



THE ANNUNCIATION OBSERVER



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GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH ANNUNCIATION SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

Rev. Fr. James Retelas, Presiding Priest: frjames@annunciationsac.org
Rev. Fr. Timothy Robinson, Associate Priest: frtimothy@annunciationsac.org
616 Alhambra Blvd. Sacramento, Ca. 95816
Office: (916) 443-2033 / Office Hours: Monday—Friday 9:00 am—4:30 pm
www.annunciationsac.org

PARISH CONTACT INFORMATION

CLERGY

PRESIDING PRIEST, FR. JAMES RETELAS
FRJAMES@ANNUNCIATIONSAC.ORG

ASSOCIATE PRIEST, FR. TIMOTHY ROBINSON
FRTIMOTHY@ANNUNCIATIONSAC.ORG

PARISH COUNCIL PRESIDENT

MICHAEL DARIOTIS
MIKED@OSF.COM

PARISH MINISTRIES

BOOKSTORE
 (916) 231-9949
BOOKSTORE@ANNUNCIATIONSAC.ORG

CANTOR
 EFSTRATIOS "YIANNI" MAGOULIAS
MAGOULIAS@ANNUNCIATIONSAC.ORG

CHOIR
 BILL BOBOLIS, CHOIR DIRECTOR
BOBOLISWILLIAM@COMCAST.NET

DANCE SUPPORT GROUP & MINISTRY
 NIKKI AVDIS
DANCE@ANNUNCIATIONSAC.ORG

GREEK EDUCATION
 KATERINA LAGOS, DIRECTOR
KLAGOS@CSUS.EDU

PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY
 HELEN NICKOLSON, PRESIDENT
HNICKOLS@YCCD.EDU

ANNUNCIATION SENIOR LEAGUE
 TERRY KASTANIS, PRESIDENT
TKASTANIS@COMCAST.NET

SUNDAY SCHOOL
 DESPINA DEMAS, DIRECTOR
DEMASDESPINA@OUTLOOK.COM

STAFF

OFFICE COORDINATOR
 EFFIE THEODOR
ETHEODOR@ANNUNCIATIONSAC.ORG

FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATOR
 MARIA MAVROFORAKIS
MMAVROFORAKIS@ANNUNCIATIONSAC.ORG

FACILITY USE COORDINATOR
 RULA MANIKAS
EVENTS@ANNUNCIATIONSAC.ORG

PASTORAL ASSISTANT
 EFSTRATIOS "YIANNI" MAGOULIAS
MAGOULIAS@ANNUNCIATIONSAC.ORG

OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY - FRIDAY
 9:00 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M.

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 EFSTRATIOS "YIANNI" MAGOULIAS

IN THIS ISSUE

Annunciation Online.....	8
Annunciation Senior League.....	18
The Build.....	7
Calendar.....	14-15
Centennial.....	11, 20-21
Community Update.....	2
Community Corner.....	21
Dance Support Group & Ministry.....	16
Divine Services in our Plateia.....	5
Ecclesiastical New Year.....	12
Exaltation of the Holy Cross.....	13
Greek School.....	16
Parish Announcement.....	6
Parish Council.....	6
Pastoral Message.....	3-4
Philoptochos.....	9
Pledged Stewards List.....	22-23
Sacramento Greek Festival.....	10
Stewardship Message.....	7
Sunday School.....	16
Youth & Young Adult Ministries	19



COMMUNITY UPDATE

We welcome to the Church:
 Adrielyn "Ephremia", Chrismated

We pray for the servants of God, united in the Sacrament of Marriage:
 Michalis and Stephanie

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

Demetra Sargetis
 Polidefkis Kolitsos
 Georgia Scribner
 James Verras
 Angelina Panos Johnson
 Anthony Xerouhakis
 Efthemia Rozakis
 Alexandra Gousetis

PASTORAL MESSAGE

“Let us Pray for our Country and for the Whole World”

truly believe that this is a crucial time for us to pray. It is crucial for us to meet together, and it is also crucial for us to live our Faith every single day and foundational to this is prayer. We are clearly living in perilous times. In other words, this is a time for us Christians to turn to God and the Saints for ourselves, our families, our Church, our country, and for the world.

Do you have a rule of prayer? Do you have a Bible? Do you have a prayer book?
Let us, the people of God, go to work. Pray by yourself. Pray with your spouse.
Pray with your children. Pray with your friends.



The Apostle Paul writes in his first letter to Timothy (chapter 2):

I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them. Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity. This is good and pleases God our Savior, who wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth. For there is only one God and one Mediator who can reconcile God and humanity—the man Christ Jesus. He gave his life to purchase freedom for everyone. This is the message God gave to the world at just the right time. [New Living Translation]

Our Orthodox spiritual Tradition has a wealth of information and advice on prayer. Below are some brief excerpts on prayer by Archbishop Paul of Finland from his little book *The Faith we Hold*, published in 1980:

When you pray, you meet the holy God in person. In order to succeed in your life of prayer, try sincerely to make your conscience clear in relation to God, your neighbor and earthly possessions. Nevertheless, do not hesitate to approach God in prayer, however bad you may feel yourself to be; all our sins are but a drop compared to the ocean of God’s love.

Begin your prayers humbly every day as if you were doing it for the first time; prayer does not accumulate interest, the Fathers say. Tune your mind to the sense of the presence of God and say the prayer unhurriedly, paying attention to every word; otherwise your prayer will be flung to the winds. When you notice that your thoughts have gone astray, simply bring them back to the words of the prayer without being disconcerted.

Repeat the Jesus Prayer in its longer or shorter form, whichever way feels better at the time: “Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner!” or “Lord Jesus Christ, our God, have mercy on us!” or “Jesus, Son of God, have mercy on me.” When you are alone, sometimes recite the prayer aloud, and sometimes silently in your mind.

When you are praying, do not form any mental image of God, heaven or anything else; imagination, according to the Fathers, is a coarse mental faculty which is not suited to prayer. Pay no attention to impure or blasphemous thoughts or images that may appear while you are praying; they are not your own but come from the evil spirits and will disappear if you take no notice of them.

