

OBSERVER



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GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH ANNUNCIATION SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

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DESIGNED & EDITED BY: EFSTRATIOS "YIANNI" MAGOULIAS

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COMMUNITY UPDATE

We welcome into the Church: Anastasios, Baptized and Chrismated Melina, Baptized and Chrismated Erik "John", Baptized and Chrismated Dionysios, Baptized and Chrismated

We pray for the servants of God, united in the Sacrament of Marriage: Stelene and Alexander Vasiliki and Erik

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

Agnes Fotos Emanuel Papadakis

PASTORAL MESSAGE

Fear Not—He Has Overcome the World!

e have just celebrated the great Feast of Christmas, the birth in the flesh of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ. This mystery of God assuming our humanity, the Incarnation, is also "chronologically" His first Advent. The Twelve Days of Christmas now culminate in the Feast of the Theophany, the Baptism of our Lord at the hands of St. John the Baptist. Coinciding with the new year, Theophany calls us to renewal of our baptismal vows, but instead of water from the baptismal font, we offer tears of repentance. We continue to work out our salvation with each other now, the time (Kairos) of the



Church in preparation for our Lord's glorious return (Parousia), His second Advent. If we have learned anything these past nine months from our painful social isolation, it is that we need each other. We are saved together as the Body of Christ. We are called to challenge each other to manifest the gifts of the Spirit for the building up of the Body. Why else does St. Paul rhetorically ask: "Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?" (1Cor 3:16)

At every Liturgy, we are reminded to "have love for one another, that with one mind we may confess." Presbytera Barbara used to teach first grade. I recall vacuuming her car one day and noticed a letter from one of her students. Such innocence, such sweetness, full of feeling and emotion. I don't know if all first graders fall in love with their teacher but this one certainly had fallen in love with Presbytera. It is such love letters that sustain us and give us hope. Of course, Holy Scripture is essentially God's love letter to us, and we continue to read this letter after two millennia because every passage, every word is timeless, meant for <u>us</u> in every day and age.

St. Paul certainly reminds his spiritual son Timothy of this: "always be steady, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfil your ministry. For I am already on the point of being sacrificed; the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing" (2 Timothy 4:5-8).

The great Feast of Theophany (January 6) is upon us, the appearance of the Son of God who now begins his earthly three-year ministry. As we continue to face the physical health challenges of these unprecedented times, let us never forget our Lord's promise: "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." (John 16:33)

Beloved brothers and sisters, Christ has overcome the world, including the pandemic. As mentioned in a recent sermon, recall with me a poignant message from the movie "A Charlie Brown Christmas:" Linus, a child who seems to have some insecurities as he carries a security blanket with him at all times NEVER drops his blanket, except once: while sharing the message of what Christmas is all about, Linus drops his blanket at the exact moment he says the words, "fear not!"

PASTORAL MESSAGE

As we complete the Twelve Days of Christmas, let us rejoice in the words of the prophet Isaiah: "that what was spoken might be fulfilled: the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, toward the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles, the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned" (Matthew 4:14-16).

Indeed, a great light as dawned and His perfect love for us casts out all fear.

Faithfully,

Fr. James Retelas *Presiding Priest*

THE FEAST OF THEOPHANY

Join us to celebrate the Great Feast of Holy Theophany!

January 5th

8:30 am Great Hours of Theophany

9:30 am Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

Great Blessing of the Waters

January 6th

8:30 am Orthros

9:30 am Divine Liturgy for the Great Feast of Holy Theophany Great Blessing of the Waters

January 7th

8:30 am Orthros

9:30 am Divine Liturgy: Synaxis of St. John the Forerunner and Baptist



The traditional time of year for blessing homes is after Theophany, January 6. Fr. James and Fr. Timothy are dedicating two weeks beginning January 7th to come to your home, if requested, for this special blessing.

What is involved?

Just 15 minutes of your time!

Due to current restrictions, masks and social distancing will be followed

What do you need to do?

Please contact the parish office or email Fr. James (frjames@annunciationsac.org) or Fr. Timothy (frtimothy@annunciationsac.org)

PASTORAL MESSAGE

Together at Theophany

he cycle of major feasts in the Church Year, our Church calendar, is very important to us. Why? Through the major feasts, we walk, month by month, and year by year, through the saving work of God in Christ. We remember what God has done and continues to do for us. Part of the message of the calendar to us is this constant reminder of God's love. Part of the message is also our communal identity. We are all observing these feasts together at the same time. This is especially important right now when actually physically attending Church can be problematic! We are one family in our activity whether we are physically together or not. Another part of that message is also our personal identity and relationship with



God. The calendar reminds us that we are not the center of the universe. God is. We are <u>not</u> called, as Christians, to "squeeze God into our lives" wherever we might have room. The feasts occur on God's timetable and not ours. We are called to reorient our lives around God, to rearrange our schedules to fit into His schedule. Herein is comfort and challenge: the comfort of a God Who takes the initiative to save us from sin and death, and the challenge to respond to His call and take our place in His program. Therefore, let us all celebrate this great feast of the Theophany and learn from it what God wants to teach us. Here below is the wonderful brief meditation on this feast by a Saint of our time, Bishop Nikolai Velimirovic of Serbia.

