



THE ANNUNCIATION OBSERVER

Vol. XL, Issue IV | Fall 2024



SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA
ANNUNCIATION
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Rev. Fr. James Retelas, Presiding Priest | frjames@annunciationsac.org
Rev. Fr. Vincent Minucci, Presiding Priest | frvincent@annunciationsac.org
Rev. Fr. Timothy Robinson, Associate Priest | frtimothy@annunciationsac.org

616 Alhambra Blvd, Sacramento, CA 95816
Office: (916) 443-2033 | Office Hours Monday-Friday 9:00am-4:30pm
www.annunciationsac.org



PARISH CONTACT INFORMATION

CLERGY

Fr. James Retelas, Presiding Priest (through 10/31)
frjames@annunciationsac.org

Fr. Vincent Minucci, Presiding Priest (beginning 11/1)
frvincent@annunciationsac.org

Fr. Timothy Robinson, Associate Priest
frtimothy@annunciationsac.org

PARISH COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Michael Dariotis
miked.osf@gmail.com

PARISH MINISTRIES

Bookstore

Cynthia Siokos
(916) 231-9949
bookstore@annunciationsac.org

Choir

Jamie Bobolis, Choir Director
jbobolis@yahoo.com

Dance Support Group & Ministry

Eleni Crush, President
dance@annunciationsac.org

Father Demetrius Dogias Parish Library

Antonia Chapralis
paraskaki@sbcglobal.net

Greek School

greeksschool@annunciationsac.org

Philoptochos Society

Despina Demas, President
demasdespina@outlook.com

Annunciation Senior League

George Koumis, President
georgekoumis@gmail.com

Sunday School

sundayschool@annunciationsac.org

STAFF

Office Coordinator

Effie Theodor
etheodor@annunciationsac.org

Financial Coordinator

Ronni Paterson
accounting@annunciationsac.org

Ministries & Communications Coordinator

Nicki Hansen
nhansen@annunciationsac.org

Facility Use Coordinator

Rula Manikas
events@annunciationsac.org

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday
9:00am-4:30pm

THE ANNUNCIATION OBSERVER

Published quarterly for the parishioners of
the Greek Orthodox Church of the Annunciation
in Sacramento, California

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COMMUNITY UPDATE

We welcome into the church:

Emmanuel, son of Michael & Meryl Panelli, July 6
Gregory, son of Karl & Maia Johnson, July 7
Jeremy, son of Andrew & Theresa Anderson, July 28
George, son of Brian & Antonia Hunt, August 17
Vasiliki, daughter of Dylon & Eleni Brown, August 21
Stavroula, daughter of John & Julianne Papagiannopoulos, September 7
Anna Herrera (Adult Chrismation), September 8
John Herrera (Adult Chrismation), September 8
Nektarios Ramirez (Adult Chrismation), September 8
Ioanna Mavra, daughter of Alex & Kiriaki Kokologiannakis, September 22
Ioannis, son of Matthew & Magdalene David, September 28

We celebrate the marriage of:

William Nicholas Rotas & Victoria Benuto, August 24
Vasilis Polyzos & Artemis Mosier, September 21

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

Aglaia Antoniou, July 9
Mary Curtis, July 24
Theofania (Fany) Darzins, July 25
Elsie (Anastasia) Gust, August 1
Tom (Athanasios) Diktakes, August 9
Nina Lebedeva, August 19
Betty Heise/Manolakas, August 22
Evelyn (Evanthia) Rotas, September 16
Danny (Demosthenes) Kaufman, September 22

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

OCTOBER

Sunday, October 6	Third Sunday of Luke
Sunday, October 14	Sunday of the Seventh Ecumenical Council
Friday, October 18	St. Luke the Evangelist
Sunday, October 20	Sixth Sunday of Luke
Saturday, October 26	St. Demetrios the Great Martyr
Sunday, October 27	Seventh Sunday of Luke

NOVEMBER

Sunday, November 3	Fifth Sunday of Luke
Friday, November 8	Synaxis of the Holy Archangels
Saturday, November 9	St. Nektarios the Wonderworker
Sunday, November 10	Eighth Sunday of Luke
Monday, November 11	St. Vincent of Saragossa
Friday, November 15	<i>Nativity Fast begins</i>
Sunday, November 17	Ninth Sunday of Luke
Thursday, November 21	Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple
Sunday, November 24	Thirteenth Sunday of Luke Great Vespers <i>at St. Katherine's at Elk Grove</i>
Monday, November 25	Feast of St. Katherine <i>at Elk Grove</i>
Saturday, November 30	St. Andrew the First-Called Apostle

Unless otherwise noted, all services begin with Matins at 9:00am, followed by the Divine Liturgy.

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

DECEMBER

Sunday, December 1	Fourteenth Sunday of Luke
Wednesday, December 4	St. Barbara
Friday, December 6	St. Nicholas the Wonderworker
Sunday, December 8	Tenth Sunday of Luke
Thursday, December 12	St. Spyridon the Wonderworker
Sunday, December 15	Eleventh Sunday of Luke St. Eleftherios the Martyr
Tuesday, December 17	Daniel the Prophet St. Dionysios of Zakynthos
Sunday, December 22	Sunday before the Nativity
Tuesday, December 24	Great Hours of Christmas 10:00am Vespers Divine Liturgy of Christmas 6:00pm
Wednesday, December 25	The Nativity of Our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ
Sunday, December 29	Sunday After Nativity

Unless otherwise noted, all services begin with Matins at 9:00am, followed by the Divine Liturgy.



CHRIST IS BORN

glorify Him!