We must force ourselves to pray throughout our lives; it is just this struggle to which Christ refers when He says that the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and men of violence take it by force. (Mt 11: 12)

The only feeling for which one should consciously strive in prayer is that of contrition and unworthiness; other feelings are gifts of God’s grace which He grants to us according to the measure of our humility.

Beware of taking credit for the fruits of prayer, such as concentration, emotion, tears. Often God in His mercy permits us at first to taste the sweetness of prayer, but then leaves us on our own in order to test our faithfulness and to show us what we are without the help of His grace.

PASTORAL MESSAGE

You can also recite the Jesus Prayer in church during a service and then all that you hear and see is like oil for the flame of your inner prayer. During the Eucharist, however, it is better to concentrate on the words of common prayer. According to the Fathers, the most important communion with God is Holy Communion, and the Jesus Prayer comes next.

Every day, read a chapter of the Bible and one from the writings of the Fathers concerning prayer. Such reading is important in a time when living models and guides are lacking. Adopt a suitable rule of prayer and stick to it like a close friend; yet do not allow it to enslave you [in other words, be flexible, be open to the Holy Spirit].

Lastly, the most important thing to remember: Keep your heart free from hatred, envy and condemning thoughts, so that God may hear your prayer. Forgive everyone so that God may forgive you, and be merciful to all, so that God may have mercy on you. It is with good reason that the Fathers say: Your neighbor is your salvation.

And let us not forget that prayer is not passivity. Prayer leads us to action, to commitment! From Metropolitan Anthony of Sourozh in his excellent book *Beginning to Pray*:

Words of prayer have the quality of always being words of commitment. You cannot simply say words of prayer without implying "If I say that, then that is what I am going to do when the occasion lends itself." When you say to God, "At all costs, at all costs, O Lord, save me," you must remember that you must put all your will into that, because one day God will say, "Here is the price to pay."

The ancient writers said, "Give your blood and God will give you the Spirit." That is the price. Abandon all, you will receive heaven; abandon enslavement, you will acquire freedom. As your will is already engaged not only in the act of praying but in all the consequences of this prayer, so also must your body be, because a human being is not simply a soul engaged for a while in a body. It is a being which is body and soul, one unique being which is man.

There is a physical effort to be made in prayer, and physical attention, the physical way in which you pray. Fasting, if food has made you too heavy for prayer, is involved in it too. If you do this, you will be knocking at a door.

The Lord says: "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened." (Matthew 7:7)

Do you need some help in this? Call us. Email us. We would love to talk to you about prayer. We have helpful material and recommendations. We are praying for you!



Fr. Timothy Robinson

DIVINE SERVICES IN OUR PLATEIA



LETTER FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

Dear Fellow Parishioners:

During these challenging times, our church comes together as one community in Christ. We were forced, yet again, to close our doors to in-person worship in early July. However, the Parish Council decided in early August to open the beautiful plateia during the Feast of the Transfiguration and the Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary, for outdoor services. Having our faithful parishioners, who have been prevented from attending basic worship services due to the terrible pandemic, was a welcome sight indeed! A determination will be made by the Parish Council at their mid-August meeting as to whether outdoor Divine Services will continue.

Also of great importance is the future of the 2020 Greek Festival. The Festival Board recommended that our October Festival be cancelled due to the tremendous uncertainty surrounding the impact of Covid-19 on our region. Please look for further updates and information on this most critical event which benefits our entire parish.

All parishioners will receive a joint appeal from the stewardship ministry and the Build campaign respectively, asking us to consider a review of our current stewardship and Build pledges in the hope of increasing those gifts to the church. If the members and families of this parish come together and give from the heart, adopting "transformational" giving, rather than "transactional" giving, anything can be achieved! Thank you.

Michael Dariotis Jr.
Annunciation Parish Council President

.....
SAVE THE DATE
.....
Parish Assembly | October 4th
.....
More information coming soon
.....

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENT

We are blessed to announce the completion and installation of two Church Beautification Projects!

Carillon Bell System

As you may have heard on our broadcast or during our outdoor services, we have installed a digital carillon bell system. Throughout the day, "Bells" will ring from our bell towers, playing the Westminster Chime and various hymns of our Church for our community to hear.

Did you know, bells play a significant part in our worship! At the *Katavasies* hymns during the Orthros service before the Divine Liturgy, the bells ring a joyous melody, accompanying the hymns regarding Christ, the Virgin Mary, and the holy ones from the Old Testament (like Moses and the Three Holy Youths) to call the faithful to come worship and that the Divine Liturgy will be starting soon.

Again at the Great Doxology, the bells ring accompany the hymn, "Glory to You, Who have shown us the light! Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, good will to mankind!" announcing the beginning of the Divine Liturgy. During major feasts, we also ring the bells to accompany the hymn of the feast.

We would like to thank Maria DeVille for her research and communication with the Verdin Bell Company, Bessie Papailias for her fundraising efforts, Peter Pandelopoulos for painting the speakers and horns, and Yianni Magoulas for overseeing and bringing the project to completion.

Live-Streaming Broadcasting Station

Please see the article, *Annunciation Online* on page 8

STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE

Today I was present as we held services on our beautiful plateia. Despite the heat, I must admit it felt wonderful and many times during the liturgy I had images of being in Greece.

Almost all of my summers growing up were spent in Greece. My parents were committed to this and I am forever grateful, as they wanted to ensure my brother and I would be able to see and spend time with our grandparents, and many of our relatives. There were many panigyria and hikes to many small village churches on various feast days. Many were ornate, many simple, but make no mistake the testaments to Orthodoxy were everywhere. Our Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church is a beacon of Orthodoxy here in Northern California. It is our spiritual HOME.

As you read this you will have received our Stewardship and Build appeals. Please don't view this as the Parish Council asking for money again. It is much more than that. It is our collective opportunity to take care of our spiritual home. Again, not the responsibility of a few, but all of us.

