

# OBSERVER



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# GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH ANNUNCIATION SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

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#### THE ANNUNCIATION OBSERVER

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#### IN THIS ISSUE

Annunciation Sacramento at FDF 2020	16-17
Annunciation Senior League	9
The Build	7
Calendar	14-15
Centennial	10-11
Community Corner	23-24
Community Update	2
Dance Support Group	13
Greek School	12
Hellenic Golf Classic	19
Liturgical Schedule for Great Lent	4
Liturgical Schedule for Holy and Great Week	5
Parish Council	6
Pastoral Message	3
Philoptochos	8
Pledge Stewards List	20-21
St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival	19
Stewardship Message	7
Sunday School	12
Younger Marrieds and Working Singles	19
Youth and Young Adult Ministries	18



# COMMUNITY UPDATE

We welcome to the church:

Eleni, Baptized and Chrismated

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

Peter Mering Sylvester Padilla, Jr. Constantine "Gus" Petrakos Theodore Metropoulos Fran Sellas Jenny Kleary

# PASTORAL MESSAGE

#### Gratification or Edification?

he annual Folk Dance Festival (FDF) of our Metropolis draws thousands of Greek Orthodox Christians for a weekend of fellowship, worship, song and dance. As of this writing, five dance groups from Annunciation, with their parents and directors, will travel to Anaheim in anticipation of repeating their amazing award-winning accomplishments from last year. There are nearly 200 of us attending from Sacramento, a group larger than most parishes in the Archdiocese. Aside from Annunciation's long-standing affiliation with the dance program, what is it that motivates so many of our young people to rehearse for months and at no small cost to their parents? I would conclude it is "cultural"



gratification." I remember with much fondness my four-year old daughter in her traditional custom dancing to her heart's content, and back when the little ones, barely toddlers (now Division 3) used to actually compete! And now I look forward to seeing my grandchildren dance and enjoy this wonderful fellowship with their peers. Enjoying one's culture (small "t" tradition) is certainly to be commended and celebrated but, let's be honest, it is only the starting point (the context) for "clothing" ourselves is the Living Tradition (Capital T) of our precious and timeless Orthodox Christian faith. A dance program is gratifying for obvious reasons, but unless it promotes **spiritual edification**, aka Christian formation and love for God and our fellow man, we are nothing more than "a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal" (I Corinthians 13:1).

We face a special challenge at Annunciation, one that I recently shared with our dancers and parents, how to deepen our commitment to Christ liturgically in the context of particular cultural realities. Let me blunt. How do we retool our approach to youth ministries to create a worship experience that is inviting and memorable? We need to rethink how we educate our youth and focus on Christian education (catechism) for the whole family. We need to ask the hard questions. Why are our young people able and eager to learn extremely difficult dances but may not know the names of the four Gospel writers? Why do they make the concerted effort to memorize and execute folk dances perfectly tuned but they won't show up for 90 minutes on Sunday morning to offer praise to God with those same voices? Obviously, I'm directing these questions to you the parents and grandparents. I'm challenging you to commit your time and talents to revitalizing our efforts to build up (edify) our youth. I say this not because the youth are our future. That is a false premise. Rather, the Church is the future of our youth. In the increasingly secular culture that defines America, their only hope for true healing and growth in Christ is in and through the Church. At the risk of stating the obvious the only way to really experience the love of Christ, the only way to fully be a Christian, is to be in Church and become alive in the Liturgy. Please join me and our Church family to be more vigilant in our corporate prayer life (come to Liturgy!) and to be open to the prompting of the Holy Spirit on how to move beyond cultural gratification to the fullness of our life in Christ. Let us give new expression and life to the Psalmist's proclamation: "Praise him with timbrel and dance; praise him with strings and pipe!" (Ps. 150:4)

Kali Sarakosti!

Father James

# LITURGICAL SCHEDULE FOR GREAT LENT

n preparation for Great Lent, we remember those who have departed this life with the Divine Liturgy and memorial prayers – called Saturday of the Souls. Please bring a list of the names of those who have fallen asleep in the Lord and Koliva if you wish.

The Saturdays of the Soul begin with Orthros at 9:00 am, followed by the Divine Liturgy, and concluding with the memorial prayers. The third and final Saturday of the Souls will be on **Saturday**, **March** 7<sup>th</sup>.

Great Lent calls us to prepare for the Resurrection of our Lord, God, and Savior, Jesus Christ. There are two main components to Great Lent; fasting and prayer. As St. Synklitiki of Alexandria, a 4th century desert mother and monastic, writes, "Just as the most bitter medicine drives out poisonous things, so prayer joined to fasting drives evil thoughts away". St. John Chrysostom also writes, "The fast of Lent has no advantage to us unless it brings about our spiritual renewal. It is necessary while fasting to change our whole life and practice virtue. Turning away from all wickedness means; keeping our tongue in check, restraining our anger, avoiding all gossip, lying and swearing. To abstain from these things—herein is the true value of the fast. St. John Chrysostom again writes, which summarizes the goal of this season, "For what good is it if we abstain from meat and fishes, but bite and devour our brothers?"

With this mentality we should approach fasting and Great Lent!

Fasting, without prayer, is simply dieting, which is why we increase our prayer life through attendance and participation in the services of our Church. During Great Lent, we pray three beautiful and unique Church services; The Great Compline, the Presanctified Liturgy, and the Salutations to the Theotokos ( $X\alpha\iota\varrho\epsilon\tau\iota\sigma\mu\circ\iota$ ). We invite you to pray with us these services during Great Lent:

Great Compline | Mondays 6:00 pm Presanctified Liturgy | Wednesdays 6:00 pm Salutations to the Theotokos (Χαιρετισμοί) | Fridays 7:00 pm

During Great Lent, we will celebrate the feast of the Annunciation – to which our church is dedicated:

Great Vespers for the Feast of the Annunciation of the Theotokos
Tuesday, March 24th – 7:00 pm
Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Annunciation of the Theotokos
Wednesday, March 25th – 9:00 am Orthros, 10:00 am Divine Liturgy

### Orthodoxy 101

Father James will lead a class on the basics of Orthodoxy from 7:15 to 8:30 pm on Mondays during Great Lent, following the 6 pm Great Compline service. The class is designed for inquirers or anyone interested in deepening their experience of Orthodox Christianity.

Following are the topics to be covered:

March 2: Why There is No Salvation Outside the Church

March 9: Holy Scripture and Sacred Tradition March 16: Church History and the Councils

March 23: The Sacraments

**March 30:** The Communion of Saints, Icons and Architecture

April 6: The 8th Day: Feasting and Fasting

# LITURGICAL SCHEDULE FOR HOLY WEEK

#### The reign of life has begun, the tyranny of death is ended...

This is the day the Lord has made—a day far different from those made when the world was first created, and which are measured by the passage of time. This is the beginning of a new creation.