JOIN OUR CHURCH FAMILY IN WORSHIP
TO CELEBRATE THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

CHRISTMAS MORNING

ORTHROS 9:00AM
DIVINE LITURGY 10:00AM



SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA
ANNUNCIATION
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

A LETTER FROM FATHER JAMES

My beloved Annunciation Church family,

To everything *there is* a season,
A time for every purpose under heaven:
A time to be born,
And a time to die;
A time to break down,
And a time to build up; (Ecclesiastes 3)


There is a Jewish tradition that King Solomon wrote Ecclesiastes at an advanced age, and while I don't think of myself as old, these words resound with me as I share with you Presbytera Barbara's and my decision for me to retire as Proistamenos of Annunciation, effective November 1, 2024.

It has been my singular joy and privilege to work with and serve you the faithful of Annunciation these past nineteen years, celebrating the joys and sorrows we share in Christ. It has indeed been a fulfillment of His promise: "*I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.*" (John 10:10) You have filled my Priestly vocation with abundant joy in so many ways and I thank God for you.

However, it is now time (kairos!) for a younger man to continue the Apostolic work of our Church, and for me to yield to him the privilege and honor to serve the One High Priest, our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ as your Priest, for: "*According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.*" (1 Cor 3:9-11).

So let us now fervently pray for Father Vincent Minucci to serve you and work together for a smooth transition of leadership, for as St. Paul reminds us: "*we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, even so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who tests our hearts.*" (1 Thessalonians 2:4)

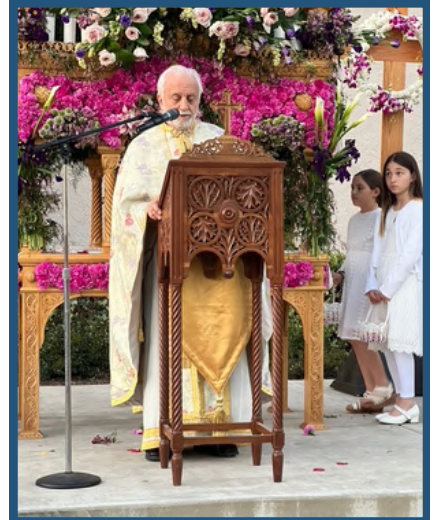
With love in Christ,



Father James



THANK YOU, FATHER JAMES



THANK YOU, FATHER JAMES



RETIREMENT & WELCOME EVENTS



ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF SACRAMENTO
INVITES YOU TO

A Retirement Celebration

IN HONOR OF

Father James Petelas

SATURDAY *the* NINTH of NOVEMBER
two thousand twenty-four

VESPERS SERVICE
at five o'clock in the evening
Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church

CELEBRATION RECEPTION
Cocktail Hour at six o'clock in the evening
Dinner at seven o'clock in the evening
Annunciation Hellenic Center

Tickets \$75

Donations will be accepted in support of a charity of Father James' choice

Reservations are required by Sunday, October 27
to tiny.cc/father-james or the Annunciation Church Office



RETIREMENT & WELCOME EVENTS

JOIN OUR ANNUNCIATION FAMILY FOR A

*welcome
coffee fellowship*

HONORING FATHER VINCENT,
PRESBYTERA NADIA & FAMILY

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3

FOLLOWING THE DIVINE LITURGY

ANNUNCIATION HELLENIC CENTER



*Please join our Annunciation family as we honor
and celebrate the retirement of Father James Retelas*

FAREWELL COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Sunday, November 10, 2024

Immediately following the Divine Liturgy
Annunciation Hellenic Center

Presentations will be made by our Annunciation ministries

*Donations are accepted in support of a charity of Father James' choice by visiting
tiny.cc/charitable-donation*

PASTORAL MESSAGE

Our Sexual Selves

A casual observer would say that the Orthodox Church is old fashioned or even “antique.” After all, look at our worship services, our music, the way our Priests dress. I think it might be more accurate to describe us as “conservative.” We do change. Slowly. We used Greek, but now in this country we also use English because we live in an English-speaking country. We have electricity and indoor plumbing. You might say we are cautious about change. Do we really want the Church to be “trendy”? Frankly, trendy is often undirected and perhaps even hazardous. Our culture is ready to experiment with things without any clear idea of either short- or long-term effects. For example, the world’s plastic pollution. Plastic seemed like such a good idea in the 1950’s. For years now, Christian Churches have been waging a losing battle with the shifting sexual standards of our culture. Along with most Western countries, America experienced the so-called “sexual revolution” in the 1960’s when young people and then society as a whole began to redefine sexual morality. In the years that followed that turbulence, we learned that being sexually “free” came with risks that might include death. Now we no longer talk about “free love” but “safe sex” and, of course, “sexual abuse” and “sexual exploitation.” The “gay liberation” movement began in 1969, and now our society talks about non-binary sexuality and transgender identities as if somehow these notions/identities are “natural” and have always been around.

A trend that grew out of this sexual revolution increasingly disturbs us Priests and hopefully disturbs you. It is the casual cohabitation of unmarried young people, usually but not always young people who plan to be married. Somehow the message has gotten out that if you love someone and are thinking about marrying him or her, then it is okay if you have sex and okay if you live together. If you have gotten that message, it has not come from the Church. The Church’s expectation has always been that couples, even engaged couples, remain apart and celibate until they marry. There are plenty of couples who do struggle to remain chaste, but the trend is increasingly going the other way. It puts us in a very difficult position because we care deeply about the couples who come to us, and we want them to get married in the Church, but we do not want to support decisions that the Church (read “God”) regards as sinful. It is especially difficult for us when one partner is Orthodox and the other is not, and that is more and more common. The Orthodox partner has completely failed to uphold what is supposed to be their own sexual standard. How do we talk to them? Where is the common ground? Common moral ground does not exist in our culture anymore, and increasingly even the Orthodox partner is somehow ignorant of what the Church expects. I suspect that part of our problem here also derives from the identical lamentable trend in Greece. Couples live together and have a wedding and reception when the first baby is baptized.