Fr. Timothy Robinson

Associate Priest

The Feast of Theophany (January 6)

When the Lord Jesus had lived for thirty years from His birth in the flesh, He began His teaching and saving work. He marked this very beginning of the beginning by His baptism in the Jordan. St. Cyril of Jerusalem says: "The beginning of the world--water; the beginning of the Gospel--the Jordan." At the baptism of the Lord in the water, that mystery was revealed to the world that was predicted in the Old Testament and fabled in ancient Egypt and India-the mystery of the Holy Trinity of God. The Father revealed Himself to the sense of hearing, the Spirit to the sense of sight, and the Son, further beyond these, to the sense of touch. The Father gave His testimony of the Son, the Son was baptized in the waters, and the Holy Spirit, in the form of a dove, hovered over the waters. And when John the Baptist bore witness of Christ and said: "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world" (John 1:29), and when he immersed the Lord in the Jordan and baptized Him, there were thus revealed both the mission of Christ in the world and the path of our salvation. That is to say: Christ takes on Himself the sin of the whole human race. He dies under it (the immersion) and rises again (coming out of the water), and we must die to the old, sinful man, and rise again, cleansed, renewed, and re-born. Here is the Savior and here is the way of salvation. The Feast of the Theophany is also called the Illuminating, for in the Jordan there is given to us an illumination, revealing God to us as Trinity, consubstantial and undivided. That is one thing. And the other is that each of us baptized in the water is illuminated by the Father of lights, through the merits of the Son and the power of the Holy Spirit.

(Bishop Nikolai Velimirovic, *The Prologue from Ochrid: Lives of the Saints and Homilies for Every Day of the Year. Part One: January, February, March.* Birmingham, England: Lazarica Press, 1985, page 31.)

LETTER FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

Dear Fellow Parishioners:

s the year 2020 mercifully comes to an end, there is much to be grateful for. The Covid-19 vaccines are rolling across our country and world wide, thanks to dedicated research scientists, epidemiologists, doctors and public health care professionals. Our parish has persevered throughout the last nine months in ways never imagined before. Each parishioner's safety and well being has stood as the number one priority for the parish council. Tough decisions had to be made, but overriding discussion always centered around "What is best for the parish?" and the Annunciation faithful.



So in the spirit of the Christmas season, this article will focus on joy and hope and the positive over the negative! Our parish has been blessed for 100 years with outstanding clergy, wonderful and vibrant ministries such as our beautiful choir, distinguished chanters, dedicated staff and, of course, our faithful parishioners and volunteers. Let us not forget the founding families of this parish who came from Greece with drive and determination, over riches or material wealth. They built the original church on "N" Street out of love and faith in the Lord. We are forever indebted to them for their sacrifices.

It is now incumbent on this generation and future ones to carry on this legacy of faith, love and joy and to never ever take these gifts for granted! Let's teach our children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren that taking care of their church should be a joyful exercise, not a burdensome endeavor. An investment, if you will, not just financially, but emotionally and spiritually as well. Let's teach them that involvement in the life of the parish is key to guaranteeing that the legacy endures.

Be positive, be hopeful, be grateful, and be joyful! For Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

May everyone have a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year.

God Bless You,

George Dariotis
Past Parish Council President, 2012-2017

STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE

Happy New Year!

am sure many of you have been eager to say goodbye to 2020 just as I have. It is human nature to be hopeful and look forward to a new beginning. This past year has presented multiple challenges for our immediate community and for all of humanity. Many of our older parishioners like my parents have survived war and famine, and their faith has enabled them to persevere and prosper.

My message for this new year is gratitude for each one of you and your families.

Gratitude for our health and our Orthodox faith and our Annunciation community.

May we not forget that we need each other and our Church even if we cannot all be physically together.

Even in times of hardship if we come together much can be achieved. Our Church is here for us and it can't be forgotten.

Please continue your stewardship support of Annunciation as we enter a new year.

Happy New Year! Καλή Χρονιά σε όλους!