In Christ,

Stella Dariotis
Stewardship Chair

OPERATING FUND

Income	1/1/20 - 07/31/20	2020 Budget YTD
Pledges	\$348,187	\$315,000
All Other Revenue	\$280,617	\$160,262
Total Revenue	\$628,804	\$475,262
Expenses		
Total Staff Exp.	\$339,112	\$327,847
Program Services	\$7,959	\$13,444
Other Oper. Exp.	\$192,265	\$205,903
Archdiocese National Ministries	\$45,000	\$78,750
Total Expense	\$584,336	\$625,944
Balance as of 7/31/20	\$44,468	
2020 Pledges as of August 17, 2020		
Stewardship Budget	\$540,000	
Pledged to Date	\$434,379	
Total Amount Received	\$361,063	
Total Members Pledged	372	

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.

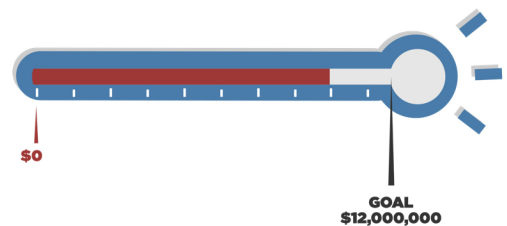
The Build Facts as of 8/11/2020:

Building Loan Balance: \$2,458,689.28 at 4.19% interest

Pledges Outstanding: \$466,45831.50

Total Pledged: \$8,557,266.36

Total Given: \$8,090,807.86



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.

ANNUNCIATION ONLINE

After many months of research and hard work, and with the support of our clergy, the Parish Council, and the Annunciation Endowment Fund, our new live broadcasting system is complete! Our new, state-of-the-art cameras and broadcasting system will connect our parish to the Archdiocese and the Orthodox World!

There are many ways to view our services online, when attending in person is not an option.

Parish Website

Simply visit our Parish Website and click the “Live Services” tab on the main menu bar or visit www.AnnunciationSac.org/Live-Services

Social Media Platforms

Parish Facebook via Facebook Live: Search for “Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church” or type in: www.Facebook.com/Annunciation.Sacramento

Parish YouTube via YouTube Live: Search for “Annunciation Sac” or type in: www.YouTube.com/channel/UCTQmeeu5OoU4yl-O-MMm-7A/live

Smart TVs

On your Apple TV, Roku TV, or Amazon Firestick, download the “**GOARCH**” app. Under the Metropolis of San Francisco section, please select Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church.

Please note: The broadcast is only live during service times.

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 will continue to monitor and light candles for those praying with us virtually. If you feel so inclined, links are included on our website and live broadcasts for tray offerings and other donations supporting the vision and growth of our Parish.

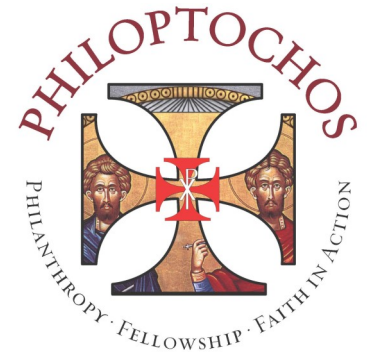
Please do not hesitate to contact us on Facebook, by e-mail, or by calling the Parish Office with questions about our broadcast or difficulties accessing our live stream. If you are enjoying our live-streaming services and online ministry, don’t forget to share with your family and friends! We are thankful for your continued prayers and support!

Faithfully, in Christ,



Efstratios “Yianni” Magoulis
Pastoral Assistant

PHILOPTOCHOS



Hello Everyone,
I would like to share with you a recent release from National Philoptochos:

NINE DECADES SINCE ITS FOUNDING PHILOPTOCHOS CONTINUES TO FULFILL ITS MISSION

"To help the poor, the destitute, the hungry, the aged, the sick, the unemployed, the orphaned, the widowed, those with disabilities and the victims of disasters..."

In 2014, the Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society asked its chapters and stewards to join the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America in supporting the historic construction of the Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine – while still meeting our long-time fundamental mission to serve the needy among us.

It was a daunting challenge no doubt, but one that the 25,000 Philoptochos stewards across the United States embraced with faith, energy, and spirited dedication. Since that time, Philoptochos contributed \$11,293,921 to brothers and sisters in need, emergencies across the globe and deserving institutions, causes and programs. The women of Philoptochos raised these funds through fundraising events and individual contributions, all the while inspiring their communities by their example of love for Christ and His message.

The following is a partial list of the charitable grants of nearly \$10 million dollars during this period:

- Saint Basil Academy
- Social Services
- Hellenic College/Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology
- Children's Medical Fund
- Philanthropies of the Ecumenical Patriarchate
- National Philoptochos Emergency Fund
- Aid to Greece & Cyprus

But that's not all. As Philoptochos fulfilled its mission, one dollar at a time, our stewards also embraced a return to hands-on philanthropy. And so, while feeding more than 4,000,000 meals to the homeless and hungry, while offering much needed supplies to underserved schools across the United States, and while developing educational initiatives addressing serious problems faced by our communities, the stewards of Philoptochos also opened their hearts and contributed \$1,665,000 to the Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine.

As you can see, this is a wonderful organization. Please consider joining us!

Sincerely,

Helen Nickolson
Annunciation Philoptochos President

SAVE THE DATE

Philoptochos Board Meeting
Tuesday, September 22nd

SACRAMENTO GREEK FESTIVAL 2020

Our Greek Festival, a way to meet and share our culture with the Sacramento Community, has been sadly derailed because of the COVID-19 epidemic. The Festival Board and volunteers spent months meeting and planning to host a safe, modified event with a limited take-out menu. Unfortunately, just as many other Greek Orthodox Churches, our hands were tied as we exhausted every option to attempt an event this October.



Now, we are focused on a new goal. With health and safety as the priority, we hope to host a modified take-out Festival in early February which will be followed by our regular Festival next October. The 2021 Festival will be a wonderful event, celebrating our heritage with the local community and highlighting the 100th anniversary of Annunciation.

Each and every year, we are truly grateful for the thousands of hours of time, support and donations from our parishioners and friends in the community. This October, we will miss your attendance, cooking, setting up and taking down, serving, dancing and great music! The Board and Chairpersons will especially miss the "last dance" tradition on Sunday evening as we close the Festival. We look forward to dancing together again in October of 2021.

