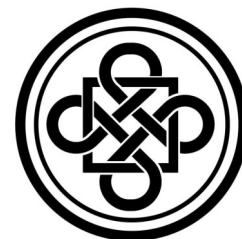




THE ANNUNCIATION OBSERVER



Vol. XXXVI, Issue IV | July/August 2020



GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH ANNUNCIATION SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

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THE ANNUNCIATION OBSERVER

IS PUBLISHED BI-MONTHLY FOR THE
PARISHIONERS OF THE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
OF THE ANNUNCIATION IN SACRAMENTO,
CALIFORNIA.

ARTICLES AND SUBMISSIONS DUE TENTH OF THE
MONTH BEFORE PUBLICATION

DESIGNED & EDITED BY:
EFSTRATIOS "YIANNI" MAGOULIAS

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COMMUNITY UPDATE

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

Effie Kentroti
Garifalia Johas
George Karagianes

PASTORAL MESSAGE

“The Language of God”

Beloved Faithful of Annunciation:

It was a great blessing to welcome you back to our spiritual home on the Great Feast of Pentecost. Seeing you for the first time after nearly three months was just what I personally needed to lift my spirits and remind me that “God is good, all the time!” As we continue to face the current health and social challenges in our society, what are we called to do as ambassadors of Christ’s Love? First and foremost, be the Church! You as members of the Body of Christ, are equipped to face and overcome any and all worldly upheavals.



“These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33)

It is through the sacramental life of the Church that we fully experience the peace that Jesus promises us. But the peace He offers us is hardly static. It demands a personal response and sharing our gifts, gifts with which we are all endowed as members of the Royal Priesthood.

In his book “Remember Thy First Love,” Archimandrite Zacharias writes:

“So there are two dimensions in the life of the Church: the horizontal one which consists of the institutions and sacraments, and the vertical one by which authentic sacramental life is sustained through the gifts of the Holy Spirit, one particular manifestation of this being the Royal Priesthood. One of the beautiful things about our Tradition is this: it has preserved and handed down our institutions to us to that we may, through entreaty and supplication, discover the fullness of the gifts of the Holy Spirit.”

In this cynical age, when even the mention of “institutions” is regarded in the pejorative, let us rediscover the beauty of our Sacred Tradition. It is through this Tradition that the language of God literally comes alive. It is through this Tradition that we have “ears to hear.” The choice to exercise your Royal Priesthood is yours, grounded in the corporate organic institution of the Church, but individually expressed charismatically. In other words, each of you has a special gift (χάρισμα) of the Holy Spirit that this fallen world desperately needs. Don’t underestimate the impact of a kind word to a stranger. Take a few minutes to write a personal note (handwritten, not a text or email!) or call someone just to say hello. Write down the names of anyone in need of God’s help and we will pray for them. This is our Faith in action. This is the language of God!

With love in Christ,

Father James Retelas

LETTER FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

Let me begin by saying that it is a great honor to serve as Parish Council President. The position has been held by many far more distinguished and accomplished people than me and I'm very humbled by that. These past three months have been the most challenging times I've ever experienced in my lifetime. By the grace of God we will get through this together. During these unprecedented times, I'd like to thank past presidents George Dariotis and Dr. Nick Rotas for their guidance and valuable knowledge in helping me navigate through this crisis. I'd also like to thank our treasurer Demetri Romas for everything he has done to keep our parish financially stable. In addition many thanks to Father James, Father Tim, and Yianni for bringing our beautiful services into our homes during Holy Week and Divine services on Sundays.

As I write this article, we were able to open our church with strict guidelines from the Metropolis. This occurred on the Saturday of the Souls and the Sunday of the Great Feast of Pentecost. It was truly a blessing to see our parishioners enter the church after three months of being in isolation. With the strict guidelines from our Metropolis a committee headed by Maria Sampanis was formed to make sure all went smoothly. I'd like to thank Maria and her committee for all their hard work. These guidelines mandate no more than 100 people in attendance, temperature checks of all participants, screening questions and 6 feet social distancing once inside.

Because of this pandemic, we have had to make some very significant changes to events coming up including our Greek Festival scheduled for October 2, 3, and 4, 2020. This event will still take place, but will be dramatically downsized to take out meals and possibly allowing some dine in service. More information to come.

Financially, our parish is sustaining fairly well. We were fortunate to obtain the PPP funds to aid in keeping all of our church staff employed. These funds may be forgiven as per the Cares Act guidelines with no lay offs needed.

Unfortunately, by the canceling of all hall rentals and the downsizing of the Greek Festival, which amounts to over \$250,000 toward our budget, we will need to rely on 100% of our stewardship gifts. I would like to thank our 12 parish council member and two priests, of whom I'm happy to report that have contributed \$54,000 of the total 2020 Pledges. Due to the shutdown of our facility in early March, we have been able to reduce our expenses by \$60,000. Thank you to one or two parishioners who have donated their time and talent to maintain the church grounds. A big thank-you to our numerous parishioners that have increased their Stewardship as well as giving a part of their COVID Relief check and additional donations to help our church during these challenging times. Please prayerfully consider increasing your stewardship or pledging now your best gift. Like I've heard so much these past few months "we will get through this together".

In closing, I pray for the continued spiritual growth of our community and the preservation of our faith established by Christ our God and his Holy Apostles.

With Love in Christ,

Michael Dariotis Jr.
Annunciation Parish Council President

STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE

Recently, we were able to come back together and celebrate Divine Liturgy in our Church. It was a wonderful feeling and especially meaningful during these challenging times.

The Parish Council has been meeting regularly via zoom to discuss matters relating to the parish and regarding our recent reopening. We are committed to our Faith, our Church, and to all our parishioners.

Our Orthodox Faith has survived and flourished through time because of its faithful.

I want to personally thank those of you who have pledged and are continuing to do so. This year our parish will not be able to rely on proceeds from the festival or hall rentals to help with our operating costs.

That responsibility will fall on stewardship. It will be a challenge but with everyone's help it can be realized. That being said, I wanted to share with you that we on the Parish Council have pledged 10% of our total budgeted stewardship amount.