In Christ's love,

Stella Dariotis Stewardship Chair

OPER#	TING FUND			
Income	1/1/20 - 11/30/20	2020 Budget YTD		
Pledges	\$517,477	\$495,000		
All Other Revenue	\$419,079	\$456,846		
Total Revenue	\$936,556	\$951,846		
Expenses				
Total Staff Exp.	\$527,718	\$515,894		
Program Services	\$9,864	\$21,311		
Other Oper. Exp.	\$289,365	\$316,177		
Archdiocese National Ministries	\$112,500	\$123,750		
Total Expense	\$939,447	\$977,132		
Balance as of 11/30/20	-\$2,891			
2020 Pledges as of December 23, 2020				
Stewardship Budget	\$540,000			
Pledged to Date	\$504,510			
Total Amount Received	\$574,070			
Total Members Pledged	441			

AN UPDATE ON THE BUILD

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

The Build Facts as of 12/8/2020:

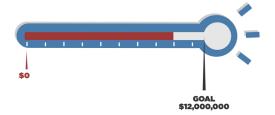
Pledges received in November: \$3,821.50

Building Loan Balance: \$2,447,675.81 at 4.19% interest

Pledges Outstanding: \$456,025.50 Total Pledged: \$8,590,966.36

Total Given: \$8,125,940.86

Monthly payment as of 1/1/2020: \$14,693.41



If you have not given—now is the time!

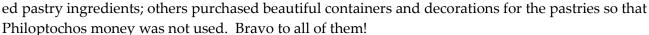
We are all benefitting from a long-term vision and wish of our parish for many years. All we ask is 100% participation and your best gift. Please help us get debt free.

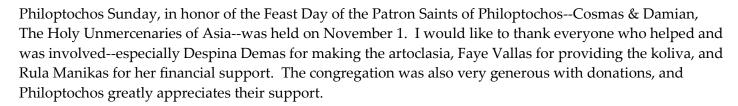
PHILOPTOCHOS

Happy New Year Everyone! Καλή χοονιά!

t is January 2021, and I hope this year brings joy to you and your families. This past year was trying, and I thank God that we are strong, optimistic, and part of a caring community.

Philoptochos' recent pastry-baking activities, co-chaired by Toula Zioga-Delis and Despina Demas, highlight this community spirit. Starting on October 20 and continuing every Tuesday through a good part of December, a group of dedicated women baked pastries for the holidays. Various members who were not able to physically assist instead sent monetary donations or donated pastry ingredients; others purchased beautiful containers and decorations for the





In December, baskets for the home-bound were coordinated by Faye Vallas, who has a group of volunteers to help her make items for the baskets and then distribute them. As you can imagine, this yearly Christmas gesture of love for our very restricted parishioners was extra important this year.

This December we also had a monetary food drive, organized by Elaine Wright, for The Sacramento Food Bank. Because the Food Bank was not accepting food donations, the goal was to raise money to feed over 5,000 people. Thank you to Elaine for taking on the responsibilities of the Feed the Poor Committee. Together with that thank you, I would like to express my gratitude to Suanna Gurovich for the work she has done with this same committee. Suanna is now assisting the Church with calling parishioners through the IOCC's "Care Calling" program and is the Philoptochos liaison.

The Light the Path event by the Metropolis of San Francisco was held virtually on December 5. This event is in support of the lives of our seminarians and students attending Hellenic College Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology. In the virtual program, they had beautiful music, great speakers, and interesting interviews of the students from our Metropolis at the school.

PHILOPTOCHOS

A Philoptochos membership letter is in the mail, and you might have received it already. This letter is asking you to reaffirm your membership for 2020-21, to join if you have not done so, and to gift a family member or friend with a membership.

This may be done by mail or online at http://www.annunciationsac.org/philoptochos/.

In parting, I would like to remind you that Philoptochos has a significant relationship with Wellspring Women's Center and our liaison is Pearl Thomas. Pearl is available to deliver donations for the women and children at the Center and may be reached at marapkt@aol.com.

My sincere best wishes to all of you. Με υγεία και ευτυχία το νέο έτος!

Helen Nickolson Annunciation Philoptochos President

> We hope to restart our activities in 2021! Listed below are the projected events:

Sunday, January 10—Vasilopita Luncheon
Sunday, February 7— Kid's n Cancer Pancake Breakfast
Sunday, February 14—Coffee for Kid's n Cancer
Sunday, February 21— Tray for Kid's n Cancer
Sunday, February 28—Kid's n Cancer Cake Raffle
Wednesday, March 17—Lenten Supper after Pre-Sanctified Liturgy
Wednesday, March 24—Reception after Great Vespers
Saturday, April 3—Lenten Retreat
Sunday, April 25—Palm Sunday Luncheon
Friday, May 7—Wine Tasting
Tuesday, June 8—Philoptochos Potluck Dinner
Saturday, August 14—Evening Reception



Wellspring Women's Center is a small nonprofit organization with a very small staff, that receives very little government funding, and derives support from donations, grants, and special events. You will find a list of items needed by contacting Philoptochos, or the Parish Office.