- St. Gregory of Nyssa (384)



e arrive at Holy Week and we are called to gather daily at the church to walk with Christ into Jerusalem, to the Mystical Supper, to His betrayal, passion, and crucifixion, and finally, His glorious Resurrection!

#### Saturday of Lazarus | April 11th

Orthros and Divine Liturgy 9:00 am | 10:00 am – Youth Retreat & folding palm crosses after church **Palm Sunday** | **April 12**<sup>th</sup>

Orthros and Divine Liturgy – 9:00 am | 10:00 am

Matins of Holy Monday: Service of the Bridegroom – 7:00 pm

Holy Monday | April 13th

Matins of Holy Tuesday: Service of the Bridegroom – 7:00 pm

**Holy Tuesday | April 14**<sup>th</sup> Presanctified Liturgy – 9:00 am

Matins of Holy Wednesday: Service of the Bridegroom – 7:00 pm

Holy Wednesday | April 15th

Sacrament of Holy Unction (Ευχέλαιο) – 4:00 pm

Matins of Holy Thursday: The Mystical Supper – 7:00 pm

Holy Thursday | April 16th

Vesperal Divine Liturgy of the Mystical Supper – 10:00 am

Matins of Holy Friday: The Passion of Christ and the Procession of the Cross – 7:00 pm

Holy and Great Friday | April 17th

Royal Hours – 9:00 am – Decorating the Kouvouklion following Royal Hours

Great Vespers: Descent from the Cross – 3:00 pm

Matins of Holy Saturday: Service of the Lamentations – 7:00 pm

Holy Saturday | April 18th

Vesperal Divine Liturgy Announcing the Resurrection (Πρώτη Ανάσταση) – 9:00 am

#### The Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ – Great and Holy Pascha

Orthros and Divine Liturgy of the Resurrection – 11:00 pm

Pascha Sunday | April 19th

Agape Vespers – 12:00 pm

Χριστός Ανέστη! Αληθώς Ανέστη! | Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!

### LETTER FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

he church enters Great Lent leading to Holy Pascha with much anticipation and prayerful reflection. It is an opportunity for all Orthodox Christians to seek and embrace spiritual renewal and love for others, a love which is deeply rooted in our faith, and discovered in our Lord's Resurrection. It is a time for giving alms, helping the poor, fasting, seeking forgiveness from others, and attending church services as often as possible. The schedule of weekly services will be forthcoming in the near future to all stewards.

The Parish Council recently appointed two new members, Bill Evrigenis and Niko Pikios, to fill open positions. Please welcome and thank them for serving our parish.

By the time this article prints, the Folk Dance Festival (FDF) will have taken place in Anaheim. For the better half of 2019 and this year, our dance groups have committed hours and hours of time and hard work preparing for competition. On behalf of the Parish Council, I would like to thank all of the directors, DSG Board, parents and dancers. Last year was indeed a banner year for several of our groups and regardless of the outcome this year, we should all be extremely proud of their efforts. SAC-RA-MENTO!

That being said, I believe strongly that there is no substitute for attending Divine Liturgy with our children. I am challenging parents, grandparents or godparents of children enrolled in Sunday School, Greek Education or Folk Dance to make a concerted effort to attend church on Sundays together. I am sure that you will agree that we can all do better!

There are several projects currently in progress around the church campus. The church bells project was initiated by members of the choir and is close to completion. Thank you to Maria DeVille and Bessie Papailias for researching, fundraising and coordinating this wonderful new asset for our church. Another project, which the Parish Council has approved in concept, is replacement of the front doors to our church. First brought to us by Sophia Evrigenis, this project will undoubtedly beautify the church for many years. The existing doors have basically failed to operate correctly for quite some time, requiring hefty repair and maintenance costs. This particular project will take more time to complete, but it should be spectacular! Thank you to Mrs. Evrigenis.

By now I am sure that many of you have noticed a security guard at the main entrance to our church on Sundays. A few have asked "why?" Others "why not?" The Parish Council voted to include this in our 2020 budget as a precaution and deterrent due to the uncertain times we live in. Places of worship have become targets for hate and evil across our country and the world. Also, on any given Sunday the Parish Council members have had to confront an increasing homeless population trying to enter the sanctuary, not for worship, but to disrupt and/or ask for money. Although some have become violent and unruly, we do our best to treat them with respect. (By the way, our security guard's name is Ross, and if you have the opportunity, please thank him on Sunday mornings).

The Parish Council sincerely appreciates your feedback and continued support, as we are always striving to do the right thing. It is both an honor and privilege to serve our parish, and I encourage anyone who meets the requirements, to consider running for Parish Council.

Kali Sarakosti! Sincerely in Christ,

George Dariotis

Annunciation Parish Council 2nd Vice President

# STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE

pring is soon upon us and with spring's arrival, an opportunity for spiritual renewal.

The Church gives us Great Lent so we can warm our hearts and relieve spiritual weariness. It gives us an opportunity to walk with Christ as we witness his passion and anticipate his resurrection.

We make this journey through prayer, fasting and almsgiving. I truly look forward to this time because not only is it a time of reflection for each of us as individuals, it is our Orthodox Church at its best. There are so many beautiful services offered during Lent culminating

with Holy Week.
Opportunities for prayer, fellowship and participation abound.

Your stewardship commitment promotes this spiritual growth and strengthens our faith. As stewards we affirm that every aspect of our lives is a gift from God.

We should always remember this and especially during this special time.

We truly have so much for which we should be grateful. Wishing everyone Kali Sarakosti and ultimately Kali Anastasi.

In Christ,

Stella Dariotis
Stewardship Chair

#### **OPERATING FUND**

OPERATING FUND			
Income	1/1/20 - 01/31/20	2020 Budget YTD	
Pledges	\$44,471	\$45,000	
All Other Revenue	\$31,576	\$21,906	
Total Revenue	\$76,047	\$66,906	
Expenses			
Total Staff Exp.	\$52,095	\$48,248	
Program Services	\$1,576	\$2,903	
Other Oper. Exp.	\$39,992	\$33,985	
Archdiocese National Ministries	\$11,250	\$11,250	
Total Expense	\$104,913	\$96,386	
Balance as of 1/31/20	-\$28,866		
2020 Pledges as of February 13, 2020			
Stewardship Budget	\$540,000		
Pledged to Date	\$259,383		
Total Amount Received	\$114,548		
Total Members Pledged	226		

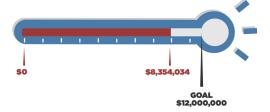
# An Update on The Build

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

Building Loan Balance as of 2/19/20: \$2,491,561 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!

