανέστη! Truly He is Risen! | | |  | | |
| 9:00 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy 3 | 4 | 5 |  11:00 am Studies in the Faith 6:00 pm Paraklesis 7:00 pm Orthodoxy 101 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 9:00 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy 10 | 11 | 12 |  9:00 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy: Mid-Pentecost 11:15 am Studies in the Faith 6:00 pm Paraklesis 7:00 pm Orthodoxy 101 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 9:00 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy 17 | 18 | 19 |  11:00 am Studies in the Faith 6:00 pm Paraklesis 7:00 pm Orthodoxy 101 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 9:00 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy 24 |  25 | 26 |  6:00 pm Orthros and Divine Liturgy: Leave-Taking of Pascha | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 9:00 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy 31 | | | | 9:00 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy: HOLY ASCENSION Office Closed at Noon |  Fast Day | | |



916-443-2033 | 616 ALHAMBRA BLVD. | SACRAMENTO, CA.
ANNUNCIATION
 GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

June 2020

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|---|--|---------------|-----------------------|---|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 8:30 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy Holy Pentecost | | 11:00 am Studies in the Faith 6:00 pm Paraklesis | 11:00 am Studies in the Faith 6:00 pm Paraklesis | | | 8:30 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy: Saturday of the Souls |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 8:30 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy Sunday of All Saints | 6:00 pm Parish Council Meeting | | 11:00 am Studies in the Faith 6:00 pm Paraklesis | | | |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| | | | 8:30 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy: Nativity of St. John the Forerunner & Baptist 11:15 am Studies in the Faith 6:00 pm Paraklesis | | | |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 8:30 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy | | | 8:30 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy: Synaxis of the Twelve Holy Apostles | | | |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | | | | |
| 8:30 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy | 8:30 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy: Sts. Peter and Paul | 8:30 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy: Synaxis of the Twelve Holy Apostles | | ✠ Fast Day | ✠ Christ is Risen! | ✠ Αληθώς Ανέστη! Truly He is Risen! |

Pledged Stewards 2020

(As of March 27, 2020)

ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE TO THE ONE WHO BELIEVES IN CHRIST

| | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Nick & Shari Alexander | Marina Downing | George & Molly Lee Johnson |
| Peter Anagnoston | William & Jessaca Downing | Kiki Jouganatos |
| Christ & Helen Anastasopoulos | Demos & Bessie Dulger Sheikin | Chris Jovalis |
| George & Alexis Anastasopoulos | James & Patricia Duvaras | James & Robin Kafouros |
| Geoffrey & Antonia Antipa | Georgia Econome | Phyllis Marie Kafouros |
| Milton & Panorea Apostolidis | Kiki Econome | Dennis & Robin Kamilos |
| Theodoros & Georgia Avdalas | Marilyn Econome | Nick & Andreanna Kamilos |
| Nicholas & Nikki Avdis | Zachary & Sarah Edson | Christopher & Kristen Kane |
| Dan & Katherine Ballas | Elena & Aaron Edwards | Gus & Ana Kapandritis |
| Elias & Jane Bardis | Peter & Anastasia Efstathiou | George & Mary Ellen Kassotakis |
| Andreas & Audrey Bazos | Nicholas & Jeanne Efstratis | Terry Kastanis |
| Susan Bitar | John & Stella Eliopoulos | Emorfia & Niko Katsimbras |
| David & Anastasia Bonaccorso | Dan & Maria Eriksson | Andreas & Evelyn Kazanis |
| Denny Boom | Bill Evrigenis | Giorgos & Jenna Kazanis |
| Greg & Vicki Booros | Sophia Evrigenis | Ioannis & Cindy Kazanis |
| Stephanie Bourbakis | Samir & Nuha Fadayel | Pamela & Andrew Kemp |
| Polihronis & Vicky Bourdaniotis | Michael & Elena Fazio | Anthony & Gail Kentroti |
| Ted & Lily Bourdaniotis | Vasiliki Fkiaras | Effie Kentroti |
| Marie Bravou | Christos Fotopoulos | Connie Keriotis |
| Anna Brusco | George & Kathy Fotopoulos | Denise Kincaid |
| Katherine Buttacavoli | Panagiotis Fotopoulos | Despina Kiriakes |
| Andonia Cakouros | Panayiotis Fotopoulos | Steven & Lindsey Kivetos |
| John & Jordan Cameron | Peter & Koula Fotopoulos | Peter Kleary |
| Peter & Fotine Casheros | Phillip & Soula Fotopoulos | Mary Kondos |
| George & Koula Cazanias | Agnes Fotos | Lucas & Stella Kontes |
| Taky & Georgiana Cazanias | Antonia Fotos | Nick & Bernadette Kontos |
| Gus Changaris | Kyriako & Brenda Fotos | George Koufasimis |
| Jack Chesson | Ruseta Fotos | Fran Koulos |
| John & Annette Christopoulos | Christina & Robert Freeworth | George Koumis |
| Bettina & Grigorios Chrysofakis | Michael & Jennifer Freeworth | George & Rula Kouretas |
| George & Christina Chuchas | Maria Gassoumis | Stan & Angie Kritsepis |
| James & Despina Chuchas | Andrew & Teresa Gates | Ivana Krstic |
| John & Linda Compoginis | Constantin & Micki Genigeorgis | Constantino & Dena Kuchulis |
| Peter & Samantha Cononelos | Alexis Scandalis Genung | Angela Kuchulis Gianopoulos |
| Antonia Const | Joann Georgallis | John & Mary Kyriakides |
| Dennis & Jeanlaurie Corelis | Perry Georgallis | Stephen & Anna LaBritt |
| Carol Crisp | Dianna George | Michael Lahood |
| Eleni Crush | John & Debbie George | Frances Lambrose |
| Timothy & Effie Crush | Chris & Angie Georgoulas | Dean & Diane Langley |
| George & Christine Dariotis | Helen Gianakakis | Ronald & Georgia Langley |
| John & Nitsa Dariotis | Sandra Giobres | Maria Lappas |
| Michael Dariotis | Lener & Carmie Lee Gousetis | Georgia Larson |
| Irene Darras | Paul Grellas | Andrea Lendaris |
| Fany Darzins | Louis & Georgette Grivetti | Gary & Irina Leonard |
| Magdalene & Matthew David | Suanna Gurovich | Despina Liakopoulos |
| Irene DeKellis | George Hagios | Esther Lilakos |
| Eddie Deigan | Sandra Hamameh | Jesus & Helen Loaiza |
| Efthymios & Grammatoula Delis | Elena Hankard | Alice Loris-Lyons |
| John & Marianna Demas | RJ & Nicki Hansen | Elaina & Gary Magana |
| Louis Demas | Demetre & Dimitra Haralambakis | Diana & Robert Magee |
| Lou & Maria Deville | Thomas & Phyllis Harper | Geraldine Magers |
| Stasis & Jody Diavatis | Dannan & Lisa Harr | Efstratios "Yianni" & Danae Magoulas |
| Tom Dicktakes | Elias & Catherine Hatzakos | Chris & Maro Maguire |
| Victoria Dimitriades | Richard & Kim Hauch | James Makris |
| Nicholas & Laura Docous | Steve & Bia Hayes | Stanley Makris |
| Elizabeth Dokimos | Tim & Elene Hayes | Julie Mamalis |
| Kathy Dokimos | William Hess | Athanasia Manikas |
| Katherine Dole | Nikko Higdon | Exaveria (Rula) Manikas |
| Elaine Donovan | Julian B. & Diane Holt | Anne Manolakas |
| Demosthenis & Evangelia Douveas | Dino & Margarita Jakovas | Katherine Manolakas |

Pledged Stewards 2020

(As of March 27, 2020 | Continued)

ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE TO THE ONE WHO BELIEVES IN CHRIST

| | | |
|--|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Sam & Kerry Manolakas | George & Mary Roussas | Theodora Yazigi |
| Timothy & Annette Manolis | Peter & Jodie Sakaris | Andreas & Becky Yerocostas |
| Athanasios Manolopoulos | Katherine Sampanis | Athanasios & Elizabeth Yiaslas |
| George & Marina Mantis | Ronica Sarkisian Carlisle | |
| Sam & Ann Marandos | Panayiota Sarlis | |
| Antigoni Marcos | Daniela & Andrew Schmidt | |
| Katherine Marefos | Jacqueline & Steve Schwartz | |
| Peter Margaris | Steven Sellas | |
| Steve & Katherine Margaris | Thomas Sellas | |
| Nellie Margarite | Ralph & Vassie Sett | |
| Sylvia Maritsas | Roy & Dale Shults | |
| Nia Marketos | Mary & Maurice Silva | |
| Dennis & Nancy Marks | John & Georganna Sinadinos | |
| Jon Martino | Dean & Chrisa Sioukas | |
| Antonios & Maria Mavroforakis | Jack & Lillian Sioukas | |
| Pamela Middleton | George & Katherine Spanos | |
| Jack & Marque Molodanof | Demetrios Spyridakis | |
| Karen Nelson | Stylianos & Klea Spyridakis | |
| George & Gaye Nicholau | Vasilios Spyridakis | |
| Helen Nickolson & Lawrence Michel | Steve & Rachel Squaglia | |
| Joanna Leventis & Benjamin Noonan | Dessie & Sam Stamas | |
| Howard & Stella Norris | Charles & Florence Stamos | |
| Alice Ousley | Merle Stathis | |
| Nick & Contilo Pandeleon | Makis & Freda Stathopoulos | |
| Peter & Gina Pandelopoulos | Mary D. Stathos | |
| Yianni Pantis | Maria Stefanou | |
| John & Margaret Papadakis | Mari Suarez | |
| John & Julianne Papagiannopoulos | Art & Terre Terzakis | |
| Bessie Papailias | Effie Theodor | |
| Eleni & Raymond Papailias-Gomez | Maria & Christopher Theodor-Higdon | |
| Tasia Papajohn | Elias Theodorakakis | |
| Stephanie Papas | Sophie Theodore | |
| Kalliroy Pappas | Tom & Jeanie Theofanis | |
| Louie & Voula Pappas | Gregory & Mary Theophilopoulos | |
| Mary A. Pappas | Pearl Thomas | |
| Helen Paras | Steven Tingus | |
| Paris & Helen Paraskevas | Marian Trapp | |
| Perry & Kiki Parker | William & Joann Triphon | |
| Jerry & Catherine Pavlatos | Angelo & Sofia Tsakopoulos | |
| Constantine & Brigid Perakis | Drosoula Tsakopoulos | |
| Denise Perinati | Sofia Tsakopoulos | |
| Gregory & Jill Perinati | Manuel & Dianna Tsihlas | |
| Paul & Shirley Peters | Anna Tzikas | |
| Diane Petersen | George Tzikas | |
| Michael & Stella Petrucci | James & Faye Vallas | |
| Fotis & Tammy Petsalis | Taki & Kristen Vathis | |
| Nikolas & Nicole Pikios | Aleko & Maria Verrios | |
| Sofianos & Sara Piliotis | Vasilis & Judy Verrios | |
| Bessie Pothos | Vasseliki Vervilos | |
| Anthony Poulos | Stella Vescu | |
| Demetra Poulos | Michael & Arlene Vlamis | |
| George & Maro Poulos | Paul & Rusti Voresis | |
| Lucky & Dina Poulos | Stavros & Eleftheria Vougioukas | |
| Michael Raptakis | Dimitri Vouros | |
| Father James & Barbara Retelas | Douglas & Donna Wagner | |
| Father Timothy & Pres. Marsha Robinson | Richard & Valentina Watts | |
| Thomas & Carol Ann Robinson | Daniel & Donis Whaley | |
| Demetri & Malamo Romas | Maria Kostidou Workman | |
| John & Penny Romas | Jerry & Elaine Wright | |
| Nicholas & Carol Rotas | George & Kathryn Wyatt | |

Pledged Families: 306

SUMMER CAMP AT ST. NICHOLAS RANCH



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF SAN FRANCISCO ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΑΓΙΟΥ ΦΡΑΓΚΙΣΚΟΥ

April 27, 2020

✠Eulogios the Innkeeper of Constantinople

Beloved in the Lord,

Χριστός Ανέστη! Christ is Risen!