For now, the Festival Board remains very busy planning the modified take-out event for February and our regular Festival next October. We are excited to welcome two dynamic new members to the Board, Emily Coleman and Lindsey Kivetos. They will join the current 2021 Board Members: Mike Dariotis, Helen Grammatikakis, Nicki Hansen, Stefanie Hionis, Maria Kaufman and Julie Mamalis. Dan Eriksson will return as Festival Co-Chairperson and we have a vacancy for the second Co-Chairperson.

Michael Dariotis will step down as Co-Chair and will now serve on the Board. He led the Festival as the Co-Chairperson for 11 years! Mike worked tirelessly as the manager of the entire Festival kitchen with his brother George and the Old Spaghetti Factory crew. He dedicated countless hours to the set up and break down of the Festival with Dan Eriksson. Mike also worked on donation solicitations, the storage of Festival items, cooking the wonderful pistachio in the OSF kitchen and handling the loukoumada dough during the event, which tends to be one of the most stressful and hotly debated Festival duties!

Gerri Magers will also be moving off the Board to Co-Chair the 100th Anniversary celebration for our Annunciation parish. She has served since the Board was founded by Jim Salidas nearly two decades ago, and led the Festival as Co-Chair for many years. Gerri's remarkable ability to remain calm and diplomatic made her the ideal organizer for this massive event. Always working quietly behind the scenes, she led our planning meetings with grace and efficiency that will truly be missed. Gerri has inspired a new generation of volunteers and Board Members to follow in her lead.

Gerri and Mike along with Dan Eriksson and the Board were instrumental in the huge task of moving our Festival from the Sacramento Convention Center to our church grounds. They were unified in their goal to make the event a greater success each year and raise funds for the church they love. We are grateful to Mike and Gerri for their years of service and the sacrifices they made to plan a wonderful event each and every year.

Thank you for your continued support,

Koula Fotopoulos for The Greek Festival Board

CENTENNIAL UPDATE



Do you have an old, outdated, maybe even a soiled membership directory of our Annunciation Church? Now we are referred to as *stewards* and not members, as membership in a club. But my question remains the same: do you have an old membership (stewardship) directory? Now they are called *Parish Directory of Stewards*. Most have been stapled booklets or spiral bound listings of parishioners. A quick look in our parish archives found only nine directories as follows: 2019 (most recent), 2013, 2008, 2002-2004, 1998, 1995, 1990, 1986, and 1973. If you happen to have one other than one of the nine listed, please consider making a gift to the parish library.

What prompted my interest in this topic was the 1973 Membership Directory given to the library by Althea Tatarakis, parents John and Eleanor who are listed on page 57. There are 541 names on 68 pages of a 4x9 inch stapled pamphlet with advertisements on every even-numbered page. I found it interesting that there were so many businesses and companies I recognized, i.e. Eppie's restaurants, Steve and Dena Jordan's California Hosing Corporation, Jim Katsilometes Dalton Leasing Co., George's Flowers, Hatzis Travel Agency, and Demo's Restaurant, and Stathos Hawaiian Hut, just to name a few.

As an historical record, these old directories are invaluable. One can find City Directories dating back to the early 1800's in most public libraries. Times have changed, however! Now, we're worried about our privacy and we don't even answer the telephone unless we know who's calling. Have you looked-up your name in a phone book lately? But we engage in social media by commenting on various platforms and posting pictures of ourselves doing weird things that are stored in computer databases all over the world.

The idea of a new, current directory of stewards of our parish would be an interesting way to begin our 101st year. As we approach our 100th Centennial, would you be willing to list your contact information or advertise your business in a new, up-to-date stewardship directory? Family pictures are currently being discussed as part of the anniversary album, so what do you think of including your contact information, i.e. address, phone numbers and e-mail address? Historically, advertisements are sold to pay for the production of the album and are at the back of the album. Is an electronic format vs. print copy or maybe both of interest to you? Feel free to express your view on this topic by calling the church office, speaking with staff or just leave a message. The phone number, 443-2033 is listed in the 1973 Parish Director, but now we're required to dial a 1, then the area code, then the number. Do you remember "party lines" with five or even 10 phone numbers shared on the same line with the same number and you are supposed to only answer the phone when it rang five times?

Again, if you have an old directory, consider donating it to the parish archives.

Terry Kastanis
Parish Librarian

tkastanis@annunciationsac.org

THE ECCLESIASTICAL NEW YEAR

You, the Creator and the Lord of the ages, O God of all, truly transcending all essence, we earnestly entreat, that You will bless the year, and, O tender-loving Lord, in Your infinite mercy, only Master, save us all who worship and serve You, O our Redeemer, and who cry with fear, "For all Your servants, make fruitful the coming year.

- Kontakion for the Feast of the Indiction, September 1st



The completion of the year takes place, as it used to be, with the harvest and the gathering of the crops into storehouses, and to begin anew sowing seeds for the next year's harvest.

This evolved into the Roman Empire and mindset of collecting taxes from the populus in order to fund the State, and most notably, the national army. We have recorded in history since at least Augustus Caesar, 3 years before the birth of Christ, that a formal Indiction took place. Indiction derives from the Latin for Definition, or Order, being that this order was sent out from Caesar himself.

Throughout the establishment and life of the Christian Church, September 1st continued to be the celebration and commemoration of the New Year until the fall of Constantinople in 1453. We the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church continue to pray on September 1st for a good year, for fair weather, seasonable rains, and an abundance of the fruits of the earth, as is recorded in the *Menaion*, or the service book which contains the daily celebrations and feasts.

On September 1st, we also commemorate our Lord, God, and Savior, Jesus Christ's entry into the synagogue in Nazareth, where He was given the book of the Prophet Isaiah to read, in which he found the verse "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has appointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent me to the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord," as is recorded in the Gospel according to Luke (4:16-19).

Apolytikion for the Feast of the Indiction, Second Mode:

O Fashioner of all creation, who made seasons and years by Your own authority, bless the crown of the year with Your goodness, O Lord, and preserve our rulers and Your city in peace, at the intercession of the Theotokos, and save us.