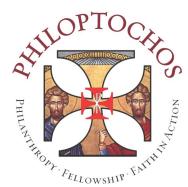
We are all benefitting from a long-term vision and wish of our parish for many years.

All we ask is 100% participation and your best gift.

Please help us get debt free.

# PHILOPTOCHOS

hiloptochos began the new decade by hosting a successful New Year's Eve Celebration which was coordinated by Despina Demas. Thank you so much Despina. That event was quickly followed on January 5 by a delicious Lenten Vasilopita Luncheon, established to raise funds for St. Basil's Academy, which was underwritten by Bessie Papailias and prepared by Helen Grammatikakis. Thank you Bessie and Helen. Also, thank you to all those who assisted—with a special thank you to Despina Demas for making vasilopites for each table and Faye Vallas, Voula Cazanis, and Mary Theophilopoulos for providing vasilopites to auction. A dinner on



January 19 for the Family Promise program at St. John's Lutheran Church completed the major activities for the month. Thank you to Suanna Gurovich and everyone who contributed to the dinner at St. John's.







February will focus on Kids'n'Cancer to help raise funds to send children with cancer and their families to Camp Agape. Elaine Wright is coordinating the coffee hours, pancake breakfast, and cake raffle. In addition, Bessie Papailias is sponsoring a Stuffed Bear Raffle which will be held after the Cake Raffle. If you are able to donate a cake, please let Elaine know at (916) 965-7607 or joelainewright@hotmail.com. Elaine and Bessie, thank you.

On March 4, the first Wednesday of Lent, Philoptochos will serve a Lenten supper after Great Vespers, and we hope you will be able to join us. On March 23, Philoptochos will again serve dinner at St. John's, and on March 24, Philoptochos will host a reception after Vespers. March 30 and April 6 will be preparation days for the Easter Baked Goods Sale. If you would like to assist, please contact Toula Zioga-Delis at (916) 745-5022 or toula10@yahoo.com.

In addition to baking, Philoptochos will host the Palm Sunday Luncheon, prepared by Helen Grammatika-kis. Philoptochos will also create Easter baskets for the home-bound, coordinated by Faye Vallas, and host a membership barbeque. The Philoptochos meeting will not be on the second Tuesday in April but on the first Tuesday, which is April 7.

We welcome you to join us and to contribute your special talents!

Helen Nickolson
Annunciation Philoptochos President

# ANNUNCIATION SENIOR LEAGUE

he programs offered at our monthly lunches are always interesting, informative, and even entertaining, and program chairperson Pauline Cazanis is always looking for something new. At a recent board meeting, it was suggested that we not have a program every month, and just set aside a month once in a while and take the time to visit and enjoy each other's company. This is a good idea; after all, our main purpose for ASL is fellowship, companionship and taking the time to visit with each other and *catch-up*. After talking to a few members, it was suggested that we do both.....set aside time to just visit AND have a presentation after lunch. Helen Diavatis and her team are well prepared at the Hos'd oeuvres table before 11:00, a full hour prior to lunch, so instead of visiting after lunch, let's try socializing before lunch. Think about it; check with your parea and luncheon friends and spend some time together before we share a meal together.

Terry Kastanis

Annunciation Senior League President



#### UPCOMING LUNCHEONS

MARCH 5<sup>th</sup>, Chef Vasilis Tsigaris APRIL 2<sup>nd</sup>, Chef Faye Vallas MAY 7<sup>th</sup>, Chef Vasilis' famous chicken kebobs

#### **ASL LUNCHEON DETAILS**

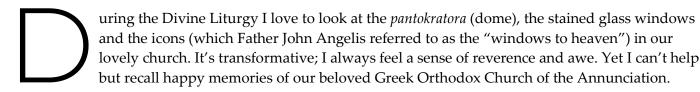
Every month we meet with in our lovely Annunciation Hellenic Center (unless otherwise noted) serving great food & interesting programs. Watch for informational flyers and internet communications and please do not hesitate to call with questions.

Reservations help us plan ahead! Please RSVP to Mary Kondos 5328 Spilman Avenue Sacramento, CA 95819 Or call (916) 457-2196

# LOOKING TOWARDS OUR CENTENNIAL

#### Looking Back, Yet Moving Forward

By Antonia D. Paras Chapralis



It all began with our *protoporoi*, to whom we are forever grateful, who emigrated with little but brought much to America: a strong belief in our Greek Orthodox faith, strong ties to our Greek roots and traditions, and a strong work ethic. Our story begins when our father, Dimitri Paraskakis left *Palia Roumata*, Crete, and emigrated to America in 1910. Our mother, Katina Mosconisiotou, was born on the island of Skopelos and emigrated with her sister, Magadaline in 1922. Katina & Dimitri met in Hilmar, California, and were married at Annunciation on 620 N Street on January 24, 1926 with Father Georgakopoulos officiating. They honeymooned at the Palace Hotel in San Francisco. Our father had the Union Café at 1024 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Old Sacramento, and farms in Natomas where the Sacramento International Airport now sits. Our mother worked at the Bercut Richards Cannery with other Greek women.

For our family, as for many, life revolved around the church. My father was on the Parish Council, ran the bar at the old picnics, and like some others, put up the family home as collateral for our current Annunciation site. Our mother always belonged to Philoptochos and she spoke of visiting people in outlying areas in order to collect money for various *erana* (church projects.) Years later she was in charge of making dolmades for the Food Festival, which meant visiting my aunt's vineyard in Delhi to pick thousands of fresh grape leaves. My older siblings Mary, Sophie, Helen, George (†), Kiki, & Gus experienced life at both church sites. (Our oldest brother, Manoli, died at 8 months of age from pneumonia.)

When I was a child, a typical Sunday morning consisted of Sunday School, going into Church for communion, and then back to Sunday School in the Hellenic Center, affectionately known as "The Hall". In those days we always fasted before communion, and really looked forward to the hot pancake breakfasts that followed. We can't talk about Sunday School in the 50's and 60's without mentioning Lucille Vlahos and Teddy Yazigi, the Sunday school directors who made things run like clockwork. I fondly remember sitting in metal folding chairs while learning the hymns of our church from a flip chart. At Christmastime the myriads of white choir robes with big red collars would surface and the excitement would begin. One Sunday I was so tired from standing on the *soleas* during yet another Christmas pageant rehearsal that I simply walked over to the bishop's throne and sat down.