Our lives have changed dramatically in these past two months. With ongoing concerns over the spreading of the Coronavirus pandemic, the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco has been carefully monitoring the guidelines issued by state and national authorities, as well as those from our Archdiocese and Ecumenical Patriarchate.

In order to ensure the safety of our youth, young adults, and clergy, it is incumbent upon us to cancel the Metropolis Greek Village Immersion Camp and the Metropolis Summer Camp at Saint Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center. This was not a decision we arrived at lightly, but it is one of necessity. Both Greek Village Camp and Summer Camp are extremely successful programs, and are highly regarded by campers and parents alike. As we are not able to predict how long restrictions will be in place, and not wanting to jeopardize the health and welfare of any of our participants, volunteers and staff, it was clear to us that camping programs for 2020 must be cancelled.

We know this brings great disappointment, but please know that our ministry staff and leaders are working to develop online activities that will still provide opportunities for interaction, education, and fellowship. Details on these initiatives will be forthcoming.

In addition to these two programs being cancelled, the facilities at Saint Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center are also closed until further notice.

We continue to pray fervently to God that He may grant healing to our world, and that we may one day soon join together in worship and fellowship praising His Third Day Resurrection!

With Love in the Risen Christ,


✠Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco

HELLENIC GOLF CLASSIC

11TH ANNUAL HELLENIC GOLF CLASSIC

Monday, June 1, 2020



Given the current situation, we regret to inform you that our 11th Annual Hellenic Golf Classic will not be happening this year. Please continue to support our Parish and our philanthropic ministries through your stewardship, pledges to The Build, and donations.

Thank you for understanding and may God bless us all!

ICONOGRAPHY WORKSHOP

Icon Painting Workshop Sacramento

Experience the unique spiritual world of the Byzantine Era through icon painting

June 22 - 27, 2020

Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church
Sacramento



Join us on this six day intensive course under the direction of visiting master iconographer and expert instructor Theodoros Papadopoulos from Greece. This Virgin Mary icon will "come alive" as he will guide you step by step, through the ancient techniques of Byzantine Iconography. Let us journey together, discovering anew, this traditional artistic expression of theology and spirituality often called the "meeting place of the Divine". Whether you are beginner or a professional, this workshop offers the opportunity to learn or refine your techniques in this sacred art.

The schedule of courses runs daily from 9:00 until 17:00.

Your tuition fee of \$685 includes all materials including boards, pigments, brushes, etc.

Space is limited. Please register early to secure your spot. If you are interested in participating, please visit the website, www.theodoreicons.com/sa

or contact: Theodoros Papadopoulos at theodoreicons@gmail.com - Manuel Tsihlias at 916-567-9630 ext.111.

Given the everchanging situation due to COVID-19, Theodoros Papadopoulos will be accepting reservations without a down payment or full payment. If you are interested, please continue to sign up to stay informed of this once in a lifetime opportunity!



Annunciation Community Corner

Want to wish someone happy birthday, graduation, anniversary, etc?
 Choose your ad size (see rates below) tell us exactly what you want it
 to say (picture optional) and e-mail it to etheodor@annunciationsac.org

Rates for the Community Corner are:

- \$25.00 Quarter Page
- \$40.00 Half Page
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For questions, please contact the Church Office at (916) 443-2033 ext. 222