Will you please join us in making your best stewardship gift in appreciation of all the goodness God has bestowed upon us and our Church?

We can do this together. It is not the responsibility of a few, but all.

In Christ,

Stella Dariotis
Stewardship Chair

OPERATING FUND

Income	1/1/20 - 5/31/20	2020 Budget YTD
Pledges	\$261,225	\$225,000
All Other Revenue	\$228,135	\$124,520
Total Revenue	\$489,360	\$349,520
Expenses		
Total Staff Exp.	\$252,017	\$241,243
Program Services	\$7,731	\$11,444
Other Oper. Exp.	\$137,347	\$151,003
Archdiocese National Ministries	\$22,500	\$56,250
Total Expense	\$419,595	\$459,940
Balance as of 5/31/20	\$69,765	
2020 Pledges as of June 11, 2020		
Stewardship Budget	\$540,000	
Pledged to Date	\$398,074	
Total Amount Received	\$277,300	
Total Members Pledged	343	

AN UPDATE ON THE BUILD

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

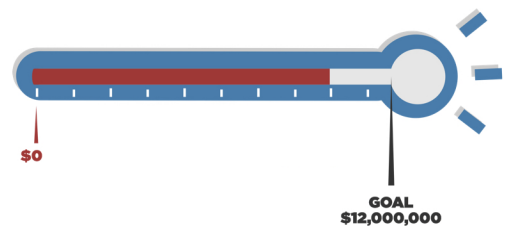
The Build Facts as of 6/11/2020:

Building Loan Balance: \$2,467,627.46 at 4.19% interest

Pledges Outstanding: \$471,313.50

Total Pledged: \$8,537,666.36

Total Given: \$8,066,352.86



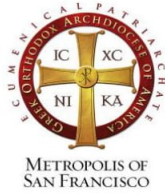
If you have not given—now is the time!

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.

WELCOME HOME!



ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

FR. JAMES RETELAS, PRESIDING PRIEST

May 28, 2020
Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord

Beloved Parishioners of Annunciation:

We have been apart far too long, but finally after more than two months, we are planning, by God's grace, to reopen our beloved Church as of June 6 (Saturday of Souls) and Holy Pentecost on Sunday, June 7.

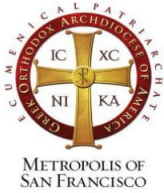
The reopening will be done in a safe and health-conscious manner, following all the protocols from our Metropolitan and Sacramento county directives. Please read carefully the "Welcome Home" material. I especially ask you to be patient as we begin this process. There are many "moving targets" and our faithful volunteers will be learning and adjusting going forward. If you have underlying health conditions, which put you in the high risk category, please do not come to Church right away – rather, call the Church office, and either Father Timothy or I will personally visit you. Or if you just want to talk, call us: (916) 443-2033.

Let us anticipate with much joy our reunion as a Church family, and with St. Paul let us say: *"Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."* (Philippians 4:4-7)

With Love in Our Ascended Lord,

Father James Retelas

REGARDING THE REOPENING OF OUR PARISH



ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

FR. JAMES RETELAS, PRESIDING PRIEST

May 28, 2020
Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord

Welcome Home!

“Bless God in the churches, the Lord who springs out of Israel. Save us, O Son of God, Who did rise from the dead, sing we to You, Alleluia!”

This hymn is sung by the clergy at the Small Entrance from Pascha to the Ascension. While the past few months have not been what we expected, we have been practicing and growing the *Κατ’οίκον Εκκλησία*, the church in the home. From lighting candles and incense in our homes, to participating in the live broadcast of the many weekly services, we have hopefully been brought closer to each other, and ultimately, to God.

Having received permission and direction from our Metropolitan, and in accordance with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), we are pleased to announce the reopening of our Annunciation parish for services! We welcome you home to “Bless God in the churches,” beginning on **Saturday, June 6th** for the Orthros and Divine Liturgy for the Saturday of the Souls and for the scheduled upcoming services. For updates, please refer to the “This Week at Annunciation” e-mails or call the Parish Office.

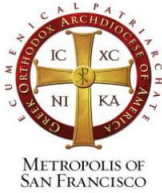
Please be aware that while we are reopening our church doors for services, things are still yet not “back to normal.” We will be adhering to strict social distancing protocols for all services. All parish ministries, catechism, and fraternal organizations will still be holding virtual meetings at this current time.

How is the Parish Preparing for Our Return?

- The Clergy and Parish Council leadership have met several times to discuss the necessary steps to safely reopen our churches and have formed a “Reopening Committee” as advised by the Metropolitan.
- We will be following stringent protocols for preparation. This includes direct contact with local authorities, adherence to directives from the CDPH, CDC, and full compliance with the Metropolis Readiness Guide for the reopening of our parish.
- Our parish will continue to accommodate those who are unable to attend church through the continuation of live streamed services.

616 ALHAMBRA BLVD., SACRAMENTO, CA 95816 • TELEPHONE: 916.443.2033 • FAX: 916.443.2033
WWW.ANNUNCIATIONSAC.ORG

WELCOME HOME!



ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

FR. JAMES RETELAS, PRESIDING PRIEST

How Should I Prepare?

- Be patient! We want you to return, but we want it to be accomplished in a safe and organized manner.
- Those who have pre-existing health conditions and those who are over 65 are requested not to attend services.
- If you are exhibiting any signs of illness, even symptoms not related to COVID-19, we ask that, for your own safety and those around you, please do not attend services.
- **If you do not have a mask, please obtain one. Masks are required to be worn at this time when inside the church.**
- You may bring hand sanitizer with you. There will also be hand sanitizer available in the Narthex to use upon your arrival to church.

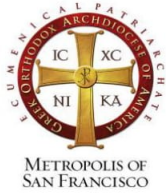
What Should I Expect When I Come to Church?