There were more activities that most of us children were involved in. Greek School was always on weekdays after school, upstairs in The Hall. (My daughters knew this room as the dancers' costume storage area.) We had a number of teachers through the years: our dear Father Kirmitsis, newly ordained Father Mark Vinas, Fr. Kirmitsis' niece, Danae, Mr. Athanasiou and Miss George. They were as patient as they could be with a bunch of energetic yet tired children of mixed ages and ability levels, which could be a handful. Of course, we always tried hard to perfect our poems for the March 25th celebrations. We also had a thriving GOYA thanks to our advisors, Mr. and Mrs. Nick Kerhoulas and Mr. & Mrs. Athans, who kindly opened their homes to us for special occasions. We were all together and we had fun.

# LOOKING TOWARDS OUR CENTENNIAL

Then there were *horosperides* (dances) galore sponsored by fraternal groups or the Parish Council. As one entered The Hall, the coat-check room was on the left and the church office was on the right. In addition to being with our friends and dancing and having a good time, the highlight for this writer was the *mezethakia*. Upon entering the large smoke-filled bar, we'd reach up, get pretzels and hot, fried chicken livers and then top it all off with a soda. Delicious!

In the early days, picnics sponsored by fraternal groups or the Parish council were held at New Helvetia Park with lots of people and lots of *kefi*! I fondly remember attending fun-filled picnics held in a shady spot at the old State Fair grounds on Stockton Blvd and Broadway. The ladies of the hosting groups always had tables laden with delicious desserts. And the highlight was BINGO, which we played as long as our parents allowed. One cannot talk about those picnics without remembering Mr. Ted Triphon, Sacramento's original DJ who so patiently spun 78's (vinyl records) all afternoon.

As I write this, more and more fond memories surface, but I'll end with the construction of our "new" Sunday School/Office building formerly located at 3022 F Street. What a sense of pride it produced when it opened in 1971. Working on the comprehensive curriculum with the many teachers in our parish was a grueling task, but what a job they did! Getting to teach Sunday School in the brand new building was a thrill for me.

Reminiscing about the good old days is fun and good as long as we stop to check where we are headed. As times change and life evolves, hopefully we are moving forward. As my godparents, Hrissoula and Tony Legatos, wrote in the Annunciation's 1956 Album commemorating our Church's consecration,

"Η προοδος μας βασιζεται εις την ενωσιν μας και την συνεργασιαν μας..."
"Our progress is based on our unity and cooperation..."

To that I would add, "and a strong belief in God and our Holy Orthodox faith and its rich traditions."

We pray that our children, grandchildren and future generations may experience a loving, faith-based, community-centered life in our beloved Annunciation Greek Orthodox parish of Sacramento, California.

ΠΑΝΤΑ ΜΠΡΟΣΤΑ. ALWAYS FORWARD.





# SUNDAY SCHOOL

s we begin Great Lent, we see an increase of services. On the first Sunday of Great Lent, the Sunday of Orthodoxy, we invite our youth to bring their icons to church to celebrate the restoration of the Holy Icons! On the third Sunday of Great Lent, we will have the Sunday of the Holy Cross, as a reminder of our symbol of victory and strength, so that we may be refreshed in our journey to the Resurrection of our Lord!

**March 2020** 

Sunday, 1: Regular Sunday, Forgiveness Sunday Monday, 2: Clean Monday—Great Lent Begins Sunday, 8: No Class—Sunday of Orthodoxy

Procession with the Icons Sunday, 15: Regular Sunday

Sunday, 22: No Class—Sunday of the Holy Cross

Tuesday, 24: Great Vespers on the Eve of the Feast of

the Annunciation

Wenesday, 24: Divine Liturgy for the Annunciation of the Theotokos, our Church's Nameday Sunday, 29: Regular Sunday; Parish Oratorical Festival

**April 2020** 

Sunday, 5: Regular Sunday; District Oratorical Festival

Saturday, 11: Saturday of Lazarus, Youth Retreat and

folding of Palm Crosses

Sunday, 12: No Class—Palm Sunday Sunday, 19: Great and Holy Pascha

Sunday, 26: Regular Sunday

May 2020

Sunday, 3: Regular Sunday

Sunday, 10: Regular Sunday (Memorial Day)

Sunday, 17: Regular Sunday

Sunday, 24: No Class—Memorial Day Weekend Sunday, 31: Closing Ceremony/End of the year BBQ

# GREEK SCHOOL

he beginning of the new calendar year was an auspicious one for the Greek School Program. On January 8th, Fathers Timothy and James blessed the program and cut the annual Vassilopita. The youngest class, the pre-K students, got the coin and were thrilled to learn about the good luck that was to follow them throughout the rest of the year.

The Vassilopita blessing also inspired the various classes in their submissions to the Three Hierarchs contest. The topic of the 9th Annual Greek Letters and Arts Contest was: "The rich man is not one who is in possession of much, one who gives much." (Saint John Chrysostom). Over 75 entries were submitted by both Greek school and Sunday school programs throughout the Metropolis of San Francisco. There were eight different categories in the competition, ranging from an essay submission to film production. The Greek School Program submitted six entries: two essays, three photographs, and one film production. It is with great pleasure to announce that the Annunciation won three awards, one of which received first place. Vasiliki Kokkinis (B2 *Ellinomatheia*) won third prize for her essay on the "Wealthy King" written entirely in Greek, while the A2 class (taught by Vasiliki Kapetanoudis) also won third place for their video submission. The A1 class (taught by Katerina Lagos) won first prize for their photography submission. All of the Greek school classes deserve commendation for their hard work in preparing their entries.

This month, the Greek school students will be continuing their progress in their lessons and the *Ellinomatheia* students will be preparing for their *Ellinomatheia* exams in late May. To show their support and encouragement of the Greek school mission (and to wish the *Ellinomatheia* students good luck on their tests), the Peloponnesian Society 'O Moreas' is organizing a festive Apokriatiko Glendi on Saturday, February 29<sup>th</sup>. Live music, delicious food, and special treats are in store for everyone who attends. The Greek School Program is grateful to the Peloponnesian Society for their continued support of our Greek school students!