Part of our problem here also derives from wide-spread ignorance of what God says to us in Scripture. Do you read Scripture? The Bible has some clear statements about sex. Realize that we humans must adopt some standard of sexual behavior. We cannot just do whatever occurs to us. We would get into serious trouble. The crucial question is this: Whose standards do we take? Our own idiosyncratic standards? The ever-changing standards of our “trendy” culture? Or God’s standards? If we want to be Christians, we need to take the last option. Let me summarize the Traditional, Orthodox, Biblical, Christian standard for sexual morality this way: God expects all of us to practice sexual self-control. God tells us to be “chaste.” God allows most of us to get married, and God blesses sex in marriage. Sex outside of marriage is always sinful; that is, it does not conform to God’s expectations. God never tells us indulgently “You kids just do whatever feels good.” God is a Father who cares about how we behave, and He knows what is good for us. Read the Apostle Paul’s argument in his first letter to the Corinthians, chapters 5 through 7. Bear in mind that he is writing to people living in a very sensual culture. That is a bit of the theology. Let me be practical. There are some reasons why it is potentially dangerous to “move in” with someone. There is always family or peer disapproval or the embarrassment of an “unplanned” pregnancy. (Remember that the Church regards abortion as murder.) Beyond this, there is the problem that sex functions very well to strengthen a relationship. When you have sex with someone, you will likely form a bond

PASTORAL MESSAGE

with that person. If you “get physical” too soon, your critical faculties are going to get short-circuited! You run the risk of, as one team of family therapists have phrased it, “sliding” into the most important relationship in your life instead of purposefully and deliberately “deciding” on the relationship. “Living together” without the commitment of marriage is also dangerous because a high percentage of those live-in relationships do not survive. The overall divorce rate of 40 to 50% in our country is high in contrast to the rest of the world (although it seems overall to be dropping a bit). The failure rate for live in’s (admittedly harder to track) is estimated to be upwards of 90%! “Breaking up” is not as traumatic as divorce, but it is still painful and leaves emotional scars. Why put yourself through that? I have a theory that we human beings can successfully endure a limited number of “breakups.” Living together before marriage will not make your marriage more successful or enduring. In fact, recent research indicates that couples who cohabit prior to marriage experience more distress in marriage and have more risk for divorce! Why “play house”? If you truly love someone and he or she is a Christian and would make a good spouse, then why not just get married?

By the way, if you are living with someone or just having sex with someone to whom you are not married, do not come for Holy Communion! Serious persistent sin renders us “unworthy” of Communion. The Apostle Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 11: “Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be answerable for the body and blood of the Lord. Examine yourselves, and only then eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For all who eat and drink without discerning the body, eat and drink judgment against themselves. For this reason, many of you are weak and ill, and some have died.” Pray that God will help you regularize your relationship. If you need advice, call us.

God is not trying to frustrate us or keep an important fulfilling experience from us. He wants the best for us, and the very best is sex within a loving, committed marriage relationship with someone who loves you exclusively. If you want to be a Christian, Christ comes to you (and me) and asks us for everything, all our thoughts, our desires, our bodies. In return, Christ offers us everything. He offers us Himself and the prospect of eternal life in His Kingdom. On behalf of the Lord Jesus, His Holy Church, myself and every other Priest in our Church, on behalf of all the Saints throughout the years who have made heroic efforts to live in chastity and keep themselves pure in and out of marriage, please take this to heart! If you have questions, please come talk to us. Think about this. If you need to come in for Confession, please call us. The Lord Jesus loves you! We sincerely love you, and we are not here to judge you. We only want the very best for you.

In Christ,

Fr. Timothy

ANNUNCIATION PARISH CALENDAR

STAY UP-TO-DATE ON UPCOMING SERVICES AND EVENTS WITH THE

Annunciation Parish Calendar

tiny.cc/parishcalendar

LETTER FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

At the end of every year, we often reflect on the previous year and what may come in the new year. This year, we at Annunciation also get to do this in a parish context with the retirement of Fr. James Retelas and the appointment of Fr. Vincent (Vinnie) Minucci. The change in our parish's proistamenos only happens every 20 years or so. Nineteen years ago, Fr. James succeeded Fr. Dogias (of blessed memory) as Annunciation's proistamenos, with Fr. Dogias serving 24 years as Annunciation's proistamenos.

Do we remember what the world was like 20 years ago? What do we think the world will be like 20 years from now? What do we want our parish to be like in 20 years? What do we, as Orthodox Christians, want our city, our country, and our world to be like in 20 years? We, as parishioners *and* Orthodox Christians, should not just think about these last two questions, but accept them as a challenge. We should challenge ourselves (and each other) to continue growing this parish, our faith within this parish, and our faith beyond this parish. We have all the people, facilities, resources, ministries, and the faith; we just have to act.

In closing, I'd like to welcome Fr. Vinnie, Presbyteria Nadia, and their two sons (Sami and Gabriel) to Annunciation. We are excited to have you as part of our parish family. Additionally, I'd like to congratulate Fr. James for his 19 years of service here at Annunciation and close with an anecdote. During the swearing-in of parish council members in 2023, Fr. James asked this rhetorical question: "Is the parish your universe or is the universe your parish?" Let us consider this question as this parish enters into a new era with a new proistamenos.

Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas and holiday season.

In Christ,

RJ Hansen
Parish Council Secretary



STEWARDSHIP

STEWARDSHIP 2024 BELIEVE, BELONG, BE LOVED

The joy of **believing** comes from believing in God, to whom we give our love, loyalty, and trust.

The joy of **belonging** comes from becoming practicing stewards by being responsible caretakers of His House of Worship and lovingly participating in the life of His Church.

The joy of **being loved** comes from experiencing the love of God and the love we have for one another in our faith community.