- Attendance will be limited, based on the seating capacity of the church, per the guidelines of local authorities. **We can accommodate approximately 100 people in our church; that includes the Clergy, Parish Council, chanters, acolytes, and parishioners.**
- Only the main doors of the church will be open (on Alhambra).
- Before entering the church, expect to have your temperature checked and to answer a symptoms-questionnaire by our Parish Council and reopening committee volunteers.
- Your attendance will be recorded, name and current phone number, so that if there is an outbreak and contact tracing is necessary, the parish will have a clear record of who was present for each service.
- Masks are to be worn by parishioners during church services. Parental supervision is required for children over the age of 3 who are wearing masks. Children under the age of 2 are exempt from wearing masks.
- Veneration of icons should be done by bowing before the icon and making the sign of the cross; it is not necessary to kiss the icons at this time.
- Please no handshaking, hugging, or physical contact.

What Should I Expect When I am in Church?

- Please understand that due to occupancy limitations and social distancing, seating will be clearly marked and carefully monitored.
- An usher will direct you to a seat in the church. Most likely, this will not be the pew where you usually sit. Please do not move to a different seat. This is a temporary situation.
- You will be seated with your immediate household (people living in the same space and who arrived in the same vehicle).

REGARDING THE REOPENING OF OUR PARISH



ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

FR. JAMES RETELAS, PRESIDING PRIEST

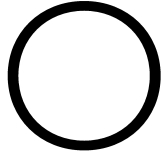
- There will be specific directions for safely entering and exiting the church to maintain social distancing.
- Choirs may not resume at the present time. Chanters will lead the hymns and responses from the chant stand on the *Soleas*.
- Liturgical books are not permitted in the pews. Online resources are available for you to follow the services. Look for links in the Sunday Bulletin and e-mail communications.
- You will be dismissed and guided by a Parish Council member or volunteer for when to receive Holy Communion and Antidoron. Please follow social distancing practices when approaching for Holy Communion and to receive Antidoron.
- When receiving Holy Communion, please do not touch the Communion cloth. Give your baptismal name.
- When receiving Holy Communion, you are encouraged to lean your head back and open your mouth wide, so the priest may pour the Holy Eucharist into your mouth.
- Antidoron will be distributed only at the end of the Divine Liturgy by the priest, following strict protocols.
- Please refrain from kissing the hand of the priest.
- When the service has concluded, please promptly exit either the front doors or the side door of the church into the plateia/courtyard and parking lot.
- Parishioners are kindly requested not to linger on the church property. No social gatherings or coffee fellowship hour will be hosted at this time.
- After each service, the church will be thoroughly cleaned and sanitized.
- Our Clergy will offer additional Divine Services according to the Liturgical Calendar of the Great Church of Christ to accommodate parishioners.

We thank you for your patience, understanding, and for adopting these social distancing protocols at this time. We are extremely excited to see you in church and to hear your prayers. Even socially distant, we are still one body in Christ!

Prepared respectfully on behalf of the Annunciation Clergy, Parish Council, and Reopening Committee,

Efstratios "Yianni" Magoulias
Pastoral Assistant

ANNUNCIATION ONLINE



Over the past year, we have been fortunate to broadcast our services via a GoPro camera linked with Facebook Live. This simple, inexpensive solution was so helpful for us. With this set-up we were able to stream the ordination of our own Fr. Panagiotis Dogias, the Lenten, Holy Week and Paschal services for two years, sacraments and funerals for families and friends who were unable to attend for various reasons, and ultimately, as the shelter in place protocol was enacted, we were ready for YOU, our faithful parishioners, to participate in the prayers and liturgical life of our Church, from home.

While this set up worked, it also had its issues. From one camera angle on a tripod, to sound issues, to inconsistent wifi connection, viewing the service worked, but a GoPro on a tripod is not respectful to the glory of the Orthodox Christian Faith and the beauty of Her services.

With the blessing of His Eminence, Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco and Fr. James, and the support of the Annunciation Parish Council and Endowment Fund, I am pleased to announce to our parish our new live broadcasting system. We do not know what the future holds, a shelter in place situation can happen again. Moreover, for our homebound parishioners, our young people who will go away for college or work, and those who are interested in learning more about our Orthodox Christian Faith, this new live broadcasting system will serve as a ministry of outreach and in-reach, uniting our Annunciation parish with the Church in the home, as well throughout the Orthodox Christian world.

The new live broadcasting system is state-of-the-art, with three high definition (HD-1080p) pan-tilt-zoom cameras, camera control/mixing/transition board, and all sourcing into a broadcasting computer to bring Annunciation online.

Now it will be easier than ever to view services online (when attending church services in person is not an option). We will now be sending our services to the Archdiocese, as well to Facebook Live, meaning, you will be able to watch our services from the Archdiocese website, mobile app, and (most importantly) Smart TV app, as well as on our Facebook Page. Simply download the GOARCH app on your mobile devices and Smart TVs to view our services is the highest quality, directly on your TV. Again, the live stream is not a replacement for receiving the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ and the Grace of the Holy Spirit from the Holy Sacraments of the Church.

We are excited to have this new system installed by the end of July. When it is installed and fully functioning, please look for an e-mail with instructions on the new ways to view the services (again, Facebook will still work).

I am extremely grateful for the support of the Annunciation Endowment Fund and being able to see the need and vision of expanding our online presence and ministry. May God continue to guide them in their service!

Faithfully, in Christ,

Efstratios "Yianni" Magoulias
Pastoral Assistant

ANNUNCIATION ONLINE

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

How to view on your smartphone or tablet:

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

www.Facebook.com/Annunciation.Sacramento

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

How to view on your Smart TV:

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

Troubleshooting

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

LIGHT A CANDLE AND TRAY OFFERING

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

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

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

Once completed, our Parish Council will be notified and will light a candle on your behalf.

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

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

SACRAMENTO GREEK FESTIVAL 2020

The Festival Board has been very busy trying to decide the scope of the 57th annual Sacramento Greek Festival. To make our decision and gather input, we checked with 7 other churches and their festival committees to see their status. One of the festivals will be canceled completely, the remainder will downsize their events. Here in Sacramento, we will finalize our decision at the June board meeting and we will plan for adjustments that may be needed as we learn more about the impact of the coronavirus on large gatherings.