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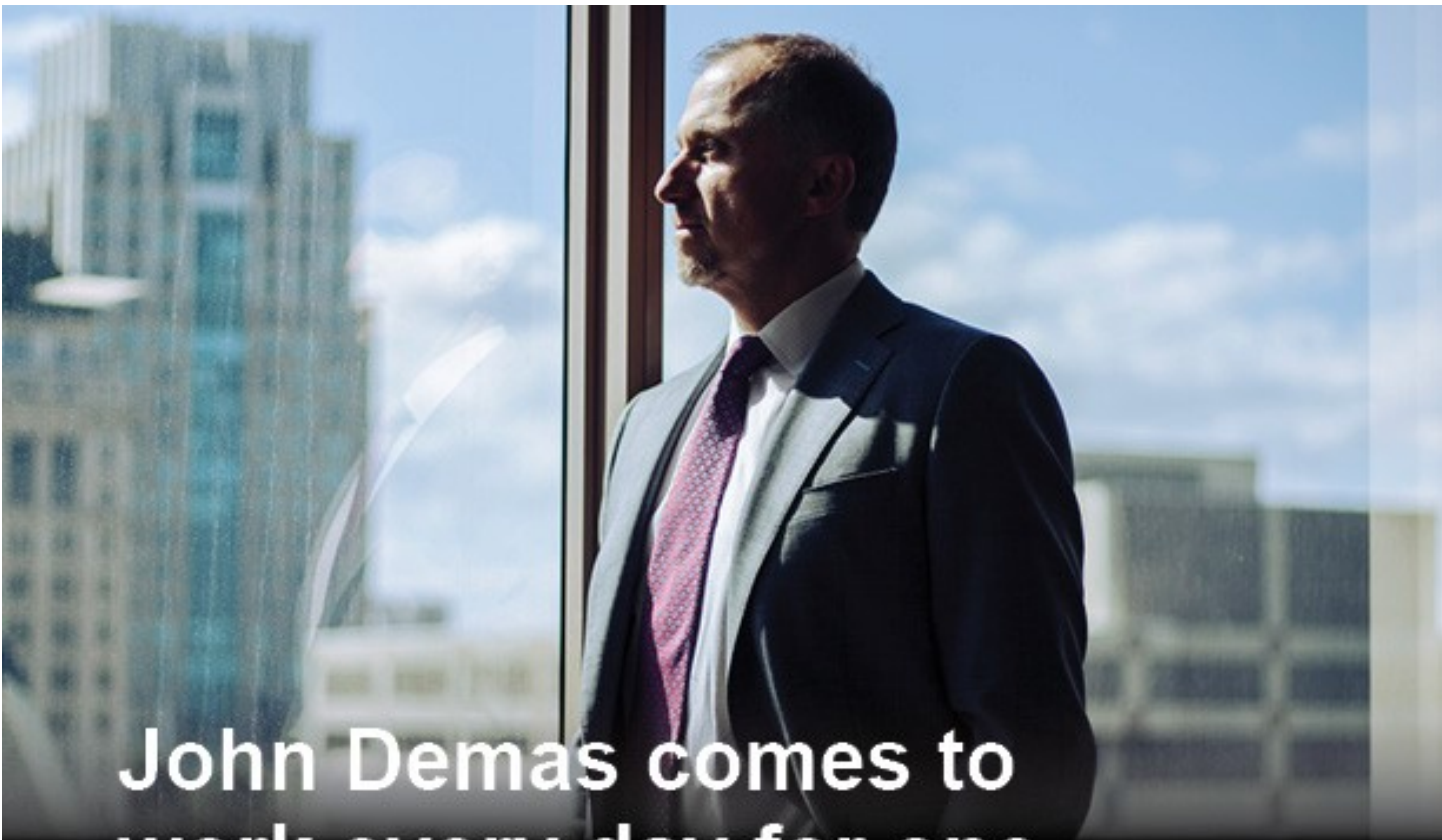
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by death, trampling down upon Death,
and to those in the tombs
does He grant Life!*

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ΑΛΗΘΩΣ ΑΝΕΣΤΗ! TRULY HE IS RISEN!**

From all of us at
the Annunciation Parish,
we pray you are safe and well
and we look forward to the day in which
we are able to be together
for prayer and fellowship!