Ὁ πάσης δημιουργὸς τῆς κτίσεως, ὁ καιροὺς καὶ χρόνους ἐν τῇ ἰδίᾳ ἐξουσία θέμενος, εὐλόγησον τὸν στέφανον τοῦ ἐνιαυτοῦ τῆς χρηστότητός σου Κύριε, φυλάττων ἐν εἰρήνῃ τοὺς Βασιλεῖς καὶ τὴν πόλιν σου, πρεσβείαις τῆς Θεοτόκου, καὶ σῶσον ἡμᾶς.

THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS



Lifted up of Your own will upon the Cross, bestow Your mercy upon Your new community that bears Your Name, Christ our God. Make Your faithful people glad in Your strength, giving them victory over adversaries. Let them have as an ally that invincible trophy, Your weapon of peace.

- Kontakion for the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, September 14th

Constantine the Great and Equal to the Apostles, first among the emperors of ancient Rome, accepted Christianity after seeing a vision of the Cross before entering into battle.

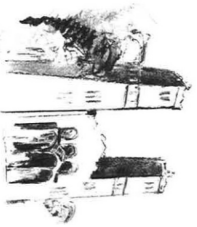
Armed with the Cross, he defeated his enemies. Having witnessed this twofold miracle, both seeing the Cross in a vision and witnessing the power of the Cross as protection in battle, Constantine became a Christian.

He sent his mother, St. Helen in search of the True Cross of our Lord, God, and Savior, Jesus Christ. She made her way from Constantinople to Jerusalem to venerate the life-giving Tomb of our Lord, the Holy Sepulchre, and commissioned a Church to be built over the Tomb. While searching near Golgotha, which we know from the Gospels was near to where our Lord was laid, she found a basil plant growing in what was a dumping area. Not only was it odd to find a plant growing amongst garbage, but the plant was not native to Jerusalem. She ordered her men to dig and below the garbage they found the Cross of our Lord. She venerated the Cross and so did those with her. However, the Christians in the city were aware of her mission and had gathered around the site in hope and anticipation. Due to the large crowd, not everyone could venerate the Cross. The Patriarch of Jerusalem, St. Makarios, took the Cross and climbed up into *the Ambon* (a pulpit, but elevated very high for all to hear and see the speaker). He lifted the Cross high in the air (as depicted in the icon for the feast, seen above), showing it to the Christians below and blessing them. Together the crowd cried, Κύριε Ελέησον! Lord have mercy and compassion on us! To this day, the 14th of September is regarded as a holy day, and a fast day, in which we give glory and thanks to God for His love and mercy on us!

Apolytikion for the Feast of the Cross, First Mode:

Save, O Lord, your people, and bless your inheritance. Grant victory to the faithful against the adversaries and protect Your people by the power of Your Cross!

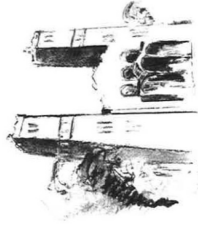
Σώσον, Κύριε, τὸν λαόν σου, καὶ εὐλόγησον τὴν κληρονομίαν σου, νίκας τοῖς βασιλεῦσι, κατὰ βαρβάρων δωρούμενος, καὶ τὸ σὸν φυλάττων, διὰ τοῦ Σταυροῦ σου πολίτευμα!



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ANNUNCIATION
 GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

September 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy: The Indiction & Ecclesiastical New Year	1 ✠ 11:00 am Studies in the Faith			
8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy Virtual Sunday School Classes	Labor Day Parish Office Closed	8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy: Nativity of the Theotokos 6:00 pm Virtual Youth Group Meetings	8 ✠ 11:00 am Studies in the Faith 6:00 pm Small Paraklesis 7:00 pm Orthodoxy 101			
8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy Virtual Sunday School Classes	13 ✠ 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy: Exaltation of the Holy Cross Parish Office Closed	14	15 ✠ 11:00 am Studies in the Faith 6:00 pm Small Paraklesis 7:00 pm Orthodoxy 101	16 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy: St. Sophia & Her Three Children: Faith, Hope, & Love		
8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy Virtual Sunday School Classes	20 6:00 pm Parish Council Meeting	21	22 ✠ 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy: Conception of St. John the Forerunner & Baptist 11:00 am Studies in the Faith 6:00 pm Small Paraklesis 7:00 pm Orthodoxy 101	24 ✠		
8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy Virtual Sunday School Classes	27 6:30 pm Virtual Philoptochos Board Meeting	28	29 ✠ 11:00 am Studies in the Faith 6:00 pm Small Paraklesis 7:00 pm Orthodoxy 101	30	✠ Fast Day	



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

October 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	 Fast Day			1	 2	3
4 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy Parish Assembly Virtual Sunday School Classes	5 6:00 pm Virtual Youth Group Meetings	6 11:00 am Studies in the Faith 6:00 pm Small Paraklesis 7:00 pm Orthodoxy 101	 7	8	 9	10
11 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy Virtual Sunday School Classes	12	13 11:00 am Studies in the Faith 6:00 pm Small Paraklesis 7:00 pm Orthodoxy 101	 14	15	 16	17
18 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy: St. Luke the Evangelist Virtual Sunday School Classes	19 6:00 pm Parish Council Meeting	20 11:00 am Studies in the Faith 6:00 pm Small Paraklesis 7:00 pm Orthodoxy 101	 21	22	 23 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy: St. Iakovos (James) the Apostle	24
25 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy Virtual Sunday School Classes	26 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy: St. Demetrios the Myrrh-Streamer	27 11:00 am Studies in the Faith 6:00 pm Small Paraklesis 7:00 pm Orthodoxy 101	 28	29	 30	31

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Christ is in our midst!

After worship and service, Christian education is a key priority for our mission “to bring all people to full maturity in Christ.”

This year, due to the social gathering restrictions, we are planning to conduct Sunday Church school online, beginning **Sunday, September 13**. Details, class links, and a new, improved curriculum for digital learning will be communicated shortly via e-mail.