At this point, we do not plan to have a full festival. Here is what we hope to do:

- The Sacramento Greek Festival will be October 2-4. Hours will be 11am-8pm on Friday and Saturday. On Sunday, 11am-4pm.
- This will be a "take out" event. People can walk in to pick up their food orders. We are exploring pre-order systems and curbside pickup.
- A limited menu will be available: 3 dinners (lamb, chicken, pastitsio), gyros and a dessert menu featuring 4 items.
- Greek wine and beer will be available for pick up with food orders if we are approved for the appropriate license.
- Frozen foods will be offered for pick up: small pans of pastitsio, appetizer size spanakopita and tiropita.
- At this time, we do not plan to serve any food on the property. However, if it is determined to be safe, we may add tables for social distance dining, a bar and music.
- IF we decide that we can safely offer on-site dining, we may add the bar and dancing.
- We will not have the market, meze, bookstore, saganaki, vendor booths, loukoumathes, choir, or raffle.
- Donation underwriting will be even more critical this year and the campaign will start in August.
- Cooking and baking for the limited menu will begin in late August.

Thank you for your patience and continued support of our Greek Festival. Any of the board members will be happy to answer your questions or concerns.

Mike Dariotis, Dan Eriksson, Gerri Magers, Nicki Hansen, Emily Coleman, Lindsey Kivetos, Maria Kaufman, Julie Mamalis, and Helen Grammatikakis

PHILOPTOCHOS

Greetings Everyone!

I came very close to not writing an article for the Observer because so little has been going on with Philoptochos, but I realized that communication is especially critical during this time of isolation for so many. We all need to reach out and, at the same time, be reached in whatever form is available.

With this thought in mind, I am proud to say that Philoptochos had its first virtual meeting. It wasn't lengthy because there was not much business to discuss, but it was wonderful to see and hear other Philoptochos members. For this, I would like to thank Yianni Magoulas, Pastoral Assistant, for being there every step of the way.

During the last couple of months, Philoptochos members have assisted Domna Hebenstreit in writing letters to home-bound parishioners and each of these 25 parishioners was contacted more than once per month. Thank you Domna and Philoptochos volunteers for providing a personal touch.

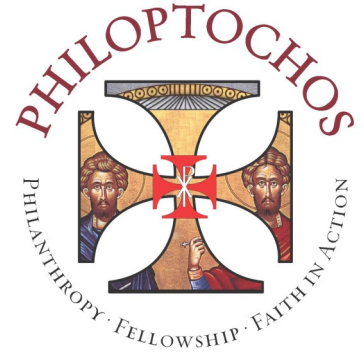
I know you're generally aware of the purpose of Philoptochos, but I would like to refresh your memories with the first sentence of the mission statement: To aid the poor, the destitute, the hungry, the aged, the sick, the unemployed, the orphaned, the imprisoned, the widowed, the handicapped, the victim of disasters and to offer assistance to anyone who may need the help of the Church through fundraising efforts.

These efforts allowed Philoptochos last year to contribute approximately \$10,000 to national commitments, \$8,000 to diocese commitments, and \$25,000 to chapter commitments, which include a variety of social services and local charities such as Bishop Gallegos Maternity Home, Loaves and Fishes, Mustard Seed, Salvation Army, Wellspring Women, WIND, Women's Empowerment, and the Sacramento Food Bank. We have many incredible women in our Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society, both locally and nationally. I'm very proud to be part of this group and invite all women of our Church over the age of 18 to become a part of our great cause. Philoptochos would like to thank the clergy, the parish council, the office staff, and the entire community for supporting us in our mission.

With love and warm wishes,

Helen Nickolson

Annunciation Philoptochos President





Dedicated to the Glory of God

A logo is an identity that is made up of many parts. Past shapes and colors, a logo represents an ideology and includes the message and the overall mission. All of these work together to create a distinctive look and feel that is immediately recognizable as: CELEBRATING OUR 100 YEARS



CENTENNIAL UPDATE

In the Beginning

A small Greek Community embarked on the quest to create a church that would provide God's presence, guiding light, strength during difficult times and a vision to bring together families in celebration of the Orthodox faith. It culminated with the first liturgy being held on Christmas Eve, 1921. Over the last years 99 years, we have celebrated Holy Liturgies, marriages, baptisms, funerals of the departed and ordinations. Our Church has always been here for our Orthodox faith. Created along the way, parochial and fraternal groups emerged and extended ministries flourished. From a small number of stewards in 1921 to over 500 family stewards today, our community is grounded in the fabric of Sacramento History.

Celebration of our Centennial 2021

To celebrate the vision of the founding families, our Greek Church of the Annunciation started the process of planning a centennial celebration for 2021. The creation of a 100th Anniversary Team was formed to support the anniversary celebrations and coordinate with all the parochial and fraternal groups and the general Sacramento Greek orthodox community. It's so important that our entire Parish is connected to this important year of celebration. A kick-off of communications with history articles and memories of parishioners has already started to be published in the Observer and will continue throughout 2021. This is headed by our church historian, Terry Kastanis.

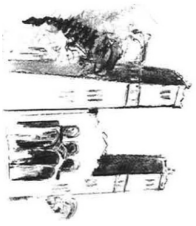
Starting in January 2021, it is the hope of the Anniversary committee that monthly events hosted by our parochial and fraternal organizations will center around our commemorative celebration. In addition, two celebratory events planned by the 100th Anniversary committee. The first event will be Sunday, August 15th 2021 after the Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos. An old-fashion family picnic is planned in McKinley Park with BBQ lamb, games and dancing. This traditional picnic started back in the very early days of our community. The second event culminates the year's celebration with a Gala held at our church on December 4, 2021 to celebrate our 100th anniversary since our church's first Liturgy.

To continue investing in our history, the Anniversary Committee is embarking on a 100th Commemorative Album. Families will have the ability to include their histories and photos. This process will start this November 2020 through early 2021. Start collecting your photos... Regardless of when your family arrived or settled here over the last 100 years, we all make up this parish, it would not be a community without you. Please make this album and your inclusion a priority. The Album Committee will send out their own directions as they formulate the information on the album, i.e. size, costs, price per page, etc.