# DANCE SUPPORT GROUP

hank you to all of our DSG grandparents, parents, dancers, and directors that made our 2019-2020 season such a success! We had a wonderful weekend at FDF 2020 in Anaheim with every group earning an award:

#### **Division III**

Filarakia, Directed by Athena Bourdaniotis & Agamemnon Bourdaniotis

Participation Award

Anthema, Directed by Alex Eriksson & Nikki Karapanos

• Participation Award

#### **Division II - Advanced Primary**

Nea Genia, Directed by Dimitra Tsigaris, Evi Tsigaris, & Katina Vail

- Second Place
- Costume Award

#### **Division I - Intermediate**

Hara, Directed by Nena Kyriklidou & George Kyriklides

• Fourth Place

#### **Division I - Advanced Senior**

Deos, Directed by Lindsey Kivetos, Nena Kyriklidou, & Katina Vail

• Division I Sweepstakes

In addition to 5 dance groups, we had 7 young adults serve on the FDF Management Team, to help plan and make the weekend run smoothly:

Danae Magoulias, Director of Events Katherine Rotas, Events Team Angelica Whaley, Events Team Christina Tsapouklis, Registration Team Yianni Magoulias, Logistics Team Taki Vathis, Logistics Team & Meals Vasilis Voresis, Meals Volunteer

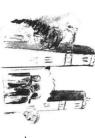
We would also like to congratulate Danae Magoulias, FDF Director of Events, for receiving the Metropolitan Anthony Leadership Award for her leadership and initiative in planning and coordinating this year's FDF.

Thank you to those community members that attended our Zumba fundraiser and to Cathy Hatzakos for leading us in such a fun morning!

In addition, we want to acknowledge that a portion of the sales from events hosted by Chrisa Pappas with Burberry, Fendi, and Christos Garkinos were donated to DSG, enabling Nea Genia to purchase this years' beautiful award-winning Cretan costumes. Thank you, Chrisa!

Please look for upcoming information on our Spring general meeting and Board elections, hosting a Presanctified Liturgy Lenten Dinner (April 1st), and Holy Friday Luminary sales.





# ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

# March 2020

		र्ींट्रे Fast day		31	30 6:00 pm Great Compline 7:15 pm Orthodoxy 101	9:00 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy St. John of the Ladder Parish Oratorical Festival
28 12:00 pm Central Valley Youth Retreat @St. Basil Stockton	7:00 pm Salutations to the Theotokos	र्नीः 7:00 pm Choir Practice	25 9:00 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy: Annunciation of the Theotokos	7:00 pm Great Vespers for the Feast of the Annunciation of the Theotokos  Reception following Great Vespers	23) pm Great Compline 5 pm Orthodoxy 101	9:00 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy Sunday of the Holy Cross
21 9:00 am Parish Council Refreat 10:00 am Moms 'n Tots	7:00 pm Salutations to the Theotokos	19 10:00 am ASL Board Meeting 5:30 pm Greek School 7:00 pm Choir Practice	18 11:00 am Studies in the Faith 5:30 pm Greek School 6:00 pm Presanctified Liturgy	17	6:00 pm Great Compline 7:00 pm Parish Council Meeting 7:15 pm Orthodoxy 101	9:00 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy St. Gregory Palamas
13 <b>%</b> 14	13 7:00 pm Salutations to the Theotokos	12 5:30 pm Greek School 7:00 pm Choir Practice	11 D am Studies in the pm Greek School pm Presanctified gy	10 pm Philoptochos sting	9 pm Great Compline pm Orthodoxy 101	9:00 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy Sunday of Orthodoxy Procession with the Icons
Saturday  7  9:00 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy: 3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the Souls	Friday 6	Thursday  5 11:00 am ASL Monthly Luncheon 5:30 pm Greek School 7:00 pm Choir Practice 6:00 pm Great Compline	Wednesday  11:00 am Studies in the Faith 5:30 pm Greek School 6:00 pm Presanctified Liturgy	Tuesday  2) 7:30 am Men's Fellowship @Brookfields 6:00 pm Great Compline	Monday 2 Καθαρά Δεύτερα Clean Monday 6:00 pm Great Compline 7:15 pm Orthodoxy 101 Great Lent Begins	Sunday 1 9:00 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy

# April 2020

# 916-443-2033 | 616 Alhambra Blvd. | Sacramento, Ca. ANNUNCIATION

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

ş	Medilesday
Studies Greek Sc Tresanct	1:00 am Studies in the Faith 5:30 pm Greek School 6:00 pm Presanctified Liturgy
tudies eek Sc esanct	7 - 1:00 am Studies in the Fellowship @Brookfields Faith 5:30 pm Greek School 6:00 pm Presanctified Liturgy
dne; y Unc tins o pper	Holy Tuesday 14 APHoly Wednesday 15 APHOly Wednesday 15 APHOly Wednesday 16 APHOly Thursday 16 APHOly Wednesday 15 APHOly Wednesday 15 APHOly Thursday 16 APHOLY Thursday 1700 am Divine Liturgy  Pollin Sunday Luncheon Presanctified APHOLY Thursday 16 APHOLY Thursday 1700 pm Service of the Bridegroom Of the Cross  Palm Sunday Luncheon Presanctified APHOLY Thursday 16 APHOLY Thursday 16 APHOLY Thursday 1700 pm Matins of the Cross  Pollin Supper APHOLY Thursday 16 APHOLY Thursday 16 APHOLY Thursday 16 APHOLY Thursday 16 APHOLY Thursday 1700 pm Matins of the Cross  Pollin Supper APHOLY Thursday 16 APHOLY Thursday 16 APHOLY Thursday 1700 pm Matins of the Cross  Pollin Supper APHOLY Thursday 16 APHOLY Thursday 16 APHOLY Thursday 1700 pm Matins of the Cross  Pollin Service of the APHOLY Thursday 16 APHOLY Thursday 1700 pm The Passion of The Cross  Pollin Service of the APHOLY Thursday 1700 pm The Passion of The Cross
	2
dies	28 (1:00 am Studies in the Faith

Χριστός Ανέστη! Αληθώς Ανέστη! Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!

5:30 pm Greek School

10:00 am Divine Liturgy Sunday School 9:00 am Orthros

# Annunciation Sacramento at FDF 2020













# Annunciation Sacramento at FDF 2020

















# YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES

n the first Tuesday of every month, our Youth Ministries gather for a short prayer service, followed by meetings supervised by a parent adviser, and with the spiritual guidance of Fr. James, Fr. Timothy, and Yianni. We invite all of our young people to attend and participate with their respective grade. Thank you to our coordinators and advisors, Audrey Bazos, Eleni Bourdaniotis, and Georganna Sinadinos!

We'll see you at church, our next meeting, and at upcoming events!