Annunciation Ministries Made Possible by Our Stewards

Acolytes • Altar Guild • Annunciation Bookstore • Annunciation Choir
Annunciation Endowment Fund • Annunciation Historical Society • Athletics Ministry
Annunciation Senior League • Byzantine Chant Choir • Dance Support Group & Ministry
Epistle Reading • Fr. Demetri T. Dogias Library and Archives • GOYA • Greek School
Hellenic Golf Classic • Hellenic Orthodox Education & Cultural Center • HOPE • JOY
Myrrh-Bearers • Orthodox Basic Training • Parish Council • Philoptochos Society
Stewardship Committee • Studies in the Faith • Sunday School • Young Professionals

Make your pledge online at
annunciationsac.org/stewardship
or return a pledge card to the Church Office

Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church, Sacramento • 616 Alhambra Blvd • Sacramento, CA 95816 • (916) 443-2033 • annunciationsac.org

PHILOPTOCHOS

Philoptochos News

Blessings in a Backpack:

The members of Annunciation's Philoptochos want to thank our parishioners for contributing to the Blessings in a Backpack fund to purchase and fill 120 backpacks with school supplies for children who attend the Leataata Floyd Elementary School. Most of the student body lives in the public housing complex across the street from the school that is named after Mrs. Floyd, a beloved member of the community who lived in this low-income housing complex for over 40 years. She advocated for the improvement of the housing complex and volunteered her time at the school coaching and mentoring students. This year, \$570 was collected in one month from our parish's coffee hour donations, and \$380 was donated separately to Blessings in a Backpack. We were able to purchase backpacks, college ruled notebooks, pens, pencils, glue sticks and more, that covered all our expenses for Blessings in a Backpack. Your donations are a blessing!

As Philoptochos members, we try to help families and causes that assist those in need. We want to thank those individuals, families and members of Philoptochos who have sponsored Sunday coffee fellowship where we are able to ask parish members to help with Blessings in Backpack, Baskets for the Homebound, Mustard Seed, Wellspring Women's Center, Women's Empowerment, the Sacramento Food Bank, and our Homeless Charities. The dollars we collect also make it easier for us to supplement our charitable obligations, and those emergency requests that are not budgeted.

Please consider sponsoring a coffee fellowship in memory of your loved ones or "just because" it is a time to enjoy visiting with family and friends. You can contact Donna Wagner @ 916-214-9794, or you can also schedule memorial prayers, in Church, with Effie Theodor, and sponsor a coffee fellowship at the same time. You can contact Effie @ (916) 443-2033 ext. 222.

Whether coffee fellowship sponsors are hosting in memory of loved ones or "just because", the members of Philoptochos want to thank you for your generosity and your support of Philoptochos and our charities.

ANNUNCIATION PARISH ASSEMBLY

ANNUNCIATION PARISH ASSEMBLY

Sunday, December 1, 2024

Following the Divine Liturgy

Annunciation Hellenic Center

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS



GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
ANNUNCIATION
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

FOUR POSITIONS OPEN
THREE-YEAR TERM BEGINNING JANUARY 2025

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2024

VOTING TO TAKE PLACE IN PERSON ONLY
FOLLOWING DIVINE LITURGY
IN THE FIRST FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
VOTING WILL CLOSE AT 3PM

Our parish Board of Elections Committee is responsible for seeking dedicated, quality candidates to serve and strengthen our church to be on the Parish Council. If you have any questions about being on the parish council or want to run for a position, please contact a member of Board of Elections committee. Their contact information is listed below. God asks us all to give of our time, talents and treasures to his house of worship. Serving on the parish council will allow you to share your talents and gifts with your church.

Duties of a Parish Council Member:

- Parish Council is a ministry and those who serve are called to represent Christ to all whom they meet in all aspects of their life.
- Regular attendance at Divine Liturgy services and participation in the sacramental life of the church.
- Oversee administration, financial health, and physical upkeep and improvements of our church and campus.
- Meet and work with others you may not have known well in this parish.

Candidate Qualifications:

- Be a parishioner of Annunciation in good standing for at least one year.
- Have been Baptized/Chrismated into the Orthodox Christian Tradition.
- Live their life in accordance with the Faith and Canons of the Church.
- Be 18 years of age or older.
- Be current in their stewardship and other financial obligations to the Church.
- Cooperate in every way towards the welfare and well-being of the Parish.

Board of Elections Committee Members:

- Vanessa Salas Kassotakis, vanessas201@gmail.com
- Yianni Kazanis, ioannis.kazanis@gmail.com
- Lindsey Kivetos, lfkivetos@gmail.com
- Dr. Nicholas Rotas, nrotas1@mac.com

SACRAMENTO GREEK FESTIVAL



It's September 5, as I'm sitting at my computer writing this, about a month before the festival. This time last year, I was mildly anxious about the extensive list of things to do while writing a missive imploring my fellow parishioners to underwrite festival foodstuffs, become a sponsor, and to volunteer to set up, work a booth, or to tear down the festival. This year, while still mildly anxious, I'm writing a preemptive thank you note that will be published after our festival.

Thank you for volunteering at our 61st Annual Greek Festival!

Please see the photos of hardworking pastry making volunteers.

Thank you for your support in underwriting and sponsoring our festival!

Please see the donor list (current at time of printing.)

Thank you for spending countless hours toiling in hot kitchens, cold freezers, at the tilt brazier or a deep fryer, stocking your booth, or any of the other volunteer positions needed before, during, and after our festival.

Please see the 2024 Festival Chairpeople.

Our festival is a success because of your help. You are truly appreciated!

More details and photos of our great Festival will be forthcoming in future Observer articles.

Respectfully,

Stefanie Hionis for the 2024 Greek Festival Board: Stefanie Hionis, Chris Georgoulis, George Chuchas, Emily Coleman, Michael Dariotis, Dan Eriksson, Helen Grammatitakis, Julie Mamalis, & Demetri Romas

(Oh, what's that you say? You didn't donate or volunteer this year. You're in luck! Through November 1st, donations can still be made our website: <http://sacramentogreekfestival.com/sponsors>. Prep for festival 2025 will begin after Easter. We'll see you there!)