Faithfully,

Father James Retelas

*Jesus said, “Let the little **children** come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven.”
(Matthew 19:14)*

DANCE SUPPORT GROUP & MINISTRY

Per the Metropolis of San Francisco guidelines regarding COVID-19 and parish ministries, all in-person ministries on church property are still suspended until further notice. While close proximity social gatherings, especially sporting practices and events, are still discouraged by our Metropolis and County, we encourage you to join us safely and socially distant for the Divine Liturgy and to participate in our virtual ministries, from Sunday School, to youth group meetings and discussions, to adult education classes. Information will continue to be communicated via our Parish communications as we receive it from the Metropolis and County.

Thank you and “see” you soon!”

Annunciation Dance Support Group



GREEK SCHOOL

The Annunciation Greek School Program has been busy all summer getting ready for the new academic year to begin. With the challenges faced by COVID, the



program decided to complete registration in July in

order to establish classes that can conform to the health guidelines for potential in-class instruction later this year. Starting September 2, all Greek School classes will be held online until Sacramento County is taken off the watch list. Everyone is hoping that live classes will resume in the coming months, and the Greek School administration will take every step necessary to ensure that all students enter a safe and healthy teaching environment.

In June, the Greek School Program purchased a school license for an award-winning online program for Greek called *Ellinopoula*. This year, *Ellinopoula* was given the Gold Award for Best Online & Distance Learning Platform for kids learning Greek at the 5th Annual Education Leaders Awards in Athens, Greece. *Ellinopoula* complements the books adopted for our classes and provides wonderful reinforcement for the lessons given in the classroom. All students who registered for Greek school were given access to the new program during the summer, and we will be using it throughout the year as a supplement to the Zoom – and eventually live– class instruction.

Annunciation Greek School is also fortunate that it will still administer the *Ellinomatheia* exams this October. Our Greek School is one of two accredited testing centers in all of California that were given clearance to hold the exams in the fall. Over 26 students from various areas of California will come to the Annunciation to sit for these language proficiency exams. One of the critical factors that determined Sacramento's viability to hold the exams had to do with the Hellenic Hall and its wonderful and spacious classrooms that can comfortably accommodate a large number of students while maintaining appropriate health and distancing measures. Of the 26 students taking the exams over a three-day period starting on October 13th, 14 will be coming from our own program! Special test preparation classes were created for the month of August to get the students ready to succeed in October. We look forward to ushering well-prepared and confident students to sit for the exams!

Despite the fluid situation of COVID, the Annunciation Greek School Program continues to thrive in its mission to expand the teaching of modern Greek. With the addition of new instructors and new curriculum materials, students at the Annunciation program can be certain that they will continue to receive a high quality level of instruction regardless of the challenging circumstances.

ANNUNCIATION SENIOR LEAGUE

Never before has the expression, “No News is Good News” been more welcoming! ASL members have been calling each other on the phone ever since we met last March, and it’s such a pleasure to know that we are doing well in looking out for each other, checking-in, and just saying hello.

As we wait and wait for news of a vaccine to stop this awful pandemic, take the time now to think about the future our wonderful ASL Ministry. Buffets and large group gathering are unlikely, but there are a myriad of activities and meeting formats that could bring us together again, i.e. box lunches and small groups throughout the Annunciation Hellenic Center playing card games, participating in a book club, hearing a lecture, and having group discussions on all kinds of subjects.

Please consider taking a leadership role by being a candidate for one of the four executive officers, President, Vice-President, Secretary or Treasurer; and/or volunteer as a new or continuing board member. There is an active nomination committee seeking names at this time, so give one of the following members a call or e-mail:

DENA KUCHULIS, 916-487-3301
GEORGIA ECONOME, 916-442-4125

MARY KONDOS, 916-457-2196
ELAINE PAVLATOS, 916-714-9836

By staying safe and following healthy procedures, ASL will survive this virus and we will once again be a strong and dynamic ministry.

RECENT HONOR

At our September luncheon last year, Nancy Econome spoke about the novel she had just completed about the struggles of a Greek-American family in 1942. The book has been published and recently received Honorable Mention at the 2020 Maurice Prize in Fiction which was sponsored by UC Davis College of Letters and Sciences and author John Lescroart. “*The Classic Grill*” is a tale of Greek Gods and Immigrant Heroes. Learn more at nancyeconome.com. Congratulations (sigcharitiria), Nancy!

Terry Kastanis
Past ASL President

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES

Καλή Χρονιά! Happy New Year!

As we begin the new Ecclesiastical Year, we have been working hard to re-imagine and rework the logistics of how our ministries meet. While our mission is always the same, "To bring all people to full maturity in Christ through Worship, Service, Education, Witness, and Fellowship, guided and united in all things by the One Holy Spirit," we are striving to connect through virtual means to accomplish our goal.

Our ministries, from our Youth and Young Adult Ministries, to Greek Folk Dance, to our Senior League, are rooted and only exist with the participation of the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ- The Holy Eucharist. We look forward to celebrating the Divine Liturgy together, whether online, in our Plateia/Courtyard, and hopefully soon in our physical church building.

SAVE THESE DATES AND EVENTS!

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

Virtual Meeting on September 8th at 6:00 pm

GOYA (High School)

Virtual Meeting on September 8th at 6:30 pm

Young Adults (College)

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

Young Professionals (23-35 years old)

We are transitioning our "Wisdom & Wine" to Picnics in the Park following the Divine Liturgy!

Please contact Yianni Magoulis for more information.

Greek Dance Practice & Volleyball

Currently, sports and activities are still suspended. Be on the lookout for more information and please see the Dance Support Group and Ministry article on page 16 of this issue.

Orthodox Education

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

On Wednesday evenings, following the Small Paraklesis, join Fr. James for Orthodoxy 101 at 7:00 pm!

Again, we are receiving new information regularly from our Archdiocese and the State of California. For the most updated information, please be sure to subscribe to our e-mails and follow us on social media. Please follow our Parish Facebook and Instagram (@AnnunciationSac) for daily Lives of the Saints, Miracle Mondays, and weekly Ask Yianni segments!

"SEE" you soon!