#### Meet our Youth Ministries!

GOYA | 9-12<sup>th</sup> grade Jr. GOYA | 6-8<sup>th</sup> Grade JOY | 3-5<sup>th</sup> Grade

#### **Upcoming Meetings & Events**

March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7:00 pm: GOYA, Jr. GOYA, & JOY Monthly Meeting

March 28th: Central Valley Youth Retreat

April 7th, 6:30 pm: GOYA, Jr. GOYA, & JOY Monthly Meeting

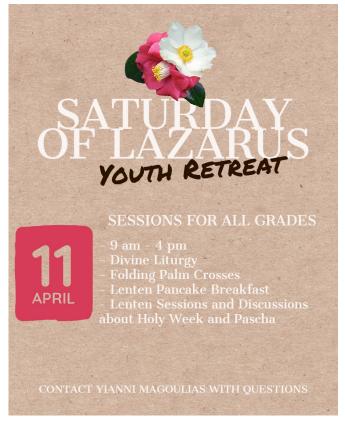
April 11th:Saturday of Lazarus, folding palm crosses, and youth retreat

Our Jr. GOYA, JOY, and GOYA had a wonderful Lock-in! We had pizza, played games, and had a wonderful discussion about our life and role in the Church, as well as how we prepare for Great Lent! Thank you to our parents who help run the lock-in!

**YAL-Young Adult League** (18-22 years old) Welcome! We are excited to announce our new YAL ministry! Please contact Yianni Magoulias for more information.

**Young professionals** (21-30ish years old) are invited to join our theological discussions, "Wisdom & Wine" which happen every month! Contact Yianni Magoulias for more information.





# HELLENIC GOLF CLASSIC



#### SAVE THE DATE FOR THE 11<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL HELLENIC GOLF CLASSIC

Monday, June 1, 2020

Lincoln Hills Golf Club, Lincoln, CA

Contact Vivian Vail join the committee, volunteer or become a sponsor!

# St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival



opics for the 2020 St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival are online now! Start preparing your speech today! Prizes and scholarships for all participants.

For more information, please contact Andonia Cakouros (cakouros@icloud.com)

#### St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival Dates

Parish Oratorical Festival, at Annunciation, Sacramento | March 29, 2020 District Oratorical Festival, at Annunciation, Sacramento | April 5, 2020 Metropolis Oratorical Festival, at St. Nicholas Ranch | May 8-9, 2020 National Oratorical Festival, at St. Spyridon, Loveland, Colorado | June 12-14, 2020

This year, our parish will host the Eastern California District Oratorical Festival! The two finalists from each division from the Greek Orthodox Churches in Northern/Central California will gather at our parish on Sunday, April 5th to present their hard work and research, and to speak about their faith!

Please join us on both March 29th and April 5th to listen to and encourage our youth who have worked so hard preparing and practicing their rhetoric skills!

# YOUNGER MARRIEDS & WORKING SINGLES



**oms 'n Tots** is back! Join us on the third Saturday of every month for faith, fun activities, guest speakers, and wonderful Christian Fellowship. Every month is a little different, from spending time in church, to arts & crafts, and guest speakers. We'd love for you to join us! We'll see you on March 21st!

# Pledged Stewards 2020 (As of February 13, 2020)

ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE TO THE ONE WHO BELIEVES IN CHRIST

Peter Anagnoston

Milton & Panorea Apostolidis Theodoros & Georgia Avdalas Nicholas & Nikki Avdis

Dan & Katherine Ballas Andreas & Audrey Bazos David & Anastasia Bonaccorso

Denny Boom

Greg & Vicki Booros Stephanie Bourbakis

Polihronis & Vicky Bourdaniotis

Ted & Lily Bourdaniotis

Marie Bravou Anna Brusco

Katherine Buttacavoli Andonia Cakouros John & Jordan Cameron Peter & Fotine Casheros George & Koula Cazanis Taky & Georgiana Cazanis

Jack Chesson

John & Annette Christopulos Bettina & Grigorios Chrysofakis George & Christina Chuchas James & Despina Chuchas Peter & Samantha Cononelos

Antonia Const

George & Christine Dariotis

John & Nitsa Dariotis

Magdalene & Matthew David

Irene DeKellis Edie Delegan

John & Marianna Demas

Louis Demas

Lou & Maria Deville Stasis & Jody Diavatis

Tom Dicktakes

Nicholas & Laura Docous

Elizabeth Dokimos Katherine Dole Elaine Donovan

Demosthenis & Evangelia Douveas

Marina Downing

William & Jessaca Downing Demos & Bessie Dulger Sheikin

James & Patricia Duvaras

Georgia Econome

Elena & Aaron Edwards
Peter & Anastasia Efstathiu
Nicholas & Jeanne Efstratis
Dan & Maria Eriksson

Bill Evrigenis

Sophia Evrigenis

Samir & Nuha Fadayel Michael & Elena Fazio

Vasiliki Fkiaras

Panayiotis Fotopoulos Peter & Koula Fotopoulos Phillip & Soula Fotopoulos

Agnes Fotos

Kyriako & Brenda Fotos

Ruseta Fotos

Christina & Robert Freeworth Michael & Jennifer Freeworth

Maria Gassoumis

Andrew & Teresa Gates

Constantin & Micki Genigeorgis

Joann Georgallis Perry Georgallis

Chris & Angie Georgoulias

Helen Gianakakis

Lener & Carmie Lee Gousetis

Paul Grellas

Louis & Georgette Grivetti

Suanna Gurovich George Hagios Elena Hankard RJ & Nicki Hansen

Demetre & Dimitra Haralambakis

Dannan & Lisa Harr Elias & Catherine Hatzakos Richard & Kim Hauch

Steve & Bia Hayes Tim & Elene Hayes

William Hess Nikko Higdon

Julian B. & Diane Holt Dino & Margarita Jakovas

Chris Jovalis

James & Robin Kafouros
Dennis & Robin Kamilos
Christopher & Kristen Kane
Gus & Ana Kapandritis

George & Mary Ellen Kassotakis

Terry Kastanis

Emorfia & Niko Katsimbras Giorgos & Jenna Kazanis Pamela & Andrew Kemp Anthony & Gail Kentroti

Connie Keriotis Denise Kincaid

Steven & Lindsey Kivetos Peter & Jennie Kleary Lucas & Stella Kontes Nick & Bernadette Kontos

George Koufasimis

George Koumis

George & Rula Kouretas

Ivana Krstic

Constantino & Dena Kuchulis Angela Kuchulis Gianopulos John & Mary Kyriakides Stephen & Anna LaBritt

Frances Lambrose Dean & Diane Langley

Maria Lappas Georgia Larson Andrea Lendaris Gary & Irina Leonard Despina Liakopoulos

Esther Lilakos Jesus & Helen Loaiza Alice Loris-Lyons Elaina & Gary Magana

Geraldine Magers

Efstratios "Yianni" & Danae

Magoulias

Chris & Maro Maguire

James Makris Stanley Makris Julie Mamalis Athanasia Manikas Exaveria (Rula) Manikas