DONATIONS can be dropped off in the Annunciation Administrative Lobby, please call the office to be sure someone is there to accept your donation (916.443.2033 x222)

INFORMATION please contact Pearl Thomas at marapht@aol.com or (916) 485-4850

CENTENNIAL UPDATE



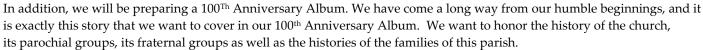
Did you know?

- In late in 1920 the first regular elections of Trustees of the Greek Community of Sacramento were held?
- By May 1921 that group, led by Nick Gikas, decided to proceed with the build of the N Street Annunciation Church. The first assigned priest, Rev George Sardounis, was appointed.
- The cornerstone of the church was laid in November 1921 and the very first Divine Liturgy was celebrated on a very cold day (38.5 degrees) on Christmas Day of 1921.

his year we are celebrating a memorial "to the dreams, the toils and the sacrifices" of a small group of immigrants who had the courage to build our church and all those who have come after them who helped to secure the dream and expand it.

As part of the 100th year celebrations, the committee is planning two celebratory events:

- Annunciation 100th Anniversary picnic on August 15, 2021
- Gala celebration on December 4, 2021



Although many of us will be working on the album all year long, we plan on having it ready for release in early 2022 so as to include pictures of the Anniversary Picnic and Gala. There are many key milestones (dates) for the Album team. Some of these key dates (deadlines) that the Album committee is following are listed below.

By February 15, 2021. The Album committee will release a packet to the community asking each family to collect and assemble their family's pictures (both historical and present). These would-be photos that they would like included in Anniversary album as well as a written history of their family. Each family will be able to purchase a ½ or full page(s) for this information. Pages will be sold at the price of \$180 a page or \$100 per half page. More information will be release regarding the composition of the pages and pictures with the packet on Feb 15th.

By March 1, 2021. A 100-year history of the church will be completed. This is being led by Bill Triphon and Toni Chapralis. The histories of the Parochial groups will be written by this time as well.

March 1-June 1, 2021. We will be working with families regarding their submittals of photos and written history. Two photographers will be available for families to allow them to make arrangements to take photographs if they don't already have suitable photos to submit. This will be a direct contact between the family and the photographer. The initial cost for the one picture for the album will be free and other photographs will be available at a cost from the photographer.

By September 30, 2021. We will have the initial draft of the album and we will start editing and adding to content to make sure as many families as possible are represented in the church and/or family histories.

Early 2022.The pictures from the Anniversary picnic and Gala will all be added and after final review, the album will be printed and distributed. We are projecting album to be about 300 pages and at a cost of about \$75.00 per book. Please know that this is fluid, and the committee is doing all it can to keep costs down and still produce a high-quality book memorializing our history and this time in our parish.

Please help us honor our past and present as we build the history of our church together by providing your insights to Julie Mamalis at jmamalis@comcast.net or Gerri Magers at gerri.magers@chariscg.com. We will be happy to answer any of your questions as well.



If you would like to volunteer for one of the events or to help with the Album, please contact Gerri Magers at gerri.magers@chariscg.com

GREEK-TO-GO

Sacramento Greek Festival Launches "Greek-to-Go"

s all of us try to process and cope with the constantly changing conditions in our community, the Greek Festival Committee is also adapting and making changes. Initially we planned to host a take-out food event in February to help raise funds for our parish after cancelling our Festival. Instead of waiting for February, thanks to the Parish Council and Office staff, a "take-out" food concept was initiated in November. The event, which featured pastitsio, was a great success, and thus became a series of "Greek-to-Go" events for the Greater Sacramento community to enjoy. The second event in December featured a stifado dinner served with pilafi, Greek salad and baklava.



Health conditions permitting, we anticipate having the next "Greek-to-Go" event on January 16th, featuring a Greek chicken dinner with dolmades.

On February 6th, we're offering gyros. Two weeks before each event, you'll be able to order by calling the Parish Office (916.443.2033 x 221) or on our website <u>SacramentoGreekFestival.com</u>

We are grateful to each and every one of you who supported the "Greek-to-Go" events by purchasing dinner or volunteering your time to help with the planning, publicity, cooking, food packaging and take-out logistics. We're always eager for more volunteers and hope you'll support our next event.