LOOKING TOWARDS OUR CENTENNIAL

This is the fifth article in our series commemorating the 100th year of our Annunciation Parish and it's appropriate that we celebrate the 100th Birthday of our parishioner Kalliroy Pappas who was born on August 20, 1920, in Psari, Messinia, Greece. Do you have fond memories growing-up in Sacramento that you'd like to share? Just give the church office a call! You can catch up and read articles that appeared in previous issues of the *Observer* written by Bill Triphon, Antonia Paras Chapralis, Julie Mamalis, and Demetre Fotos.

“Εκατό Χρόνια” - “Χρόνια Πολλά!”

A Tribute to Mom and Yiayia

By Bessie Papailias

On August 20, 2020, Kalliroy Konstantopoulos Pappas turned 100 years old and followed in the footsteps of previous Annunciation centenarians. Born in Koliotsi (above Psari, Messinia), Kalliroy grew up on a traditional Peloponnesian farm tending to olives and fields. The second of four children (three daughters and one son), she lived through many of the day-to-day difficulties that Greece endured before, during and after the war.



Many of Kalliroy's personal stories remind us of the hardships of village people during World War II. Her father, Demosthenes, owned the general store during German occupation. In order to save the family and ensure that his wife Emilia and the children were not harmed, her father gave the German soldiers whatever they wanted in the way of food and provisions, including small goats on which the invaders would feast. Her voice cracks occasionally while telling these stories and you can feel the horror and fright of those difficult years. She adds that people in villages at least had food where people in the cities starved – and for that she is grateful. To this day all she asks is that we donate to the poor who do not have food and to children who cannot fend for themselves and need medical care.

Post war, her older sister, Georgia Apostolos, married and came to West Sacramento, California. Through Georgia's efforts and her sister-in-law's Christina Apostolos, they did a "proxenia" with Harry Pappas. In 1952, Harry went to Greece and married Kalliroy on November 15th. Kalliroy arrived six months later in the United States on May 2, 1953. Although 25 years her senior, Harry and Kalliroy had a wonderful and prosperous marriage and life. To this day, Kalliroy insists that wealth is not measured by money but by family, good health, and how you treat others.

Kalliroy and Harry decided that Kalliroy would be a housewife and not work outside the home. The primary reason for this was to ensure that their daughter Bessie would learn the Greek language which was very evident when she went to Kindergarten and did not speak any English! With that, Kalliroy became the landscaper, the gardener, and the painter for their home and rental properties. She always enjoyed working in her garden and tending her vegetables, fruit trees, and bees. She also brought with her that age old tradition of making homemade wine, which according to County papers, they did annually to the tune of the allowable 200 gallons per year!

Kalliroy embraced the life in America – first and foremost learning the English language, taking care of her business and learning to drive at age 51! All of these enabled her to become independent, take care of her husband and pick up her granddaughter Eleni after school across town! She always says that making the United States her country was more than just stepping foot on American soil – it was a way of life ... one that all immigrants should embrace with pride for this great opportunity.

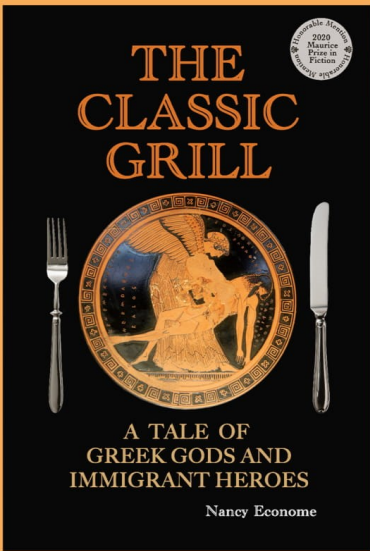
LOOKING TOWARDS OUR CENTENNIAL

Although not active in many parochial organizations, Harry and Kalliroy were among the first 30 individuals who became the "Golden Age Group" (precursor to the Annunciation Senior League - ASL). She says it was a time when seniors would get together for lunch and fellowship in the old "lower fellowship room". Each person/couple would bring a home cooked meal, olives, cheese, homemade bread and above all homemade wine! She said it was a simple time and one that she remembers fondly. Kalliroy continued to attend the ASL up to 99 years old (!) at which time she said it was just a little too much for her.

In going through old documents, her daughter Bessie stumbled upon her mother's citizenship papers (1956). Tucked inside the envelope was the American flag that was given to individuals the day they were sworn in as citizens. Kalliroy said she saved it because it meant she was now an American citizen, and while born in Greece, she had made the United States her country. Kalliroy continues to keep up with the political environment and is proud that she has voted in every election since she was naturalized! And, she plans to vote in November as well! Also included in the papers, there was a certificate from the Annunciation Church here in Sacramento related to the final payments for its initial construction. Kalliroy said that she and Harry had taken out a loan to pay for iconography in the dome in an effort to continue and support the Orthodox faith in this country. Kalliroy continues to be a faithful Orthodox believer who does not criticize anyone, never goes to bed without saying her prayers and does her cross before every meal.

At the great age of 100, when asked what she would say to everyone, her message is very simple ... "be kind to one another despite your differences, be happy with what you have as there is always someone who has less, help those who are less fortunate as that is what God wants us to do, do not judge others as that is not yours to do ... a simple way of life is the best!"

COMMUNITY CORNER



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Nancy Econome

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

Pledged Stewards 2020

(As of August 17, 2020)