Sacramento Greek Festival Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

THURSDAY, November 7TH at 6:00pm

at the Annunciation Hellenic Center (616 Alhambra)

Please RSVP by 11/4 calling the Church Office at (916) 443-2033 x221



SACRAMENTO GREEK FESTIVAL

Thank you to our 2024 Festival Chairpeople!
We appreciate your hard work and dedication!

Festival Board	
Co-Chairs	Chris Georgoulas, Stefanie Hionis
Members	Emily Coleman, George Chuchas, Michael Dariotis, Dan Eriksson, Helen Grammatikakis, Julie Mamalis, Demetri Romas
Pre-Festival Activities Chairpersons	
Décor & Hellenica	Julie Mamalis
Donations	Michael Dariotis, Gerri Magers, Michael Haralambakis
Facilities	Dan Eriksson
Graphic Design	Nikiforos Kalfountzos
Planning	Stefanie Hionis
Public Relations & Social Media	Koula Fotopoulos, Sandra Kordazakis
Purchasing	Helen Grammatikakis
Signage	Manuel Tsihlas, Demetre Fotos
Transportation & Parking	Stefanie Hionis
Vendor Relations	Christos Fotopoulos
Website	Stefanie Hionis
Overall Food Chairperson Helen Grammatikakis	
Individual Food Chairpersons: Helen Grammatikakis, Faye Vallas, Donna Wagner, Kate Margaris, Maria Sampanis, Emily Coleman, Stefanie Hionis, Marika Tsardoulas, Maria Verrios	
Set Up/Breakdown	
Planning & Execution	Dan Eriksson
Festival Event Chairpersons	
Admissions	Emily Coleman, Vanessa Kassotakis
Annunciation Bookstore	Effie Crush, Tammy Petsalis, Carol Rotas, Cynthia Siokos
Church Tours	Father James Retelas, Father Timothy Robinson
Entertainment Manager	Nicole Pikios
Clover Guru	W. Nicholas Rotas
Estiatorio	Gary Leonard, Irina Rebegeanu, Manuel Tsihlas
Festival Souvenirs Booth	Christina Chuchas, Eleni Crush, Katherine Rotas
Food Demos	Katina Bostanzoglou, Kiki Magnuson, Kristen Kane, Maria Sampanis
Gyros	Miltos Apostolidis, Nick Avdis, Chris Georgoulas, Demetri Romas
Heritage Panels & Art	Demetre Fotos
Horiatiki Salata	Jim Chuchas
Kafenion	Anastasios & Stefanie Hionis
Kitchen Managers	George Chuchas, Michael Dariotis
Loukoumathes	Yiota Makris, Sophia Callas
MC	Tim Hayes
Meze	Chris & Kristen Kane
Office	Anna Brusco, George Chuchas
Pandopoleon	Pres. Barbara Retelas, Elaine Wright, Christine Kouvaris
Raffle	Bill Triphon
Runners	Ryan Coleman
Saganaki	Dan Eriksson
Taverna	George Anastasopoulos, Christine Dariotis, Peter Fotopoulos, Takis Fotopoulos
Volunteer Manager	Emily Coleman
Zaharoplastion	Helen Grammatikakis, Nicolette Madrid

SACRAMENTO GREEK FESTIVAL

Thank you to our 2024 Festival Sponsors, Donors, & Underwriters! **

We appreciate your support!



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Helen Grammatikakis

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InterState Oil Company

Dr. Ralph J. Isola, DDS

Terry Kastanis

Moni Kondos, in honor of Greg Kondos

George Koufasimis & Loula Kufasimes

Manuel & Dianna Tsihlias

PEARL SPONSORS

Costa & Victoria Dimitriades * Chris & Kristen Kane * Demetri & Malamo Romas * Drs. Nicholas & Carol Rotas *

Evagelia Gasnakis * Fr. James & Pres. Barbara Retelas * George & Christina Chuchas * In memory of Hal Athon *

JM Equipment * Lind Brothers Funeral Home * Margo Tzikas & Family * Nikki & Nick Avdis * Panorea Avdis &

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Georgoulas * Chris, Maria, & Nikko Higdon * Chris, Maria, & Nikko Higdon * Cynthia & Buzz * Dale

Manolakas & Roy Shults * Demetre, Dimitra, & Dino Haralambakis * Dennis & Robin Kamilos * Dennis

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Joseph * Gary Leonard * George & Mary Ellen Kassotakis * Gerri Magers * Hionis Family * Howard &

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Faye Vallas * Jerry & Elaine Wright * Jim & Robin Kafouros * Jim & Desi Chuchas * Joann Georgallis &

Derwin Clarke * John Christie * John Hagelis * John Kaufman & Family * Julie Mamalis * Kal

Manolakas * Kathleen Manolakas * Katia Sampanis * Liz Dokimos * Louis Grivetti * Marshall

Pryor * Mary Dokimos Lydon * Michael, Deanna & Kalliope Haralambakis * Nick Kamilos, in memory of

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SACRAMENTO GREEK FESTIVAL



Koulourakia Prep



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SACRAMENTO GREEK FESTIVAL



Baklava Prep



ANNUNCIATION VOLLEYBALL

ANNUNCIATION VOLLEYBALL ST. NICHOLAS VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT SAN JOSE • OCTOBER 18-20, 2024



We had a fun weekend at the volleyball tournament in San Jose! It was a great competition and our teams represented our church very well. Our Junior GOYA team got third place!

We would like to express our appreciation and gratitude to the Annunciation Endowment Fund for their continued support for this special ministry!



ANNUNCIATION HISTORICAL SOCIETY



H H

Our Annunciation's HISTORICAL SOCIETY's mission is to preserve and celebrate the rich history and traditions of the Greeks in the Sacramento region. Our first project is writing a small book highlighting the Greeks in the greater Sacramento area. (Similar books have been written about the Greeks in Phoenix, San Francisco, and Chicago.)