Anne Manolakas
Katherine Manolakas
Sam & Kerry Manolakas
Timothy & Annette Manolis
Athanasios Manolopoulos
George & Marina Mantis

Antigoni Marcos Katherine Marefos Peter Margaris

Steve & Katherine Margaris

Nellie Margarite

Dennis & Nancy Marks

Antonios & Maria Mavroforakis

Pamela Middleton Karen Nelson

George & Gaye Nicholau

Helen Nickolson & Lawrence Michel Joanna Leventis & Benjamin Noonan

Howard & Stella Norris

Alice Ousley

Nick & Contilo Pandeleon Peter & Gina Pandelopoulos

Yianni Pantis

# Pledged Stewards 2020 (As of February 13, 2020 | Continued)

#### ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE TO THE ONE WHO BELIEVES IN CHRIST

John & Margaret Papadakis John & Julianne Papagiannopoulos

Bessie Papailias

Eleni & Raymond Papailias-Gomez

Tasia Papajohn Stephanie Papas Kalliroy Pappas Mary A. Pappas Helen Paras

Paris & Helen Paraskevas Perry & Kiki Parker Jerry & Catherine Pavlatos Paul & Shirley Peters

Diane Petersen

Michael & Stella Petrucci Fotis & Tammy Petsalis Nikolas & Nicole Pikios Sofianos & Sara Piliotis

Bessie Pothos Anthony Poulos Lucky & Dina Poulos

Father James & Barbara Retelas Father Timothy & Pres. Marsha

Robinson

Demetri & Malamo Romas

John & Penny Romas Nicholas & Carol Rotas

George & Mary Roussas Peter & Jodie Sakaris

Ronica Sarkisian Carlisle Daniela & Andrew Schmidt

Thomas Sellas

Ralph & Vassie Sett

Roy & Dale Shults

Dean & Chrisa Sioukas

Demetrios Spyridakis

Stylianos & Klea Spyridakis

Vasilios Spyridakis

Steve & Rachel Squaglia

Charles & Florence Stamos

Merle Stathis

Makis & Freda Stathopoulos

Mary D. Stathos Maria Stefanou

Art & Terre Terzakis

Maria & Christopher Theodor-

Higdon

Elias Theodorakakis

Sophie Theodore

Tom Theofanis

Gregory & Mary Theophilopoulos

Pearl Thomas

Steven Tingus Marian Trapp

Angelo & Sofia Tsakopoulos

Drosoula Tsakopoulos Manuel & Dianna Tsihlas

Anna Tzikas George Tzikas

Taki & Kristen Vathis

Stella Vescu

Michael & Arlene Vlamis Paul & Rusti Voresis

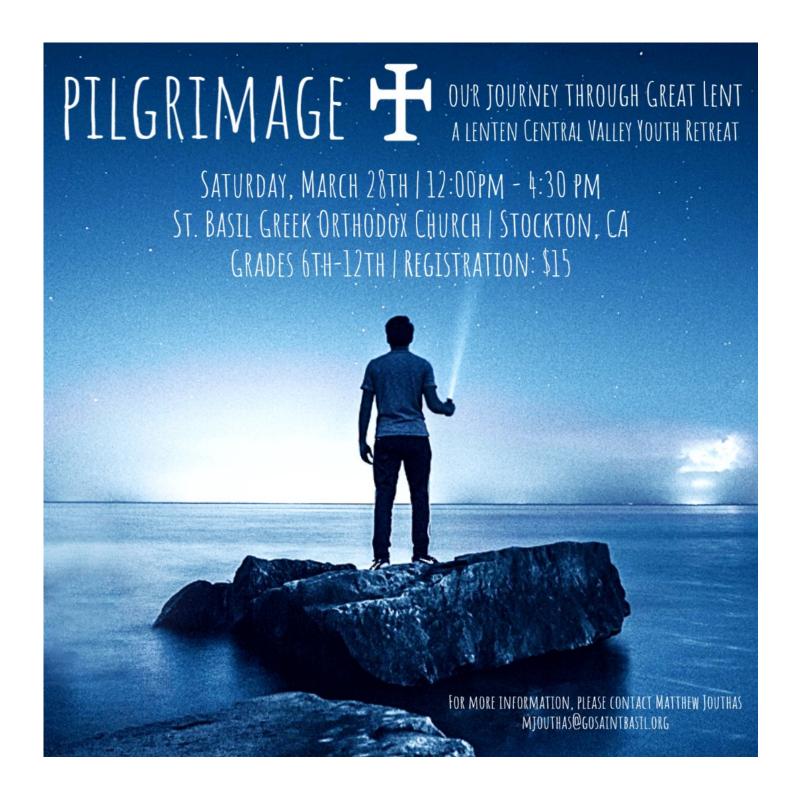
Dimitri Vouros

Douglas & Donna Wagner Richard & Valentina Watts Daniel & Donis Whaley Maria Kostidou Workman Jerry & Elaine Wright George & Kathryn Wyatt

Theodora Yazigi

Andreas & Becky Yerocostas

Pledged Families: 224



# LENTEN CENTRAL VALLEY YOUTH RETREAT MARCH 28TH | ST. BASIL STOCKTON

Join GOYAs and Jr. GOYAs from the Central Valley parishes (Elk Grove, Frenso, Modesto, Reno, Roseville, and Stockton) for a Lenten Youth Retreat! Contact Yianni for more information!

Sign-up now online! Look for the link on social media and in the "This Week at Annunciation" e-mails!

# COMMUNITY CORNER

Dennis Pantis, September 17, 1936—January 7, 2020
Dennis Pantis was the beloved father of Yianni Pantis and Evangelia Pantis and grandfather of Andreas Pantis and Sofia Pantis. He will be deeply missed by his children, grandchildren, brothers and sisters, relatives and friends.

The following is a poem written by his daughter, Evangelia:

He was a gentleman, and a kind of cool cat in part. And when inspired, a true romantic at heart.

He always made time for those who came by, He was an easygoing, a no-need-to-rush kind of a guy.

He loved his family, his sisters and brothers, And was kind-hearted and generous with others.



His abundant heart was manifest in the kitchen as he prepared his company's meals, and was frugal with himself and often sought out good deals.

He loved the songs of birds, and watching nature was an event. He seemed to have an inner world that was full and content.

His cup of Folgers was another's Starbucks on the same block. His BMW was a Bus, Metro, Walk

He built small palaces from scratch and scapes of his kind, While keeping a vision of the Greek Gods in mind.

He cultivated many virtues naturally and unknowningly, He took great care of his belongings, and always cleaning fastidiously.

> He waltzed, he whistled and he walked, And minded his own business when he talked.