With Gratitude,

The 2020 Greek Festival Committee











LOOKING TOWARDS OUR CENTENNIAL

My fellow Parishioners,

hat a great honor it is to be part of the
Annunciation Family as we celebrate 100 years since it was established in 1921. I have been here at

Annunciation Sacramento since 1963. Some of my relatives listed below were here quite a few years before 1920.



THE JOHN DEMAS STORY

My grandfather, Gus Harris arrived in 1914 and went to work for the railroad soon after. My mother (Maria A. Demas) was born in Dunsmuir, California in 1927. She was baptized at Annunciation at 6th and N Street.

My grandfather on my father's side, came to America in 1898. He settled in on the east coast in the state of South Carolina.

My grandmother's first cousin, George Christopher came to California in 1910. He went on to become the mayor of San Francisco, 1956 to 1964.

If you have the 75th Anniversary album from Annunciation, you will see on page 18 this: "One of the earliest (families) was that of Peter Kerhoulas. He arrived in 1898". In 1966, while attending American River College, I became friends with a Greek student by the name of Peter Kerhoulas. Just a few years ago, by way of DNA, we found out that we are related. Small world indeed.

As we celebrate the Centennial at Annunciation Sacramento, there is another big milestone for our Church coming up that we all should be anticipating with pride and joy. In the year 2033 our Orthodox Faith will be 2,000 years old. I for one have had this on my mind for quite a few years now. Looking forward to it. Are You?

Blessings from my family to yours.

John M. Demas



LOOKING TOWARDS OUR CENTENNIAL

Yiayia Lucille Vlahos

ucille Vlahos was born in Denver, CO on July 3,1919 and lived in Bridgeport, NE and Modesto, CA. She graduated from Fresno State College with an Elementary Teaching Credential. Later, at the age of 55 she earned her Masters Degree in Reading from Sacramento State College! In 1944, she married Elias Vlahos and moved to Sacramento where together they opened Kastorian Furriers on J Street.



Lucille, affectionately called "Yiayia Lou" in her later years, was a tireless advocate for children and their education. She

taught elementary school in the San Juan School District for 25 years while raising two children and being incredibly active in various Annunciation activities. Her influence and devotion were particularly evident in the Church of the Annunciation Sunday School, which she began organizing in 1952 by translating Greek lesson plans into English. She served as a Sunday School teacher and Director for 40 years! She directed the Annunciation Summer Day camp, wrote curriculum for the proposed Elementary School and participated in educational retreats at St Nicholas Ranch.

Lucille supported many educational and philanthropic causes such as establishing the Annunciation Parish Library. She and her amazing team, which always included Dorothy Loris, Irene Compoginis, and others, devoted hundreds of hours to cataloging and archiving books, photographs and other church memorabilia for future generations. She was active in the Philoptochos Ladies Society for 55 years and served at the diocese level on the Women's Board of the Patriarch Athenagoras Institute at UC Berkeley. Lucille has always supported Hellenic educational causes through AHEPA and Daughters of Penelope and other charities in the USA and Greece. Lucille and Elias helped establish the Annunciation Endowment Fund. She served on the Parish Council, Election Committees and represented the Parish Council at Clergy-Laity Conferences.

Lucille was very active in community activities through the Masons and Eastern Star, American Association of University Women and Crocker Art Museum Art Service Group. She had an amazing gift for maintaining lifelong friendships! She was an outstanding cook and gracious hostess and well-known for hosting her friends and family at fabulous holiday and name day parties with her husband Elias. She traveled extensively throughout Europe, Japan, China, Mexico and the U.S. She was a very talented seamstress creating beautiful stitchery, needlepoint and crocheted works. Her flower-arranging and artistic decorating skills were often displayed at Annunciation and community affairs.

In 2010, Lucille was honored as the sole recipient of the Metropolis' Spirit of Stewardship award for a lifetime of dedication and service to the Annunciation Church that she dearly loved!

Lucille Vlahos' life and legacy are best exemplified through her statement of Faithful Giving: "Our devotion to God and the Church compels us to give faithfully. We believe in giving faithfully with our time, financial support, talents, prayers and service to others. A life-long spirit of giving has at its source our gratitude for the many blessings God has bestowed upon us. It is only natural and right to share these blessings to glorify His name!"