Historical photographs are essential and we would appreciate your help in finding interesting pictures. Do you have any good pictures you think we could use? These could depict agriculture, formation of the parish, social events, business, politics, culture, art, celebrations, armed forces, social life and sports --- all focusing on the Greeks in and around Sacramento.

Please look through your old family photos. If you have any relevant photographs you'd like to share for possible inclusion in our book, please speak with any of the society's members or contact Bill Triphon at btriphon@comcast.net.

Thank you.

Bill Triphon , Terry Kastanis, Jim Chuchas, Julie Mamalis,
Katerina Lagos, Maria Sampanis, and Antonia Chapralis

ANNUNCIATION BRIDGE-DOMINOES GROUP



Annunciation Bridge-Dominoes Group



Come join us! The Bridge Dominoes Group meets on the 4th Wednesday of the month in the Annunciation Hellenic Center 10:30am–2:00pm for game playing fun and fellowship. We have a no-host lunch break with a yummy dessert provided by the host for the month. Some experience is needed for Bridge. We will teach you our version of Mexican Train Dominoes within a few hands. No experience needed! No stress—just fun! For more information contact Sophia Evrigenis for Bridge and Liz Dokimos for Dominoes. Cell phone numbers are in the Church Directory or email:

Sophia Evrigenis: sophiage@sbcglobal.net, Liz Dokimos: lizdokimos@comcast.net.

ANNUNCIATION BOOKSTORE



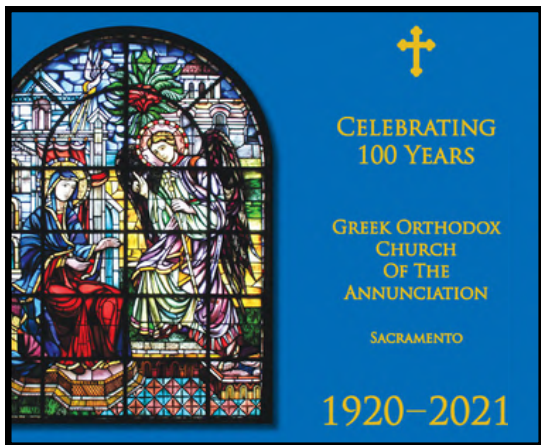
ANNUNCIATION BOOKSTORE NEWS

We've been busy sourcing new products in preparation for upcoming events and the Advent Season. Come by after liturgy and see what's new in gifts, jewelry, books and children's gifts. Some of our favorite items are:

- Natural stone bracelets with a little gold cross charm.
- Turquoise "Van Cleef style" cross with gold trim.
- Square edge stone crosses with gold edges in turquoise or white mother of pearl.
- Beautifully illustrated children's books.
- Nativity icons and other popular saints in gold leaf.
- Jerusalem Stone Comfort Cross - Each set includes two distinct crosses, one smooth and the other rough, symbolizing the dual nature of existence. The smooth cross, meant to be placed in the casket or urn with the departed, represents the serene peace experienced in heaven. The rough cross, remaining with the living, embodies the earthly challenges faced while preserving the memory of their beloved.

Save the date for these upcoming events:

- Christmas Tree Lane, November 19, 12:00 - 8:00 and November 20, 9:00 - 3:00. We will be offering an assortment of religious gift items to the general public as Jesuit High School brings this popular annual event to Annunciation's Hall, chaired by Christine Dariotis.
- Children's Shopping Spree, December 1 after liturgy: In the spirit of St Nickolas, all children enrolled in the Annunciation religious education program will be given the opportunity to shop for others. We will offer wonderful Christmas items priced from \$1 - \$10, gift wrapping included. Please send your kids to church this day with cash.



As a reminder,
our 100th Anniversary
Commemorative Album is
available for purchase in our
Annunciation Bookstore.

A JOURNEY TO FULLNESS

A JOURNEY TO FULLNESS

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE FULLNESS OF THE ORIGINAL CHRISTIAN FAITH

Wednesdays
Beginning October 9
7:00 pm

Annunciation
Hellenic Center

All Welcome

Information: (916) 443-2033, ext. 221



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Students attend the Divine Liturgy or assist our youth in class lessons and activities beginning at 10am. Middle School and High School lessons begin following Holy Communion.

Please contact sundayschool@annunciationsac.org with questions

SUNDAY SCHOOL




ANNUAL
SUNDAY SCHOOL
THANKSGIVING LUNCH
FOR STUDENTS
Sunday, November 24
Following Holy Communion
Classroom 2209



Sunday School
Christmas Program
Sunday, December 22
Immediately Following
the Divine Liturgy
Annunciation
Greek Orthodox Church


ACOLYTES



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2nd Grade and Up

Visit tiny.cc/altar2024

Please contact Gary Leonard with questions
garyleonard@hotmail.com

EPISTLE READING PROGRAM

Epistle Reading Program



The Epistle Reading Program is open to our parish youth (ages 10+) and is a wonderful opportunity for our children to take part in the Divine Liturgy on Sundays, and serve our community!

Please register and select reading dates at the link below. A confirmation will be emailed, along with the reading(s) for the selected date(s). Assistance is available to prepare new readers. Readers are needed every Sunday.

Please contact Nicki Hansen at nhansen@annunciationsac.org with questions.

tiny.cc/epistlereaders

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GREEK SCHOOL



GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
ANNUNCIATION
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA



OXI DAY CELEBRATION

Η Επέτειος του “OXI” (Ee epétios tou OHI) — “Oxi Day”

Come support one of our community's oldest ministries as we celebrate the hard work and achievements of our students. Enjoy refreshments, music, and activities that highlight the significance of Oxi Day.



Wednesday

October 30, 2024



Time

6:00 - 8:00 PM



Annunciation Hellenic Center, 616 Alhambra Blvd.