In closing, we are all committed to keeping the Parish informed, connected with a sense of excitement. 100 Years is a testament to the strength, resilience, hope, and especially faith of our Greek Orthodox Church.

Should you have any comments or suggestions please contact one of the Anniversary Committee members; Father Timothy, Gerri Magers, Nick Rotas, Christina Chuchas, Kristen Kane, Terry Kastanis, or myself,

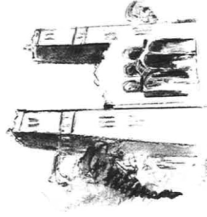
Maria Kaufman
100th Anniversary Committee Co-Chair



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ANNUNCIATION
 GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

July 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Fast day		✠ 6:00 pm Paraklisis	✠ 2	✠ Office Closed in observance of Independence Day	4
5 8:30 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy	6	7 ✠ 6:00 pm Paraklisis	8	9 ✠	10	11
12 8:30 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy	13	14 ✠ 6:00 pm Paraklisis	15	16 ✠	17	18
19 8:30 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy	20 8:30 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy: Prophet Elias 6:00 pm Parish Council Meeting	21 ✠ 6:00 pm Paraklisis	22	23 ✠ 6:30 pm Great Vespers for the Feast of the Dormition of St. Anna of St. Anna Greek Orthodox Church, Roseville	24 25 9:00 am Divine Services for the Feast of the Dormition of St. Anna of St. Anna Greek Orthodox Church, Roseville	
26 8:30 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy: St. Paraskevi	27 8:30 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy: St. Panteleimon	28 ✠ 6:00 pm Paraklisis	29	30 ✠	31	



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ANNUNCIATION
 GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

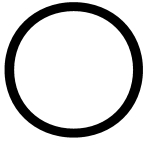
August 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
✠ 8:30 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy	✠ 6:00 pm Paraklesis	✠ 4	✠ 11:00 am Studies in the Faith 6:00 pm Great Vespers for the Feast of the Transfiguration	✠ 8:30 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Transfiguration	✠ 6:00 pm Paraklesis	✠ 6:00 pm Great Vespers and Paraklesis
✠ 8:30 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy	✠ 6:00 pm Paraklesis	✠ 11	✠ 6:00 pm Paraklesis	✠ 8:30 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Transfiguration	✠ 6:00 pm Great Vespers for the Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos Η Κοίμησις τῆς Θεοτόκου	✠ 8:30 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos Η Κοίμησις τῆς Θεοτόκου
8:30 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy	6:00 pm Parish Council Meeting	18	✠ 11:00 am Studies in the Faith 6:00 pm Paraklesis	20	✠ 21	22
✠ 8:30 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy	✠	25	✠ 11:00 am Studies in the Faith	27	✠ 28	✠ 8:30 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy: Beheading of St. John the Forerunner and Baptist
8:30 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy	31			✠ Fast Day		

LOOKING TOWARDS OUR CENTENNIAL

Once Upon a Time

By Demetre Fotos

 Our father, who is in heaven, was born in 1891. Dan A. Fotos arrived in New York in 1909 at the age of 18 and worked his way across the U.S. building railroads. He arrived in San Francisco in 1911 where he opened a Second Hand Store five years after the devastating earthquake. He settled in Sacramento in 1916 and in 1917 went off to serve in World War I for which he earned his U.S. citizenship. Arriving back in Sacramento he eventually built the Alhambra Laundry and Fotos Linen Supply. Besides supplying schools and the two air force bases with linen, he supplied the Japanese Camps during World War II. My father's Laundry was also helpful to our Greek community. Whenever someone had a relative arrive from Greece, they would ask my father if he could give them a job. I once met a Priest who told me that my father gave him his first job in the U.S. He was forever grateful. That happened often.

In 1931 my father drove across the U.S. to Cuba in a 1929 Model A Ford to marry his Picture Postcard Wife, Despo. Due to corruption at the U.S. Embassy they were stuck there four months. On the way home while driving through Tampa Florida my mom said she had an uncle that lived there. My father then pulled over to ask the first person he saw if he knew where John Bellas lived. The kid said "Yeah, that's my father". What are the odds?

Upon arriving back in Sacramento my mother was pregnant with Eugene. My father's brother and a friend moved in and along the way my mother bore six kids. She told a Greek lady who was dying that she would take care of her retarded daughter, Georgia. Before long, 12 people were living in our house permanently. There were many who lived with us for a short time. In our huge basement we had five couches that opened up to beds. Our property at 38th street off McKinley was over a half acre. We had about a 4,000 sq. ft. vegetable garden and 17 fruit bearing trees. And 20 fifty gallon barrels of homemade Greek wine. OPA! This all helped to keep the food cost down. Father Kirmitsis would always bring visiting priests to our home for some nourishment. He called our home "The Monastery" because it was open to everyone in the Greek community, morning, noon or night. And even overnight. If my father or brother Eugene would see strangers in church they would invite them to our home for a big Sunday meal. My mother always over cooked, just in case. My father built a 14 foot table in the basement to accommodate the masses. Sometimes Antonia & I had to eat off the bread board.

At our church at 6th and N street, the men sat on the right side of the church and the women and children sat on the left. Mrs. Fantages didn't care what the rules were. Her family sat on the men's side to worship together. She was our "Rosa Parks".

Behind the old church we had an old Victorian house which served as our Sunday school and Greek school. Father Mestakides, sitting on the back porch, would grab my 5 year old body and set me on his lap. He would tell me to turn my head and then would grab the chord in my neck and squeeze. It hurt like heck!

My 9 year old sister Antonia, 7 year old brother Manuel and I would ride the No.1 McKinley bus downtown to 7th and J where Mr. Tony Legatos had his Log Cabin restaurant. We would drop in for a free scoop of ice cream and then walk 5 blocks to Greek school. On the way home it would be dark outside. Can you imagine letting your kids do that today.