He was the strong, silent type of man, yet very funny and humor always at hand.

He paid reverence when time was due, And kept an open mind and did not claim that he knew.

And as his abilities and hearing decreased over time, conversing easily was a bit of a climb.

But we believe, Dad, that you can hear us now clearly, As we say, We LOVE you Dad, and appreciate you so dearly.

You were the perfect father for us, in every way and you are ALWAYS in our hearts day after day.

Bon voyage Dionysios Yiannis Pantis...your memory will be eternal.

# COMMUNITY CORNER

Maria Pantis, August 23, 1941 – October 31, 2019

She came to this Earth dancing with her wind and fire and sparked life in all that she did.

And even during the time of her illness, her essence was apparent and her kindness and good nature never failed to reveal themselves. She touched the hearts of many, and although we write this with broken hearts, our hearts will be forever transformed by virtue of her amazing spirit and lifelong example.

Mom...we are so grateful and honored to have you as our beautiful mother. Thank you. Farewell sweet mother...we love you forever.

This song was composed, sung, and played for our beloved Maria by Evangelia's treasured friend Maya Mayraki in Greece:



Σαν το ποτάμι ζωή μας κυλά Σαν μία ημέρα η ζωή μας περνά Σαν τα πουλιά πετούσαν με παλιά Τώρα βαριά που είναι τα φτερά

Αααα, που είναι τα φτερά Αααα Το φεύγιο της ζωής μας λαχταρά Το θάνατο της ψυχής Για να φουσκώσει η Γη Η ελπίδα ώμος κρατά Καρτερία θανάσια Τά φτερά θ' ανοίξουνε ξανά Δοξάζοντας τούς ουρανούς ψηλά Αγάπη απλώνουν παντού Στην αιωνιότητα του τώρα Ελπίδα κράτα δυνατά Προσδοκά αθανασία Αγάπη δώσε τρυφερά Είναι η μόνη σου ευκαιρία





# 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 <a href="mailto:etheodor@annunciationsac.org">etheodor@annunciationsac.org</a>

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\$25.00 Quarter Page \$40.00 Half Page \$75.00 Full Page

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

#### **Observer Ad Rates**

Bi-Monthly Rev 2019

Ad Size	<b>Monthly</b>	<u>Annual</u>
Full Page	150.00	750.00
Half-Page	80.00	400.00
Quarter Page	45.00	200.00
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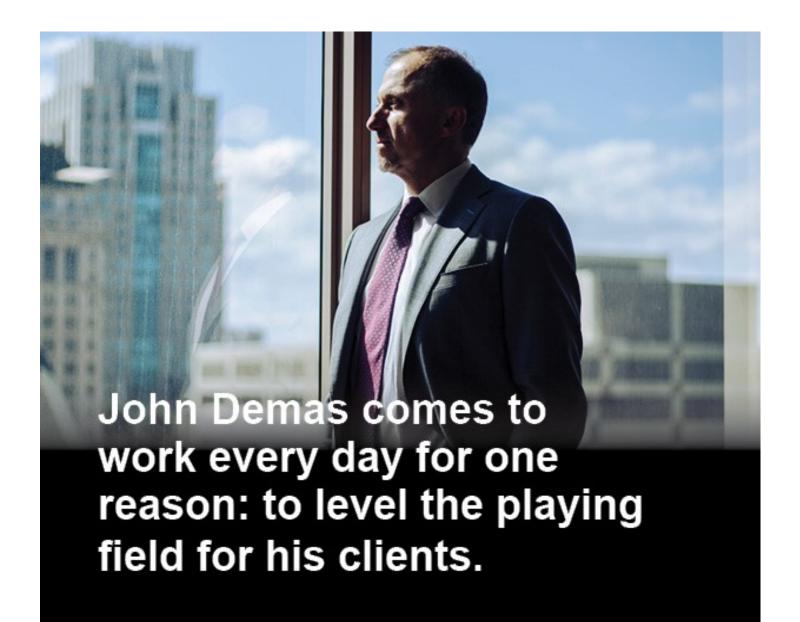




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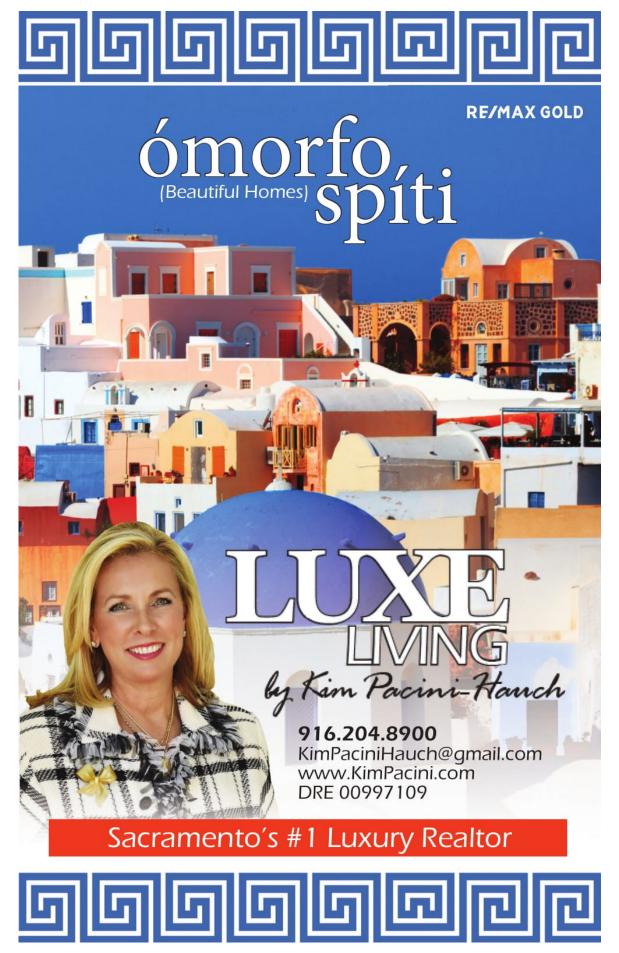


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# Καλή Σαρακοστή! Blessed Lent!

JOIN US DURING THE **IOURNEY OF GREAT LENT!** 

GREAT COMPLINE | MONDAYS 6:00 PM PRESANCTIFIED LITURGY | WEDNESDAYS 6:00 PM SALUTATIONS TO THE THEOTOKOS | FRIDAYS 7:00 PM

ANNUNCIATION OF THE THEOTOKOS PARISH FEASTDAY CELEBRATION GREAT VESPERS | TUESDAY, MARCH 24TH 7:00 PM DIVINE SERVIVES | WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25TH 9:00 AM