916-443-2033 | 600 ALHAMBRA BLVD | SACRAMENTO, CA ANNUNCIATION Greek Orthodox Church

January 202

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Χριστός Γεννάται! Christ is Born!	€};			8:30 am Orthros	2
		Δοξάσατε! Glorify Him!			9:30 am Divine Liturgy: Circumcision of our Lord & St. Basil the Great	
ω	4	5	6	7	S	9
8:30 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy		8:30 am Great Hours of Theophany & Vesperal Divine Liturgy Great Blessing of the Waters	8:30 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy: Holy Theophany Great Blessing of the Waters	8:30 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy: St. John the Forerunner & Baptist		
10 8:30 am Orthros	11	outh	12 2) 13	14	14 % 15	16 Greek-to-go
9:30 am Divine Liturgy 2:00 pm Virtual Sunday School		6:30 pm Philoptochos Meeting	6:00 pm Small Paraklesis 7:00 pm Orthodoxy 101			
17	18	19	19 식 20	21		23
8:30 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy:	6:00 pm Parish Council Meeting		11:00 am Studies in the Faith		8:30 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy:	
St. Anthony the Great 2:00 pm Virtual Sunday School			6:00 pm Small Paraklesis 7:00 pm Orthodoxy 101		St. Timothy of the 70	
24 \fight{\figsty}	ر ا کول	26	्र ्ट्रि	28	ران 29	30
8:30 am Orthros			11:15 am Studies in the Faith			8:30 am Orthros
2:00 pm Virtual Sunday School			6:00 pm Small Paraklesis 7:00 pm Orthodoxy 101			Three Hierarchs
31 8:30 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy 2:00 pm Virtual Sunday School				र्नी Fast Day		

February 2021

day	6-90 ob-01	13	20	27	
Saturday	Greek-to-go				
Friday	5	12	19	26	
	A)	df>>	%		
Thursday	4	11	18	25	
Wednesday	3 .: 2	8:30 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Lifurgy 51. Haralambos the Martyr 11:00 am Studies in the Faith 6:00 pm Small Paraklesis 7:00 pm Orthodoxy 101	17 11:00 am Studies in the Faith 6:00 pm Small Paraklesis 7:00 pm Orthodoxy 101	24 11:00 am Studies in the Faith 6:00 pm Small Paraklesis 7:00 pm Orthodoxy 101	چېکې Fast Day
Tuesday	8:30 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy: Presentation of our Lord into the Temple	6:00 pm Virtual Youth Group Meetings 6:30 pm Philoptochos Meeting	91	23	
Monday	_	ω	Office Closed Presidents' Day 6:00 pm Parish Council Meeting	8:30 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy: St. Anthousa Fr. James 34th Anniversary to the Priesthood	
Sunday		8:30 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy 2:00 pm Virtual Sunday School	8:30 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy 2:00 pm Virtual Sunday School	21 Triodion Begins 8:30 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy 2:00 pm Virtual Sunday School	28 8:30 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy 2:00 pm Virtual Sunday School

SUNDAY SCHOOL

e recognize that these are challenging times for many of us, and as we continue making our way through, we wanted to express our deep gratitude for your continuous support of our ministry and for making Sunday School a priority in our children's lives.

Week after week our Sunday School classes meet virtually on Sunday afternoons. Words cannot describe how profoundly grateful we are to our teachers, an incredible team of individuals, who did not hesitate to take on the task of teaching online. We ask that you keep them in your prayers as they prepare for their classes.



We are looking forward to the day that classes can be up and running again in the classrooms and children can walk across the *plateia* to and from the church!

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

- Romans 8:28

Help us spread the word about our Sunday School Catechetical classes!

Invite your family and friends to join you on Google Meet on Sunday afternoons at 2:00 pm!

1st – 2nd grades meet with Mrs. Chuchas

3rd – 4th grades meet with Mrs. Kane and Mrs. Meers

5th – 6th grades meet with Mrs. Harr and Mrs. Fotopoulos (class meets at 3:00 pm)

Jr. High & High School class meets with Dr. Rotas and Mr. Wilk

To join please fill the online registration form at www.annunciationsac.org/youth/sunday-school/ and you will receive information about the classes and the Google Meet classroom link corresponding to your grade.

Christian Education in the Home

We are always looking to serve YOU! Visit our Sunday School Ministry page on our Parish Website for links and resources from our Archdiocese, Metropolis, and the online Orthodox community! We hope that they will help enrich your time together and connect the home and church.

Help Us Help Others!

In the spirit of Thanksgiving and Christmas Holidays, we would like to invite you to help our Church bring joy to those in need. We will be collecting food and taking part in the *Run to Feed the Hungry* both projects to benefit the Sacramento Food Bank and Family Services. Information on these events coming soon. It is an opportunity and a blessing to practice our faith, caring and sharing our gifts and our blessings with others. Find more information on page 24 of this edition!

GREEK SCHOOL

he holidays are a special time for the Annunciation Greek School Program.
Learning holiday songs and celebrating this festive time has always been a favorite for the teachers and students. This year,



virtual celebrations will be happening with the students so that they can still enjoy their time together.