LOOKING TOWARDS OUR CENTENNIAL

Our church had a reputation for being tough on priests. It was so bad that the Bishop would threaten to send priests to Sacramento if they got out of line. Enter Father Karas (Kirkidis). He was our first modern priest. He started our first youth program & joined in on their activities, like bowling. Our Greek community had a fit. It was unpriestly. And he smoked. One lady spread a lie that she saw him walking down the street jumping over parking meters. He tried to bring discipline to the church. As an altar boy, if our shoes weren't shined, he wouldn't let us serve that day. One Sunday everybody was talking in church. He stopped the service & said in a loud voice, "Where do you think you are, the bazaar!" Father Karas told them to show respect while in church and to be quiet. They didn't. That's when Julia Poulos jumped up and balled out the congregation. Father then said he could not continue the service and left. On another Sunday, a board member thumbed his nose at the priest. Very soon he had a stroke and permanently lost the use of that arm. Poor Father Karas didn't last a year. He ended up on a ship as a Navy Chaplain.

In 1952 Iconographer Theodore Tsavalas resided in our home while he painted the icons in our church. He was my mother's uncle as well as the uncle to Telly Savalas, the actor. Eugene and I would go down to the church to watch him work his. He gave me an old brush and oil paints and at 9 years old I painted my first oil painting. Mr. Tsavalas had a bladder problem. When he was painting the Pantocrator, he spent half the day climbing up and down the very high scaffolding to use the bathroom. Father Kirmitsis gave him a bucket to use up top. Tsavalas said no, it would be a sin so Father Kirmitsis blessed the bucket. Problem solved.

Kyriako Anastasiou was our Psalti and Greek school teacher. He was tough on us in Greek school. He would hit our knuckles with a ruler when we weren't paying attention. That was fine with our parents. One day a beggar came upstairs to ask for help. Anastasiou immediately kept on yelling "GET OUT" while pushing him down two flights of stairs. The poor guy didn't know what hit him. Anastasiou moved to Houston Texas and became a priest. When Eugene ran into him at a convention, he asked him how things were in Houston. "They love me!" He also said he improved the cooking at the local jail and the inmates were very happy. They called him Father Charlie with the Big White Cadillac.

In 1971, Father Raptis had to pick up Bishop Meletios from San Francisco. He borrowed a limo from Culjis Mortuary and asked Eugene to keep him company. On the way to San Francisco he was pulled over for going 100 m.p.h. Father Raptis could not talk the cop out of the ticket. As the cop was beginning to write the ticket Eugene jumped out of the car and yelled "STOP". He got on one knee and raised his hands in a praying position. He said "PLEASE, PLEASE don't give him a ticket. You don't know the Bishop, he's MEAN, REALLY MEAN! He's going to be mad that we're late and when he finds out Father Raptis got a speeding ticket, he'll defrock him! And if he loses his job, he won't be able to feed his family. PLEASE!" In disgust, the cop tore up the ticket. Father Raptis couldn't believe it. He just shook his head and smiled.

I served 9 years as an altar boy and have been singing in our choir for 61 years. What a ride!

ANNUNCIATION SENIOR LEAGUE

“THEN - NOW - TOMORROW”

The last time ASL met as a group was March 5, 2020. We did what we seniors have done since 1978, (known then as the Golden Age : we engaged in fellowship, enjoyed a meal together, and we socially reconnected with one another. Do you remember our last luncheon? Our caterer, Vasilis Tsigaris prepared fried tilapia fish, pilafi, mixed veggies, and a wonderful Napolian for dessert. Sixty-nine seniors attended, we recognized thirteen birthdays, and our guest speaker was chiropractor Dr. Donald Erwin. That was **THEN**.

NOW, four months later, what has happened? Absolutely Nothing. We are staying at home and praying each day we will not infect our family and loved ones. We are following all the rules, i.e. staying at home, afraid to go anywhere because we are over 55, and wishing this nightmare will end soon. We have not had a luncheon or even a board meeting and many of you have telephoned me and each other, to see if you are okay, and thank God, there have been no reports of anyone infected with the dreadful COVID-19 virus. ASL, as we have known it is shut down until further notice.

TOMORROW. Will ASL ever be the same again? Probably not. Will ASL continue as an important ministry of our parish? Yes!! As of this writing, rules of conduct, the practice of social distancing, and how we gather in groups is a matter of discussion by our health professionals, our clergy, and our parish leadership. These new health guidelines will help ASL evolve and transition to a different meeting format.

In preparing for tomorrow, we should take this opportunity to restructure our ministry and look for new ways to continue the wonderful things we've done over the years. Your executive committee, including my term as your President, has expired and we can no longer serve in this capacity. Beginning in September with the new ecclesiastical year we have the opportunity to begin with new leadership and a different way doing things. I will continue to serve on the board in an advisory capacity, however as past-president.

As you read this article, please consider taking a leadership role by being a candidate for one of the four executive officers, President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer or volunteer as a new member or continuing board member to help guide ASL's future.

Please give me a call 916-455-5682, or contact a member of the nomination committee listed below: Dena Kuchulis, Chairperson: 916-487-3301, and committee members: Mary Kondos, 916- 457-2196, Georgia Econome, 916-442-4125, and Elaine Pavlatos, 916-714-9836.

By staying safe and following healthy procedures, ASL will come through this pandemic and we will once again be a strong and dynamic ministry of our Holy Greek Orthodox Faith.

Terry Kastanis

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Spring 2020 has not been what we expected. Nevertheless, we would like to thank the hard work and commitment of our Sunday School teachers and support staff. Thank you to the parents, who bring their kids and support our Sunday School ministry. Especially, a big thank you to our students who attend class and are excited to learn about our Faith. We look forward to seeing you in church on Sundays and, God willing, back in the classroom in September.

Finally, congratulations to our graduates! Please see all of our graduates on pages 22-24 of this issue.

GREEK SCHOOL

On May 15, 2020, the Greek School Program held its last Zoom class session for the 2019-2020 academic year. While teachers spent a portion of the class session completing their review lessons, they also had fun games for the students to play as a way to celebrate their last class.