PARISH PHOTOS

Backpack Blessings • September 8, 2024



Ministries Kickoff • September 8, 2024



PARISH PHOTOS

Sacramento Greek Festival • October 4-6, 2024



St. Nicholas Volleyball Tournament, San Jose • October 18-20, 2024



PLEDGED STEWARDS 2024

AS OF 10/24/2024

ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE TO THE ONE WHO BELIEVES IN CHRIST

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Yiannis Nicholas Alexander
Peter Anagnoston
Christ & Helen Anastasopoulos
Georgios & Alexis Anastasopoulos
David & Evelyn Anderson
Jason & Martha Anderson
Joshua & Rebekah Anderson
Peter Andrews
Elizabeth & Petros Angelakis
Philip & Julie Angelides
Kosta Angelopoulos
Geoffrey & Antonia Antipa
Dina Apostolou
Katherine Arellanes
Paul & Elizabeth Arellanes
Vasiliki & John Argyris Wheeler
Demetra Athon
Dennis Augostatos
Theodoros & Georgia Avdalas
Nicholas & Nikki Avdis
Spyridon & Georgia Avdis
Spencer Awes
Emanuel & Sunday Balalis
Elias & Jane Bardis
Rachel & Steve Bardis Squaglia
Susan Bitar
Jamie Bobolis
Stephanie Bobolis
Denny Boom
Julia & Anton Boorinakis Harper
Anthony & Vicki Booros
John & Katina Bostanzoglou
Alexander, Athena & Agamemnon Bourdaniotis
Paul & Kostandina Bourdaniotis
P.J. & Vicky Bourdaniotis
Ted & Lily Bourdaniotis
Regina Bouzos-Brown
Evan Boylan
Anna Brusco
Katherine Buttacavoli
Andonia Cakouros
Peter & Sophia Callas
Cathryn Calmes
Dallas & Angela Calmes
Paul & Zaferia Cambra
John & Aglaia Capetanos
Peter & Fotine Casheros
Koula Cazanis
Pauline Cazanis
Voula Cazanis
Gus Changaris
Tim & Antonia Chapralis
Evan Chavez
Jack Chesson
Tony & Katherine "Kathi" Chrisopoulos
Mary Christi
Adoni & Kristen Christie
John & Julie Christie
Grigorios & Bettina Chrysofakis

George & Christina Chuchas
James & Despina Chuchas
James & Toula Clubb
John & Linda Compoginis
Peter & Soteria Cononelos
Antonia Const
Jim Const
Dennis & Jeanlaurie Corelis
Stamatiki Coss
Constantinos Courcoumelis
Carol & Berle Crisp
Eleni Crush
Timothy & Effie Crush
Christine Dariotis
Michael Dariotis
Matthew & Magdalene David
Linda Davison
Henry & Christina De Vere White
Maria De Ville
Irene DeKellis
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John & Despina Demas
John & Marianna Demas
John & Penelope Demas
Louis Demas
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Kathy Dokimos
Donald Dole
Katherine Dole
Elaine Donovan
Evangelina Douveas
Marina Downing
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Georgia Econome
Kiki Econome
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Peter & Anastasia Efstathiu
Nicholas & Jeanne Efstathiu
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Daniel & Maria Eriksson
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Gregory & Danae Evrigenis
Sophia Evrigenis
Samir & Nuha Fadayer
Michael & Elena Fazio
Dennis Ferrera
Edna Fields
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Christos Fotopoulos
George & Kathy Fotopoulos
John & Theofani Fotopoulos

Panagiotis Fotopoulos
Panayiotis Fotopoulos
Peter & Koula Fotopoulos
Phillip & Soula Fotopoulos
Antonia Fotos
Demetre & Christine Fotos
Kyriako & Brenda Fotos
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Andrew & Teresa Gates
Constantin & Maude (Micki) Genigeorgis
Nikolaos & Thalia Georgalis
Joann Georgallis
Christina George
Dianna George
John & Eleni George
Chris & Angie Georgoulas
Rose Geranios
Angela Gianopulos
Alex Gianulias
Angela Gianulias
Jessica Gianulias
Jon Gianulias
Pauline & Chris Gianulias
Antonia & Cooper Gianulias Hunt
Lener & Carmie Lee Gousetis
Helen Grammatikakis
Linda Gredvig
Louis & Georgette Grivetti
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George Hagios
Lynn Hall
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Jennifer Harry
Elias & Catherine Hatzakos
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William Hess
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Nikko Higdon
Anastasios & Stefanie Hionis
Ameen & Georgia Hofioni
Julian B. & Diane Holt
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Dino & Margarita Jakovas
Chris & Janine Johnson
Eric & Maia Johnson
Nancy Johnson
George Jougاناتos
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Phyllis Marie Kafouros
Panagiotis & Katerina Kakkavas
James & Kathy Kakridas

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AS OF 10/24/2024

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Michael & Stacie Kane
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Euphrosyne Karas
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George Kastanis
Terry Kastanis
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Athan & Maria Katsandres
Emorfia Katsimbras
Stelios & Angela Katakis
Andreas & Evelyn Kazanis
Ioannis & Cynthia "Cindy" Kazanis
Anthony & Gail Kentroti
Bess Kerhoulas
Connie Keriotis
Despina Kiriakes
Steven & Lindsey Kivetos
Peter Kleary
Pete & Maria Kokkinis
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Tony & Voula Kokologiannakis
Mary Kondos
Moni Kondos
Anthony Kontes
Stella Kontes
Nikolaos D. & Bernadette Kontos
Chris & Alexandra Kordazakis
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George & Kathy Koumis
William & Christine Kouvaris
Stan & Angie Kritsepis
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Valerie & Greg Kuchulis
William & Terri Kuchulis
Loula Kufasimes
Nicholas & Michele Kufasimes
Carl & Tricia Kuhn
Andreas Kush
John & Mary Kyriakides
Stelios Kyriakides
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Joanna & Benjamin Leventis-Noonan
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Thomas & Emily Liakos
Esther Lilakos
Jesus Loaiza