Thessaloniki's Christmas boat

In Greece, Christmas is traditionally celebrated by children going from house to house singing Christmas carols " $\tau\alpha$ κάλαντα". Some children ring their triangles as they sing, and it is customary to give the children some money or other treats. Believe it or not, Greek tradition did not have a decorated tree! Rather, Greeks would decorate a boat. The Christmas tree was a German tradition that was brought to Greece by the first King of Greece, Otto of Bavaria, in 1833. During the last century, decorating a Christmas tree became more popular than decorating a boat, but recently, there has been a growing resurgence in decorating boats in Greek households and communities.

For our students, December is also a time when they are busy studying for their winter exams. Review sessions and supplemental homework help prepare the students to succeed in their exams. The Annunciation program is a leader in the country by continuing to offer classes, despite the challenging circumstances. Students will not 'miss a year' in our program, and this is especially important for the test-preparation classes. Our students will be given the necessary skills and preparation to sit for the *Ellinomatheia* exams this coming May 2021.

Following the parent-teacher conferences on December 17th and 18th, the Greek School Program will be on Christmas break until January 6th. We hope that all of the students enjoy their holidays and stay safe in these challenging weeks. Καλά Χριστούγεννα και καλές γιορτές!!

ANNUNCIATION SENIOR LEAGUE

have good news to report: Margo Tzikas has agreed to step forward and help organize a "new " ASL once we are permitted to meet and socialize again. Annette Manolis will continue as treasurer and the nominating committee (Dena Kuchulis, Mary Kondos, Georgia Econome, and Elaine Pavlatos) will help with planning a limited gathering, hopefully this Spring, possibly a coffee hour after Liturgy.

The pictures below are to remind you of how much fun we had, all working together to prepare a luncheon in 2019. I pray we'll be able to repeat these wonderful times in the new future. In the meantime, please stay well, healthy, and let's keep in touch with each other.



Terry Kastanis

Past ASL President



YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES

SAVE THESE DATES AND EVENTS!

JOY (Grades 3-5) & Jr. GOYA (Grades 6-8)

Virtual Meeting on January 12th at 6:00 pm Virtual Meeting on February 2nd at 6:00 pm

GOYA (High School)

Outdoor & Socially Distant Kickbacks/bonfires for January & February Contact Yianni Magoulias if you are interested in hosting or attending

Young Adults (College)

NEW! Bonfire and discussion! Contact Yianni Magoulias for more information

Young Professionals (23-35 years old)

We are transitioning our "Wisdom & Wine" to a virtual setting! Please contact Yianni Magoulias for more 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! (following the Small Paraklesis)

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

"SEE" you soon!

DANCE SUPPORT GROUP & MINISTRY

hile close proximity social gatherings, especially sporting practices and events, are still discouraged by our Metropolis and County, we encourage you to join us safely and socially distant for the Divine Liturgy and to participate in our virtual ministries, from Sunday School, to youth group meetings and discussions, to adult education classes. Information will continue to be communicated via our Parish communications as we receive it from the Metropolis and County.

Thank you and "see" you soon!

Annunciation Dance Support Group



COMMUNITY CORNER

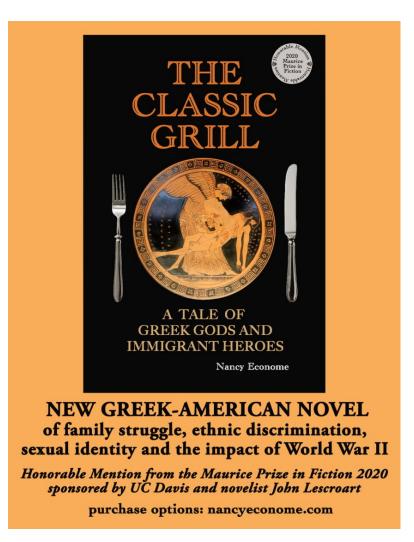


Want to wish someone happy birthday, graduation, anniversary, etc?

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Rates for the Community Corner are: \$25.00 Quarter Page \$40.00 Half Page \$75.00 Full Page

For questions, please contact the Parish Office at (916) 443-2033 ext. 222



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AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support Our Church every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to our Church, all you need to do is sign up!

Follow this link to sign up for AmazonSmile

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After creating your account: On your first visit to Smile.Amazom.com, you need to select a charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. When you search for a charity on Smile.Amazon.com enter "Greek Orthodox Sacramento" and our Church will pop up as the first result!

If you have already selected a charity and want to change your charity to our Church, simply sign in to smile.amazon.com and select "Change your Charity" under "Your Account." To find the Church enter "Greek Orthodox Sacramento" in the search box.