No-one could have foreseen the impact that COVID-19 would have on students across the country. For the Greek school teachers, they all tried to maintain a sense of community and continuity with their students. All of the teachers were able to complete their learning objectives and this success came hand-in-hand with the support and cooperation of all the Greek school families. The teachers have put together a short video highlighting some of the online instruction.

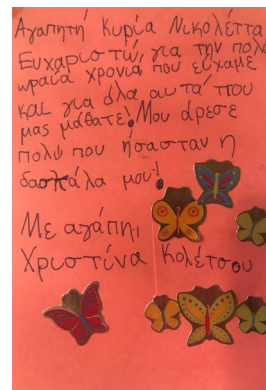
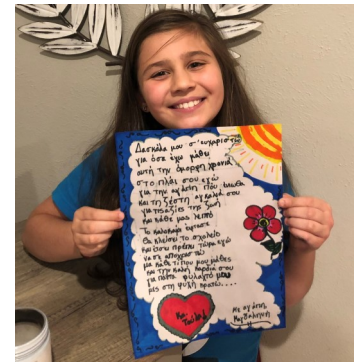
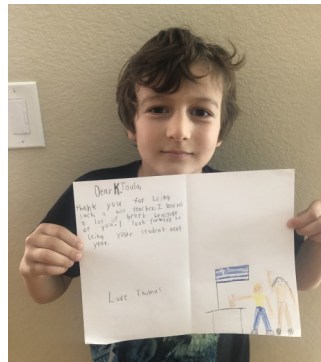


Please see the video posted on the Greek School website: <https://annunciationgreeksschool.org/>

This fall, the Greek School Program is pleased to announce that – ‘live’ – in-person instruction will begin on Wednesday, September 2, 2020. We are very fortunate that the Hellenic Center will be able to accommodate classes every Wednesday and Thursday in compliance with government and health regulations. While adjustments will be made to the instruction given, our priority will be the safety and health of everyone: teachers, students, and families.

Registration for the 2020-2021 academic year will begin on July 1st. Due to the continued uncertainty of COVID-19, only adults and exam seeking (*Ellinomatheia*) new registrants will be admitted this year.

We look forward to the start of a new academic year. We pray for the continued health of our Greek school families and are anxiously awaiting the fall *Ellinomatheia* exams, scheduled for the week of October 12, 2020.



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES

High School Graduates | Class of 2020



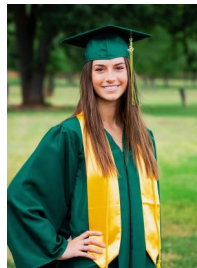
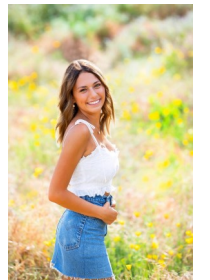
Ryan Coleman graduated from El Camino High School and will be attending California State University, Chico

John “Yanni” Andrew Demas graduated from Jesuit High School and will be attending St. Mary’s College of California



William Durrell graduated from Elk Grove High School and will be attending Sacramento State University and majoring in Film Studies

Juliana Christina Gianulias graduated from St. Francis High School and will be attending Boise State University and majoring Communications



Madeleine Marie Harris graduated from Rio Americano High School and will be attending the University of Colorado, Boulder and majoring in Environmental Design and Architecture

Ian Perry Hayes graduated from Bear River High School and will be attending Sierra College and majoring in Music Studies.

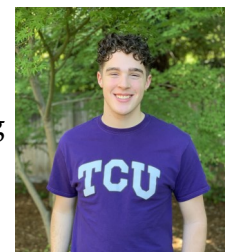


Tino Foondos graduated from El Camino High School and will be attending Boise State University

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES



Athena Johnson graduated from Pass and Stow Academy and will be attending Texas Christian University and majoring in Nutritional Sciences pursuing Pre-Med studies



Epaminondas "EJ" Johnson graduated from Pass and Stow Academy and will be attending Texas Christian University and majoring in History pursuing Pre-Law studies



Kyriakos "Yianni" Kotsiopoulos graduated from Western Sierra Collegiate Academy and will be attending California State University, Fullerton and majoring in Microbiology pursuing Pre-Med studies

Vasilaki (Jack) Maguire graduated from Jesuit High School and will be attending the University of Washington



Vasiliki Rousakis graduated from Rocklin High School and will be attending San Francisco State University and will be majoring in History

George Sinadinos graduated from Rio Americano High School and will be attending the University of California, Santa Barbara



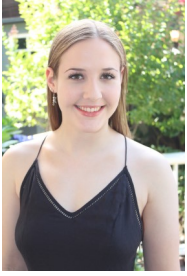
Alex Vryonis graduated from Rio Americano High School and will be attending the University of Oregon and will be majoring in Business

Sophia Antonia Vryonis graduated from Rio Americano High School and will be attending Boise State University and majoring in Film Studies and Journalism



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES

Undergraduate Study Graduates | Class of 2020



Sophia Fotos graduated from San Francisco State University with a Bachelor of Arts in Communications and a Minor in Art

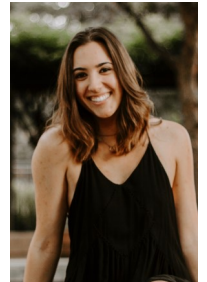
Nikki Karapanos graduated from the University of California, Davis with a Bachelor of Science in Evolutionary Anthropology



Veronica Pandelopoulos graduated from St. Mary's College of California with a Bachelor of Arts in Kinesiology: Health and Human Performance and a Minor in Communications



Katerina Petsalis graduated from Sacramento State University with a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism and a Minor in Photography

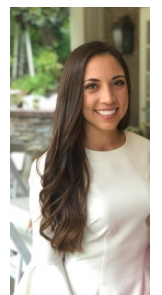


Graduate Study Graduates | Class of 2020



RJ Hansen graduated from Sacramento State University with a Master of Business Administration, Finance

Danae Magoulias graduated from University of California, Davis with a Multiple Subject Teaching Credential pursuing a Master of Education



William Nicholas Rotas graduated from California State University, Sacramento with a Master of Science in Accounting

View our Graduating Class of 2020 video presentation on YouTube at: <https://youtu.be/c0EQxlpgw4s>

UPDATE ON OUR MINISTRIES

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

Liturgical Schedule

We are excited to welcome you home! Please see the included monthly calendar for the scheduled services for the months of July and August, and look for the Monday, *This Week at Annunciation* with information regarding coming to church, links to the live stream, and up-to-date information.