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Nick & Shari Alexander	Michael & Forest Dimitropoulos	Sandra Hamameh
Peter Anagnoston	Nicholas & Laura Docous	Elena Hankard
Christ & Helen Anastasopoulos	Elizabeth Dokimos	RJ & Nicki Hansen
George & Alexis Anastasopoulos	Kathy Dokimos	Demetre & Dimitra Haralambakis
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Milton & Panorea Apostolidis	Elaine Donovan	Thomas & Phyllis Harper
Andrianos & Kathy Argyropoulos	Demosthenis & Evangelia Douveas	Dannan & Lisa Harr
Theodoros & Georgia Avdalas	Marina Downing	Mark & Katina Harris
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Spyridon & Georgia Avdis	Demos & Bessie Dulger Sheikin	Richard & Kim Hauch
Manny & Sunday Balalis	James & Patricia Duvaras	Steve & Bia Hayes
Dan & Katherine Ballas	Georgia Econome	Tim & Elene Hayes
Elias & Jane Bardis	Kiki Econome	Zachary Heinzer
Andreas & Audrey Bazos	Marilyn Econome	William Hess
Susan Bitar	Zachary & Sarah Edson	Nikko Higdon
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Denny Boom	Peter & Anastasia Efstathiou	Dino & Margarita Jakovas
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Andonia Cakouros	Vasiliki Fkiaras	Nick & Andreanna Kamilos
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John & Jordan Cameron	George & Kathy Fotopoulos	Gus & Ana Kapandritis
John & Aglaia Capetanos	John & Theofani Fotopoulos	George Karagianes
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Taky & Georgiana Cazanis	Peter & Koula Fotopoulos	George Kastanis
Voula Cazanis	Phillip & Soula Fotopoulos	Terry Kastanis
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Michael Dariotis	Dianna George	Lucas & Stella Kontes
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Tom Dicktakes	Suanna Gurovich	Stephen & Anna LaBritt
Victoria Dimitriades	George Hagios	Henry & Maria Lafayette

Pledged Stewards 2020

(As of August 17, 2020 | Continued)

ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE TO THE ONE WHO BELIEVES IN CHRIST

Michael Lahood	Nick & Kontilo Pandleon	Demetrios Spyridakis
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Georgia Larson	Tasia Papajohn	Makis & Freda Stathopoulos
Andrea Lendaris	Stephanie Papas	Mary D. Stathos
Gary & Irina Leonard	Kalliroy Pappas	Nick & Helene Stathos
Despina Liakopoulos	Louie & Voula Pappas	Maria Stefanou
Esther Lilakos	Mary A. Pappas	Mari Suarez
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Geraldine Magers	Diane Petersen	Pearl Thomas
Efstratios "Yianni" & Danae Magoulia	Bassilios & Georgia Petrakis	Steven Trapp
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Joanna Leventis & Benjamin Noonan	Mary & Maurice Silva	Athanasios & Elizabeth Yiaslas
Howard & Stella Norris	John & Georganna Sinadinos	And our stewards who wish to remain anonymous
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With love,
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 B.A. in Kinesiology: Health & Human Performance




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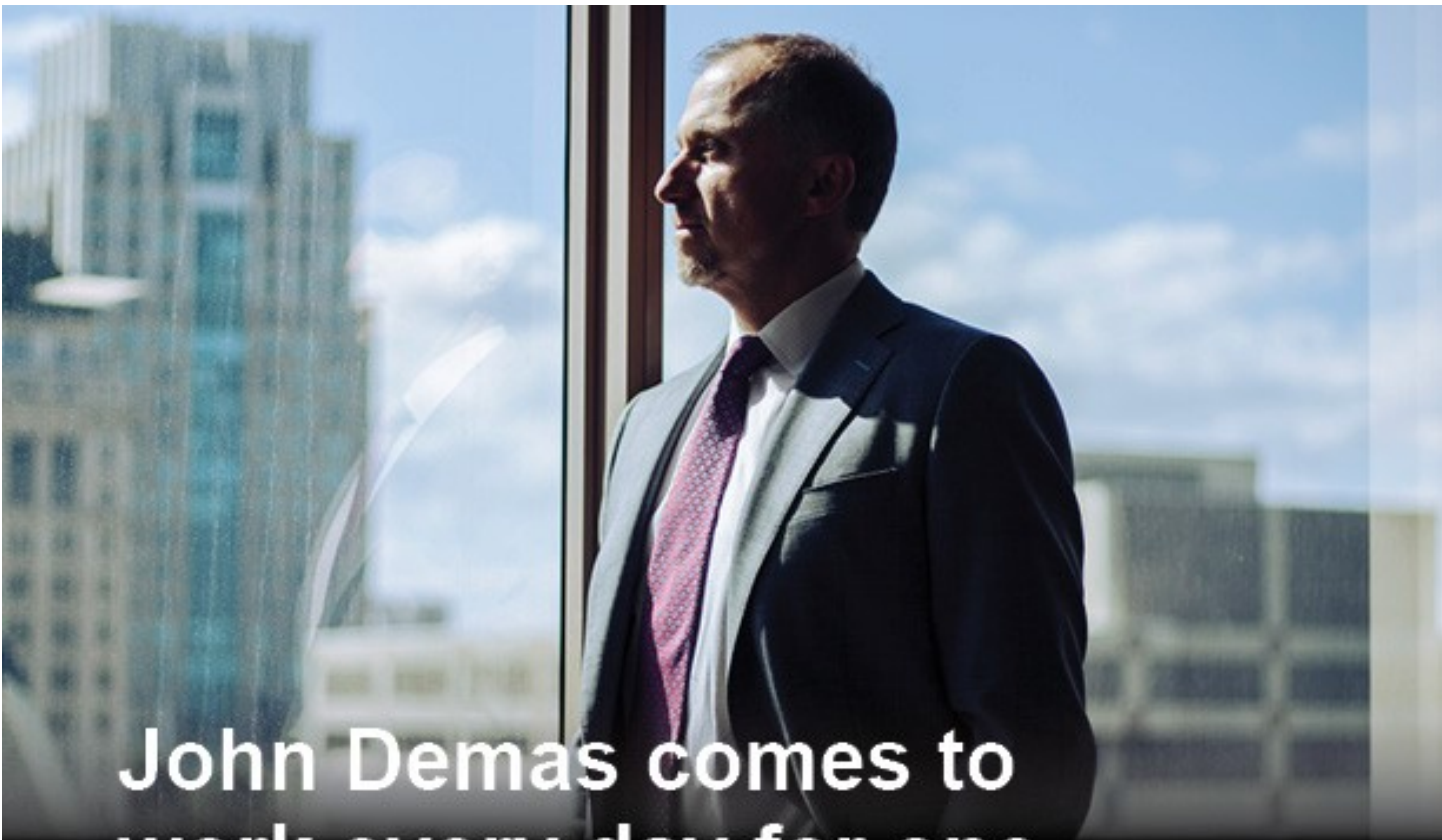
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