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Mary Lydon
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Ryan & Sotiria Magby
Geraldine Magers
Maro & Chris Maguire
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Thomas & Yiota Makris
Julie Mamalis
Exaveria Manikas
Anne Manolakas
Kathleen Manolakas
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Sam & Ann (Ourania) Marandos
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Steve & Katherine Margaritis
Sylvia Maritsas
Nia Marketos
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AS OF 10/24/2024

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Robyn Urvinitka
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Theodoros Vasiliou
Nick & Christina Vathis
Aleko & Maria Verrios
Vasilis & Judy Verrios
Vasseliki Vervilos
Anthony & Athanasia Virgadamo
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Stavros & Eleftheria Vougioukas
Anastasia & Jason Vourakis - Stroud
Efstratios "Steve" Vourakis
Strati & Katherine Vourakis
Dimitri Vouros
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Anestis & Areti Yiaslas
Athanasios & Elizabeth Yiaslas

And our stewards who wish
to remain anonymous

Pledged Families: 411

Please contact accounting@annunciationsac.org with questions

PUBLICATION SUBMISSION DEADLINES

Sunday Bulletin

Wednesdays by 4pm to nhansen@annunciationsac.org

Limited to Annunciation parish and parochial ministry activities and announcements

This Week at Annunciation Email

Wednesdays by 4pm to nhansen@annunciationsac.org

Quarterly Observer

December 10th to observer@annunciationsac.org

COMMUNITY CORNER



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

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\$25.00 Quarter Page

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

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Quarterly (Rev 2024)

AD SIZE	QUARTERLY	ANNUAL
Full Size	\$225.00	\$750.00
Half-Page	\$125.00	\$400.00
Quarter-Page	\$70.00	\$200.00
Business Card	\$40.00	\$100.00
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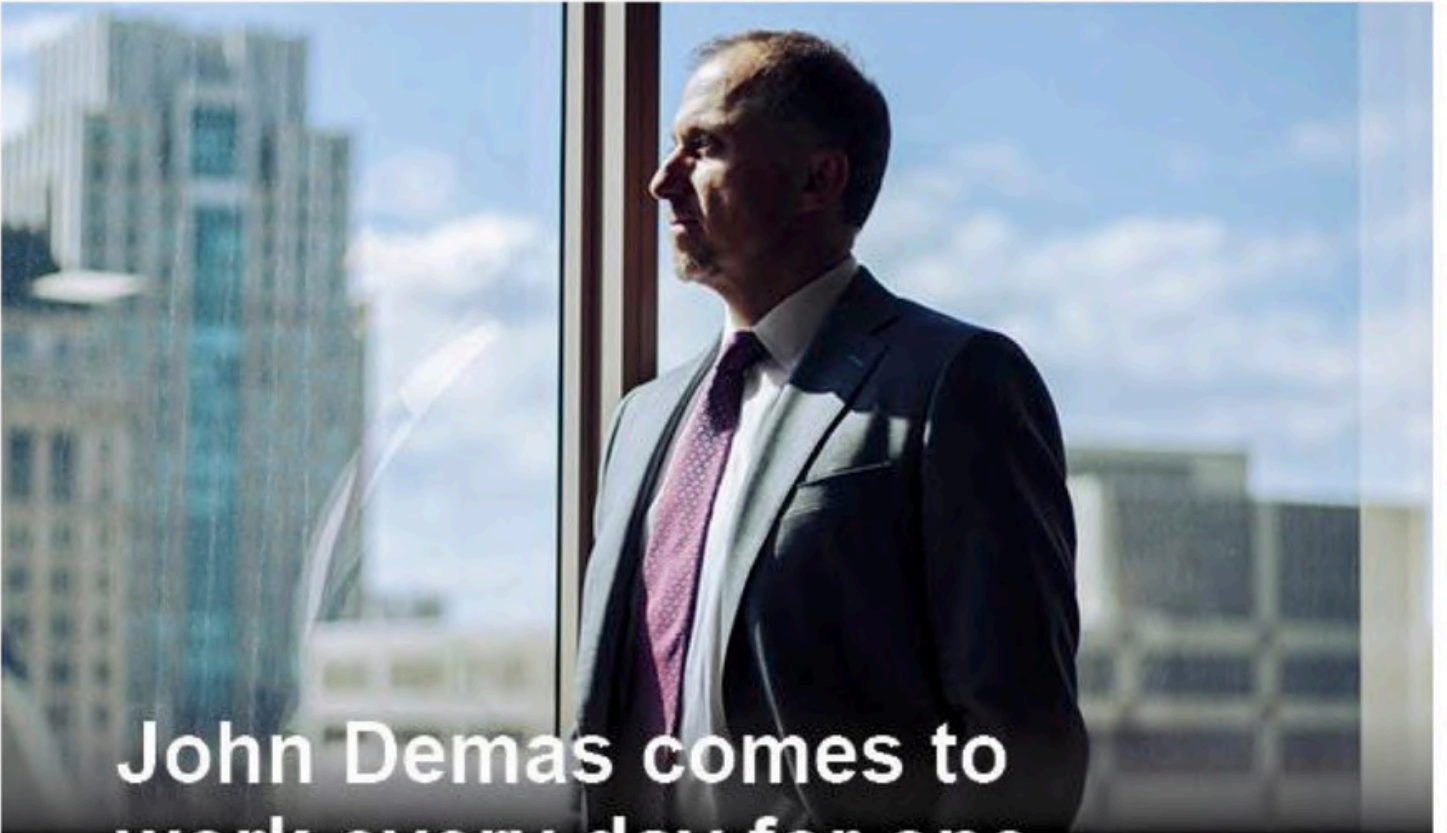
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of the Annunciation**

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