Orthodox Education

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

Also starting in August, join Fr. James for Orthodox Education, details forthcoming.

Youth and Young Adult Ministries

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

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

Contact Yianni Magoulas for more information.

Greek School

Please see their article in this issue of the Annunciation Observer or contact your Greek School teacher.

Summer Church Day Camp

We are excited to present an at-home and online Summer Church Day Camp ministry this year! We invite you and your family to participate in "Living the Church: Understanding the Parables of Jesus". Visit our website or contact Yianni for more information

Greek Dance Practice & Volleyball

Currently, sports and activities are still suspended. Be on the lookout for more information including DSG elections and more ways to participate.

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

Most importantly during this time, please be sure to check-in with your family, friends, and fellow parishioners! LIFE is not canceled! Now, more than ever, it is important to call, e-mail, or message those on your mind. And most importantly, pray! Pray for our doctors, nurses, first responders, essential workers, and one another! We look forward to praying with you, in person, as one Body of Christ!

Pledged Stewards 2020

(As of June 16, 2020)

ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE TO THE ONE WHO BELIEVES IN CHRIST

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

Pledged Stewards 2020

(As of June 16, 2020 | Continued)

ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE TO THE ONE WHO BELIEVES IN CHRIST

Alice Loris-Lyons	Gregory & Jill Perinati	Pearl Thomas
Diane Lydon	Paul & Shirley Peters	Steven Tingus
MariBeth Lydon	Diane Petersen	Marian Trapp
Mary Lydon	Michael & Stella Petrucci	William & Joann Triphon
Elaina & Gary Magana	Fotis & Tammy Petsalis	Angelo & Sofia Tsakopoulos
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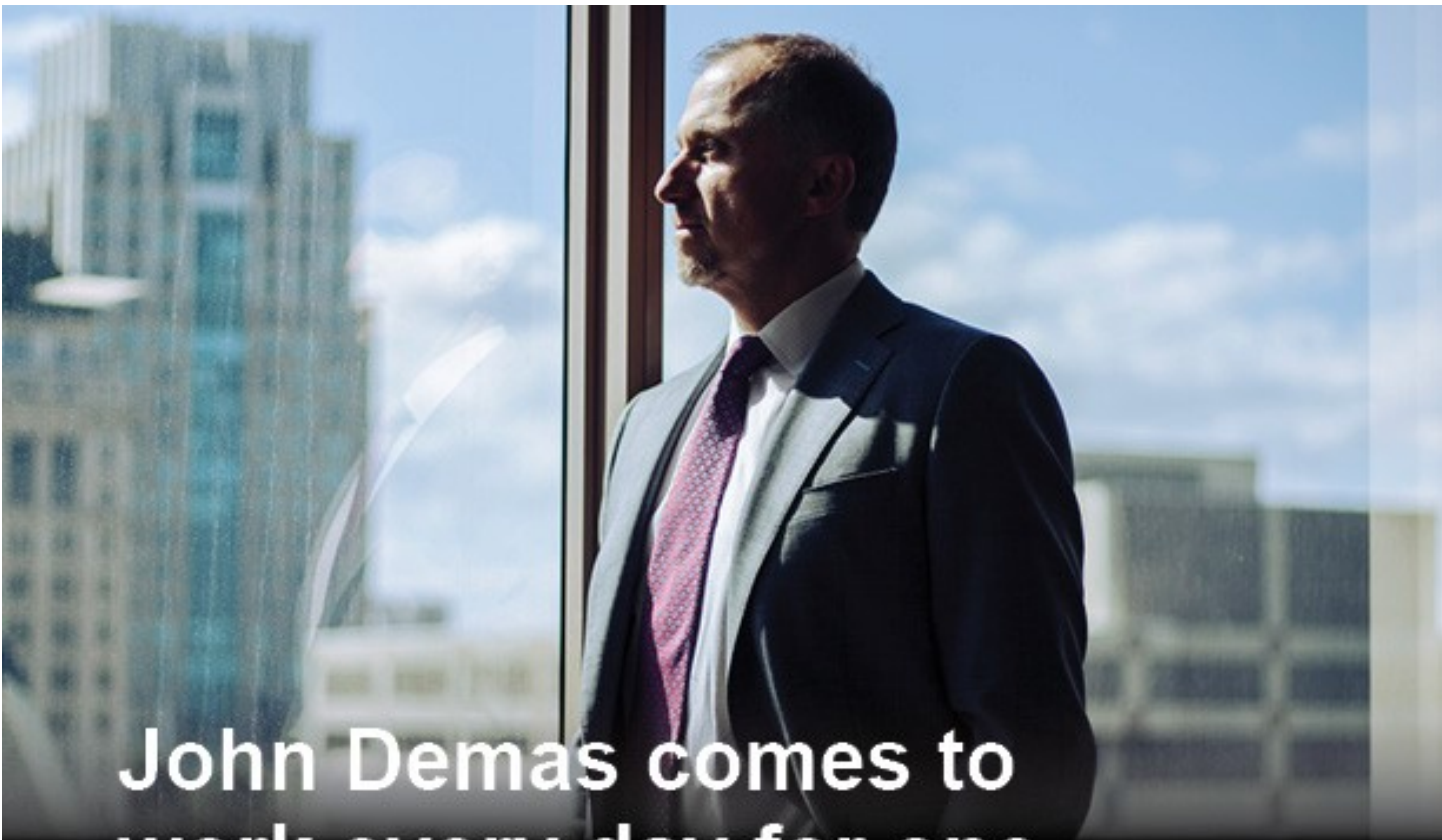
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