For questions, or help in creating an account, contact Parish Office at 916.443.2033

Rev. 12-21-2020



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- · Setup recurring stewardship donations
- View your complete giving history

- ALL ONLINE -

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click on the bookmark. -



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Aster Berhane Susan Bitar

Bill & Evelyn Bobolis Jamie Bobolis Stephanie Bobolis

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Timothy & Effie Crush

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Irene DeKellis Edie Delegan

Efthymios & Grammatoula Delis

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Matthew John Demas George & Chrysa Demos Lou & Maria Deville Stasis & Jody Diavatis Tom Dicktakes

Victoria Dimitriades

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Mary Kondos Anthony Kontes Lucas & Stella Kontes Mary Kontes

Nick & Bernadette Kontos

Pledged Stewards 2020 (As of December 22, 2020 | Continued)

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Constantino & Dena Kuchulis Angela Kuchulis Gianopulos

Loula Kufasimes

Ivana Krstic

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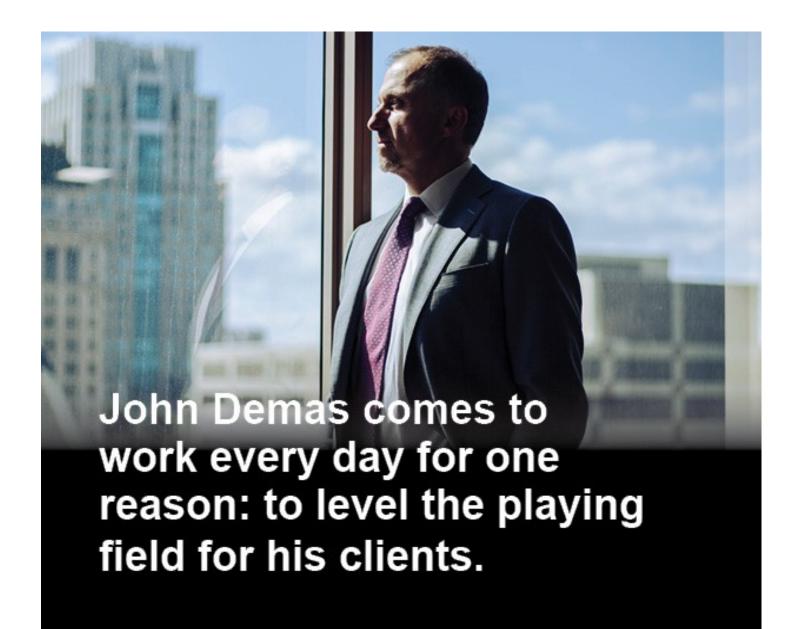




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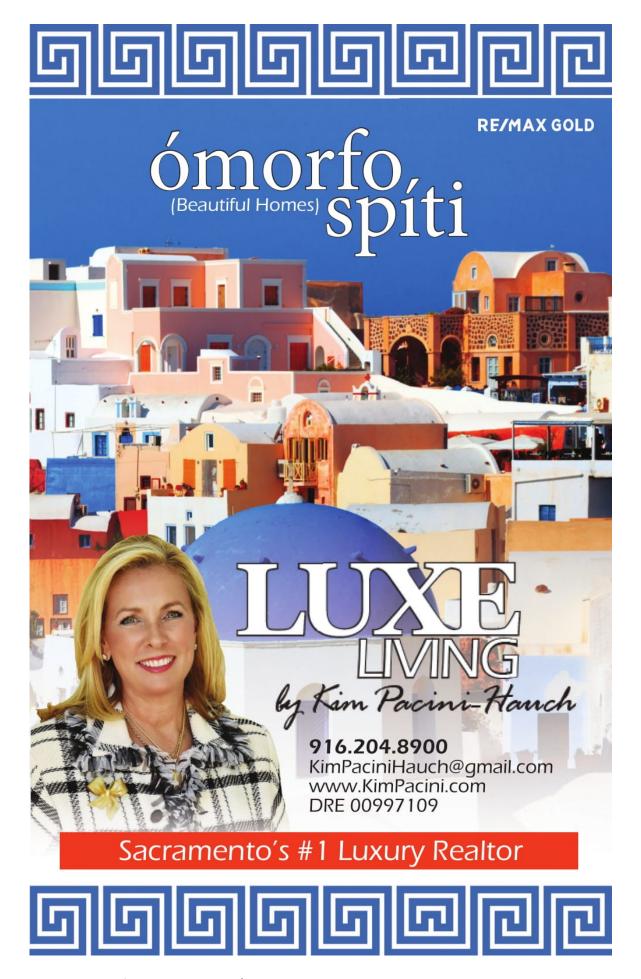


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